



Volume 32, Number 15 Thursday, April 21, 2016

A Life of Its Own

Girlfriend Sale Has Made Long Beach a Shopping Destination Point

by William Halliar

"I've no idea when I'm going to wear it," the girl replied calmly. "I only know that I had to have it. Once I tried it on well...", she shrugged. "The dress claimed me."

Isabel Wolff
A Vintage Affair



Susan Vissing created the Girlfriend Sale and has been running it for 22 years. Photos by Bob Wellinski

The event is "more than just a sale."

Women often meet as strangers, but leave as "sisters," much of the day spent getting to know each other and "fellowshipping." Volunteers, the backbone of the event, work with joyful exuberance, considering themselves a "troop of goodness."

In the spirit of "Jeopardy," the question to the above answers is, "What is a Girlfriend Sale?"

In Long Beach, it has evolved over the years into beloved, eagerly awaited events that send positive

vibrations throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond. It is not just about buying and selling, not just a sale, but a life experience. It is a social event, a shopping event, "a fun girl's day out!!!," as posted by Maryann Becich on the sale's facebook page.

Whatever shopping means to women, to men it appears to be a complicated and mysterious realm. But a day out with the girls, a day to dress up and find a bargain is what it has come to mean to wom-

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

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en who have discovered the Girlfriend Sale. Over the years, they've taken on a life of their own. Their occurrence twice annually are much anticipated events in the social lives of countless women who attend each year.

Consider that part of the profits each year are donated to various community outreach programs. This year, Samaritan Counseling Centers Inc., a community-based educational service directly benefiting La Porte and Porter counties, will be the beneficiary. SCC works to help individuals and organizations heal and grow by improving their spiritual, emotional and physical well-being.

Susan Vissing, who created the event, has been running it for 22 years, holding it in the spring and the fall. A winsome, energetic, charismatic woman, Vissing calls herself the sale's facilitator, but more than that, she is the mover and shaker, the "girlfriend glue" that holds the endeavor together. People can't help but be drawn to her enthusiasm.

What began as a small group of girlfriends gathering to host a local garage sale

has blossomed into a community tradition. Women come from far and wide to be part of the event.

Vissing praises her group of volunteers, mostly retired professional women and even a few men who work tirelessly the month before each sale. They organize, price and display all of the clothing, which ranges in price, according to Susan, "from \$5 to \$800."

"We have had an exciting journey with Susan

over the years," volunteer Dan Johnston says.

Most of the sale items are brought in on consignment from between 80 to 100 local ladies. Others are new items from a high fashion boutique in Oak Brook, Ill.

Billed as the "Ultimate Women's Resale Clothing Event," the sale features more than 3,000 items of cloth-

ing in all sizes, plus jewelry, belts purses and other accessories. Vissing and her group of volunteers

strive to make sure the right piece of clothing finds just the right home. And all purchases benefit "Samaritans" — always a good investment.

Vissing believes in the "art" of dressing well, and works to make sure each item is displayed in the most presentable way. She strives to find just the right item of clothing and the right look to match each customer's taste.

The draw here seems to



Volunteers play a vital role in the efficiency of each sale. From left are Liz Pilcher (seated), Barbro Cobert (standing), Carol Sizer (seated), Joel Brussell, Cathy Green, Natalie Schultz, Susan Vissing, Helen Westort (front, standing), Jane Ellis (back, standing), Sue Spitzer (front, standing), Nika Landecker (back, standing) and Cary Heinz.

Helping Hands

Susan Vissing credits her many volunteers with making The Girlfriend Sale and The Good Things Sale successful. In addition to those pictured, they include: Elaine Schultz, Pat Parsons, Carol Bulger, Savannah Jackson, Helga Mark, Jan Tomecek, Ruth Gieser, Marryann Becich, Paula Bartholome, Micky Webb, Farah Goodall, Barb Klein, Sherri Bone, Kayla Vodnoy, Cherie LaFevre, Rima Binder, Kathy Brown, Daria Harris, Kissy Kysel and, as Vissing puts it, "so many more kind souls."

be that every dress has a history, and Vissing has seen some fabulous outfits travel through — in the front door of her sale and out again with just the right woman. She often sees outfits pass through her sale for several years in a row before they find just the right home. A story for every dress and a storied woman for every outfit is the sale's goal.

When asked if there is any particular style or era the vintage clothing represents, Vissing replies, no, there is just "something for everyone." She hears stories from ladies about being stopped on the street and asked by someone admiring their outfit, "Where did you get that?," to which comes the reply, "The Girlfriend Sale." Thus, the word is spread until the twice-yearly events have become iconic to those seeking a unique shopping experience.



Visitors at the recent Good Things Sale check out the many items available.

For further shopping pleasure, Vissing also presents Susan's Good Things Sales. Here, one can find a wealth of furniture, art and household goods. It is an opportunity to give second life to wonderful old pieces of functional art.

Vissing is an artist. She loves people, and because of that, everyone reacts positively towards her. She strives to live what she calls an authentic life, and believes we all have to find and do with our lives what makes us truly happy. Through the Girlfriend Sales, she has discovered her talent as a marketer and facilitator, a person who makes progress easier and solves problems.

As an artist, her medium is sculpture in driftwood. She has made commissioned pieces, but mainly works in the art form for her own pleasure.

When the sale is over each spring and fall, all clothing not purchased is donated to Duneland Resale, Chesterton. Its 25,000 square-foot facility recently was honored for "Celebrating 15 years of serving the community."

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On Arbor Day (April 29, 2016) at 3 pm C & A will be hosting a movie on trees and their biological challenges from our ever shrinking planet Earth at the New Buffalo Township Library.

Our certified arborist, Christian Siewert, will be hosting an open discussion after the movie. Seats are limited to 100, so please RSVP ASAP to jamietreephilosophy@yahoo.com.



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A Life of Its Own Continued from Page 3

Duneland Resale is supported by 20 area churches, which muster more than 100 volunteers to work the business. The money made from the sale of clothing goes back into the community serving families in need.

As the season approaches, people begin calling Duneland Resale with anticipation to see if Girlfriend Sale clothes have arrived yet. Experienced shoppers at Duneland Resale know there will be many exciting new pieces of clothing that can be had for a good price to augment their wardrobes. The spirit of the Girlfriend Sale continues to spread good will and the



Susan Vissing relaxes amid the recent Good Things Sale.

love of a bargain throughout the community.

An unknown, but eloquent author once said, "I've been shopping all of my life and still have nothing to wear." Add to this Mignon McLaughlin's comment, "Women usually love what they buy, yet hate two-thirds of what is in their closets."

Better yet, consider what actress Bo Derek said, "Whoever said money can't buy happiness simply didn't know where to go shopping."

It becomes obvious a trip to the Girlfriend Sale is essential.

If You Go

Room 11 at Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail, again is home to the Girlfriend Sale.

The schedule is:

- Friday, April 22, 6 to 9 p.m. — Private sale night for participants and friends.
- Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Open to public.
- Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Bonus sale day, additional merchandise added.
- Sunday, May 1, Noon to 4 p.m. — Famous ½ price sale.
- Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Second chance ½ price sale.

Visit facebook at thegirlfriendsale or contact Susan Vissing at whatsnexta@comcast.net for more information. The next Good Things Sale is July 23-24.

Discovering a Treasure

by Bob Wellinski

It wasn't necessarily an American Pickers find, but for me, it was one I will treasure because of its history.

While covering The Good Things Sale for *The Beacher*, I spotted two older model manual typewriters. As the event was getting ready to close for the day, I decided to take a second peak. I'd envisioned it flanked by two older cameras at home as a decoration. While looking at them, a voice called from across the room, "Are you interested in those typewriters?," followed by, "Did anyone tell you the history of that Germany typewriter?"

I quickly learned the typewriters were owned by legendary disk jockey John Landecker. As one who grew up listening to him, that caught my attention, but after hearing a quick synopsis of the typewriters...sold!



The two typewriters Bob Wellinski purchased at The Good Things Sale. The one on the right is the German model.

Landecker spent part of his Sunday evening sharing with me the history he knows, and information he pieced together, of the 1930s German Olympia Simplex typewriter his father used for his dissertation in Germany.

His dad, Werner Landecker, who was Jewish, grew up in Germany during the rise of the Nazi Party. He was preparing to work on his dissertation for his law degree at Berlin University in 1936.

The Nazis had taken over the university in Germany and specifically shut down all access to university libraries to anyone Jewish. He wrote his dissertation on international law ("The Validity of International Law as a Societal Phenomenon") and submitted it to a juried board, some of whom had Nazi ties.

"The upshot of it all was that, due to the fact he

was Jewish, it was eventually declined to be published," Landecker said. "Although they had it, they didn't publish it."

His dad was the last Jew to receive a law degree in pre-war Germany. He then left Germany for the United States. Landecker wasn't sure if his father brought the typewriter with him, or if his grandparents did at a later time. They left Germany for England before coming to the U.S.

Due to the fact that the Nazis restricted travel for Jews, a loophole was found that allowed a University of Michigan fraternity to sponsor Landecker's father. There, he switched from law and, having a doctorate, because one of the university's sociology professors. His work can be found online.

"The unique aspect of this is that I believe it was 1990, a colleague of my father's decided that this original work that was not published had enough importance to it that even though it was decades later, it should finally be published," Landecker said. "And he, indeed, got it published in Germany in German a couple of years before my father passed away."

The second typewriter, by the way, was one Werner Landecker used at the University of Michigan. Werner eventually became blind, and John remembers his mother using the Remington. Eventually, John ended up with both typewriters.

For more information on Werner Landecker, visit tinyurl.com/juht4xq and tinyurl.com/hpvg7ef

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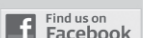
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Panoramic Photo Galvanizes Michigan City Public Library Rebranding

by Andrew Tallackson



Don Varda's photo of Michigan City Public Library's courtyard.

It was by happy accident, Don Glossinger says, that something as routine as updating library cards would yield a panoramic photo so stunning, it breathed new life into Michigan City Public Library's attempts to rebrand itself.

Cards, letterheads, posters, the website — anything used to market the library to the public — now will carry the image by library marketing development specialist Don Varda.

Taken last fall amid near-perfect conditions, the library's sawtoothed roof cuts through a deep blue sky, faint wisps of clouds present. The translucent fiberglass walls reflect Tom Scarff's sculpture, "Centura," the piece itself surrounded by honey locust trees, Virginia creeper and shrubbery.

"It's breathtaking," Glossinger, the library's director, said. "He (Varda) put his finger on something we have never been able to do, and that's capture the essence of the building with a photo like that."

It was Sarah Redden, head of the library's circulation department, who suggested a new image appear on library cards. Glossinger subsequently talked with Varda, who spent three to four days taking more than 100 photos of the library in different settings and lighting.

It was the courtyard shot, however, that grabbed everyone's attention.

"I think it's a beautiful picture to look at, a lot of angles and edges," Varda said. "It really showcases the architecture of the building."

The library at 100 E. Fourth St. was only the fifth work completed by German-American architect Helmut Jahn. Inspired by Mies van der Rohe, Jahn would go on to an illustrious career that included the \$800 million Sony Center in Berlin, One Liberty Place in Philadelphia and the State of Illinois Center in Chicago.

Jahn was a driving force at C.F. Murphy Associates, which also yielded works by renown architect Carter Manny Jr., who served on Michigan City

Public Library's board. That C.F. Murphy link with Manny, Glossinger says, is what brought Jahn to Michigan City.

"We really caught him early in his career," Glossinger said of Jahn.

The 35,000-square-foot building was completed by La Porte's Larson-Danielson Construction Co. in June 1977. Glossinger, himself, then with the library on a work-study basis, helped bring books to the new site from the former Eighth Street location.



The image as used for the new library cards.

Jahn's creation went on to win several architectural awards, including:

- Illinois Council of the American Institute of Architects' 1977 State Design Honor Award.
- Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' 1977 Distinguished Building Award.
- American Institute of Architects' 1978 ALA Honor Award.
- American Institute of Steel Construction Inc.'s 1979 Architectural Award of Excellence.

Library staff sent Varda's picture to Jahn's firm. Representatives there were so impressed, library programming director Robin Kohn said, they asked for permission to use it for their own materials.

Indeed, it is a fitting image to represent a library. Glossinger says attracted 30,000 people for programming last year, 25,000 of which were children.

"It's the way we want to represent ourselves," he said.

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Participants line up at the start of last year's Samaritan Skedaddle.

The 13th Annual Samaritan Skedaddle 5K Run/Walk, which benefits counseling and educational services through Samaritan Centers, is Saturday, April 30.

The 3.1-mile race starts at 9 a.m. at Eighth and Washington streets, heads through Washington Park and back to Eighth and Washington. Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcome.

Individual registration fees, which above \$15 per person are tax-deductible, are:

- \$12 — children 13 and younger.
- \$30 — adults, pre-race.
- \$35 — adults, day of the race.
- Group fees — \$20 per person for teams of 10 or more adult participants, and \$12 per person for teams of 10 or more student participants.

Team registrations should be sent in together. Individuals and teams can register at www.skedaddle.org

The Family/Friends Sponsor, available for \$175, includes up to five participants and acknowledge-

ment on a special display on race day. The form can be downloaded under the website's register tab.

Each advance registered contestant receives a long-sleeve logo race T-shirt, and all finishers are entered in a random prize drawing sponsored by local businesses.

The Kid's Fun Race for children 9 and younger starts at about 10 a.m. and is alongside the Finish Line tent. Immediately after the race, participants, friends and family can attend a celebration at the Finish Line tent located in the Farmers Market.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female winners for the age groups of 13 and younger, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and older.

A new addition is a costume contest for the Best School Team, Best Organization Team and Best Male/Female Individual. Awards will be selected post-race by crowd applause. The costume must be worn during the race to be eligible for the contest.

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Wil Haygood: Showdown for Justice

by Kim Ward

This is the second in a two-part series about author and journalist Wil Haygood.

Wil Haygood, acclaimed author, heralded journalist and associate producer of Lee Daniels' critically acclaimed film "The Butler," is proof that persistence is crucial to take an idea from a mere hunch to a life-defining moment.

Consequently, the prize of his persistence has materialized into a reward intended to share with the world via the inspirational story of Eugene Allen, the White House butler who served eight U.S. presidents over 35 years. Haygood brings to life in print, film and now by book what was nearly an unclaimed memorial of a life well lived. If not for Haygood's relentless drive and throwback journalistic chops, the life of such a seminal figure in history would have gone largely untold.

In the second part of an exclusive interview with Art+Times, we were again privileged to speak with the Pulitzer Prize finalist not only to gain more considerable insight about Allen, but also unearth the story behind the story that will forever keep the life of Allen and Haygood intertwined, especially given the context of the historic 2008 presidential election. Haygood's persistence is tantamount to Allen's patience. He pressed forward to illuminate the dream Allen held onto and finally realized on a cold January day in Washington, D.C.

A native Ohioan, Haygood moved to New York in



Wil Haygood (pictured) forged a deep connection with Eugene Allen.

the 1980s with dreams of taking residence on Broadway. According to him, it was a "colossal flop," so producing a Hollywood film is a full-circle event.

"This is a nice moment for me to look back. It really made me admire how hard actors work," he said. "But, I landed where I should be with the pen and the paper instead of on stage or screen."

The "pen and paper" eventually became Haygood's passport to journalistic world travels. Covering stories such as unrest in Africa, domestic tragedy during

Hurricane Katrina and the 2008 election, all while achieving notable acclaim, it is possible Haygood's profession led him on a path to Allen.

In response to Haygood's compelling *Washington Post* article, "A Butler Well Served by this Election," Oprah Winfrey, who stars as Allen's wife in the film, states with appreciation that Haygood "Found Eugene Allen through old school journalism and that's beautiful."

Fully cognizant that his intuition was leading him to a special discovery, but not knowing exactly what,

Haygood's strategy had to be unrelenting.

"What if I hadn't brow beat my editor? I told my editor that I have an idea, and I don't know where it's going to lead me, but I am insistent on trying," he recalled. "Journalism is shoe leather to me. You

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have to get out of your office, go looking for your story, make phone calls and knock on doors. I just looked for him and had a feeling he was out there. Did I think I would find a man who worked for eight presidents? No! Who would think that? But the fact that he was out there and I was ready to write the story makes me feel good."

Embedded into the core of a good journalist is an unyielding desire to find and tell stories. The juxtaposition between an unexplainable theory lodged deep in the gut, and a series of facts and observations become the impetus for action.

While covering then Sen. Barack Obama on a campaign stop in North

Carolina, Haygood overheard a group of young white women emotionally upset after Obama's speech. The source of their tears was derived from grief over their family's disapproval of their support for Obama. At that moment, Haygood, who covers politics, but is not a politician, deployed his own strategy to use the power of the pen and the strength of the narrative to affect the outcome of history.

"And something about that moment was very powerful to me, and I just said to myself, 'If this happens all across the south, Obama is going to win'. I just told myself he was going to win right then and there. He was still down in the polls, and Hilary Clinton was still on the ticket, but I thought he could win.

"I went back to my newsroom, and I told my editor that I wanted to find a figure from the era of segregation who probably thought that it was inconceivable at this point in time in American history that a black man could make it into the Oval Office.

And thus, I began my search for somebody who had worked inside the White House. I wanted to go back to the '40s and '50s — as far back as I could to find somebody still alive, lucid and had some memories to share.

"It was a tall order," Haygood continued, "and my editor didn't think such a person existed. But he

gave me about seven to 10 days to look for this 'ghost,' this person, or else he wanted me back on the campaign trail.

"And I started making a whole lot of phone calls, including calls to some of my sources on Capitol Hill. I was striking out. And then one evening a lady called and told me that her daughter told



Wil Haygood with Lee Daniels during the publicity tour for "The Butler."

her that I was looking for somebody from the White House. And she said, 'If you can find Eugene Allen, I think he's still alive, I think that's the person you are looking for.'

"And after 56 phone calls throughout the Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., area, he answered the phone. And there he was on the other end of the phone."

Haygood may have found Allen, but it becomes clear while speaking with Haygood that the story found him.

As "The Butler" screenwriter Danny Strong told Haygood, "A good story will often find its audience."

Haygood mentions a number of instances that describe the closeness of their relationship, from being present with Allen through the death of his wife, witnessing the treasure of memorabilia in his basement and reading Allen's letters from school children from across the globe impacted by his story.

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Haygood did not just chronicle the life of Eugene Allen. They became part of each other's lives. Though the central characters of his other biographical texts (Sammy Davis Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Sugar Ray Robinson) have more star power by virtue of name and accomplishments, Haygood experiences a deeper connection with Allen. He describes him with a near paternal reverence — a hero whose life in obscurity from the public eye until now has greatly impacted Haygood's life profoundly.

"On the day I went over to his house on the day that Obama would be sworn in, it was Jan. 20, 2008, and was very cold here in Washington — very, very cold," Haygood said. "And he (Allen) came down the steps, he was very frail. Just the way he was walking — very slow, he was breathing heavy.

"And I said, 'Mr. Allen, I'm just not sure that we should go. It's so cold.' And he said, 'I'm going to hold the arm of my son and with my other arm I'm going to hold on to you. And if both of you help me, I know I can make it.'

"It was very touching," Haygood recalled. "He was very insistent on going. So, we hopped on the train, and the train let us off about a mile and quarter away so we had to walk. Halfway into that walk, I really got nervous. I told his son, 'Hey listen, Charles, I really don't think we can make it. I really think we should take Mr. Allen back.'

"And then Mr. Allen said, 'Fellas, just get me in someplace warm for about 15 minutes. I need to warm up and I can keep going.' And that's what he did. We went someplace and warmed up and kept going. And then a short while later, there we were. This is a man who worked for eight presidents and never been invited to a swearing in. It was quite

emotional for him and me."

Both men were forever changed, Allen having had a front-row seat to an event most people felt would never be possible.

Haygood's latest release takes a look at another man who changed the complexion of politics in the United States: Thurgood Marshall, the first black nominee to the Supreme Court. In his book, "Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America," the author looks at the arcane and contentious five-day nomination hearing, and the political chess game that made Marshall's nomination possible.

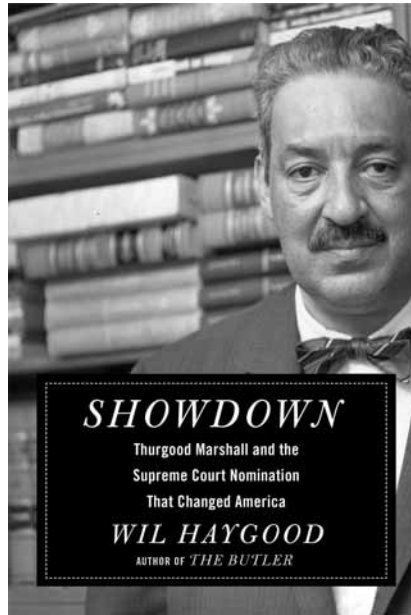
Compelling on its own, "Showdown" seems to provide a future-in-the-past look at the political landscape in America today. In February, the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia shocked the nation, and within hours sparked debate over how and when to select his replacement. The Supreme Court vacancy raises the stakes in the 2016 election and shines a spotlight on the nation's deep and growing political divide. A nomination to the court could cement the ideological balance of the court for years to come.

The author was all too aware of the controversy surrounding the idea of Obama nominating a new judge and the ensuing political tug-of-war. The nation, he says, is under the microscope.

"Now, the nation is at a fork in the road. Other world leaders look at us at this moment that we are in right now. We need to speak up and write letters to our senators and let them know what is going on," Haygood urges.

The nation, he believes, is gearing up for another epic showdown.

("Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America" is available in bookstores and online.)



Wil Haygood's new book, "Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America."

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The Nest Nurtures Intrigue in Uptown Arts District

by M.D. Cunningham

A musician, comedian and artist walk into a room. This isn't a joke.

This is The Nest, 803 Franklin St., a place where nearly anything can happen. At first glance, it could be any other art gallery in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. But for its brainchild, Ester Golden, it is much more than that. The Nest, she says, has a life all of its own.

Golden asked artist Rick Valicenti, comedian Jim Kleuss and musician James Neary to sit in on her interview with *The Beacher*. Golden is happy to propel others into the spotlight. She enjoys organic interactions: meeting and being around people. And that means The Nest is a creative work in progress when explaining just what exactly it is.

"It's evolving daily the way it needs to in order to fit what the community is looking for, or what I want to explore, and there's never a downside to it," Golden said of her space, which opened last October. "I'm very happy at this point."

For instance, Kleuss, a Second City alumnus, was happy Golden took an interest in comedy since no such venues exist outside of Chicago and South Bend. Kleuss, in turn, introduced his friend, Neary, a fellow La Porte native and musician, to Golden. Now, both head monthly events at The Nest.

That sort of organic effect is what Golden wants with The Nest. Rather than being solely a gallery, it is a place for Golden — an artist herself — to facilitate boundless possibilities and connect with the community. So far, the space has housed musicians, artists, free yoga, workshops and comedy shows.

Golden said the response she's received has been great.

"The artists that are represented, they've had very positive feedback, and I'm able to send them checks, which makes me so happy," she said. "After the first month, I was like, look at all these checks I'm writing. This is so great."

Valicenti, an international artist who runs a communication and design firm in Chicago, is self-deprecating when discussing how he and Golden collaborated on her vision for The Nest's logo: a sleek, minimalist image that reminds Golden of something modern and runic, almost suggesting a language of its own.

"There were these scraps of paper where she had

been cutting out these letters in an abstract way," he said. She put them down, "N", "E", "S" and "T," and asked what he thought.

"I said, 'I think it's done'."

Valicenti, recipient of the Smithsonian Cooper Hewitt National Design Award given by the White House, took a photo of Golden's concept back to his studio and provided final touches.

"The abstraction (logo) become indicative for what the

store is or what the space is. It's not a store, it's something else," he said. "This doesn't have a definition. There's no model for this yet."

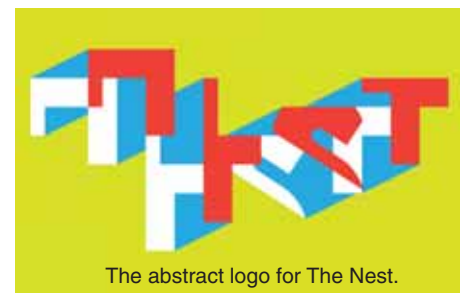
As opposed to a challenge, Golden sees the openness of The Nest's concept as nothing but opportunity. Her idea is to showcase various exhibits, performances and workshops that bring people together around artists at the top of their game.

"The whole reason for The Nest is for the community," she explained. "I wanted there to be a place where people could voice what they wanted to do,

and people have approached me with concepts, and that's exactly what I wanted to have happen. That's actually the whole reason for the name. The Nest is a gathering place, a place to nurture ideas, to experiment, to try things."



An artist's show in the early days of The Nest.



The abstract logo for The Nest.



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Do You Recognize the Children in This Photo?




Matt Werner, who wrote the four-part Elston championship series "How Sweet It Is" for The Beacher, loves delving through collections of old local photos. He discovered this one, a marbles tournament taken May 13, 1946, on a Michigan City playground. However, that's about the extent of the information he has on it. Anyone who might recognize the location, as well as anyone pictured, is invited to contact Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com



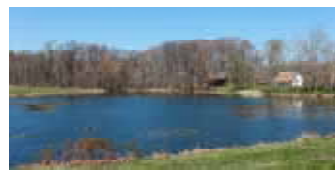
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Solid Waste District Mobilizes Volunteers, Donations for Clean It Up Day

Join the La Porte County Solid Waste District to clean up your neighborhood, county road or any public space from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30.

"Last year, around 400 people participated in more than 30 cleanups countywide, and we'd like to have even more this year," said Alicia Ebaugh, Solid Waste District education and public outreach coordinator.

Now in its fifth year, Clean It Up Day is aided by several government agencies, as well as donations from local businesses and the national non-profit group Keep America Beautiful. More than 2.3 million people volunteer each year for KAB's Great American Cleanup in more than 15,000 communities throughout the U.S., participating in cleanup, beautification and community improvement.

New this year for local volunteers is a thank you luncheon after the cleanups at Washington Park Zoo. After their projects are completed, volunteers will receive free admission to the zoo and a free lunch.

People and groups who sign up to participate in Clean It Up Day will receive garbage bags to complete their cleanup, and bottled water and snacks to fuel them through their work. The District will have



Sophie LeRoy and Shayla Harris, members of Deb LeRoy's Girl Scout troop, pose with trash troop members who helped collect in the Rolling Prairie area during last year's Clean It Up Day.

work gloves and visibility vests available as well.

All participants have to do is choose an area to clean up, or join a cleanup already organized in Michigan City. Those include Washington Park Zoo and Gardena Park, thanks to Michigan City Common Council members Sharon Carnes and Don Przybylinski, who answered a challenge from the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department.

The Michigan City Refuse Department, with Refuse Inspector Connie

Adams, is picking up all litter collected in Michigan City. The Community Work Program, under

the guidance of La Porte County Sheriff's Deputy Bob Blair, will pick up litter collected elsewhere in the county.

The district also is seeking volunteers to take photos of cleanups and help prepare food for the luncheon.

Ebaugh said

many groups already have indicated an interest in the cleanup, including political and religious organizations, school clubs, Girl and Boy Scout troops and families across the county.

Contact Ebaugh at (219) 326-0014 or email aebaugh@solidwastedistrict.com to sign up or donate food or materials.



Volunteers from last year's cleanup pose outside Willie Milsap's City/County Resource Center after the cleanup.

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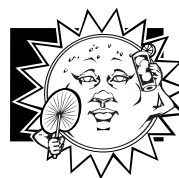
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The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **Bookmarks: Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman" at 2 p.m. Friday, April 22.**

Pat Klewer is the reviewer.

• **Earth Day Celebration at 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 22.**

A variety of activities are planned for children 4-10 accompanied by an adult.

• **Friends of the Library Collector's Corner Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23, at Full Gospel House of Prayer, 2700 Ohio St.**

The breakfast features antique professional Martin Papke, Chesterton. Each ticketholder can take one item to be appraised. La Porte's Portofino Grill will cater the event. Proceeds benefit library services and programs. Tickets are on sale at the circulation desk and from select Friends' members. Call (219) 873-3049 for more information.

• **Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23.**

Experienced dream therapist Terese Fabbri facilitates the workshop for people interested in dreams and their significance.

• **Indiana Through the Camera Lens: "Friendly Persuasion" at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24.**



The program is a joint effort between the library and La Porte County Genealogical Society to honor Indiana's bicentennial. The movie will be shown following a discussion of Quaker settlements in La Porte County and their views on slavery, as well as black soldiers from La Porte County who enlisted and fought in the Civil War.

• **Storytime at the Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 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.

• **Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 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 info



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Volunteer Recognition



Sixteen out of 24 volunteers at St. Stanislaus' Convent Resale Shop gathered for a recent photo session. The team has contributed approximately \$180,000 to the church in the last seven years. In addition to providing extra income for the church, contribution partnering involves St. Mary's, Catholic Charities, Dunebrook, men and women shelters, veterans, local schools and many private individuals requiring furniture or household items. The shop at Franklin and Ripley streets is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Pictured are Claire Ziomek, Richard and Marguerite Wrobeleski, Maryann Vartia, Irasema Valdez, Allen and Maryann Short, Dick Stark, Rosemary Rucinski, Sally Piotrowski, Kadie O'Connor, Carol Jachimiec, Nick and Lydia Groenewegen, Margari-ta DeAnda and Nancy Burns. Photo by Paul Kemiell

Student Awards Competition

Winners of Monday Musicale's annual Student Awards Competition will be featured in a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Thirty-four young people in grades four through 12 participated in this year's auditions April 10 at Barker Mansion. Scholarship committee chairwoman Carol Garrett and judges Deborah Beien, Howard Brenneman, Sue Cassler, Kathy Chase, Dee Edgcomb, Dan McNabb and Stan Shepard heard selections for flute, piccolo, oboe, saxophone, trumpet, voice, piano, viola and violin. Certificates, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$2,400 will be presented at the concert.

Donations to the club's scholarship fund are gratefully accepted. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

Relay For Life Spaghetti Dinner

The Fourth Annual Relay For Life Spaghetti Dinner is from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte.

The meal includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. The cost is \$8. Parking is free.



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An End to Storied La Porte Business, New Start for Owners

by M.D. Cunningham

It's the end of an era for La Porte business staple LAKE Fine Arts, 103 Polk St.

After nearly 90 years in operation, husband-and-wife owners Mark and Laura Krentz decided to go out in style, offering a huge closing sale that will run through Saturday, April 23, with doors set to close one last time at noon.

"It's a business I've loved my whole life," said Mark Krentz, who studied fine arts at Indiana University and has been in the business, himself, for 40 years, including working there in high school with his father. "I'm very proud of the quality and craftsmanship for which we've always been known."

It all started when Henry Thanhardt decided to partner with Indiana Moulding, locating operations in La Porte for his art business. Dubbed Thanhardt-Burger Corp. in 1927, the enterprise manufactured handmade picture frames for fine-art reproductions. In 1946, the company evolved to buy and sell oil paintings.

In 1979, two years after Mark became actively involved with the company, a prestigious picture frame business from Chicago, Newcomb-Macklin,

was acquired and moved to La Porte. High-quality frames hand carved and coated in 22 Karat finishes became hallmarks. Not only was the business considered unique to the Midwest, but global notoriety followed as well.

After a fire in 2013, the company ceased manufacturing frames, but through its network maintained access to an entire spectrum that suited the needs of its clients.

Mark said the decision to close the storied history of the operation was based on a thirst for change. In nearly 90 years, Mark said, the company has seen every type of economic condition, and while their

next moves are not set in stone, travel seems an obvious option.

"We'll take a breath, and we'll see," he said, noting with a laugh the impending freedom is entirely new.

Mark said response to the closing from friends and the community has

been overwhelmingly heartwarming.

"People have come to know us over the years and the business," he said. "There've been an outpouring of well wishes."



LAKE Fine Arts will close its doors for the last time Saturday, April 23.

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A simple explanation exists as to why Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City" flounders in what studio executives call "development hell."

It's too much book for one movie. Or, to be precise, it is two books in one, each requiring a patient storyteller, one with the guts to take his/her time.

Larson's examination of the tumultuous events surrounding Chicago's 1893 World's Fair, and the handsome serial killer who gruesomely eviscerated women at his nearby "hotel," unfolds in the same spirit as Laura Hillenbrand's works ("Seabiscuit," "Unbroken"). It is exhaustively researched non-fiction that reads like engrossing fiction.



Author Erik Larson.

For Larson and Hillenbrand, the days of dusty old historical texts are long gone. They've done their homework better than anyone else, so readers experience history as if reliving it. They assault you with details, but pace that release of information like trains barreling out of the station.

In other words, their books aren't boring. They are tricky, though, when considering movie adaptations. Angelina Jolie tried, and in my opinion failed, with her 2014 take on "Unbroken," focusing more on the torture Louis Zamperini endured as a POW and not on his redemption, tossing out the book's final act and, ultimately, its message of healing and forgiveness.

The IMDB page for "The Devil in the White City" lists the film as in "script development." That's code for, "How in the heck are we going to make this into

"The Devil in the White City"

by Andrew Tallackson

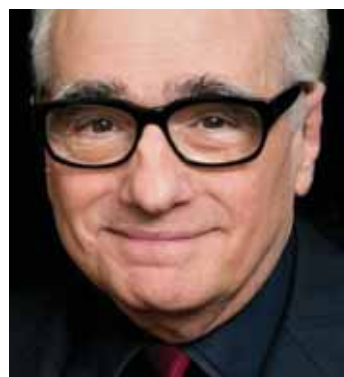
Editor's note — This is the next in a series of columns exploring upcoming film adaptations of popular books.

a movie?" The book, released in 2003, was a New York Times best-seller showered with accolades ranging from the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime to being a National Book Award finalist. Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio bought the rights in 2010, enlisting his frequent collaborator, Hollywood powerhouse Martin Scorsese, to direct. Graham Moore, who won an Oscar for "The Imitation Game," was tapped to write the screenplay. Last August, it was announced Billy Ray ("Shattered Glass") was taking over.

Since then, silence. Nothing. Nada.

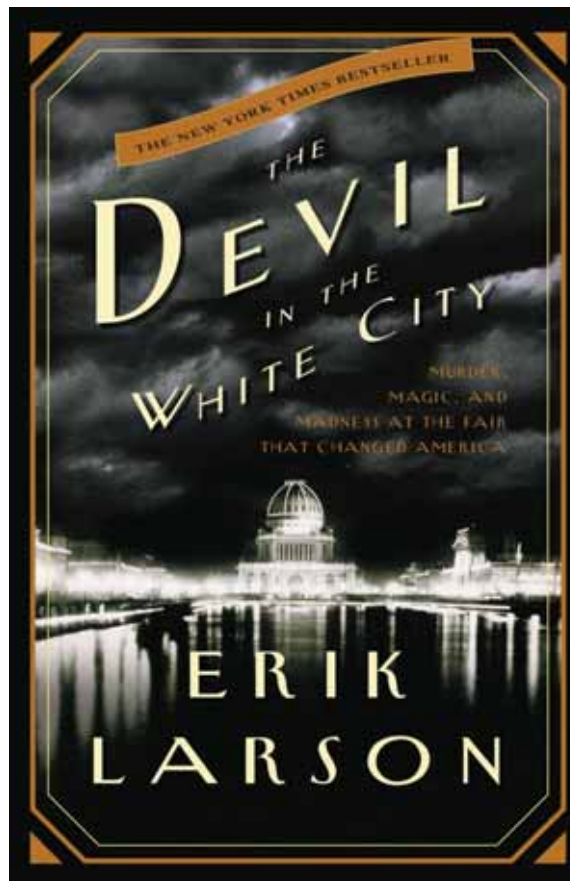
Bringing Larson's sprawling account to the screen is no envious task. Where do you start? What do you keep? What gets jettisoned?

The author alternates between behind-the-scenes turmoil of everyone scrambling to pull off the world's fair in time, most notably chief architect Daniel Burnham, and the sickening exploits of Herman Webster Mudgett, or more infamously known as Dr. H. H. Holmes, who erected his "World's Fair Hotel" not far from the chaos as a means to commit unspeakable acts.



Martin Scorsese.

The two are contrary in tone. The insanity surrounding the world's fair — personality conflicts, claustrophobic deadlines, unfinished projects — is a fascinating study of ego, opulence and, ultimately, brilliance, all of it unraveling within a crucial turning point in the history of Chicago, depicted



Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City."

with vivid detail as a cesspool of filth and immorality. By comparison, the yuckiness of Holmes' exploits reads like "The Silence of the Lambs." His "hotel" featured a gas chamber, crematorium, dissection table and laundry shoot to dispose of corpses so he could sell their bones to the scientific and medical community.

If there is a flaw to Larson's work, it is that the two story threads never gel. Truth be told, the devil rarely is in the White City, the term used to describe the luxuriant world's fair. Mostly, he's near it. What undermines the fair by the end is Chicago itself, not Holmes, whose capture arrived sometime after the fair abruptly closed. So the book, for all its passionate, novelistic storytelling, feels disconnected, like Larson tossed a dash of PBS and a quart of "Seven" into his Cuisinart, then hoped for the best.

It is no mystery, though, why DiCaprio was drawn to the story, specifically his desire to play Holmes. It's juicy material. But DiCaprio is now too old to play to play the serial

killer, who was in his late 20s when the fair debuted. Far more acceptable would be DiCaprio's co-star in "The Revenant," Tom Hardy, a chameleon-like performer who would voraciously disappear into the role.

Scorsese, however, is a perfect choice to direct. From "Taxi Driver," to "Raging Bull," to "Goodfellas," to "The Departed," he is storyteller fascinated by America's seedier side, yet with



Leonardo DiCaprio



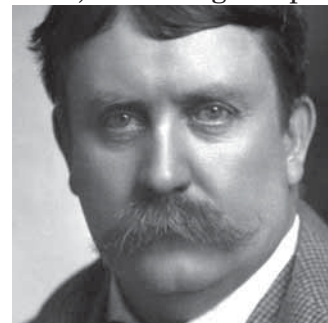
Herman Webster Mudgett, also known as Dr. H. H. Holmes.

breathing space to explore each narrative. Have DiCaprio play Burnham and Hardy Holmes.

That approach might work. In fact, a miniseries could approximate the same tone as the book. Sorry, but a movie, even one three hours in length, won't cut it.

"Hugo" reproduced post-Gilded Age splendor like no one else. This could be his "Titanic," the opportunity to recreate the World's Columbian Exposition like no other.

My advice, for what it's worth? Ditch the movie concept and pitch "The Devil in the White City" to HBO. Make it a mini-series event spanning eight to 10 weeks. Alternate episodes between Holmes and the fair, affording ample



Daniel Burnham.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com (Next up: This fall's adaptation of Dave Eggers' "The Circle.")



Chicago's 1893 World's Fair.

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Students Attend Leadership Training

Leadership La Porte County recently completed its 21st annual leadership training program, with more than 40 local high school students participating from each school in La Porte County.

This year, two home-schooled students participated. Four all-day sessions were held at different locations: Purdue University Northwest, La Porte County Complex, Red Mill County Park and Cummings Lodge. Facilitators were Leadership Executive Director Monica Komasin-ski, Alliegria Hand, Jim Jessup and Dick Reel. Seven students from last year's class served as student leaders: Olivia West (La Porte), Mary Parkman (Westville), Brandon Claussen (South Central), Kenyatta Hodges-Hawkins (Marquette), Emily Albano (New Prairie), Zoe Yergler (La Crosse), Rodrigo Serrano (Michigan City) and Joshua Hugley (home school).

The program was funded by a Unity Foundation community grant.

Students practiced leadership skills such as communication, problem solving, team-building, collaboration and decision-making. At the opening session, they did a personality assessment to better understand group dynamics and individual personality traits. At the County Complex, the group

toured the county jail, heard from Sheriff John Boyd and Sonshine Troche of Worthy Women Recovery. They also interviewed a panel of offenders. Student leaders facilitated many discussions on current youth issues. Michigan City Police Officer Marty Corley spoke to the group on community leadership and diversity.

The final session featured "graduation" speaker

Gerrie Grott, who shared her perspective on overcoming odds to become a community leader. A panel of young professionals, including Mayor Blair Milo, Shannon Hannon, Justin Kiel and Carrie Campbell, held a question-and-answer session, discussing their commitment to community service and the importance of getting



Students tackle issues in a group setting during the training program.

involved.

Each graduate received a certificate and T-shirt. Next year's student leaders were chosen: Madeleine Nunn (La Porte), Claudia Patterson (Westville), Austin Sallee (South Central), Adriann Reynolds (Marquette), Garrett Gangloff (New Prairie), Justene Charlesworth (La Crosse), Rishi Verma and Emma Zaknoun (Michigan City) and Audrey Ott (home-school).

Contact Komasin-ski at (219) 325-8223 or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for more information.


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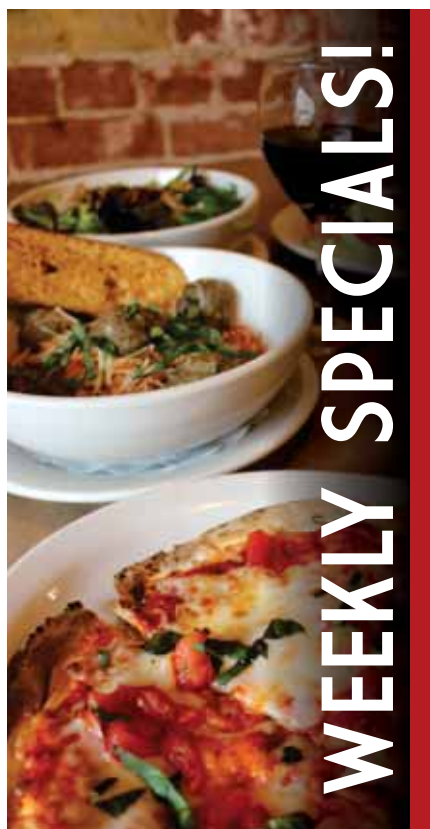
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A Legacy Celebrated



The Beacher would like to thank McGinnis Pub and Lakeshore Coffee for allowing us to host book signings for Matt Werner's "How Sweet It Is" on April 8 and 9. The book contains all four entries in the series that first appeared in The Beacher. Pictured at the first book signing are (from left) Al Whitlow, Werner, Rob McFarland, Larry Gipson, Jim Cadwell, Nancy (Bobinski) White, Terry Morse, O'Neil Simmons and Harold Kennedy.

Photo by Paul Kemiel

An Earth Day Poem

by Karen Marfise

"I Want to Put a Band-aid on Mother Earth"

I want to put a Band-aid on Mother Earth,
And make her as good as new.
I want the rivers, lakes and streams
To return to clear and blue.
I'd like to put my arms around you
To heal all your pain,
I want to wipe away the tears you shed
Of acid polluted rain.

I want to stop arguments and fighting
Across the human race,
The wars and destruction,
That left scars upon your face.

I wish I could replant the trees

All chopped down to their bones.

And give every creature shelter

Who lost their woodland homes.

I wish I could give you a Band-aid,
And make you good as new.
All green and blue and shiny bright,
Colors in every hue.

I wish people could live in harmony,
And take just what they need,
So we wouldn't do those terrible things
That make your earth skin bleed.

(Marfise, Michigan City, is a fourth-grade teacher at Lake Hills Elementary School. She wrote this poem on Nov. 11, 2009.)



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Purdue Trustees Honor Retiring Chancellor Dworkin

Jim Dworkin, longtime Purdue community member and chancellor of the North Central campus for more than 16 years, was honored April 8 by the university's Board of Trustees.

Meeting on the Calumet campus, trustees surprised Dworkin with a resolution of appreciation, and by authorizing the naming of the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex on the Westville campus. Dworkin will remain as North Central's chancellor through June 30, then take a one-year sabbatical before returning to the West Lafayette campus as a full professor in Krannert School of Management, where he began his Purdue career in 1976.

Dworkin came to Purdue University-North Central in 2000 from the Krannert School of Management, where he served as a faculty member, director of the Master of Science in Human Resource Management program, an associate dean for 10 years and as acting dean in July 1999. He and Thomas Keon, chancellor-designate of Purdue Northwest, were instrumental in spearheading the process that will unify the Calumet and North Central campuses into what will be the state's fifth-largest university.

"It is a great opportunity to be able to name this facility in Jim's honor, as he was instrumental in raising \$3.7 million in gift funds that made its construction possible," Michael Berghoff, board of trustees chairman, said.

The 86,000 square-foot facility is scheduled for completion in May.

As chancellor, Dworkin's initiatives have included projects such as improving campus transportation resources and prioritizing student affordability



Retiring Chancellor Jim Dworkin (left) holds a Resolution of Appreciation he received from university trustees. He is pictured with Purdue Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Berghoff.

and success through efforts such as a college-readiness program in area high schools and a tuition discount program for students who enroll in a minimum number of credit hours each semester. He also developed the Chancellor's Leadership Seminar in 2003 to help mentor students interested in community leadership and service-learning. He has taught the seminar each fall since its establishment.

In 2004, he played an instrumental role in the formation of La Porte County's first Economic Development Alliance and has remained active with local economic development initiatives. In 2014 the Purdue Alumni Association recognized him with the Special Boiler-

maker Award for his commitment to creating opportunities for student access and success, his strong belief in community service and his work to improve the lives of residents of La Porte and Porter counties. He was named a Sagamore of the Wabash in 2013.

Dworkin has a bachelor's degree in economics and master's and doctoral degrees in industrial relations. He is a professor of organizational behavior and human resource management, with teaching interests centering on collective bargaining, negotiations and dispute resolution. His current research includes unionism in professional sports, why doctors join unions and arbitration acceptability.

He is the author of two books, "Owners Versus Players: Baseball and Collective Bargaining" and "Reflections on the Transformation in Industrial Relations." He also wrote a children's book, "The Dog and the Dolphin," published in 2014. A second children's book is set to be published this summer.

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Jonah Fish Fry

St. Paul Lutheran School will host its Jonah Fish Fry from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, in the school gym, 818 Franklin St.

The meal is family style, with all-you-can-eat fish, potato salad, cole slaw, bread and drink. Homemade pie is available at \$1 per slice.

Parking is available at the Eighth Street entrance. Drive-through service is available at the Ninth Street entrance. Tickets are \$9 in advance or \$10 at the door. They are available from any church member or by contacting the church office at (219) 874-7293.

Geranium Sale

Tri Kappa's Michigan City Delta Mu Chapter has kicked off its annual geranium sale.

The cost is \$20 for a three plant potted patio geranium. Colors still available are red, pink, magenta, lavender, rose splash and white splash.

Contact Mary Lou McFadden at (219) 879-5581 or Barb Macudzinski at (312) 952-2889 to place an order. Delivery is the first weekend in May.

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization for women that aims to further education, culture and charity in the community.

Helping Enhance Hospital Services



Dean Mazzoni, Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City president, accepts on behalf of the hospital a \$75,000 check from its Guild of Volunteers during an annual luncheon April 12 at Pottawattamie Country Club. The funds are used to purchase hospital equipment and enhance services. Also pictured are: (from left) guild members Angie Kmiecik, vice president; Judi Day, treasurer; Sheila Ito, president; Nancy Hansen, treasurer; Kathleen Nicholson, recording secretary; and Caryn Glossinger, correspondent secretary.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

Saturday, April 23

• 10 a.m. — What's in that Tree?

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a stroll in the woods looking for Indiana's second most populace duck.

• 2 p.m. — Go for the Gold!

Meet at the Nature Center for a hike that involves searching for signs of spring.

Sunday, April 24

• 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. — Don't Poke the Bear!

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about bears and their habitat.

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.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available through Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

• Green Gary Celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

The free, family-oriented event, designed to celebrate National Park Week and Earth Day, features hikes, activities and speakers.

• Douglas Center Open House from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Explore the center and check out interactive exhibits, a park video and live animal room. Another option involves exploring the Miller Woods Trail.

• 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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New PEO Officers

PEO Chapter DF installed a new slate of officers March 16.

Serving for the 2016-2017 term are: Jeanette Tyrrell, president; Tamra Sage, vice president; Connie Crama, recording secretary; Deanna Caulfield, corresponding secretary; Betty Hill, treasurer; Ann Berg, chaplain; and Elaine Alonso, guard. Former chapter president Mary Lou Stack led the ceremony.



In April, Chapter DF will join Michigan City chapters BA and BR for a PEO Founders' Day luncheon at Long Beach Country Club. Representatives of the Indiana state chapter, vice president Mary Lee McFarland and secretary Karen Fritz will attend.

In May, Terrie Janovsky will represent Chapter DF at the 93rd Annual Convention of Indiana State Chapter PEO Sisterhood, where members will be honored and projects celebrated.

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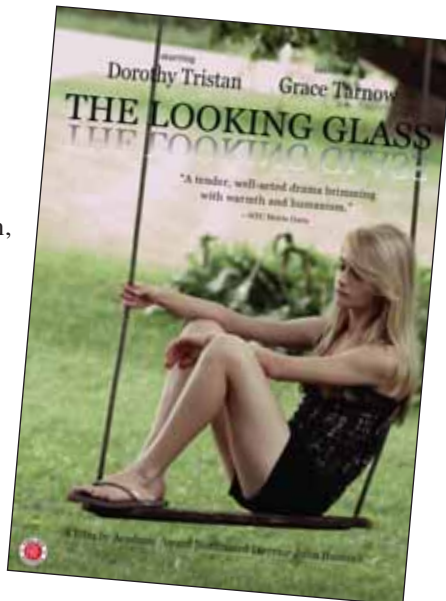
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Critique Nights

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will host Critique Nights the third Thursday of each night through October, the next set for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 21.

Linda Weigel, retired chair of Fine Arts at La Lumiere School, will begin the presentation with an introduction and cover a basic four-step process:

- Describing the work from a technical perspective (description).
- Analyzing the work from a technical description of the elements of art (analysis).
- Interpreting the work symbolically, emotionally, by the artist's intentions (interpretation).
- Evaluating the work with a summation of the piece (evaluation).

Participants are encouraged to share one art piece in any stage of development. Both 2-D and 3-D works are acceptable, the primary goal being to support the creative growth of the artist in a safe and non-judgmental way.

Contact lcweigel1968@gmail.com for more information.

Spring Garden Gala

Friendship Botanic Gardens will celebrate its legacy, and preview the future, during its first Spring Garden Gala from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Long Beach Country Club, 2309 Larchmont Ave.

Tickets are available for the evening that includes dinner, drinks and silent and live auctions.

Reservations can be made by calling (219) 878-9885, emailing info@friendshipgardens.org or visiting <http://friendshipgardens.org/>

Ladies Golf League

The Wednesday morning South Course 9 Hole Ladies Golf League starts play at 8:30 a.m. May 4.

New members are welcome. Call Jane Spang at (219) 877-5942 or Pat Turner at (219) 872-0300 for more information.

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Michiana Clowns



"Chips the Clown."

Lonna Temkin is Michiana Clowns' first Joey of the Year.

The recipient must be a member of the Alley for at least one year, and have done something above and beyond normal expectations.

Temkin ("Chips the Clown") has been with Michiana Clowns, which she co-founded, since its inception 30 years ago. This year, in fact, marks the club's 30th anniversary. She received a Joey of the Year plaque and a

bouquet of balloon flowers.

At the April meeting, the three Junior Joeys performed their award-winning performances from the World Clown Convention. They won first, second and third place in the junior competitions.

Michiana Clowns performed at La Porte's Handley Elementary School on April 15, and will appear at Fellowship Fest and Blossomtime Parade in May. The current clown class graduation is May 3. In June, the clowns will be at Queen of All Saints Festival in Michigan City and the Flag Day Parade in Three Oaks, Mich.

SlugbugZ is the April Clown of the Month. She is an active member of Michiana and Calumet Clowns. She went to her first Midwest Roundup in 2011 and won first place in makeup. Since that time, SlugbugZ has been in several competitions in the Midwest and earned points needed to be inducted into the Midwest Clown Hall of Fame.



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Fifth-Graders Aid Recovery Effort

Lake Hills Elementary School fifth-graders have helped Luhr County Park take the first step toward recovering from a loss of hundreds of mature trees in a 2014 storm.

Sixty Lake Hills students and parent volunteers planted saplings at Luhr on April 12. Other groups from across La Porte County visited that week, with a goal of planting 900 trees.



Lake Hills students placed plastic tubes over the 250 tree saplings to protect them from deer. Pictured are (from left) Gabriel Wade, Victor Contreras, Waylin Witt, Zachary Volkmann, DNR District Forester James Pottoff, La Porte County Park Department Maintenance Supervisor Jim Jackson and Justin King.

"Lake Hills got 250 trees planted, which was impressive for a couple of fifth-grade classes," Parks Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki said. "They did a real good job."

Saplings planted included: white oak, black walnut, red oak, tulip poplar, bur oak, swamp white oak, shumard oak, pin oak, swamp chestnut oak, American plum, common chokecherry, elderberry, black chokecherry, hazelnut, gray dogwood, pawpaw, persimmon, shagbark hickory and Washington hawthorn.

The Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation provided funding and supplies.



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 25.
- YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., La Porte, 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.
- Westville High School, 207 E. Valparaiso, Westville, 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26. Each student who recruits one presenting donor receives a slapwatch while supplies last.
- Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., Michigan City, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more information.

Duneland Historical Society

Duneland Historical Society will host its spring dinner for members and guests only at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The regular program — free and open to the public — begins at 7 p.m.

Members Rita Newman and Nancy Hokanson will highlight what it was like to live in the area during the second decade of the 20th century.

Memberships will be available at the meeting. Call (219) 983-9715 for additional information.

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Michiana Annual Arts Competition

The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich., is accepting online entries through April 30 for the 14th Michiana Annual Arts Competition.

The juried, multi-media competition is open to residents within a 75-mile radius of The Box Factory, including Southwest Michigan, Northwest Indiana and Berrien Artist Guild members. Entrants may submit up to two works that must be original in concept and execution. No reproductions will be accepted, and work must have been created in the last two years, not completed under instruction and not previously exhibited at The Box Factory.

For more information, visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org. Follow the registration requirements and submit work in the categories of painting, watercolor, photography, drawing/pastel, 3-D (ceramics, sculpture, glass) or miscellanea. Up to two pieces can be entered for the \$40 entry fee. Accepted artwork will be on display at The Box Factory from June 17-Aug. 14. Category awards of \$300, merit awards and a \$1,200 Best of Show Award will be presented during the opening reception June 17.

Call (269) 983-3688 for more information.

R.O.S.E. Luncheon

Visit Michigan City La Porte and Indiana Dunes Tourism will host the Recognition of Service Excellence Annual Luncheon on Thursday, May 5, at La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The keynote speaker is Carrie Lambert, Indiana Tourism Association executive director.

Reservations are required by Friday, April 22, with lunch catered by Spire Farm to Fork. The individual lunch rate is \$40. The group rate is \$295 for a table of eight.

Doors open the day of the event at 11 a.m., with the lunch starting at 11:30 a.m.

Call (219) 872-5055 or email info@michigancitylaporte.com for reservations.

LaLu Spring Open House

La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, La Porte, will hold its annual Spring Open House for prospective students and their families from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

The day's events begin at 8:15 a.m. with a continental breakfast and registration. Interactive classroom sessions, campus tours and small group Q&A discussions run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The day concludes with an activities fair showcasing extracurricular options until 12:30 p.m.

Register by Monday, April 25, by calling (219) 326-7450, emailing admissions@lalumiere.org or visiting www.lalumiere.org



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Long Beach Women's Bowling

Final Spring Standings

Queen Pins won 39, lost 14 (Tammy Nelmar, Margie Midkiff, Dottie Brinckman).

IncrediBowls won 30.5, lost 21.5 (Liz Lutterbach, Barb Macudzinski, Sue Yagodnik).

Gutter Golfers won 29.5, lost 22.5 (Sue Luegers, Debbie Novak, June Salmon).

HIGH HANDICAP GAME

Cindy Beck	278
Barb McCorkel	265
Dottie Brinckman	250
Sue Labovitz	250

HIGH HANDICAP SERIES

Debra Smith	679
Tammy Nelmar	663
Margie Midkiff	660
Sue Yagodnik	660

Bowling resumes in September. Three-person teams always are welcome. Groups bowl at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Anyone interested should contact Ed at City Lanes.

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 11th St.

Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369 for additional information.

Memorial Education Scholarship

The Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males is announcing the "The Rev. Bill J. Ashley Memorial Education Scholarship."

The one-time \$1,000 scholarship goes to black males preparing to enter an accredited post-secondary institution. Applications and guidelines may be picked up at the counselor's offices at Michigan City High School and Marquette High School, or online at www.emichigancity.com

Interested candidates may apply to the Michigan City Human Rights Department, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., by 4 p.m. Friday, May 6.

Color Fun Run

Michigan City High School's Class of 2017 will host a Color Fun Run on Saturday, April 23, in Washington Park.

During the 5K walk/run, participants are doused with color at various color stations, ending with one final color celebration at the finish line.

The cost is \$30. Visit MCHSColorRun.eventbrite.com to register.

Spring Leaf Pickup

The Town of Long Beach has announced its spring leaf pickup schedule.

One pass is planned, with no doubling back. Leaves must be piled at the edge of the street by Sunday, April 24. On April 25-29, two machines will start at Stop 13 and progress through Stop 31.

No branches or rocks are allowed in piles.



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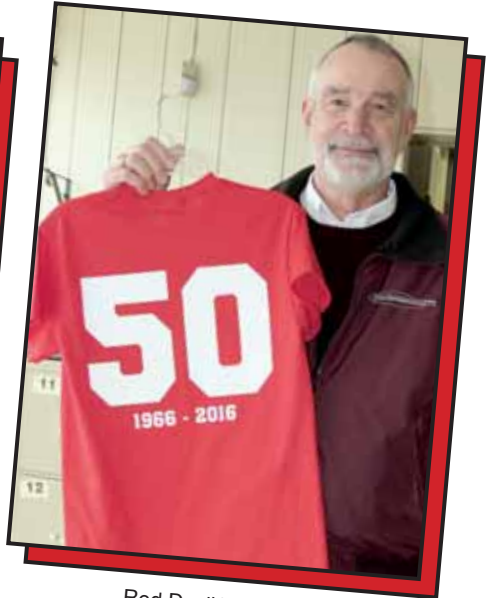
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Submit the photo to The Beacher by 5 p.m. each Wednesday. We'll contact you by 5 p.m. Thursday if the photo is chosen to appear in an upcoming edition.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 21 — Bookmarks at the Museum, Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman," 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 21 — Duneland Historical Society, 7 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 22 — EARTH DAY.

April 22 — Bookmarks: Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 22 — Earth Day Celebration, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 22 — Jonah Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran School gym, 818 Franklin St. Tickets: \$9/advance, \$10/door. Info: (219) 874-7293.

April 22 — Michiana Resources Trivia Night Fundraiser, 7-9 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park. Info: (219) 874-4288, Ext. 302.

April 22-25 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Remember." Rated R. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "Embrace of the Serpent." Not rated. In Spanish, Portuguese, German, Catalan and Latin with English subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 23 — PASSOVER BEGINS.

April 23 — 2016 Dodge Ball Challenge, 10 a.m., YMCA Michigan City Elston Branch, 317 Detroit St. Info: (219) 210-3534.

April 23 — Hike, What's in that Tree?, 10 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 23 — Local Author Series, Ryan F. Steinbeck & "Soul Ownership," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave.

April 23 — Teen Movie Night: "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens," 5 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 23 — Fourth Annual Relay For Life Spaghetti Dinner, 4-7 p.m., First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte. Cost: \$8.

April 23 — "Kashmir — The Led Zeppelin Show," 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: floor & stadium/\$20, side sections/\$15 Reservations: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

April 24 — Indiana Through the Camera Lens: "Friendly Persuasion," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 24 — Free concert, Monday Musicale annual Student Awards Competition, 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

April 24 — New Buffalo Community Forum Series, The School of American Music concert, 3 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 25 — James Neary and Friends, 7 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Cover: \$10. Info: (219) 262-5200.

April 26 — Batman Trivia Night, 7 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 27 — ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY.

April 27 — Battles of the American Civil War, 6-8 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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 23 — Green Gary Celebration, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, Lake Street north of U.S. 12 in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 23 — Plant Hero 5K, 10 a.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Info: (219) 742-2160.

April 23 — Blue Water Ramblers, 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@boxfactory-forthearts.org

Campground Hosts Needed

Indiana Dunes State Park needs volunteers to serve as campground hosts in exchange for free camping during their service.

Hosts work a minimum of 20 hours per week. The volunteer period varies at parks, based on the number of applicants and the amount and type of work required. Properties need dedicated campers who enjoy working outdoors, with people and Department of Natural Resources staff.

A complete list of site availability and detailed information about hosting duties is at stateparks.IN.gov/2404.htm. Completion of a volunteer application is required to apply. Download a form at stateparks.IN.gov/2443.htm

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

On April 21, 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

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

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

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

On April 21, 1986, a vault in Chicago's Lexington Hotel that was linked to Al Capone was opened during a live TV special hosted by Geraldo Rivera; aside from a few bottles and a sign, the vault was empty.

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

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

On April 22, 1976, Barbara Walters became the first full-time network evening anchorwoman when she signed on to co-anchor the *ABC Evening News* with Harry Reasoner.

On April 23, 1564, William Shakespeare, considered to be the greatest dramatist the world has known, was born in Stratford-on-Avon, an English market town about 80 miles northwest of London.

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

On April 23, 1940, more than 200 people died in a dance hall fire in Natchez, MS.

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

On April 23, 1975, President Gerald Ford declared that, "as far as America is concerned, the Vietnam War is over."

On April 23, 1985, the Coca-Cola Company announced that it was changing the formula of the

world's best selling soft drink. The public's refusal to accept the new drink forced the company to resume selling the original formula.

On April 23, 1986, movie director Otto Preminger died at the age of 80.

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

On April 24, 1704, the *Boston News Letter* commenced publication. It was the first American newspaper to be printed on a regular basis over an extended period of time.

On April 24, 1800, with a start-up fund of \$5,000 "for the purchase of such books as may be necessary," and with books from Thomas Jefferson's entire library, the Library of Congress was established.

On April 24, 1897, William Price, upon reporting for work at *The Washington Star*, became the first journalist to have the title "White House Reporter."

On April 24, 1942, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley was born.

On April 24, 1970, China announced the launching of its first space satellite.

On April 25, 1719, "Robinson Crusoe," a novel by Daniel Defoe, was first published.

On April 25, 1859, Chicago's first horse-drawn street railway began operation on State Street between Lake and 12th streets (Roosevelt Road).

On April 25, 1901, New York became the first state requiring automobile owners to have license plates for their vehicles; the fee was \$1. The plates, for all 954 registered cars, carried their owners' initials.

On April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was found dead in a Virginia barn.

On April 26, 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of a record 61 home runs in a single season.

On April 26, 1994, voting began in South Africa's first all-race elections.

On April 27, 1822, Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War General and United States President, was born in Point Pleasant, OH.

On April 27, 1906, U.S. Steel broke ground for their new steel mills, and a city named "Gary" was born on the Indiana shores of Lake Michigan.

On April 27, 1937, the nation's first Social Security checks were distributed.

On April 27, 1972, after an exploratory mission to the moon, *Apollo* astronauts John Young, Thomas Mattingly, and Charles Duke, made a safe splash-down in the Pacific.

On April 27, 2002, South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth arrived at the *International Space Station* for an eight-day, seven-night cruise that cost him \$20 million.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREETS!!!

One (1) pass thru town starting on
MONDAY, APRIL 25TH
at Stop 13 until done on
APRIL 29TH

-----NO RETURN PASSES-----
HOMEOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
REMOVAL OF LEAVES IF NOT AT
STREET BY APRIL 24TH

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Fun With Flours from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Purdue Extension Educator Annetta Jones will discuss why some flours are healthier, and why others simply make recipes taste and look better. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Pat Klewer will review Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman."

• **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The selection is Fyodor Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

• **Bee Science Storytime at 4 p.m. Friday, April 22, at Thomas Library.**

Children in grades one through five can learn about bees from Discovery Charter School eighth-graders.

• **Rainbow Loom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

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

The next program is Ryan F. Steinbeck, author of the upcoming release, "Soul Ownership," on April 23 at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room. A Q&A session follows a brief reading from the



book.

• **Teen Movie Night: "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be available.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Events will include a fifth edition Dungeons & Dragons campaign, as well as "Munchkin" and "Pandemic."

• **New Crochet Club from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 25, at Thomas Library.**

Beginners and skilled crocheters 18 and older can join instructor Amber Erazo

• **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss "Heart Healthy Eating." Registration can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Batman Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize. Seating is on first-come, first-served basis. Refreshments will be served.

• **Battles of the American Civil War from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the Battle of Little Big Horn.

• **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 is this Saturday from 10am-2pm. Over 100 participants have contributed items to the sale, along with 4 specialty boutiques filling an entire room with new designer merchandise, all deeply and sweetly discounted. Doors open on time, there is an optional speedy cash checkout, so stop off at the ATM before you come, and please obey parking signs. Visit the Girlfriend Sale on Facebook for a photo preview. The proceeds from many items at the sale will benefit the Samaritan Center, providing our community with a variety of services including, affordable mental health counseling.

Shopping dates:

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.

Long Beach Community Center

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Long Beach IN 46360

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

St. John's United Church of Christ

101 St. John Road, Michigan City

9am-4 pm Thurs.-Fri., April 28-29,

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PNW Students Earn Research Awards

More than two dozen students earned awards for research projects during recent Purdue University Northwest Student Research Days, held at PNW's Calumet and North Central campuses.

Award winners, their academic department, project title and faculty mentors are:

POSTER PRESENTATION

- First place – Rachel Kunnen, Biology, EHEC Binding Mechanism to Plant Leaf Proteins (faculty mentor: Lindsay Gielda).
- Second place – Kunnen and Nathanael J. Pilla (presenter), Biology, Toward a Checklist of Indiana Fungi (faculty mentors: Scott Bates and Justin Golday).
- Third Place – Carle Erne, Biology, Regulations of espA and espB in Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli (EHEC), (faculty mentor: Gielda).

ORAL PRESENTATION

- First place – Nathaniel Kennedy (presenter) and Stefanie Rigg, Biology, Methods in extracting DNA: Using phenol-chloroform on formalin-fixed human brain tissue (faculty mentor: Gielda).
- Second place – Rigg, Biology, Alterations to Redox Chemistry of Cells Upon Exposure to E-cigarette Vapors Associated with Glutathione Biochemistry (faculty mentor: Gielda).
- Third place – Angela Kochan, Biology, Prevalence of the Black Squirrel in Northern Indiana (faculty mentor: Vanessa Quinn).

Plant Hero 5K & Arbor Day Festival

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens will host its family oriented Arbor Day celebration, with free admission for children 12 and younger, on Saturday, April 23.

The festivities kick off at 10 a.m. with the Plant Hero 5K fun run, a trail run open to runners and walkers of all skill levels. Participants are encouraged to dress as their favorite heroes. Registration, which includes a T-shirt, is \$25 and can be done at www.taltree.org/event/planthero/

The festival continues from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Taltree arborist Craig Gress planting trees around the 330-acre property throughout the day. Also planned is a Silly Safari Animals visit from Coyote Chris, lawn games, a rock climbing wall presented by the Indiana National Guard, train rides on the Sprout Express and musicians playing in the children's Adventure Garden.

The Railway Garden will feature trains running among scenes telling the story of America's steam engine past. The Fairy House exhibit will be on display and self-guided tours available. Food trucks will be present.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Visit www.taltree.org, email info@taltree.org or call (219) 462-0025 for additional information.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Fool Me Once by Harlan Coben (hardcover, \$28 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

In a world of uncertainties, there is one thing you can count on: Harlan Coben knows how to spin a yarn. He knows how to grab your attention and hold it prisoner for 300 to 400 pages of pure reading pleasure. He has come up with interesting characters in interesting situations in 27 past novels, and this one is no exception...

The story starts out at a funeral. *"They buried Joe three days after his murder."*

OK, not an uplifting way to start a story, but stick with me, because they are burying a lot more than just Joe on this day...like secrets best forgotten and left undisturbed.

Joe Burkett was killed in an apparent robbery attempt as he and wife, Maya, sat in Central Park enjoying the evening air. Maya got away, but Joe took three bullets.

The Burkett family is mega wealthy. Joe and Maya met at a charity gala, the attraction was mutual and within a year, they were married. Daughter, Lily, came along soon after.

So why the murder? Was it really just a robbery? Was there more to the story—something more sinister?

Maya was in the U.S. Army: Capt. Maya Stern, a decorated helicopter pilot. But something happened on her last mission, causing an international scandal posted on social media by a known whistle blower. Now, her nights are filled with horrible dreams: PTSD at its worst. She received an honorable discharge and now divides her time between giving flying lessons at a nearby airfield and taking care of Lily.

Friends and former army mates stand by her side, especially Shane Tessier, whose life she saved in the Middle East, and Eileen Finn, an old school chum.

Shortly after the funeral, Eileen shows up one day with a "nanny cam" for Maya. After all, a mother can't be too sure what's going on when she's away from her precious daughter. Maya thinks it's weird, but sets up the camera, disguised as a digital photo frame, and replays the film each night.

Imagine Maya's horror when one day the camera shows a man sitting on the sofa and reading a book to her daughter—the nanny nowhere in sight. The

man looks like Joe!

Maya has had enough trauma in her life, what with the PTSD and many sessions with the Army shrink. Now, she's about to go over the edge.

The nanny, daughter to the woman who was Joe's nanny, panics when confronted with the camera, steals the SD card and disappears. Now, how can Maya make anyone believe she just saw her dead husband—after he was buried! Especially when the police detective assigned to Joe's murder shows signs of believing Maya actually shot her own husband. No, Maya is on her own. She must find out what's going on if she wants to hang on to what little sanity she has left.

Adding to Maya's pain is the death of her sister, Claire Walker. She was tortured and killed while Maya was still in the Middle East. Then, there is Joe's brother, Andrew, who got drunk, fell off a yacht and drowned when he was only 17.

Do all these things add up to anything? Oh, you'll be so, so surprised—because this story is so cleverly constructed that small bits of information, tossed out like random pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, must be carefully pieced together to make any sense of Joe's murder.

Maya has nothing to go on except the nanny cam film, so she starts an investigation of her own. Little does she know this will lead her to discover how far a mega rich family will go to protect its own. And along the way, she will find people and learn of past events that will lead her in a completely unexpected direction that will shed light on her sister's murder as well.

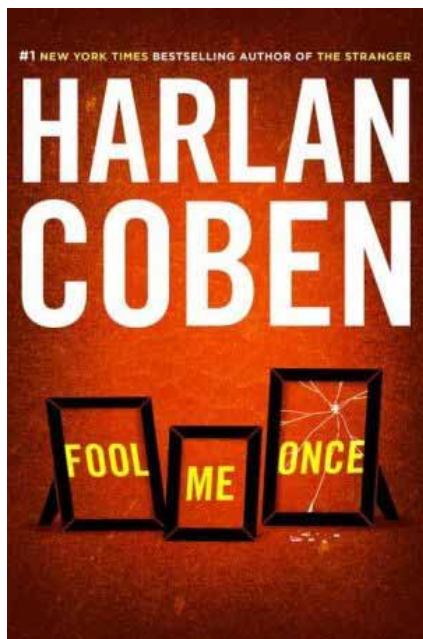
But first, the most obvious question must be answered— who can Maya trust? As the saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me."

From *Publishers Weekly* (starred review): "Coben is like a skilled magician saving the best, most stunning trick for the very end."

From *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review): "Coben hits the bull's eye again...masterfully paced plotting...a tale guaranteed to fool even the craftiest readers a lot more than once."

Coben is the author of almost 30 international bestsellers and has won the Edgar, Shamus and Anthony awards. He lives in New Jersey. His website is www.harlancoben.com

Till next time, happy reading!





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