



Volume 32, Number 14 Thursday, April 14, 2016

Mission Accomplished

Citizens Police Academy Inspires Greater Understanding

by Connie Kuzdym

Are you a police-show junkie? Ever wondered what a day in the life of a police officer is like? Would you find a class exposing many facets of police work interesting? Are you willing to commit to a free seven-week class that meets for 2 1/2 hours every Thursday and one Saturday for four hours in the fall?

Is your initial reaction, sounds interesting, but not sure about committing to seven Thursdays?

For Sgt. Chris Yagelski, Michigan City Police Department's Division of Professional Standards commander, that is the typical reaction he gets when telling people about Michigan City Citizens Police Academy. When informing me about it, in fact, he instantly picked up on my hesitation. He guaranteed if I took the class, I would not want it to end.

I looked at him and thought, *really?! My curiosity piqued. I decided to go for it.*



Det. David Cooney stands by as a Michigan City Citizens Police Academy participant experiences what it feels like behind bars.

The MCCPA is a creative outreach effort that examines the many roles, responsibilities and trends within contemporary law-enforcement practices. It also educates La Porte County residents about what local law enforcement does. It is an experience that leaves you wanting to learn more, which then leads you to ask — more like beg — Yagelski for a second-level class, making you wonder what you'll do on Thursday evenings now that the class is over.

That leaves Yagelski smiling. He attends many events where he encounters questions such as, what is police work all about? What is the station like, the equipment? He subsequently decided to establish a class to educate area residents. Similar programs have been offered by

other departments, yet none were structured like the academy.

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After receiving approval from Chief Mark Swistek, Yagelski approached the city attorney, insurance company, mayor and city council for approval. It took a mere two months and a few bumps in the road to establish a program now heading into its sixth year.

"I wanted to make it a hands-on, fun experience," Yagelski said, "so I developed that."

Developed it he has.

Class topics are more glamorous than what police officers actually do every day.

"If I bring you in to teach you report writing, you're not going to be happy for 2 1/2 hours," Yagelski said. "But if I come in here and teach you all about a gun and shooting a gun, then you're more excited."

Yagelski has learned aspects of the job he takes for granted — elements of his daily routine — are what people want to see and learn about.

He takes the class to the next level, for example, by not only letting you see SWAT equipment, but also touch, feel, wear and take pictures with it.

"When I bring people in, they can't get enough of it. They can't put the stuff down," Yagelski said. "That's what makes mine (class) more unique than anybody else's because I let you do that stuff."

"We all have that little kid in us. Everybody wants to sit in a police car, pull a gun, all that good stuff. That's the hands-on portion, that's what people

like to do. When I tell you that you're going to drive a golf cart as fast as you want to drive it, people get excited. That's what it's all about."

Although the basics of the classes are the same, Yagelski does add, change, delete elements yearly to improve them.

Today, the program runs like a well-oiled machine. He gives most of the credit to his assistant, Rhonda Swistek.

"She keeps it all together for me. I may look good at the end of the class. It may seem like it works out really well. It's because she is behind the scenes making it all happen," Yagelski said. "If it wasn't for her working behind the scenes, I wouldn't ever be that successful. She's helped me from the very start."

The academy's success relies on assistance from Chief Swistek, as well as various co-workers who help run the classes. Funded by the Michigan City Police donation program, numerous individuals and businesses contribute to its success by donating money or services.

"I want you to leave with the feeling it didn't cost you anything and you enjoyed your experience," Yagelski said. "That's what it's all about."

Yagelski, Swistek and the other instructors do a great job of presenting academy content in a manner where the seriousness of what they do is understood, but presented in a way that you never leave feeling down-trodden. Each week has a good balance of educational and hands-on content.



Academy participants get a better understanding of equipment used in police labs.

Week 1 was an informational session that included class handouts, an outline of subject matter by Yagelski, an overview by Swistek of the department, its divisions, policies, recruiting and hiring training, a discussion by Superior Court II Judge Richard Stalbrink on the criminal justice system, and the class being divided into three groups: blue, black and white.

"I want these groups to be a team," Yagelski said. "We're all about that. We have our SWAT team, our scuba team — they're together. They train together, they do together, they become together. That's what you want."

Teamwork is something we all grasped quickly. And while one might fear the buildup slow to any hands-on experiences, this was not the case.



Week Two permitted participants to use golf carts through three courses.

Week 2 began with an educational presentation on the driver training program for police officers, along with their instruction on proper steering techniques, visual perception and reaction time. Three driving courses, each providing a different experience using golf carts, were set up in a local warehouse.

My first course was drunk driving. The challenge was to maneuver the dimly lit serpentine course lined with cones on either side while wearing "Drunk Goggles," which blur your vision.

The next course was to quickly navigate through a serpentine course with a ramp, sand, water and pool-noodle hazards while attempting to stay within the cones.

The final course — "Pursuit Driving Scenario" — was the shortest, but the most difficult as it honed in on your reaction time.

At the end of the second session, you felt how quickly the atmosphere changed within the class. The teams had begun the bonding process as they cheered and encouraged each other.

Week 3 introduced us to SWAT members, as well as an explanation of why, when and how SWAT is used. Academy students tried on and examined the various equipment and weaponry used by this elite group. Students saw a demonstration on "Flash Bang," which basically is considered a firecracker on steroids used by SWAT members when entering a building. The group also sat in the various vehicles the police department has in its arsenal.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3



Week 3 highlighted the department's SWAT, including various equipment and weaponry.

Wrapping up the evening back in the classroom, we were offered a realistic look at Hostage and Crisis negotiations.

I cannot even begin to explain the magnitude of emotions that night. First, what it must feel like when a "Flash Bang" goes off inside a building. We were in an open area. Not only was it loud, but it also reverberated through your body. Secondly, it is unreal how heavy most of the equipment is that officers wear or carry. You begin to understand the physical demands the job requires, and how dangerous their job to protect us is. Finally, you realize officers are like most people. At the end of the day, they have loved ones waiting at home for them. A sobering thought in light of the risks they face.

Week 4 began with a tour of the station. There was something surreal about being in the holding cells and hearing the clang of the cell door closing. That same feeling surfaced in the forensic lab when looking at the various equipment. I realized in that

room, they actually handled items belonging to deceased victims. It was interesting, but eerie.

After the tour, Indiana State Police Specialist Sgt. Maggie Shortt gave an enlightening, educational presentation on methamphetamine labs in Indiana. Most of us have heard about them, and how common products are used to make the highly addictive drug. What most do not realize is what it physically does to those exposed to it, including law-enforcement personnel assigned to combating it. When police refer to "mobile" efforts to make it, they don't mean a trailer that moves from place to place. Rather, it can be made right in someone's car. Listening to Shortt, you understand why she has a great sense of humor. You need one to cope with the exposure to such heart-wrenching situations.

Week 5 was a precursor to investigating a real murder scene scenario. Group members were exposed to various investigative tools and techniques used by detectives. Students learned how to lift fingerprints, take crime scene photos, make casts of footprints, collect and preserve evidence.



Week Five was CSI Day and involved investigating a real murder scene scenario.



The entire group that participated in the same Michigan City Citizens Police Academy as Connie Kuzydym, who is in the back row standing next to Chris Yagelski.

Saturday of Week Five was CSI Day and held at the police station. Each group investigated a real murder scene scenario. They were joined by an assisting detective. Using the roles assigned earlier in the week, each team member was a vital part of the group's investigative team, helping solve the murder. The hands-on day gave team members the opportunity to experience what it takes to complete a full investigation.

I left with an understanding of how important thoroughness is, and how much goes into investigating a crime scene.

Week 6 gave us the opportunity to fire a gun. After basics were discussed, Simunition guns were used to shoot at a target. Dressed in gear and armed with Simunition guns, students also conducted room and building searches looking for bad guys. Shootouts occurred between police officers, academy students and previous academy students posing as bad guys.



Week Six afforded the opportunity for participants to fire a gun.

This was my first experience shooting a gun. My reaction — “I can see why people would go to a gun range to practice” — was totally unexpected. I cannot explain the thrill of holding that gun and seeing if I could hit the bull's eye. Those feelings were countered by my uncomfortableness with putting on the protective gear worn when searching a building and the unexpectedness of being shot at. After one room, I realized I could never do this kind of work.

Week 7 wrapped up with a demonstration by the Police K-9 Division and a presentation on counterfeiting, forgery, scams and frauds.

It was interesting to see the dogs in action detecting drugs, bombs and people. Also, it is amazing how they listen to and obey their handler's commands. In return, it was heartwarming to hear how the officers refer to their dogs as partners they will protect as if they were human.

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Continued from Page 5



Week Seven included instruction and a demonstration of the Taser.

The evening also included instruction and a demonstration of the Taser. The three newest recruits to the department were Tased. It is protocol that one be Tased before they are able to use one on someone else.

The evening concluded with a graduation and award ceremony. As I sat listening to Swistek's message, I realized the academy had done exactly what Yagelski set out to accomplish. I was leaving with a better understanding of them, and what they do.

For Yagelski, that is what it is all about.

Mission accomplished.



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Chris Yagelski helped lead classroom instruction, with Beacher writer Connie Kuzdydym listening attentively by the window.

More About the Academy

Anyone interested in applying for Michigan City Citizens Police Academy, open to all La Porte County residents, should do so early. The application will be on the Michigan City Police Department website, www.michigancitypolice.com/, beginning in September. Class size is limited to 36 applicants. Applicants must be 21 or older to apply. A background check is conducted on all applicants.

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LCSO Celebrates Cole Porter With Final Concert of Season

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra will present "Celebration!," a tribute to Cole Porter, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., La Porte.



Cole Porter.

The tribute to one of Indiana's most famous composers will bring the LCSO season to a close, including talented soloists joining the orchestra to perform hits such as "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Too Darn Hot." Another guest is Illumination, a 20-voice ensemble directed by Becky Osborn and featuring singers from Northwest Indiana and Chicago.

Featured soloists include Kyrie Anderson, a Chicago actress and vocalist originally from Hobart. She began singing at a young age and has been involved with Northwest Indiana's theater community for years. Local favorite Betsy Archer is a past winner of LCSO's Hoosier Star. She recently performed "La Traviata" for more than 4,000 youth at the symphony's children's concert. Tenor soloist Jeremiah Souza placed second in last year's Hoosier Star of Stars competition and has performed as a soloist locally and nationally. Most recently, he appeared as Angel in Dunes Summer Theatre's production of "Rent." Baritone soloist Delshawn Taylor has been the musical director for more than 10 productions, and has performed lead operatic roles with Opera Notre Dame and St. Mary's Opera.



Dermody

Also part of Saturday's concert are the Magic Baton contenders. Each year, two people vie for the honor. This year, it is State Rep. Tom Dermody and au-



Lanigan

thor Catherine Lanigan.

The tradition began in 1981 as part of La Porte's 150th anniversary. Mayor A.J. Rumley was the highest bidder at a live auction held during intermission of the Spring Pops Concert. As the winning bidder, he led the orchestra in a rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The tradition continues today, but with more audience participation. Voting starts for the nominees with a \$1 donation equaling one vote. Photos of the nominees are posted on www.lcso.net the week prior to the concert. Voting continues pre-concert and during intermission, with voting/donation boxes available. At the end of intermission, votes are tallied and the winner handed the Magic Baton to conduct the orchestra. All donations benefit LCSO youth programs.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for table seats, \$20 for adult balcony seats and \$18 for senior balcony seats. Students with a valid ID are admitted for free.

Tickets may be purchased at www.lcso.net or at:

- La Porte Savings Bank, 710 Indiana Ave., La Porte.
- ROXY Music, 1012 Lincolnway, La Porte.
- La Porte Civic Auditorium.
- La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marquette Mall, Michigan City.

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"Under the Big Top: The Circus as Art in America"

The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, will present "Under the Big Top: The Circus as Art in America" through the museum's 37th anniversary and ending Sunday, July 10.

The genesis of the exhibit began in late 2013 with the awareness and organization of works from the museum's permanent collection by Curator Brian Byrn. A conversation with collector and museum patron Steven Conant, Indianapolis, continued the research as a result of his donations of American art with "circus" themes since 1993. It was further discovered no previous exhibit had been produced by an art institution around this theme, even though many American artists throughout the 20th century created works about clowns, acrobats, aerialists, equestriennes and other circus subject matter.

Using the museum's permanent collection as a starting point, and works never-before-seen, "Under the Big Top" features more than 65 pieces. Augmenting the collection are works by artists invited

to interpret the subject matter. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures depicting clowns, acrobats, animals and other circus performers will be displayed.



"Elephants," a 1936 lithograph by John Steuart Curry (1897-1946).

Artists selected from the museum's holdings represent those on a local, regional and national level, including Alexander Calder, Charles Demuth, Walt Kuhn, John Steuart Curry and Adam Grant. Contemporary Indiana artists invited to participate include Lea Goldman (South Bend), Todd Hoover (South Bend), Susan B. Lehman (Elkhart), Marcia Sindone (La Porte), Jackie

MacKenzie (Elkhart) and Kathy Zienty (Goshen).

Vintage posters and other photographic artifacts of circus and carnival life round out the exhibit.

The museum is presenting the exhibit in conjunction with the state's bicentennial celebration, and in accordance with historical connections of the circus with Peru, Ind., where the International Circus Hall of Fame Museum is located. Visit www.MidwestMuseum.US for more information.

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"Prominent People of La Porte County" Reception

La Porte County Historical Society will host a reception for its popular, state-sanctioned display, "Prominent People of La Porte County," at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at the museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

The display coincides with the celebration of Indiana's bicentennial, the reception a chance to meet some of the people featured in the display.

Catherine Lanigan, best-selling author of more than 35 published titles, including novelizations of "Romancing the Stone" and "Jewel of the Nile," will have a book signing of her most recent work. Also attending is La Porte native Alan Barcus, who has written many jingles, including "Rattle rattle thunder clatter, boom boom boom!" He also composed the official fight song for the Chicago Cubs, "You're My Cubs." He will have CDs for sale.

Dr. Peter Kesling, a world-renowned pioneer in orthodontic appliances and techniques, collector of antique and classic automobiles, and philanthropist, also will be present.

Others included in the display are Dr. William Scholl, Chief Justice John



The "Prominent People" display at La Porte County Historical Society Museum.

Roberts and Actress Anne Baxter.

Raffle tickets may be purchased at the reception to help the Historical Society raise funds for a new LED sign. Chances for White Sox tickets can be purchased for \$5, or six for \$20. Chances for an American Girl Doll can be purchased for \$1 each, or six for \$5.

In other museum news, Curator Susie Richter released her March report, with visitors coming from 10 counties, 12 states, Canada and Denmark. The Rumely Reunion was held at the museum. Tour groups included Circle of Friendship and Classic Car Club of America.

The spring display, "Bits of Time," an exhibit of La Porte County scrapbooks, has been popular. White glove stations are available for anyone wishing to handle the scrapbooks.

Donations included:

- "Goodyear" thermometer, La Porte County Sheriff's hat, 1970s, photos of sheriff's posse, Don Kloss.
- Books, pamphlets, maps, photos, Jan Wooden.
- World War I "The Soldier's Record" certificate for Grover H. Collings, Jack B. Collings.
- Junior high school yearbooks, Judy Shepherd.
- Artillery shells from KOP, Debra Galvas.
- Advertising pens from various La Porte County businesses, small tool kit, postcards, Jerry and Kathy Orcutt.
- Archival information, Sue Culberson, Kathleen Hammerquist.
- Items for the sale table, the estate of William and Ellen Kermin, and Susie Richter.

Plans are ongoing to relocate some of the period rooms. The Beauty/Barber Shop is now on the main level, in the area formerly occupied by the Dentist's Office. Plans are in the works for the first History Day Camp on July 5-8 for grades three through five.



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Canterbury Summer Theatre Announces 2016 Season

"Come Fly With Us!" is the theme for Canterbury Summer Theatre's 2016 season, which unfolds June 15 through Aug. 6 at the newly re-named Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Now in its 48th season, and one of the Midwest's oldest summer-stock companies, Canterbury is hiring talent from around the country to mount a slate of five productions.

Ray Scott Crawford returns for his 31st season as artistic director. Associate Artistic Director David Graham will helm the comedy "Boeing Boeing" to kick off the season. Crawford will direct "The Marvelous Wonderettes," as well as "Parallel Lives," which heads to Michigan City after its initial presentation at Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana, where he is dean of communication and performing arts.

Chicago actress and Canterbury veteran Rebecca Hayes will return to direct "First Date," as well as perform the title role in "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical."

Crawford and Graham are enthusiastic about the upcoming season.

"Last season, we broke our previous attendance records," Graham said. "This summer, we're hoping to exceed those numbers with an exciting schedule of recent Broadway, off-Broadway and regional hits."

The 2016 season is:

• **"Boeing Boeing" by Marc Camoletti, translated by Robin Hawdon and Francis Evans, June 15-18.**

The French farce adapted for the English-speaking stage, and which received a Tony-winning Broadway revival in 2008, features self-styled playboy Bernard, who has Italian, German and American fiancées, each beautiful airline hostesses with frequent "layovers." He keeps "one up, one down and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris and Bernard's apartment at the same time, where his old friend, Robert, has come for a visit as well.



Rebecca Hayes (left), seen here in the 2015 Canterbury production of "Breaking Up is Hard to Do," returns this year to direct "First Date" and perform the title role in "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical."

• **"The Marvelous Wonderettes," created by Roger Bean, June 22-July 2.**

The smash off-Broadway hit unfolds at the 1958 Springfield High School prom, where Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy and Suzy are four girls with big hopes and dreams. Their escapades come packaged in classic 1950s hits, including "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," "Stupid Cupid" and "Lipstick on Your Collar."

• **"First Date," book by Austin Winsberg, music and lyrics by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner, July 6-16.**

When blind date newbie Aaron is set up with serial-dater Casey, a casual drink turns into a high-stakes dinner. As the date unfolds in real time, the couple quickly discovers they are not alone on this unpredictable evening.

• **"Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical," by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman, July 20-30.**

"Tenderly" is based on the life of Rosemary Clooney, hailed as America's favorite female singer. Her journey starts with her humble Midwest childhood and rise to Hollywood stardom, and continues beyond battles with depression to a triumphant comeback.

• **"Parallel Lives" by Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy, Aug. 4-6 (no Wednesday performance).**

The comedy offers a vivid glimpse into the lives of a slew of characters — female and male — and their unique, individual takes on society.



Season discount cards, available now through the end of the season, cost \$65 and are good for five admissions. Single tickets for each show are \$15 on Wednesday and Thursday and \$16 on Friday and Saturday. Senior, group and student discounts are available.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Canterbury Theatre. Reservations are available by calling the Canterbury box office at (219) 874-4269 or by email at info@canterburytheatre.org



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“Bridge of Spies”

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., as part of its Films on DVD Series, will show Steven Spielberg’s Oscar-winning “Bridge of Spies” at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 17.

The free screening marks a collaboration with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series and Michigan City Public Library.



Tom Hanks stars in “Bridge of Spies.”

The film was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won one for Best Supporting Actor (Mark Rylance). It also earned nominations from the 69th British Academy Film Awards, Critics’ Choice Awards, Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild.

The movie is based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Giles Whittell. It tells the story of insurance lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks), recruited by a CIA operative to negotiate the release of U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers after he is shot down by the Soviet Union and captured in his U-2 spy plane. Sentenced to 10 years in prison, Powers’ only hope for freedom is through a prisoner exchange for convicted Russian spy Rudolf Abel (Rylance).

The movie is Rated PG-13. Visit www.pnc.edu or contact Judy Jacobi, PNW assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collections and Special Programs, at (219) 785-5593 for more information.

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Earth Day Celebration Offers Collection Events, Live Animal Shows

The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County invites area residents to connect with the environment through exhibitors, entertainment, collection events and activities during the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 16.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Admission and parking are free. The first 300 families receive free reusable bags.

Attendees are encouraged to take used eyeglasses, hearing aids and bicycles because two non-profit groups are sponsoring collections. The collection for eyeglasses and hearing aids is new this year, backed by the Lions Clubs of District 25A, which recycles these items. Chicago-based Working Bikes will return for a second year to top last year's collection total of 80 bicycles. Attendees can donate unused bikes, which Working Bikes refurbishes and in part gives to people in third world countries.

Document shredding will return after a year hiatus. Visitors can take their old documents between 9 a.m. and noon to be shredded by Secure Shred. Actual shredding will not occur on site; instead, thanks to Metro Recycling staff, documents will be confidentially collected and transported to Opportunity Enterprises for destruction. Each attendee is asked to limit material to be shredded to two boxes.

Kathy Sipple, founder of CoThrive.org, an online community, and host of the award-winning podcast 219 GreenConnect, will present "What is a timebank?" at 9:30 a.m. on stage. A timebank is a network of people that has agreed to earn and spend hours to meet the needs of friends, neighbors and the community. Participants contribute or "bank" hours, presenting their offerings and talents for other members to request.

Stage shows this year include Silly Safaris live animal shows at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

"Something 'Pinteresting'" hands-on activities are planned by Lake County Solid Waste Management District. Providing usable "stuff" from the ReUz Room in Hammond, the team will lead do-it-yourself projects at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The team's demonstrations shine a spotlight on the return of the Re-Think Art Competition and Exhibit, featuring artwork made out of 100 percent recycled materials. The public is asked to vote on their favorites, and the artists will win cash prizes.

The School Rain Barrel Design Contest, birdhouse building, Dumpster Drummers and alternate fuel vehicle displays will return.

Preordered and prepaid rain barrels will be available for pickup between 9 a.m. and noon. Online ordering is available at www.It-MeansTheWorld.org

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**219-874-2454****800-789-2210**www.MichianaMechanical.com**Cox Returns for Concert**

Purdue University Northwest, its Department of English and Modern Languages and Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa will present the Ronny Cox Band in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, April 22, in Blue Chip's Stardust Event Center.



Ronny Cox in performance.

Under the leadership of actor, singer/songwriter and storyteller Ronny Cox, the show features an eclectic mix of songs and stories. One of Hollywood's most versatile character actors, he appeared for the first time in front of a camera playing the guitar in the dueling banjos scene in "Deliverance." Since then, he has appeared in more than 125 movies and TV shows, including "Beverly Hills Cop,"

"Robocop," "Total Recall," "Taps," "The Onion Field" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Cox visited Michigan City in 2014, presenting a concert at Lubeznik Center for the Arts before visiting a class at the North Central campus to speak about moviemaking. In 2012, he wrote "Dueling Banjos: The Deliverance of Drew," a collection of stories about the movie and his own springboard into Hollywood that coincided with the film's 40th anniversary.

And while he's best known for his acting career, Cox has been playing music and writing stories for more than four decades. He plays at more than 100 shows, at festivals and theaters, every year. He has released eight CDs, including "Ronny Cox Live in Concert — The Official Bootleg," in 2014.

Tickets, which are \$20, are available at www.ticketmaster.com and the Blue Chip Gift Box. Guests must be 21 or older, with a valid state or government-issued photo ID.

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Celebrating Agriculture Day

Learn innovations agriculture has made over time during the free program "Celebrating La Porte County Agriculture: Past, Present and Future" from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 16, near Pioneer Land at La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, La Porte.

The family-oriented program is sponsored by Pioneer Land and The Center for Creative Solutions. Explore the log cabin, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, pioneer garden and antique barn. Play pioneer games with friends and family.

Save the Tune musicians will perform on the log cabin porch in the center of Pioneer Village. The La Porte County Farm Bureau cabin will have activities and displays about farming.

In the Artisan Barn, participate in hands-on activities such as planting seeds, making cornhusk dolls and creating farm crafts. Learn how the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District is enhancing the environment by preserving soil, water and natural resources.

Observe animals such as alpacas, draft horses, miniature horses, goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens and ducks. 4-H Club members will put their dogs through an agility course. In the show arena, watch young people groom and show their prize animals at the "Great Lakes Showdown," a beef cattle show.

"The Hairy Who"

The Area Artists Association will host a special viewing of the documentary "Hairy Who and the Chicago Imagists" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

In the mid-1960s, Chicago was an incubator for an iconoclastic group of young artists collectively known as the Imagists. A cousin to the contemporaneous phenomenon of Pop Art, the group took its own weird, in-your-face approach. Their story is recreated with archival footage and photographs, and more than 40 interviews with the Imagists themselves, critics, curators, collectors and contemporary artists.

The movie has a running time of 105 minutes.

Audubon Society Program

Two local Potawatomi Audubon Society members will present the program "How to Attract Birds to Your Yard" at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 14, in the meeting room at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The members will show images of birds taken in their yards, and discuss how they draw a variety of birds. The public can ask questions. A business meeting will follow the presentation.

Educational Hike Series

Shirley Heinze Land Trust invites the public to explore the Calumet Region through its annual series of educational hikes.

Led by a variety of experts, five hikes have been scheduled at nature preserves in Northwest Indiana, Northeast Illinois and Southwest Michigan.



Botanist Scott Namestnik leads a group during last year's hike at Warren Woods.

Botanist Scott Namestnik will lead the first hike from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 23, at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary in Cass County, Mich. Dowagiac Woods is a 384-acre old-growth forest owned by the Michigan Nature Association. The property features a diversity of spring wildflowers, ferns, trees and wildlife.

Group size is limited to 15, and advance registration is required. There is a \$25 fee for each hike. A reduced fee of \$100 for all five hikes is available.

Visit tinyurl.com/jyonjfo, call (219) 242-8558 or email Jim Erdelac atjerdelac@heinzetrust.org for more information or to register.

The remaining 2016 schedule is:

- 9 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, May 14 — Robinson Woods and Flynn Woods in Berrien County, Mich. Late Spring Wildflowers Hike. Leader: Ryan Postema, land protection specialist with Chikaming Open Lands.
- 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 25 — Oak Ridge County Park, Griffith. Prairie and Savanna Hike. Leader: Tim Armstrong, Lake County Park manager.
- 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 23 — Cowles Bog, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Dune Acres). Mushroom Hike. Leader: Greg Mueller of Chicago Botanic Garden.
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6 — Carl N. Becker Savanna and Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserves, Kankakee County, Ill. Savanna Hike. Leader: Rob Littiken of The Nature Conservancy.

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The Most Dangerous Place to Live

by Kevin Scott



The most dangerous place to live doesn't appear on the news every day. It's not the murder capital of the world. It is not a place marred by statistics such as murders per capita, or violence in the streets.

The dangers of this place don't come from violent people, even the terrors of the wilderness. And, I guess, to be completely honest, this place doesn't have any GPS coordinates.

Have I built enough suspense? The most dangerous place to live is in your comfort zone.

They say a comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there. Pick an area in life you are trying to improve, whether it is relationships, work or health...or anything in between for that matter. But since this is a health column, let's bring it back to health. Just as the above quote states, a comfort zone is a beautiful place....if you are content. And if you are content, then more power to you. But if you are trying to improve, even by the slightest, then start getting out of your comfort zone.

Improvements to your health, well-being or performance absolutely will require a move out of your comfort zone.

So let's draw a picture of the comfort zone. Most people sit in them in hopes that maybe more focus or volume will make them change. They come to the gym a couple days a week, hop on the elliptical, read a magazine, talk to a friend, run through the machines once, read the bulletin board and walk out with a single drop of accomplished sweat on their brow. They might go in only with a friend, only on days convenient to them, or occasionally on the weekends if not hungover. These are people in their comfort zones who are happy where they are and don't actually want to make the change to lose weight, lose inches, get healthier or change their lifestyle.

The average person typically will set their sails on a health journey around an emotional time/event (New Year's resolutions, upcoming wedding, upcoming vacation, beach season approaching). With an emotional trigger, not much thought is put into how you are going to meet these goals, and how hard it is to change your lifestyle to achieve these goals. After a couple weeks, disappointment ensues fairly quickly, and people either are scrambling for a quick fix — that is a whole different column — or simply give up. This can be caused by trying to tackle too much at once, not actually wanting it, not wanting to put in the real work or just not knowing how to achieve the results you want.

Any of the above reasons people fail at their fitness goals can be linked back to preparation. Each one of these reasons are about getting out of your comfort zone. People who try to tackle too much at

once have failed already in preparation. Many try to cut out fast food and soda, and work out five days a week. Your body will literally freak out and not know what is going on, forcing you to quit and try it again a year later.

The other two reasons are the more serious ones. People who don't want to put in the real work to change themselves, as well as those who don't want it, are the two groups that are the hardest to change.

The first change both groups need to make is getting out of your comfort zone. Getting uncomfortable in the gym is not a bad thing. The first thing you need to do is find someone who knows what he/she is doing, whether it is a personal trainer or friend. And the importance of both of these are that they are PHYSICAL people you can touch, see and smack if they let you down. So many people will come with a sweet new workout they found online that Jane Jumping Jacks is promoting along with a cookie cutter meal plan that GUARANTEES weight loss in four weeks if you only eat 800 calories a day. Not going to happen.

A good and knowledgeable trainer is going to be with you every step of the way because he/she cares, and it is his/her job. Many successful CEOs and millionaires realize the value of a personal trainer and enroll them as their full-time help. This is not because they don't have the motivation, but because they need someone to be held accountable to, and to know someone is waiting for them. They are ultra-successful people who are in an area where they are out of their comfort zone. They may be able to build businesses or brands, but not their own body. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. It is an acceptance of getting educated, helped and comfortable with something uncomfortable to you.

Getting out of your comfort zones is obviously, and literally, uncomfortable. You are in an area where you are happy and content, but changing your life or your body is not an easy task. Nothing hard is ever going to come easy. Whether it is losing 10 pounds or 100 pounds. Whether it is getting healthier to play with your grandkids or getting ready for beach season. Whether you are getting ready for your first 5K or your 50th 5K.

Ultimately, getting uncomfortable will be the best thing you've ever done.



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When it was revealed last October, right after the release of “Bridge of Spies,” that Steven Spielberg’s next picture would be an adaptation of Roald Dahl’s “The BFG,” my initial reaction was of the head-scratching sort. When it comes to kids movies, the director — America’s most imaginative — doesn’t typically embrace his dark side.

That presumption sprang from ignorance, Dahl’s beloved work having somehow eluded me during my childhood. Many of the author’s tales, most of which *did* enrich my early years, are not of the warm and fuzzy type. If The Brothers Grimm had offspring, then Dahl could have been a direct descendent. The standard Dahl hero or heroine is a rose amid thorns, a child of simple means dropped into a scenario with bite, or more to the point, that bites back. The world in Dahl’s eyes is a cruel, ugly place that requires an innocent to teach it a lesson. Case in point: “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” “Matilda,” “The Witches” and “James and the Giant Peach.”

What could Spielberg’s wide-eyed optimism have in common with Dahl’s penchant for snark? Curiosity got the better of me, and in February, I poured through the pages of Dahl’s tale in two days...finally arriving at my “a-ha” moment. “The BFG” is one of the author’s gentlest works, a lovely, elegant fable about loneliness and friendship, one ideally suited for a director who, with “E.T. The Extra Terrestrial,” showed us a friendship defying all explanation.

The movie arrives in theaters July 1. The two-minute teaser-trailer, which can be viewed online, is so sumptuous, so haunting and mysterious, it’s as if the first few pages of Dahl’s work leapt directly off the page and onto the screen.

Like any classic, “The BFG” exists on two levels, one that can be embraced by children, but also savored by adults who grasp its deeper meaning. On

the simplest plane, it is the story of an orphan girl, Sophie, who late one night peers out her window to see an immense form appear, a giant who plucks her from her bed and whisks her away to his secret land. The creature, who calls himself The Big Friendly Giant, is quite unlike his fellow behemoths, who prefer to munch on children like after-dinner snacks. The BFG, instead, is a collector of dreams, distributing them among youngsters as they sleep.

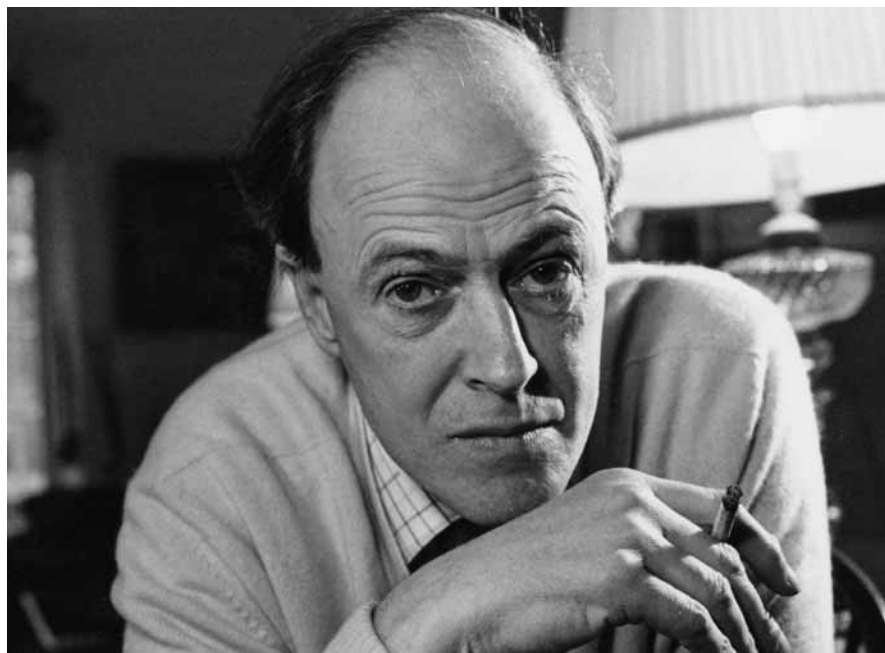
As the friendship deepens between Sophie and The BFG, the lessons of Dahl’s work reveal themselves. Sophie and her immense captor have more in common than they first believe. They are both alone, outcasts in a land that does not accept them. They live in a world where others behave badly, calling into question, just who exactly is the real monster?

It is similar territory Spielberg explored with “E.T.” The main characters are both alone — Elliot struggling with divorce, the alien left behind

The BFG

by Andrew Tallackson

Editor’s note — This is the next in a series of columns exploring upcoming film adaptations of popular books.



Author Roald Dahl

(1995). Not a bad apple in the bunch. Spielberg calls her screenplay for “E.T.” the closest thing to perfection he’s received, carrying it with him during the entire shoot of the film. That her last project will have the Spielberg stamp on it suggests it will be a love letter not only to the magic of Dahl’s tale, but also to a friendship born between her and Spielberg almost 35 years ago.

As The BFG, Spielberg cast his “Bridge of Spies”

on Earth — each finding strength and courage through each other. Adults either are absent or distractions.

Spielberg has the sensitivity to explore the themes of Dahl’s material, and there is something bittersweet about the fact that the screenplay marks the final work of his “E.T.” collaborator, Melissa Mathison, who died last November. Spielberg’s 1982 classic was one of only a handful of movies she penned, the others including “The Black Stallion” (1979) and “The Indian in the Cupboard”

Oscar winner, Mark Rylance, and it’s perfection achieved. Consider last year’s Tom Hanks spy picture the best possible audition: His Rudolf Abel was a gentle, symbolic giant amid a story of chaos and uncertainty. Ruby Barnhill, a relative newcomer, is Sophie, and her inexperience means little. Spielberg is a master of unleashing acting dynamite in their first big roles: Henry Thomas and Drew Barrymore in “E.T.,” Christian Bale in “Empire of the Sun,” Haley Joel Osment in “A.I. Artificial Intelligence.” This is a guy who knows how to discover fresh young talent. And while it might have been a coup to lure Helen Mirren for another go as the Queen of England, he’s attracted none other than Isobel Crawley herself, Penelope Wilton, to the role.

My only concern, and it’s practically negligible, is that Spielberg is using motion capture to convey Rylance as the giant. Motion capture, if you’re not familiar with it, is a computerized way of recording how people or objects move so you can show them any way you like on screen. When motion-capture actor Andy Serkis takes a crack at it with animals or creatures, either as King Kong in Peter Jackson’s 2005 remake, Gollum in the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy or as Caesar in the last two “Planet of the Apes” reboots, it is an example of technology at its most supreme. When Robert Zemeckis tries it with animated humans in “The Polar Express” and “A Christmas Carol,” the eyes of his creations never flicker with the essence of life. His characters look like zombies. If the motion-capture work used to create The BFG is another misfire, if the character creeps you out instead of having you reach for the nearest box of Kleenex, then the movie implodes from the get-go.

Having said that, Spielberg is working with a rumored budget of \$130 million. Not exactly chump change. And this is a man who made us believe dinosaurs once again could roam the Earth. If he can do that, then he certainly can leave us convinced a lonely little girl and a gentle giant can change the world.

We are in expert hands.

(Next up: Martin Scorsese’s long-delayed adaptation of Erik Larson’s “The Devil in the White City.”)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



The opening scene of “The BFG,” with the title character arriving at Sophie’s window.



Steven Spielberg (left) cast his “Bridge of Spies” Oscar winner, Mark Rylance, in the title role of “The BFG.”



Relative newcomer Ruby Barnhill stars as Sophie.

Zoobilee

Washington Park Zoological Society held its third annual fundraiser, "Zoobilee," on April 2, focusing on community support and awareness of Washington Park Zoo and its many programs.

Zoobilee proceeds each year have supported renovation projects of new and existing exhibits, general

operations and educational initiatives, as well purchasing new animals, and maintaining their well-being and optimal care.

The \$16,000 in funds raised this year will aid the zoo's multi-stage transformation into a nationally accredited family destination in Northwest Indiana.



Photos provided by Richard Warner

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Design and Installation

Kristi Clark

voice/text 219.210.0544

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La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more information.

Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting). The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, April 18, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants. The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- May 4 — Organize and prepare your garden, and take home tips, with Sacha Burns, Sunkissed Organics.
- June 1 — Age spots and common skin problems, Dr. Sonam Chouksey, internal medicine.
- July 6 — Ways to improve balance in the older years, Becy Allwood-Wallace, physical therapist.
- Aug. 3 — Eye health, cataract care and eye warning signs, Dr. Sethi Patel, ophthalmology.
- Sept. 14 — What to grow in the fall with Sacha Burns, Sunkissed Organics.

Kids Fishing Fun Day

Children accompanied by an adult are invited to catch-and-release fishing from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at Luhr Park Pond.

A limited amount of bait and poles will be available. The free program is co-sponsored by Northwest Indiana Steelheaders. No pre-registration is required.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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

DNR Grants Address Invasive Plants

Department of Natural Resources grants totaling more than \$586,000 will be used to fight invasive aquatic vegetation in Indiana's lakes, including sites in La Porte County.

The grants were awarded through the Lake and River Enhancement program in the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. The 42 projects involve lakes in 15 counties, selected from applications submitted by local sponsors who share at least 20 percent of the total cost.

LARE grants are funded through the Lake and River Enhancement fee paid annually by boat owners when they register their boats with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The "user-funded" program benefits boaters all over the state.

The grants will help control or manage aggressive non-native species, including Eurasian water-milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and starry stonewort that can take over and clog lakes.

La Porte County grant recipients are:

- Clear Lake — \$8,400.
- Fish Lakes (Upper Fish, Lower Fish, Mud) — \$27,800.
- Hudson Lake — \$22,400.
- Pine Lake — \$37,500.
- Stone Lake — \$2,500.

Input on Gardena Project Sought

The Michigan City Park Department is seeking public input for the Gardena Playground Renovation Project.

Sessions are:

- Park Board meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, at City Hall.
- Gardena Park at 6 p.m. Monday, June 6.
- Park Board meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, at City Hall.

To help with the process, the park department is asking the public to fill out a survey at www.michigancityparks.com, or pick up the form from the Parks & Recreation Department office in the lower level of City Hall. The survey helps identify potential improvements at Gardena Playground. Surveys must be returned to the park office no later than June 15 to be included in the planning process.

Call the park department at (219) 873-1506 for more information.

Trivia Night Fundraiser

Michiana Resources will have a trivia night fundraiser at 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, at Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

Teams can range in size from six to eight at a cost of \$10 per head. Cheap drinks and trophies are planned.

Contact Cassandra at (219) 874-4288, Ext. 302, or dunn@michianaresources.org for bookings.



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School Launches Fundraiser

Queen of All Saints Catholic School students will walk, jog and run their way toward a healthier life while raising funds for their school.

The school is introducing the event, open to the public as well, called "My School Color Run." Rather than sell goods, it aims to engage the entire student body in a fitness initiative.

The untimed fun run is Saturday, June 11, at Queen of All Saints Church, 606 S. Woodland Ave. Racers will pass through several color stations and end with a color toss.

Those interested can register by visiting QASFestival.eventbrite.com or by completing a paper registration form prior to the event. Anyone interested in more information or a copy of the registration form can contact Debbie Pedzinski at Debpedzinski@gmail.com

Long Beach Historical Society

Debbie Steele-Semla told *The Beacher* the IRS has made the status of Long Beach Historical Society official.

Steele-Semla thanked Dennis Kelley and Mike Riley for handling legal aspects of the process.

The group's first meeting as an official group is from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, in the Long Beach Community Center gym.

Monday Nine Hole Women Golfers

Michigan City Municipal North Course Monday Nine Hole Women Golfers invites new members to join the league.

The opening luncheon is Monday, April 25, with play beginning at 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 2.

Call Carol at 879-6919 or Margie at 872-1847 for more information.



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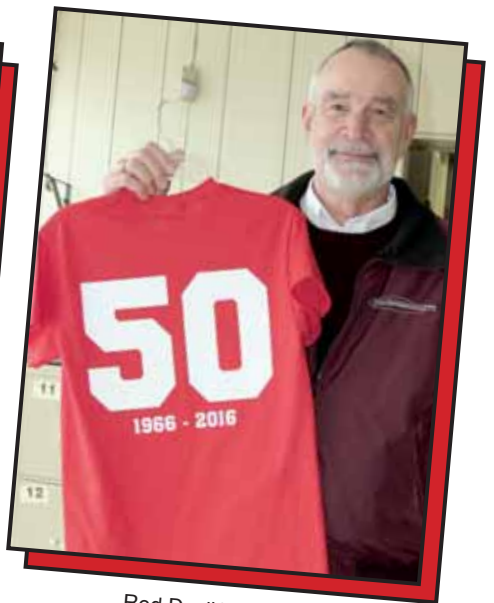
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Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear in an upcoming edition.



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Email high-resolution photos to drew@thebeacher.com

Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Friday, April 15

• 6 p.m. — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Birds and Brews.

The park and Indiana Audubon Society will host the free monthly gathering of bird enthusiasts at The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive, Chesterton.

Saturday, April 16

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

Meet at the Campground Gate for an hour-long discovery hike that includes Trail 2 to search for flowering marsh marigolds and nesting wood ducks. Take binoculars.

• 2 p.m. — Dunes Through Four Seasons.

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium to explore winter beauty, and summer sights and sounds, during the 45-minute photographic tour.

Sunday, April 17

• 10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.

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

• 2 p.m. — Are They Here Yet Hike!?

Meet at the Nature Center for a 45-minute early wildflower foray.

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.



The following programs are available through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

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

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

• “50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes” on Saturday, April 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Indiana Dunes photographer David Larson will share stories of dunes history, and open his photo exhibit “50 Years of Photographing the Indiana Dunes.” A sneak peak is at 5:30 p.m., followed by Larson’s one-hour presentation.



Heron Rookery.

• “Stewardship Day & Wildflower Hike” from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16, at Heron Rookery.

In honor of Earth Day and National Park Week, join a ranger to help remove invasive species. The rookery trail is rich in native spring wildflowers, but garlic mustard and other aliens must be removed. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. After the work, enjoy a ranger-led Spring Wildflower Walk at 1 p.m. Meet at the Heron Rookery’s east parking lot, N. County Road 600 East, Michigan City

• Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.

Explore a different National Park Service site through films shown at 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center and 2 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Call the park’s information line at (219) 395-1882 for this week’s film.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

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Leadership Award Winner

Cynthia Hedge is the recipient of the fifth annual Ned E. Kalb Community Leadership Award, presented at the recent Purdue Extension La Porte County annual meeting.

Hedge received a plaque and will have her name added to the permanent plaque on display at the Extension Office and donated by Dick Reel, who served as the extension director for many years.



Cynthia Hedge (left) poses with her award with Monica Komaskinski, Leadership La Porte County executive director.

Hedge worked in the legal community for many years, as an attorney, deputy prosecutor and prosecuting attorney. She also is co-founder of The Center for Creative Solutions. Over the years, she has been active with many community organizations, including Dunebrook, United Way, Humane Society, Parents & Friends, CASA, Bethany Lutheran Church and La Porte Hospital Foundation.

Nominated for the Kalb Award by a team of community members, she was recognized for being gracious, tough, charming, smart and determined to collaborate with others for the greater good of the region, state and world, according to a press release. It was noted her unique leadership style shows she genuinely cares about others.

The annual award is a partnership between Purdue Extension La Porte County and Leadership La Porte County. Kalb served as extension director for many years and was a catalyst to form Leadership La Porte County. He died in November 2011, and the award was created soon after to honor his memory. Previous winners include John Coulter (2012) James Dworkin (2013), George and Dory Morley (2014) and Diana Werner (2015).

Nominations for the next award will be taken beginning in January.

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"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Purdue University Northwest students with the North Central Theatre group will present William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," set amid the times and music of Cole Porter, as part of the Canterbury Winter Arts series.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 15-16, at Canterbury Theatre (formerly Mainstreet Theatre), 807 Franklin St.

This unique version finds a link between Indiana's own master of the ultra-ironic love song and a comedy where falling in and out of love can happen in the blink of an eye...and with the help of a little magic love juice.



Rehearsing their roles for the upcoming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are Niel Jacoby as Bottom and Eileen Long as Titania.

The production features jazz-age dance choreographed by Ariane Dolan, incidental reflections on Cole Porter by Rob Clearfield, set painting by Michelle Lilly and costumes by Eileen Long.

The cast includes: Alyza Blatz, Valparaiso; Jesse Cohn, Valparaiso; Hannah Eikelberg, La Porte; Joseph Ellison, Valparaiso; Ashley Ganz, Valparaiso; Jeremy Harris, Michigan City; Niel Jacoby, Lafayette; Eileen Long, Furnessville; Tiffany McGovern, Valparaiso; Lillianna Pollnow, Michigan City; Trey Rivas, Valparaiso; George Romero, Chesterton; Charles Trott, La Porte; Holly Trott, La Porte; Alexis Ulrich, Chesterton; and Mackenzie Zeck, Valparaiso.

Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with a current ID, may be reserved by calling (219) 874-4269 or by emailing info@festivalplayers-guild.org

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 14.**

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

• **Films on DVD Series: "Bridge of Spies" at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 17.**

Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning movie is Rated PG-13.

• **"Spring Clean" Craft Fling! at 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 15.**

The program is appropriate for children ages 4-10 accompanied by an adult. The child must be present to receive craft materials.

• **Storytime at the Library at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, April 20 and 27.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults can enjoy stories, songs and crafts during time designed for parent/guardian and child interaction. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **Creativity and Innovation Week: Art Bots! at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.**

The hands-on STEAM activity involves designing an Art Bot.

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 20 and 27.**

Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

Pork Chop Dinner

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave., will host a Pork Chop Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16.

The cost is \$10 per person. The menu includes pork chops, au gratin potatoes, Vegetable Medley, rolls and butter, lemonade, water, coffee and desserts (at an additional price).

Takeouts are available. Call (219) 879-9415 for more information or to buy tickets.

Senior Education Series

Aperion Care at The Arbors, 1101 E. Coolspring Ave., will host a free Senior Education Series at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.

The featured speaker, Sgt. Chris Yagelski of the Michigan City Police Department, will discuss fraud prevention and the effects on the senior community.

Lunch will be provided. Contact Carol Russell at 877-8430 to RSVP.



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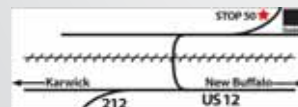
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Bus Tour Set of Shirley Heinze Land Trust Nature Preserves

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host an educational bus tour of its nature preserves from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

Staff, board members and guest speakers, including author Ken Schoon and Indiana University-Northwest Geosciences Professor Erin Argyilan, will provide insights on land conservation, as well as Northwest Indiana's ecology, geology and history.

The bus will depart promptly at 8 a.m. from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The bus will head west to Portage for the first stop at John Merle Coulter Nature Preserve. Here, participants will depart the bus for a brief hike, guided by Eric Bird, Shirley Heinze Land Trust stewardship director. Guests will learn about the preserve's unique land-use history, and how management led to habitat recovery, resulting in a diverse native plant community.

The bus then will head to the west end of the trust's operating area for a brief stop at Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve to see a globally-rare dune and swale habitat. The tour then will pass by several preserves in Hobart, including Hidden Prairie, Ivory Wetlands, Bur Oak Woods and Gordon and Faith Greiner Nature Preserves. From there, the bus will head to Cressmoor Prairie for a short hike. The bus

then will depart Cressmoor for Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Preserve in Valparaiso, with lunch provided by Third Coast Spice Cafe.

The afternoon portion will focus on several preserves in Porter and La Porte counties, including a stop at the Wykes-Plampin Nature Preserve in Chesterton to hear about the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor project, as well as the restoration

and public-access improvements there. The bus then will make a brief stop at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve to learn about new acquisitions to the trust's largest preserve. Next on the agenda is a brief hike at one of its new preserves, Father Basil Moreau Preserve in Michigan City.

During the last leg of the tour, the bus will pass through the Beverly Shores Project area for a glimpse

of the Great Marsh properties. Water birds such as herons and egrets often can be seen perching on branches within the marsh restoration area. The tour will conclude back at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center at 3:30 p.m.

The tour cost is \$35 per person, or \$60 per couple. Reservations are required by calling (219) 242-8558 or through www.heinzetrust.org. Reservations must be made no later than April 25. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised.



A previous tour involved a stop in Beverly Shores.

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NB Library Community Forum

Three Oaks native William Mangold will lead a tour of more than 100 sites in the Galien River Valley of Southwest Michigan going back 10,000 years during a Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum.

The free program is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, April 18, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Mangold, an archeological researcher, has spent more than 50 years investigating, recording and interpreting the region's prehistoric and historic Native American and European-American settlement. He invites people to take locally found artifacts for his evaluation.

Another free program in the series includes a sing-along concert featuring American Songbook favorites by School of American Music instructors and students from 3 to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 24.

Upcoming speakers include: "How to Write Your Family History So That Someone Will Want to Read It" on May 10; "Personal Safety and Scams" by crime-prevention expert Kelly Laesch of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department; and "Stormy Weather" by Lake Michigan College's Timm Pschigoda. All programs begin at 6:30 p.m. EDT.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more information.

900 Trees to be Planted at Park

The La Porte County Parks Department planted 900 native tree saplings this week at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte.

In June 2014, an extreme wind storm devastated the park's forest. Three area school groups, one Boy Scout troop and several volunteer organizations led the plantings. It is hoped the specific tree species chosen will give the forest more diversity, as well as deeply rooted trees.

Examples of trees being planted range from White Oak and Black Walnut to tulip poplar and Swamp Chestnut Oak.

The Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation and La Porte County Park Foundation funded the effort.

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Shangpa Rinpoche is visiting Manjushree Hermitage for special programs, April 7-10th and 29-30th.

For more information about weekly meditation and the April programs, go to manjushreefoundation.com or call 219-879-7940

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Potpourri of Literature

Purdue University Northwest Communication 240 students will host the 27th annual Potpourri of Literature Readers' Theatre.

The free one-hour event is at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

This year's edition is "Celebrate Indiana 2016: The Bicentennial of our Statehood," with an original script written and edited by Daniel Padberg, associate professor of communication, who teaches the Communication 240 class. The script is a mix of music and literature. North Central 2005 alumnus Roscoe Hoffman will provide piano accompaniment. A visual presentation will feature photos of Indiana artists, musicians, personalities and historic sites.

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

Students in the Communication 240 Introduction to Oral Interpretation class include: Felicia Marie Bell, Chicago; Collin Cook, Chesterton; Angela Hayes-Riffel, La Porte; Samuel Hinken, Montague, Mich.; Molly Marsh, Ligonier; Katelynn Scheffer, La Porte; and Toni R. Vandy, Hebron.

Contact Padberg at (219) 785-5384 for additional information.

ASL Club Coffeehouse

The Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language will host an ASL Coffeehouse from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 15, at Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso.

The coffeehouse is open to ASL students and community members. Children can attend with a parent or adult. Participants are asked to use ASL, affording the chance to practice it to better communicate with friends, co-workers or family members. Coffee, food and drink may be ordered.

Coffeehouses may feature a guest speaker, who will start at about 6 p.m. If not, guests may take their own decks of cards and games to play.

More information may be found at www.nwidhnc.com/, or contact Karen Donah, PNW continuing lecturer and American Sign Language coordinator, at kdonah@pnc.edu

River Valley Garden Club

Robert McLaughlin of the Grand Valley Daylily Society will discuss "How to Hybridize Daylilies" during the next River Valley Garden Club meeting Tuesday, April 19, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

All meetings are open to the public. The business portion starts at 1 p.m. EDT, followed by the daylily presentation at 2 p.m. EDT.

The club's schedule includes its annual plant sale Saturday, May 21, at Harbert Community Park, as well as field trips and presentations. It's also involved in service projects such as Warren Dunes and Chikaming Openlands and providing scholarships to Michigan students majoring in horticulture or a related field.

Visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org or call Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513 for more information.

Bake Sale Pre-Orders

Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich., is taking pre-orders for its "Big Fat Greek Bake Sale."

Call (269) 469-0081 for a pre-order form and additional information. Items may be picked up at the church social hall from noon to 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 23.

The event, itself, is Saturday, May 7.

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Trumpeter Swans Head to New Home

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens' trumpeter swans took a 20-minute waddle April 5 to their spring and summer home in the non-profit's wetlands, and with the help of some of their two-legged friends.

The male and female pair spend the winter months in their enclosure near the Railway Garden. Each spring, Taltree staff open the gate to the enclosure and slowly assist the swans in their slow waddle down a path to the Window to the Wetlands. Four staff members walked alongside and behind the pair to ensure they did not veer from the intended path. The birds were never touched during the process.



Taltree Grounds and Facilities Manager Chad Cronin (right) and Grounds Worker Sarah Reid accompany Taltree's trumpeter swans to their spring/summer home.

Trumpeter swans are on the state endangered species list. The status requires Taltree to maintain state permits to house and care for the birds. The pair have yet to reproduce, but staff members are hoping this will be the year for new additions to Taltree's family. Both are between 4 and 5, which typically is when mating takes place.

The swans began showing signs they were ready to mate in 2015, with the male doing a mating dance and the female building a nest for the first time. This spring, the couple have been restless in their enclosure, and staff members are hoping the behavior is due to the desire to mate.

Taltree is taking steps to assist and encourage nesting by providing straw, hay, twigs and sticks on an island in the wetland. Any offspring produced will be relocated to Florida with the assistance of the Trumpeter Swan Society, where they will be integrated into a migrating flock.

Visitors can view the swans during normal operating hours. The male is easily identified as the larger of the two birds, and when on land holds his neck high and puffs out his chest. The female is smaller and often has her head down and her neck lower.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.

Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are available through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **The children's exhibit "Famous" runs through April.**

The exhibit includes work from children's classes. Each month, classes focus on different artists, including Andy Warhol, Frida Kahlo, Auguste Renoir, Rembrandt, Gustav Klimt, Rene Magritte and Edvard Munch. Projects include 2-D and 3-D pieces created using paints, pencils, pastels, photography, clay and other materials.

The weekly classes include students ages 3-16. This year, a new homeschool class was added, expanding the total offering. Children can start and stop participation anytime, depending on their schedule. They do a series of projects that reflects different aspects of the artist's style.

These projects make up "Famous."

• **"Color Between the Wines" adult coloring club from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.**

The club will provide all materials (coloring pages and crayons), including free adult beverages. Participants can take their own books, pencils and pens. The class is not structured, but a social opportunity for people to decompress for a brief time using a creative outlet. The cost is \$5.

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

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Coastal Program Seeks Input

The Department of Natural Resources' Lake Michigan Coastal Program is seeking public input on funding priorities for the 2017 cycle of the Coastal Grants Program.

This year's process will be slightly different, featuring more opportunities to suggest types of projects that could receive funding.

A public meeting will kick off the input process at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 1000 Riverwalk Drive, Portage. The meeting will start with a presentation about the Coastal Grants Program. Then, the public can speak with staff and Coastal Advisory Board members, and suggest projects for funding.

Those unable to attend can submit suggestions to LMCP Grants Specialist Maggie Byrne at mbyrne@dnr.IN.gov

Input will be accepted until May 20. Public suggestions will be considered by the CAB, which will vote on priorities to adopt at its June 15 meeting. That meeting will be open to the public; however, public input will not be sought.

The LMCP is an annual competitive grants program that awards funds to units of local government, regional and state agencies, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations. Funds may be used for public access or habitat improvements, land acquisition, planning and coordination, education and outreach, applied research and emerging issues projects. Multiple suggestions may be submitted for each category. Projects must be entirely within the Lake Michigan Coastal area, which is the northern portions of Lake, Porter and La Porte counties. With an allocation of approximately \$600,000 per year, the program has funded more than \$12 million in projects since 2001.

Historical Society

La Porte County Historical Society Inc. will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at the museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

The evening's program chairwoman, Joanne Gorecki, will present "A Visual Tour of La Porte's Architectural Treasures," highlighting avenues that will include houses known as Fox homes, 1503 and 1508 Indiana Ave. and 1515 and 1519 Michigan Ave., Low home, 1417 Indiana Ave., and Cable home, 1600 Indiana Ave. Current owners will discuss their own homes.

Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for additional information.

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PNW Student Honored



Purdue University Northwest student Erin Provenzano, of the North Central campus, has been named a 2016 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact.

The award honors student leaders committed to service, research and advocacy. The North Central campus has had a succession of students honored as Fellows, including Victoria DeMan in 2015, Matthew Migliorni in 2014, Greg Mohlke in 2013, Katheryn "Katie" Hines in 2012 and

Amy Boren in 2011.

"I am humbled and honored to receive this award," said Provenzano, who is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education.

While she has a degree in social work and enjoys the field, she discovered several years ago how well suited she was for a career as an educator. A mother of four, she volunteered with her church and community organizations, bringing her into contact with young children. Soon, she discovered how much she enjoyed being an educator. Once her twins started kindergarten, she knew the time was right to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education.

On campus, Provenzano's activities include being membership chair of the Teachers Networking with Teachers group, qualifying for membership in the Kappa Delta Pi education honor society and serving as a Service Learning Mentor to students in an Early Childhood Education course.

Off-campus, she serves on her church's Congregation Council and is a Sunday school teacher and coordinator of infant through 3-year-old children's program. She is the Parent Teacher League vice-president and assists with One for Everyone, a local organization that helps create accessible playgrounds for other-abled children.

She volunteers with Compass International, mentoring immigrant families to ensure all children have a strong support system. To fully reinforce the young children's English language learning, Provenzano collaborated with fellow Early Childhood Education students and the Compass International Family Center in Valparaiso to develop and create "literacy backpacks." These backpacks, funded with an external grant, include bilingual picture books, games, puppets and resources for families.

She anticipates earning her degree in May 2017, her sights set on earning a master's degree.

With being named a Newman Civic Fellow came the opportunity to present at the Campus Compact Service Engagement Summit.

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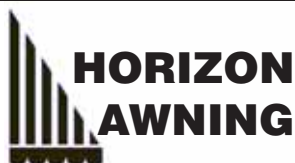
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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 14 — Music at the Museum, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 14 — “How to Attract Birds to Your Yard,” 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

April 14 — Graphic Novel Book Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Grant Morrison’s “Flex Mentallo: Man of Muscle Mystery,” Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 15 — “Spring Clean” Craft Fling!, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 15 — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Birds and Brews, 6 p.m., The Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive, Chesterton.

April 15 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

April 15-16 — Purdue University Northwest production, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” 7:30 p.m., Canterbury Theatre (formerly Mainstreet Theatre), 807 Franklin St. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/students with current ID. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, info@festivalplayersguild.org

April 15-17 — “Little Women,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15 (2 for \$25 with coupon printed off website), \$10/12 and younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, footlightplayers.org

April 15-18 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Embrace of the Serpent.” Not rated. In Spanish, Portuguese, German, Catalan and Latin with English subtitles. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “Race.” Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:45 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* “Strange Victory.” Not rated. Time: 12:45 p.m. Sat. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 16 — Reception, “Prominent People of La Porte County,” 1 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

April 16 — “Celebrating La Porte County Agriculture: Past, Present and Future,” 1-3 p.m., La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

April 16 — Dunes Through Four Seasons, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 16 — Local Author Series, David Hoppe, 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 16 — “50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes,” 5:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

April 16 — Mad About Mysteries, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 16 — Pork Chop Dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Cost: \$10. Tickets: (219) 879-9415.

April 16 — La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, "Celebration!", 7:30 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets/info: www.lcso.net

April 17 — Films on DVD Series: "Bridge of Spies," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 18 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, archeological sites, 6:30 p.m. EDT, library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 19 — Area Artists Association documentary screening, "Hairy Who and the Chicago Imagists," 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

April 19, 24 — 27th Annual Potpourri of Literature Readers' Theatre, Purdue University Northwest Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Free. Times: 11 a.m. & 12:15 p.m. April 19/2 p.m. April 24. Info: (219) 785-5384.

April 20 — Creativity and Innovation Week: Art Bots!, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

Through April — Duneland Weavers Guild, Fiber Art 2016, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.dunelandweavers.org

Through May — "Bits of Time" display, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

Farther Afield:

April 15 — Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language ASL Coffeehouse, 5-7:30 p.m., Uptown Café, 1400 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso. Info: kdonah@pnc.edu

April 16 — Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Free. Info: (219) 465-3819.

April 16 — Deep Fried Pickle Project, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

April 17 — ArtsBridge Spring Concert and Exhibit, 4 p.m. EDT, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info: (269) 925-7075, FirstPresBH.org

April 19 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: (269) 426-3513, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

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this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter, and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 20, in Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **Graphic Novel Book Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Grant Morrison's "Flex Mentallo: Man of Muscle Mystery." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale on April 15-17 at Thomas Library.**

The Friends Only Preview Sale is from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 15. Patrons may buy a 2016 membership at the door for \$5.

The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17. Many hardcover books will be sold for \$1 each and paperbacks for 50 cents. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag.

• **Local Author Series at 2 p.m. Saturday in April.**

The next program is David Hoppe, author of "Food for Thought," on April 16 at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. A Q&A session follows a brief reading from the book.



• **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Sue Helm will delve into mysteries that feature religious characters as protagonists and detectives.

• **Meet the Author: Trent Pendley from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 17, at Westchester Town-**

ship History Museum.

Pendley, Furnessville, will present his new book, "Toys in the Closet."

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, at Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Registration can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **Bits & Bytes series, Super Passwords, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Alzheimer's Association presents "Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program provides an understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and Alzheimer's.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

• **Climate Change Presentation at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, at Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The program will explain what is known about climate change, and actions to understand, adapt and mitigate its effects.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 24 at Thomas Library.**

The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.**

Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.



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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 (no Wednesday appts.) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ask for the participation guidelines if you don't have them already. Be sure to bring along a spring jacket, sweater or handbag to donate, with proceeds benefiting The Samaritan Center.

Shopping dates:

Friday, April 22, 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends

Saturday, April 23 & 30, 10-2 p.m. open to the public

Sunday, May 1, Noon-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day

Saturday, May 7, 10-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day.

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Outreach Trainer Course

The Purdue University Northwest Center for Occupational Safety and Health will offer an OSHA 501: Outreach Trainer Course in OSHA Standards for General Industry course May 10-13 at the North Central campus.

The class will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The \$800 per person cost includes all books, materials and lunch. To be considered for the course, those interested must submit a Prerequisite Verification Form to the PNW Office of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach by Monday, April 25.

The course is taught by instructors who cumulatively bring more than half a century of OSHA experience to the classroom. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate and OSHA Outreach Trainer for General Industry card.

Contact the Office of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach at (219) 785-5343 or gel@pnc.edu for more information. Individuals also can register at tinyurl.com/pp28zw8

Early Childhood Conference

The Purdue University-Northwest Center for Early Learning will host its 10th Annual Early Childhood Conference from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30, on the North Central campus.

The event centers on the theme “Kick Up Your Heels and Play.” All early childhood professionals, caregivers, child-development professionals, parents, students and community members are invited.

Registration and breakfast are from 8 to 8:30 a.m. The conference opens at 8:30 a.m. with a welcome from North Central Chancellor Jim Dworkin, who will lead the unveiling of the Early Childhood Center. Registration for individuals is \$60. A group rate of \$55 per person is available for groups of five or more. The North Central Student fee is \$15, while the fee for all other students is \$25. All costs include lunch and admission to the Family Fun Time event following the conference. Lunch cannot be guaranteed for those registering after April 22.

Keynote speaker Gigi Schweikert will discuss “Why Play is Important: 7 Myths of Academic Readiness” at noon. She is an early childhood expert, mother of four and author of “Winning Ways for Early Childhood Professionals.”

The conference also will feature two hour-long morning breakout sessions and one hour-long afternoon session. Each will offer the choice of eight different breakout sessions, presented by a variety of professionals who will cover topics in the areas of “Play in the Primary Grades,” “Play and Social/Emotional Development,” “Families and Communities” and “Developmentally Appropriate Practice.”

North Central Early Childhood Education majors will have poster presentations on display throughout the day. They feature service-learning projects candidates have completed during spring semester, featuring a variety of community partners.

The seven North Central students who received Strosacker Professional Development Mini-Grants will share their projects as well.

A lunch break and an afternoon break with a snack are planned. The afternoon break will include a book signing and vendor fair.

The day will conclude with a Family Fun Time Hoedown, which is free to all conference attendees and community members. Children must have an adult caregiver present.

Visit <http://www.pnc.edu/earlylearning> to register or for more information.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Travelers by Chris Pavone
(hardcover, \$27 in bookstores and online;
also available as an eBook)

Who Do You Trust? That's the name of an old TV show, but it could be the subtitle of this book that explores the world of international spying. It's also the story of a marriage on the brink of disaster. Just perhaps the two have something in common?

Spies and lies — they go together like bread and butter. But that's not on Will Rhodes' mind as our story opens.

Will and wife Chloe live in New York City. Both are writers. Chloe was a feature writer for *Travelers* magazine until Will came aboard and she switched to a contributing writer position. They live in a run down building they can't afford to fix up properly, and sex has become a monthly review of Chloe's ovulating days. Yes, they want to get pregnant, maybe Chloe more so than Will.

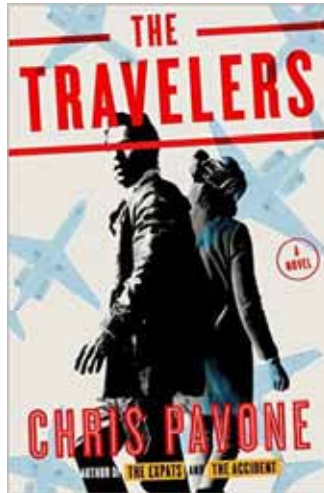
Anyway, his job has him jetting all over the world, meeting lots of people at lots of wine tastings and restaurant tastings, checking out hotels and resorts for the best travel destinations Americans love to dream about and someday visit. His story and glossy color photos make a beautiful magazine now facing the fate of all print material — extinction — if not for the wonder of the Internet. But is that enough to keep the magazine going with all its foreign offices? Can the advertisers and a dwindling number of subscribers be enough to pay the bills?

On an ill-fated trip to Paris, Will meets a beautiful woman named Elle (*"like the magazine"*) who puts the moves on him. He resists because he really loves his wife. But they meet again in Argentina. She's still willing and Will is weakening! Who will find out? It's one harmless night, right?

Repercussions, Will, there's always repercussions. For every action, there is an opposite and equal reaction, right? He's about to find out as he wakes up in his hotel to discover Elle missing from his bed and he is attacked and kidnapped. No surprise to find himself in a dark room with the kidnapper and Elle. He has a choice: *"You'll become an asset of the CIA. Or we'll ruin your life."*

He buys the story of the CIA using assets like him all over the world. *"To tell them about the people he meets, the places he goes. The embassies, parties, politicians. To help identify recruitment candidates."* And as payment for this information, he gets \$10,000 each month.

He really doesn't have a choice, since he truly doesn't want Chloe to find out about his stupid mis-



take, nor his boss at the magazine, and here's a chance to help his country. Will is sent to training sessions about counterintelligence and surveillance techniques.

It doesn't take long for things to heat up. A fancy party on a Russian oligarch's mega-yacht turns ugly and his cover is almost blown. An ex-pat in the Pyrenees seems scared to talk to him, and he's chased in Dublin by men who say they are CIA. Will starts digging into the history of *Travelers*. Missing archives — missing colleagues — like the past editor, Jonathan Mongeleach, who seems to have dropped off the face of the earth.

What is really going on?

"Will is no longer confident that he knows what level of danger he's in. Nor whom he can trust to protect him. Can he really believe the CIA? What's more, is he definitely working for the CIA?"

The questions begin to mount as his wife becomes more and more distant. Keeping up the pretense while trying to make his marriage work is wearing Will out. And one day, he discovers his wife is taking birth control pills. What?! It seems both members of this marriage are hiding secrets — some more lethal than others.

It's like the mirrors at a funhouse. You're looking at your reflection, but it's a distorted view. It doesn't show the real you. And Will is beginning to wonder who the real Will and Chloe are.

"Sometimes the whole thing seems totally implausible. Sometimes, it seems completely credible. Either way, it increasingly seems dangerous, and indefensible."

What is real? What is a lie? Chapters throw you from place to place, person to person, giving just enough lead to make you know that what you thought was happening was something else entirely different. And that's the excitement in reading this story: not knowing, always guessing, always greedy for the next chapter to see what Will will find out. Perhaps his marriage is as duplicitous as this job with the CIA. It is with the CIA, right?

From *Booklist* (starred review): *"(One) of the most intelligent thrillers of the year."*

From *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*: *"Sneaky, insightful and surprising..."*

The Washington Post calls *The Travelers* *"A Hitchcockian thriller."*

Pavone also is the author of two other books: *The Expats*, which won the Edgar and Anthony awards for best first novel, and *The Accident*.

Till next time, happy reading!



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NEW PRICE

VACANT LOT

Lake Shore Drive, Stop 21 • Long Beach

\$310,000

40 ft hillside lot across the street from Stop 21 beach access. Nice lake view. Alley at the rear of the lot for rear access. City water available. All permits needed. Buy now & have time to complete your home before next year's summer season begins!



4701 Westgate Way • Shoreland Hills

\$272,500

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage is a hop, skip and a jump to Lake Michigan. Features include hardwood floors, large screen porch, updated bathroom, fireplace, city water & sewer. Ample space that is well separated for both sleeping & socializing.



NEW LISTING

217 Garden Trail • Pottawattomie Park

\$219,000

Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on a large landscaped lot in desirable area. Wood floor & 2-sided stone fireplace in living room. Formal dining room, ceramic tiled eat-in kitchen, rec room has bar & fireplace. Remodeled baths, screened porch.



122 Hazelwood Trail • Shoreland Hills

\$205,000

This 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has deeded beach rights to Stop 31 beach. Living room with large front windows. Lower level rec room with wet bar. Large deck, hot tub, storage shed & fenced yard. New roof & central air within the last 5 years.



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2027 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

Come take a look at this 3-bedroom 2-bath newly remodeled home. Amenities include new kitchen, beautiful oak flooring, large fireplace in living room and a wonderful open floorplan. Just a short distance from Lake Michigan.

\$349,000

1819 Lake Shore Drive, Long Beach

Beautifully redone classic 1948 beach home on the hillside of Lake Shore Drive. This 5-bedroom, 4-bath home also features a gathering room, media room and game room. Relax, entertain and dine on either of the two large decks. Furnishings included.

Asking \$849,000



119 Maplewood, Shoreland Hills

Beautifully well-kept home in Shoreland Hills. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Open living concept with fireplace in the living room, deck off kitchen area and storage shed in wonderful backyard. Call Long Beach Realty for your private showing.

\$319,000



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