

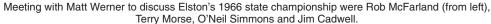
Volume 32, Number 8 Thursday, March 3, 2016

How Sweet It Is

About This Series

This week, we begin something special, a four-part series by Matt Werner, author of the award-winning "Season of Upsets," about the Elston High School 1966 boys basketball state championship season. The writing is longer than what typically appears in *The Beacher*, unfolding more like chapters in a book. The photos come from numerous sources, including original negatives by newspaper photographers found by Werner and Editor Andrew Tallackson. We hope you enjoy today's article and those that appear in the weeks to come.







Elston's state championship ring.

Four Guys Walk Into a Room

Four men, ages 66 to 68, recently gathered in a library meeting room. Hair thinning. Hair graying. They greeted each other with a "Hey" or "How's it going." No one shook hands. They were comfortable. At ease. Smiling.

Three of them, anyway.

"Wouldn't you know Rob would get in trouble as soon as he walked into the building."

"Who tries to take coffee into a library?"

"How was I supposed to know?"

"It's always you, Rob. You're always the one to get into trouble."

Rob rolled his head. "My God, I'm just the one who always gets caught."

"Can't take you anywhere."

That joke is 50 years old.

Good-natured ribbing ensued.

"You don't look too bad."



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In Case Of Emergency, Dial

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Talk of people they knew.

"You heard Barb passed away recently."

"No, really? Man, when did that happen?"

Most of all, there was laughter. Real laughter. Deep, meaningful laughter. God, there was a lot of laughter.

Terry Morse, O'Neil Simmons, Jim Cadwell and Rob McFarland. Four seniors on the 1966 Michigan City Elston state basketball championship team. We talked about basketball, Red Devil pride and Coach Doug Adams. I told them I'd already spoken

with their assistant coach, Al Whitlow, and principal, Warren Jones.

Morse volunteered to get the guys together. A Saturday.

"We'd probably like to meet in the late morning," he said, "then we'll go somewhere to eat afterward. Preferably a place that serves beer."

I knew then — I was going to like these guys.

Basketball has long been king in Indiana, and in 1966, Michigan City Elston was the potentate of the Hoosier state. Bill Redfield, longtime Michigan City sports editor, once summarized that sea-

son in two sentences: "This may have been the year of the horse in China, but it was the year of the Red Devils in Indiana. The Red Devils—the Michigan City High variety—went from crippling early season injuries to glory before nearly 15,000 fans and untold radio and television audiences Saturday night, March 19, in Indianapolis."

That was it in a nutshell. Everyone who has lived Michigan City over the last 50 years has heard of the '66 team. I grew up in Union Mills — a south county boy — and I'd heard of them. Mythologized over the years. They were legends.

The team won 26 games and lost three. Their av-

erage margin of victory was 21 points. More than 12,000 people turned out for the victory rally at Ames Field after the team won state. Life-sized cutouts of each player hang on a wall inside Michigan City High School. Decades before that, they clung to a wall high above the basketball court in Elston's Red Devil Gym. But those are trivial facts and leftover momentos. There is more to the story. Much more. There are lessons we can learn, and parts of the story nobody has told.

And it all started with an unlikely coach who took an unwanted job.

<u>n Unlikely Basketball Coach</u>

A 1943 Hammond High School graduate, Doug Adams served two years in the Army during World War II, then attended Ball State University, where he played football. After graduating, he took his first teaching job at Riley grade school in Michigan City in 1949. Adams really wanted to coach football, but no open positions existed when he arrived. However, the assistant basketball and Junior Varsity coaching position was open.

Adams later said, "Nobody else wanted the job," so he took it. And why not? If for no other reason, it got his foot in the door of the high

Coach Doug Adams.

school athletic department and brought in a little extra income for him, his wife, Betty, their 2-yearold daughter, Michele, and 1-year-old son, Mike.

In his second year in Michigan City, an assistant football coach position opened and Adams jumped at the chance. Every fall, he assisted the football team and every winter he assisted the basketball team.

For eight years, Adams coached the Pink Imps, as the JV basketball team was known, and worked under head coaches Dee Kohlmeier, Ick Osborne and Ralph Hooker. When Adams had the chance to take over as head coach for the 1957-1958 season, the job provided a nice pay raise, and Elston's basketball team had become synonymous with winning. It had strung together five straight winning seasons — including three 20-win seasons — and seven straight sectional championships.

Jones was glad to see Adams get promoted.

"Doug Adams was a good coach and a good man," he said. "He was a good leader of young men. He set a good example."

But Adams' first season got off to a shaky start.

"We had four losses by Christmas, and I'm sure that everyone began wondering if they had hired the right man for the job," Adams said in an interview with Dennis Edgington, author of the book, Hey, We're Red Devils. The team also lost the first game in its own holiday tournament that season. Things looked grim. If Adams wanted to keep his job, he would need to win more games.



Betty Adams spends time with the family. The kitchen tablecloth has the names of Doug's players on it.

Jones and I sat at his kitchen table talking about basketball, Elston High School and Adams.

"Doug was a good football player at Ball State. He never played a game of basketball in his life. Never. Not in high school or college," Jones said.

Wait. What? He told you that, I asked. "Yeah."

I'm guessing he didn't tell many people.

Jones grinned and laughed. "No, probably not, but I knew it. But I didn't publish it."

Not only did Adams never play a game of basketball, but, his son, Mike, said, "He never dribbled a basketball in his whole life."

Make no mistake about it, Adams wanted to coach football, and he continued to do so after taking charge of the basketball program. In the fall of '57, '58, '59, '60 and '61, he continued to work with the football team and teach the boys the game's fin-



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er points. The following fall, he focused his energy on basketball and left football for good. But he did coach the cross country team and pushed his basketball players to join to get in shape for the upcoming season.

Looking back, if townspeople had known Adams never played a lick of basketball, they might have run him out of town before New Year's Day 1958 when his first team didn't look so great. Good thing for the boys who played for Adams, his secret was safe.

Good thing for Michigan City, too.

After that disappointing 4-4 start, Adams managed to turn his team around in a big way. The Red

Devils won the next 16 games in a row before losing by two points to East Chicago Washington in the first round of the Regional.

Ah, yes — East Chicago Washington and the dreaded Regional jinx. Despite the team's success, one obstacle seemed insurmountable: Regional championship. For decades, the winner of the La Porte County Sectional advanced to the "meat grinder" Calumet Regional held in Hammond and, later, East Chicago. Year in and year out, the state's top-ranked teams fought to ad-

vance to the semistate. Since 1924, Elston had won just two Regionals. Its last championship occurred in 1935. East Chicago Washington foiled Michigan City's efforts to take home the Regional crown again in 1959, 1962 and 1963. Gary Roosevelt spurned the Red Devils in 1960 and 1961. In 1964, Gary Tolleston defeated Michigan City in the Regional.

Fans wanted their team to win, but they'd grown to believe the Regional was beyond their grasp. It wasn't meant to be. Their school had been hexed. But Adams had a different feeling about it.

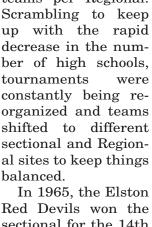
"It wasn't driving me as crazy as it was the townspeople, because they were seeing a jinx. What I saw were superior ballclubs," Adams told Edgington. "They were great basketball teams. Looking back, there isn't one time I could say we didn't give it our all. During that time, Washington was riding the crest of their greatest teams, and it didn't matter who came out of Gary, one of them was going to be outstanding. If it wasn't Roosevelt, then Froebel or Tolleston would slip in there. It's sad that most people only remember that you lost. We were involved in some of the greatest games and comebacks that Regional ever saw. I can't remember going in there the favorite too many times."

Maybe Next Year

By the mid-1960s, schools across Indiana were consolidating rapidly. The La Porte County Sectional tournament had 16 teams in the 1950s, but dropped to 12 in 1964 and 10 in 1965. The Indiana High School Athletic Association allowed the number of schools participating in individual sectional

tournaments to vary, but it maintained 64 sectional sites and 16 Regionals with four teams per Regional. were

straight time, cago. Instead,



Red Devils won the sectional for the 14th but that year, it didn't travel to the meat grinder in East Chi-IHSAA sent the win-

ner east to the Elkhart Regional. Elston went 15-5 in the regular season and was co-champions of the Northern Indiana Conference. Many fans were optimistic about the change of venue and thought maybe this was the year. The newspaper headline read, "Red Devils Ready to Break Net Hex," and Redfield observed that the attitude from Adams all the way down to the student managers was that this was the year the team would "break their Regional high school basketball tournament hex." Many believed, or hoped, that going east would change Michigan City's fortunes.

Elston's first-round opponent, South Bend Washington, was the only Northern Indiana Conference team to beat them, but fans remained optimistic as everyone, including South Bend Washington coach Subby Nowicki, believed Washington had played



Warren Jones.

its finest game of the season against the Red Devils on its home court a few weeks earlier. Also, sev-

eral Red Devil players had been wracked with the flu at the time. Furthermore, South Bend Washington was playing in its first Regional since 1938, whereas it had become a familiar routine for Michigan City.

After tying the game, 51-51, one Red Devil missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw. No problem. Then, another Red Devil player did the same thing. Hmm. The next thing fans knew, the team couldn't seem to buy a basket. After the game, La Porte assistant superintendent Bob Miller commented that "The ball just wouldn't go in." With 11 seconds to go, the scoreboard read 65-55 in favor of South Bend Washington. Adams turned and faced his boys on the bench. Blank faces stared across the court, while others were buried in towels.

The following Monday, a brief editorial appeared in The News-Dispatch. It read, "The

Elkhart Regional tournament on Saturday was no more productive for the Red Devils than all those

meets they attended through the years in the Calumet area, so they join other defeated Indiana high school basketball teams in hanging up suits for the season.

"Some fans had built high hopes this year of cracking what has come to be known for the Red Devils as 'the Regional jinx.' For them, Saturday's loss to South Bend Washington was a particularly bitter pill to swallow.

"There's one compensation about athletics: Seasons come and go, and there's always another one ahead to enliven hopes.

"Maybe next year will be the one for the Red Devils..."

Redfield wrote these sobering words in his Following' Thru column: "The Red Devils have failed 14 times in a row in the Regional but on the trip home they were not disheartened. Just having played for the Red Devils satisfied a number of them."

Maybe next year.

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Red Devil Tride

By the start of the 1965-1966 school year, baby boomers pushed attendance numbers beyond school building limits. Elston's attendance swelled from 801 students in 1949 to 1,530 in 1960 and 2,285 in the fall of 1965 (grades 10-12). Desks were squeezed into crowded classrooms. Students shuffled through congested hallways. Every student shared a locker. The school added one minute to the passing period between classes to accommodate the bottlenecks

that ensued in every doorway and crosswalk. Stairways were designated one-way only to facilitate the stream of student bodies.

"If a student tried to go the wrong way up a one-way stairwell, they were going to have a rough go of it," Jones laughed.

Charged with maintaining order over all of these students was the biggest Red Devils cheerleader of all: Principal Warren Jones. He worked as school principal in the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s. He strove to be aware of everything going on in the school. He maintained discipline and worked hard to be fair, but above everything else, he said, "I also wanted the kids to have some fun when they were in school."

The population boom brought new students,

more diverse students and a greater pool of athletic talent. This was a tremendous boost to building and maintaining top athletic teams, but Michigan City wasn't alone. Schools everywhere had exploded with students and new talent. To maintain an edge, Adams developed a system.

As head coach, Adams hand-picked every one of the basketball coaches in the school system. He chose men he could trust. Men who knew and loved the game of basketball. Men of integrity. Men like Al Whitlow, who had played under Adams when he was the Pink Imps coach. After earning his college degree, Whitlow took a job teaching at Barker Junior High in 1961. Adams immediately asked him to be one of his coaches.

You cannot discuss Adams, or his system, without talking about Whitlow.

"We had a very good working relationship," Whitlow said. "I never wanted his job. A lot of times, guys want to be head coaches. I never wanted to be a head coach. That truly was not anything I wanted. So that wasn't a problem. We got along fine."

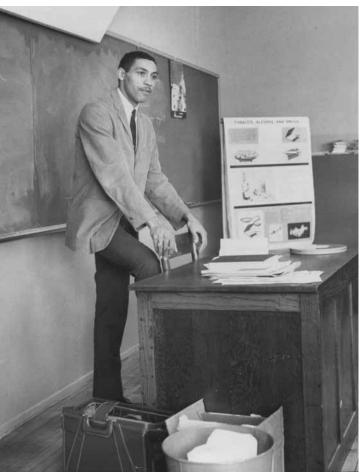
There was no doubt who was in charge — Adams was in charge.

But he surrounded himself with good people for a reason.

"He listened," Whitlow said. "He had his way of

doing things, but he would tell me all the time on the bench, 'Keep talking to me, keep talking to me, you know, I may not do it, or it may not catch on right away with me, but you keep talking to me.' There were times when he said, 'No, we're not going to do that.' But then there were other times where he would make changes."

No question, they made a great team. Years later in an interview, Adams said, "I've never worked better with anyone as I did with Al Whitlow. He was a great thinker on his feet; still is. Many times there is tension on the bench and Al might say something and I would snap at him. He wouldn't care. 'OK, you don't like that, what about this; how about that... He could keep firing them out until something jelled with mine, and that's what we'd do. Al didn't have one envious bone in his body



Doug Adams called Al Whitlow, seen here in the classroom and wearing his championship ring, as a "great thinker on his feet."

and I'll always have the greatest respect and admiration for him."

Every year, Adams held a meeting of all of the coaches at all of the levels, telling them what he wanted the boys to work on, what skills needed to be developed, what fundamentals would be taught and what offense to run.

"I tell you, anybody who went through Elston and played basketball in Michigan City during that era, to this day, you put them on the floor and they'd run the box weave," Whitlow said. "They'd know how to run the box weave."

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He also told them what they could not do.

"Like play zone defense," Whitlow recalled. "You're not going to play a zone defense, you were going to learn to play man-to-man."

Adams even instructed coaches on what skills individual players needed to develop and what positions some of the boys would play.

"When Jim Cadwell was in junior high school at Barker," Whitlow said, "Doug had me have him play guard because he wanted some taller guards. Cadwell was probably 6'1". So, he played a lot of guard for us at the time."

The boys who played basketball at the elementary and junior-high levels were given a basketball for the summer. When school started in the fall. the ball had to be returned, and it better have been used. One year, Adams handed out goals for kids to attach to their garages at home. Another year, they received iron rings that sat inside those goals, making it smaller and harder to make a basket



Barker Junior High's ninth-grade team in 1963, coached by Al Whitlow and including the likes of Jim Cadwell and Terry Morse.

in an effort to turn them into sharp shooters.

Adams preached a 2-2-1 press defense and balanced scoring.

"When you talk about Doug Adams' philosophy, it was have a balanced attack," Whitlow said. "You didn't necessarily want to have one go-to guy. You wanted to be able to attack from different angles. You wanted to have as many kids get into double figures as you could get into double figures."

Adams' system extended beyond fundamentals and X's and O's. He admired UCLA coach John Wooden's philosophies on basketball and life, and read everything Wooden wrote. He was a firm disciplinarian. He believed in honesty. You did what you were supposed to do every time. He wanted players to develop and grow into fine young men. He insisted players keep good grades.

"He had to stay on me," senior guard O'Neil Sim-

mons said. "I was an average student, 'C,' but I could have been better."

prodded Adams him to do better, to realize his full potential. When Simmons went to college, he did do better and earned higher grades. If a player wanted to further his education, Adams helped him do that. If he needed a scholarship, Adams called university coaches to make that possible.

Adams' discipline was fairly simple: If you're not going to do what you're supposed to do, you run. Upand-overs, he called them. You ran up a walkway





to the top of the gym, then back down to the floor. Then go to the next stairway. Up to the concourse, over and back down to the floor. Up and over, up and over until you'd bounded up and down every walkway in the gymnasium. "You can always make a mistake one time. That's a mistake," Mike Adams, the coach's son and a player on that team, said. "Second time, it's your fault. There won't be a third time. The lesson: Learn from your mistakes. That's what he wanted."

"We scrimmaged the Pink Imps every Wednesday night," Terry Morse said. "Jim and I had three consecutive times down the court. We screwed up and threw the ball out of the way or threw it out of your hands and after the third time, we didn't even look at Coach Adams. We knew. He was pointing his finger, but we didn't even look. We just started doing up-and-overs. He cracked up laughing. We knew. It didn't matter who you were."

Adams devoted himself to basketball and teach-

ing. He developed boys into men. He put together a booklet on how to be an Elston Red Devil. It explained how to practice, that players were expected to shoot 25 free throws day, needed to learn to shoot a lefthanded lavup and dribble with the left hand. Also, be honest and helpful. He knew some players could not afford a coat and tie, but wear a sweater dress respectfully when traveling as a

team. Look respectful. Carry yourself with pride. Pride in your team, in your school and in yourself.

So, what did it mean to be a Red Devil? Simmons didn't hesitate: "Honor. At that young age, you know, if you ever went to a Red Devil game and saw the crowd and the enthusiasm — hey, you wanted to be a Red Devil."

"All the games were on the radio and when you were a kid, you would listen to the games on the radio and sit in your room and shoot a wadded paper through a little hoop. You kept score, had everybody's stats," Rob McFarland said.

"It was an amazing — I don't know about the rest of these guys — but it was an amazing time. It really was fantastic," Jim Cadwell said.

"When we were in ninth grade — that game we played at Barker and we played Elston Junior High then — the place was full. It was full of people. We

had never seen it full before. Doug Adams happened to be there and we thought, 'Oh, geez, Doug Adams is here," Terry Morse said.

Even running a dust mop across the Red Devil Gym's court was considered a special honor. A sign you had the inside track. That Doug Adams was watching you. That he liked what you were doing.

"When they had sectionals, if Doug Adams would come and say, 'You get to sweep the floor,' and if you got to sweep the floor, you knew," McFarland said with a nod.

Adams pursued good sportsmanship.

"Even after a loss, go shake their hands," Mike Adams said. "Tell them they did a great job. You're not going to be a sore loser."

Adams was super organized and maintained a steady schedule. Sunday, he sat down and started working on the upcoming weekend's game plan, looked at film and reviewed the scouting report. During the week, he ran practice.

Monday night, the boys worked on fundamentals.

"Every Monday night, get the gloves out. Not grippy gloves, cotton gloves, and once you took those gloves off, that ball felt like you could feel every lump in the thing," Cadwell said.

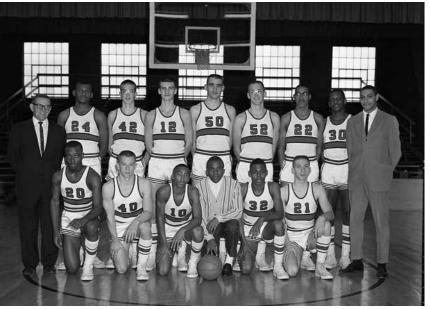
Tuesday was offense, defense and a rebounding drill known as Brutal Ball. Adams put a rim shrinker on the basket, then the boys would shoot. It

boys would shoot. It was no-holds-barred, anything goes. It started out three-on-three. After grabbing a rebound, the boys passed it to an outlet man. When that became too easy, they played four-on-three. Next, Adams designated guards Simmons and Larry Gipson to be his "dogs." As soon as a boy rebounded the ball, the dogs jumped in and slapped at it, trying to knock it away. When they mastered that, Adams added a fifth boy to challenge his rebounders. Three boys trying to

The boys scraped, clawed and fought for the rebound. The boys threw elbows, shoulders, hips and knees in a desperate attempt to get the ball, secure the ball, clear the ball. Don't let the opponent get it. Gotta be tough. Keep 'em on your backs.

outrebound five with the dogs pawing at them.

"Coach Adams used to say, 'I don't care what you get — bring me a head. If it's not a ball, it's a head,"



A photo of the Championship Team at the start of the season.

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Cadwell laughed.

It was effective. Only three teams outrebounded the Red Devils all season, and those were by narrow margins.

Wednesday, the varsity scrimmaged against the Pink Imps. Practices typically lasted two hours, but scrimmage night could be short or long.

"It could go on until 9 o'clock. If you weren't playing well, he let you know," Cadwell said.

By the end of the season, the goal was to keep the Pink Imps from scoring.

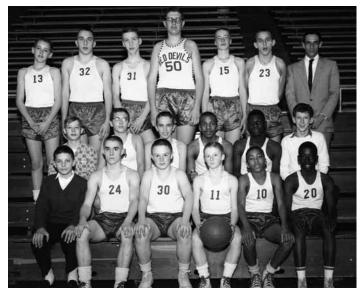
"There was not a bunch of tin cans out there, either," McFarland said. The Pink Imps were a talented group of players in their own right. The varsity took it to them as if it were a regular game. Sometimes, they would hold the Pink Imps scoreless for a full 30 minutes and Adams would be pleased. Other times, they played into the late hours.

Thursday practice included the final game plan preparations as Adams prepared them for that weekend's opponents. Friday and Saturday, the team executed those plans on the court against opposing teams.

He ran practices using a set of 3x5 index cards outlining what the team would do and when. Everything was regimented and planned out:

- 3:05 p.m., calisthenics.
- 3:15 p.m., up and over.
- 3:20 p.m., ball handling.
- 3:35 p.m., defense.

He wanted his boys to play harder than their opponents and never be outhustled. He hung a sign above the locker room door that read, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog." Everybody saw it. Every practice, every game, it reminded them to be tough, to play hard, to want to



Elston Junior High's eighth-grade team in 1962, including O'Neil Simmons (No. 10).

win more than the other team wanted to win.

He worked hard and put in long hours during the basketball season. When he wasn't teaching and coaching, he scouted other teams. But he didn't let the job absorb him. Yes, he was competitive. He loved to win as much as the next person, but he maintained his own life. He kept things in balance. He enjoyed fishing. He once took his son out on Lake Michigan in a rowboat with an onboard motor to catch coho. Three foot waves battered the tiny yessel.

"At least one of us got wet, I can tell you that," Mike Adams said.

He enjoyed frying hamburgers and liked to joke with friends that he was the best at the job. He did his best, put in 100 percent and things just worked out for him. He believed if you put in hard work, you would be successful. He loved his players.

"Cared about every one of his kids. All you had to do was call him and he'd be there," Mike Adams said.

He was successful at coaching because he sold his players on a lifestyle, not just a game.

Adams took pride in his coaching career, yes, but he took even greater pride in his teaching career. That was what he lived to do. Basketball, football, cross country — it didn't matter. Teaching young men, developing young men, helping them grow that mattered. Being the best teacher he could be, having his boys grow into fine young men who succeeded in life and learned lessons — that motivated him. At one point, Tulane University offered him the position of head basketball coach. It included a significant pay raise and free scholarships for his three children. But Adams knew that most of the players at Tulane would arrive, in their minds, knowing everything and how they wanted to do things. "I'm teaching kids to play basketball and live life," he told his son. He didn't feel that he'd be doing that at Tulane. He turned down the job.

Good thing for the boys who played for him. Good thing for Michigan City.

Dawn of a New Season 1965 1966

When the class of 1966 moved from junior high to Elston at the start of their sophomore year in 1963, Whitlow moved with them. He'd taken a job at the high school and became Adams' assistant and coached the Pink Imps. In November 1965, the coaching staff had a good feeling about the upcoming season, but no ambition of winning the state.

"We had a pretty good nucleus coming back," Whitlow said. "We knew we had some good ball players. Had good kids. Good attitudes. And had height. We also had speed. We were feeling good about the year, but still it was unbelievable to go through it like we did—in the second half of the year after the holiday tournament."

Height indeed. Of the 12 boys on Michigan City Elston's varsity roster, only three of them stood shorter than 6 feet tall:

- Jim Cadwell*, 6'4, Senior.
- Stan Farmer*, 6'2, Senior.
- Calvin George, 6'1, Senior.
- Fred LeBorn*, 6'1, Senior.
- Rob McFarland*, 6'5, Senior.
- Terry Morse*, 6'5, Senior.
- O'Neil Simmons*, 5'9, Senior.
- Mike Adams, 5'11, Junior.
- Sam Garrett, 6'1, Junior.
- Larry Gipson, 5'9, Junior.
- · Harold Kennedy, 6'3, Junior.
- Dennis Krueger, 6'4, Junior.

* returning Letterman

With the roster set, one important point of business that had to be meted out before a single home game could be played: the ticket situation. Red Devil Gym sat 4,200 people, but basketball games were the hottest ticket in town. Jones set aside 100 tickets for the opposing team. Then, season passes were sold to any student who wanted one. Jones' philosophy held strong: It was all about the kids, and they got first choice. Period. Remaining tickets went to the public. But demand exceeded supply.

"We were sold out before the season ever started," Jones said. "We had to have drawings for tickets. We never had enough tickets, so before the season started, we had people come and fill out a card and put in the hopper, and we drew their names out until the tickets lasted."

Nov. 12, 1965, the doors of Red Devil Gym opened at 6 p.m. The parking lot at Elston High School and surrounding street curbs filled with cars. Men and women paced through the brisk night air and into the crowded auditorium. It was like any game night, but no players ran out onto the court. Upon entering the building, each family filled out a small card with

their name, then took a seat in the stands. Each card was collected and deposited into a large cylindrical drum. The drum was taken to the center circle of the court where everybody could see it. Jones commanded the microphone and explained the rules. At 7 p.m., someone turned the hand crank, the drum tumbled over and over, cheerleaders took turns drawing cards and Jones called out the name. One year, a cheerleader reached in her hand, pulled out a card and Jones read the name: It was the girl's father. "The crowd whooped and hollered," Jones said. "The poor little cheerleader was so embarrassed."

On this night, the drum tumbled, cheerleaders drew names, Jones called out the names. On and on it went until everybody's name was called or there were no more seats left. In years past, the remaining tickets were sold at Arndt's Sporting Goods Store. This year, however, they ran out of tickets before everybody's name was called. While some went home happy and planned their Friday and Saturday nights, others left disappointed and angry. But nobody could blame the school nor Jones of cheating, playing favorites or impropriety. It had been done in the open for everybody to see.

But Jones noticed a troubling trend.

"You should be aware, as we are, that many people are registering more than once and, hence, more than one registration card is appearing in the hopper for a particular person, or family," he told the press. The next year, a change would be made to disqualify anybody with multiple submissions.

Redfield concurred.

"As is usually the case, the fan who tries every angle to get tickets and fails to get the job done is likely to be the one to holler the loudest," he wrote.

It had been 8 1/2 months since fans packed Red Devil Gym to cheer on their team. With the ticket situation settled, it was finally time to play basketball.

(Our series continues next week.)





ArtsBridge to Present Collage Concert and Exhibit



The I'm Saving Myself Academy Choir.

ArtsBridge will present a Collage Concert and Exhibit at 4 p.m. EST Sunday, March 6, at First Presbyterian Church in Benton Harbor, Mich.

The program will feature I'm Saving Myself Academy Choir, directed by Bonita Mitchell, and music students from the Citadel Dance & Music Center, directed by Susan Dietrich-Reed. Mark Kelly's photos of the shoreline lifestyle will be on display and for sale.

I'm Saving Myself Music & Entertainment Industry Academy became a non-profit 15 years ago under Mitchell's direction. The mission is to give youth a platform through music and performing arts to express themselves. The academy's choir has existed for about 11 years and is led by Mitchell and two assistants, Jimmyella Toney and Iris Bowman. It performs regularly in the community and at spe-

cial events in Michigan and Minnesota. One notable event was singing for Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm's inaugural celebration in 2007. Choir members range from 4 years old to adults. Family members are encouraged to be a part of the program.

The Citadel Music Program originally started in 1998 as part of the Arts & Education Program at The Salvation Army Corp Community Center in Benton Harbor. In 2008, the music program affiliated with The Citadel and became The Citadel Dance & Music Center. The mission is to develop the skills and character of individuals of every age and ethnicity through dance and music education, and performance. Dietrich-Reed facilitates 30 pro-

fessional instructors who provide comprehensive instrumental and vocal private lesson instruction year round for 250 students ages 5 through adult. Kindermusik, music therapy, ensemble coaching and summer strings also are offered.

Kelly has been a commercial and advertising photographer since graduating in 1979 from University of Notre Dame with a Master of Fine Arts in photography. He's worked as a staff photographer in a commercial studio, as a corporate photographer for a large manufacturer of RVs, boats, truck fleets and custom kitchens, and as a freelance photographer running his own business. Three years as a full-time instructor in a commercial photo program at the associate-degree level led to six years as a division chair at Ivy Tech, overseeing a visual communications program that included photography,

graphic design, video production and multimedia design.

When photography went digital, Kelly went with it, leading to a second career in academic technology. Currently, he is the director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Lake Michigan College, where he helps faculty use technology in the classroom and manage Canvas, the learning management system used by the college.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. A reception will follow the program. The church is located at 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill. Call (269) 925-7075, visit FirstPresBH.org or First Presbyterian of Benton Harbor on facebook for additional information.





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"La Femme:

The Female in Image and Form" Opens at SSAA

The fourth annual exhibit "La Femme: The Female in Image and Form" kicks off with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 4, at Southern Shore Art Association Gallery, 724 Franklin St.

The exhibit, held in honor of Women's History Month, runs through Saturday, March 26. Media artworks will include paintings, sculpture and photography. The Chicago Tribune cited the SSAA's first exhibit on this theme as its "pick of the week."

Harbour Trust Investment Management is the exhibit sponsor. Because of that, the SSAA can award a \$200 cash prize for Best in Show as the Harbour Trust Art Award.

Judging will be done by Judy Jacobi, Purdue University-North Central assistant vice chancellor of marketing and campus relations. Jacobi is the driving force behind the campus' Odyssey sculpture exhibit and fine art collection. The reception will feature music by Ah Tu, founded by harp-



ist Debra Sawyer. The group will perform between 6 and 7:30 p.m. after the awards presentation.

A mid-month event celebrating women in art is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13, offering a free figure drawing class with a live model. The short class is open to all artists, from beginners to professionals. Visitors can sign up for the class during the March 4 reception, or from noon to 5 p.m. any Friday, Saturday or Sunday before March 13.

The gallery will be closed Easter Sunday, March 27. Visit southernshoreartassociation.com or the SSAA facebook page for more information.



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Wide Open Mic

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will present "Wide Open Mic," hosted by Tim Rounds, as part of First Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. March 4.

LCA's open mic provides a supportive atmosphere for artists to go public with their work, including poets, musicians and rappers. Registration to perform is full; however, those interested can visit lubeznikcenter.org to be put on a waiting list. Admission is free, and a cash bar and light bites will be available.

Rounds is a local poet, musician, songwriter and open mic promoter who has been performing in the area for several years. He hosts the ongoing open mic during First Fridays at Mainstreet Theatre.

Guests are encouraged to explore LCA's galleries in between acts. Exhibits on view through April 9 include: "Meredith Setser & Jay Zerbe: Abstruse Daydreaming" in the Hyndman Gallery; "Jonah Ortiz: Placebo" in the Brincka/Cross and Susan Block galleries; and "Gideon Douglas: The Art of Letting Go" in the Large NIPSCO Art Education Studio.

Call (219) 874-4900 for more information.

Michigan City Video Fest

The second Michigan City Video Fest is accepting submissions for the event set for the first week in August in downtown Michigan City.

Like last year, priority goes to local video/filmmakers and subject matter, although the top priority remains the highest quality material. Details are available at www.MCVideoFest.com

All genres will be considered, including, but not limited to, animation, documentary, commercials and trailers. The length of the material can range from super-short videos to up to about 50 minutes.

The festival was founded by Michigan City multimedia artist Mike Koss and Michigan City composer and playwright Dan Schaaf. The idea grew out of Schaaf's involvement with short play festivals. Koss has been making videos since the mid-1970s and is active in the local arts scene.

Save the Dunes Lecture

Save the Dunes will host the lecture "The Connection between Organized Labor and Environment" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Barker House, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City.

Tom Conway of BlueGreen Alliance will discuss the role of organized labor in the nation's conservation movement, and its connections to Northwest Indiana. A discussion will follow.

RSVPs are requested to office@savedunes.org



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Indiana Through the Camera Lens

La Porte County Genealogical Society and Michigan City Public Library have united to present "Indiana Through the Camera Lens," an ongoing program celebrating people and cultures that became the foundation of Indiana and La Porte County.

All programs, which celebrate Indiana's bicentennial year, will be held at the library, 100 E. Fourth St. Each film will be preceded by Genealogical Society members offering researched introductions of county people who lived during the timeframe, and who tied into the film's premise.



"Black Robe"

The first program, "Black Robe" (1991), is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6. It follows a Jesuit missionary much like Father Jacques Marquette, who was among the first Europeans to set foot in April 1865 on the shores of what was to become Lake Michigan and La Porte County. Genealogical Society members will answer questions after the showing. A week prior to the event and after the viewing, library display cases located near the child and young adult sections will feature books, maps, posters and artifacts relevant to the film.

Visit tinyurl.com/ndooe7s for more information.

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Annual Chamber Dinner

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner is Friday, March 11, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

The event is presented by the chamber and coevent sponsors, the City of Michigan City Redevelopment Commission and Economic Development Corp. of Michigan City.

Sign-in and cocktails are at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program at 6:15 p.m.

The keynote speaker is Roger Brooks, CEO of Roger Brooks International. The company recently completed a community assessment for Michigan City and will share final recommendations for building a successful brand and increasing economic development.

The event also marks the first opportunity for the public to meet the chamber's new president, Mary Jo Orlowski.

The event is open to chamber members and the public. Pre-payment and registration are required. Visit MichiganCityChamber.com to register or for more information.

Youth Baseball League

Registration is under way for Michigan City Youth Baseball League.

Those interested can register online at www. mcparksandrec.com or at the Park Office in the lower level of City Hall.

The cost is \$30 for participants ages 5-6, with a discount for multiple immediate family members for T-Ball only. The cost is \$50 for participants ages 7-15, with a discount for multiple immediate family members for baseball only.

For boys and girls ages 5-15, the following options are available:

- 5 to 6 years old T-Ball.
- 7 to 8 years old.
- 10U (9- to 10-year-olds).
- 12U (11- to 12-year-olds).
- 15U (13- to 15-year-olds).

Games are played at Patriot and Gardena parks. All players go through a pre-season evaluation. The season runs May through mid-July.

Contact Jeremy at (219) 873-1506 or jkienitz@ emichigancity.com for more information.

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Steady Market this winter Indiana Lakefront.

This month's column started because I had the best winter months of closings since 2005-2006 and I just assumed that everyone else was doing the same. Then the SWMAR report for Southwest Michigan came out showing that number of sales for January 2016 compared to 2015 were down 50%. That sent me to the hard data for winter sales in my "Indiana Lakefront" area.

Year 10/1-1/31	Units Sold	Units Expired	Median Sold Price	\$Volume
2011-2012	25	125	\$330k	\$9.5 M
2012-2013	31	110	\$348k	\$11.1 M
2013-2014	31	95	\$353k	\$18.4 M
2014-2015	49	86	\$271k	\$16.6 M
2015-2016	43	114	\$340k	\$16.2 M

Neither as bad as Southwest Michigan nor as good as I had experienced personally.

2013-14 was the highest in \$Volume, but not nearly as good as the next two years in number of sales.

2014-15 saw a sort of "cleaning out" of the properties at the lower end of the marketplace. (note the median sale price drop, the low number of properties expiring without selling, and the \$Volume drop).

2015-16 has been a "leveling off" winter. Number of sales down, expireds up, median sold price back to a more normal range and the total \$Volume just slightly below 2014-

The most pleasing part of this data is the comparison for 2011-12 to 2015-16. Number of sales up 72%; total Dollar Volume up 71%. We have come a long way from the dog days of five years ago.

So I feel fortunate that I have done better than most this winter, but I am even happier because the last four months have been pretty steady. I continue to preach "list 5% over what it will sell for."

"Indiana Lakefront" is an area map searched from the steel mill to Michigan west of Rt12. Data from GNIAR. Interpretations mine.

Dan Coffey E: Dan@DanCoffey.com

O: 269.469.5635 Ext. 302 W: www.remaxhc.com

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• The annual Maple Sugar Time festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 5-6 and 12-13, at Chellberg Farm.

The event includes free ranger-led tours of the sugaring operation and a pancake breakfast sponsored by Chesterton Lions Club.



A group of youngsters visits the Maple Sugar Time festival in 2014.

One-hour tours start every 20 minutes. Visitors learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack, where sap is boiled down the way the Chellbergs did in the 1930s, or drill a tap hole, lug heavy sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke and enjoy a free taste of pure maple syrup.

Guests can warm up in the farmhouse and collect recipes featuring maple syrup. Volunteers will explain how to make maple syrup at home, and how modern maple sugar farmers use advanced technology to make syrup today.

Pure maple syrup and sugar, and related products such as maple-flavored popcorn and maple water, will be for sale on site.

Chellberg Farm is located off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12.

 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.

 Parents and toddlers can participate in Nature Tots from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 9, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.

Children 2-4 learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor play.

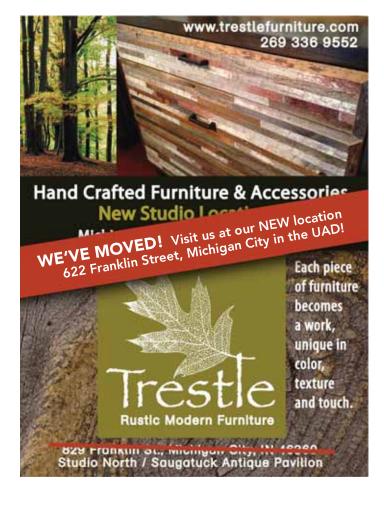
The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

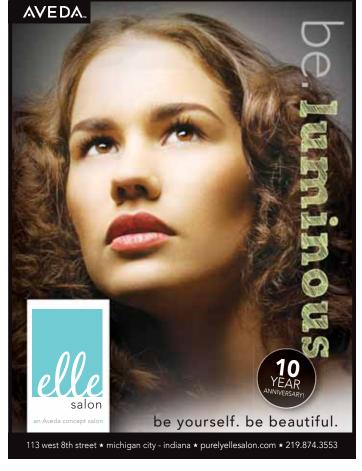




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"The 39 Steps" heralds itself as a Hitchcock spoof, but its affection for the Master of Suspense suggests comical tribute is a more apt description.

Mel Brooks went for full-blown parody back in 1977 with "High Anxiety," skewering what he saw as the absurdity of Hitchcock's iconic movie moments. How else to explain the scene where a flock of pesky birds don't so much as attack Brooks, but relieve themselves all over him.

"The 39 Steps," adapted by Patrick Barlow from John Buchan's 1915 novel and Hitchcock's 1935 film, clearly adores the director's archetypes, from the innocent man framed for murder to the mysterious, chilly bottle blonde.

Where the play derives its humor, and brilliantly so, is through this challenge: How do you tell on stage a classic Hitchcock chase picture with only four actors and threadbare sets?

The answer is, give the cast the most athletic workout this side of a Ken Ludwig farce, use every theatrical trick in the book and let the audience's imagination do the rest of the work. The result is one of the most wildly imaginative, visually inventive, laugh-out-loud stage experiences you'll find in Northwest Indiana.

The production is amid its run at Munster's Theatre at the Center. Attending the show was a first for me. Rarely do I step outside La Porte County's borders because we have so many exceptional theater groups. But curiosity got the better of me: Theatre at the Center is Northwest Indiana's only year-round professional theater, and my boss, Tom Montgomery, has raved about "The 39 Steps" for the past few years. It was time to experience the buzz for myself.

The theater, itself, is a marvelously intimate setting, a 410-seat venue with not a bad spot in the house. And director David Perkovich, a TATC veteran with credits such as "Spamalot," "Grease" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,"

THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE - AND LAUGHTER

takes full advantage of the open space, his cast exploiting every nook and cranny to full effect.

The story of "The 39 Steps" is vintage Hitchcock. Set in 1935 in the British Isles, we meet Richard Hanny (Matt Mueller), who is coerced one night by a German spy to take her home with him. The spy is played by Linda Gillum, who exaggerates every "ch" or "sh" her words contain with comic relish. When the spy enters Richard's room with a knife in her back, she drops dead, flopping across the seated Richard's lap. Here arrives the show's first big laugh, hilariously executed

by Mueller as Richard must find some way to wiggle out from beneath the cumbersome corpse. The feat does not come easily, and when Richard finally emerges, the spy still stiff as a board across the chair, the sight of it is so ingenious, you laugh first at the cleverness of it, then a second time at the flat-out silliness.

From there on out, "The 39 Steps" exists as one non-stop chase, and Perkovich's great skill as a director is barreling forward and never looking back. He relies on a screen to project images that convey background action, whether it be aboard a train looking out at the

countryside or backstage at a theater while dancing girls entertain crowds in front of the curtain. The result effectively fills in the visual gaps to create a more

complete world. The icing on the cake is the periodic use of instantly recognizable Bernard Hermann scores, including "Vertigo," "Psycho" and "North by Northwest."

It also becomes clear that "The 39 Steps" sinks or swims based on who Perkovich cast as Man 1 and Man 2. These two characters must leapfrog between playing men, women, children and the elderly, frequently in the same scene. Thankfully, the director lured two doozies:

TATC regulars Norm Boucher and Kevin McKillip. These two are the show's comic meat and potatoes. Their go-for-broke performances are riotously funny.

Take, for instance, the train sequence where Boucher and McKillip alternate between passengers and ticket takers. The two glide through accents and rapid-fire character changes with such

> ferocity, you laugh till it hurts. Working with costume designer Brenda Winstead, the two speedily shed layers of clothing, sometimes just alternating between hats, to convey different characters. The result is seamless.

Not everything works. A scene



Simple props factor heavily into the action, often to comedic effect.

where Richard finds himself in bed and handcuffed to a sexy blonde goes on way too long, with little comic payoff. Some of the puns — actors mouthing the titles to Hitchcock classics — play out like limp throwaway gags.

But the sheer momentum of the piece, the gusto with which everyone approaches the action, makes "The 39 Steps" splendid, hysterical entertainment. Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

If You Go

"The 39 Steps" runs through March 20 at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, with select Thursday and Sunday nights and Saturday matinees. Tickets range between \$40 and \$44. Call (219) 836-3255 or visit Tickets.com for reservations



Richard (Matt Mueller) pretends to be in love with a mysterious blonde (Linda Gillum) as police inspectors, played by Kevin McKillip and Norm Boucher, look on.



Kevin McKillip, in drag as a housemaid, discovers the corpse of a German spy.



With only four performers in the cast, McKillip and Boucher frequently disappear into new characters.

The Life and Times of Blues Great Buddy Guy

by Kim Ward

When you think of the blues, what comes to mind? Maybe some down-home feelings, feet tapping, soul stirring, finger snapping, rocking and rolling...and definitely the sounds of legendary guitar player Buddy Guy.

With more than 50 years in the music industry, six Grammys, one of *Rolling Stone* magazine's 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time and a 2012 Kennedy Center Honors recipient, George "Buddy" Guy and the blues are one and the same.

Art + Times had the honor of interviewing him on life, race, his autobiography, making people smile and being called one of the "best guitar" players in history.

A+T: With jazz, there have been ups and downs and many changes to the genre. Has the blues experienced the same with maintaining its popularity?

BG: Jazz and blues have the same problems: the clubs, which is why I own my club here. I have been in Chicago 56 years this year, and if the clubs were like they were when I arrived, I wouldn't have thought about opening one. We used to be able to play seven nights a week and on the weekend, and not have to play in the same clubs. Muddy Waters was doing it, and everybody that we learned from was doing it, and all of those places have disappeared. When I first started traveling, you could drive to New York, Connecticut, Canada, and they all had blues clubs and you could survive. They are gone now, with the DUIs and the non-smoking, they just couldn't survive. Muddy Waters, Clapton, myself and the Stones (Rolling), we were all discovered in some club. Somebody heard and talked about you, and here we are.

A+T: You have been called the "best guitar" player alive with the likes of Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix. How do you feel about such a title?



Buddy Guy gives friend Eric Clapton considerable credit for what he's contributed to blues.

BG: It's great for them to say something like that (chuckling), but they have sold more records than I think I will ever be able to sell because you won't be able to break Michael Jackson's record with over 50 million albums. It's a different world now as far as records. People are downloading. They don't buy albums, and record companies are going out of business. Coming from them that's great, but I still have to go out and prove myself. If someone heard what they said, then they would say, 'Let me go see.' So In't say I don't have to play because of

can't say I don't have to play because of what was heard. I have to prove to some-

one who doesn't know who I am that I can probably make somebody smile by playing pretty good notes. I don't take that for granted what they said.

A+T: Your relationship with Eric Clapton spans many years. What makes him so special?

BG: He did so well with the guitar and made so many hit records. He is one of the most well-known guitar players I would say in the world right now when you mention guitar players. To have a friend like him and the Stones, Keith (Richards) and those guys and what they did for the black musicians. They made white America recognize who we were. You have to give them credit for that. We all owe them thanks. A lot of people didn't know who B.B. King or Muddy Waters were until they (Eric Clapton, Rolling Stones) started to play the blues. White America asked who was B.B. King and Muddy Waters, and they told them who they were. The Beatles came first, and they tried to hide the fact that Elvis got his stuff from Little Richard and others who played the blues.

A+Ts: Did you see race playing a role with

Art+Times

music and musicians?

BG: I don't think it was race with the musicians. When Elvis first appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show," Ed Sullivan told him they couldn't show him shaking from the waist down, only from the waist up, and black people were doing that already. Little Richard and others were 'boogie wooging' and playing, so I don't think it had to do with race. It was one of those things where white people didn't want their kids involved with what we were doing, but they couldn't keep it away from them after it was exposed. Elvis did it, and then when the British got it, they just couldn't hold them anymore. There is

a record out by a late friend of mine called, "I Just Throw Up Both of My Hands." I guess they threw up both of their hands and said, 'They got it now, we might as well leave it alone.'

If you go back and listen to the great jazz bands before the guitar made noise and Les Paul and Leo Fender amplified it, the big bands had black people playing and it wasn't a racial thing. I saw lately on the news or in an article that if you could play, you would go play in Woody Herman's band and if you were black, they didn't pay that any mind. As long as you could play, so no, I don't think it was a black or white thing or a racial thing. If you were willing enough to play and make somebody smile and listen, then you were on your way.

A+T: So did you experience any segregation in any of the Chicago venues or growing up in Louisiana?

BG: Well, I guess it was, because I was playing for 99.9 percent of black people then. When I came here (Chicago), it was 99.9 percent black people that listened to blues. Then, all of a sudden, when the Beatles, the Stones and Rod Stewart started playing the blues, you would hear rumors of the 'British invasion' of blues, and they came and told America that wasn't their music. There was a show back in the 1960s called 'Shindig,' and they were after the Stones, and they wanted them to play, and Mick Jagger and the Stones agreed only if they could bring Muddy Waters and they asked, 'Who in the hell was that?' He got offended and said, 'You mean to tell me you don't know who Muddy Waters is? We named ourselves after one of his famous records, 'Rolling Stone'."

A+T: You influenced Jimi Hendrix, even your flare of showmanship on stage, such as playing behind your back and picking the strings with your teeth. What was your experience being with him?

BG: We got to know each other very well. He would come in and jam, but we never got the chance to work together. He would come to New York every time I played there and sit in and jam with me. It was all small blues clubs back then and after I played my first Newport Jazz Festival, which was in 1967.

A+T: Your autobiography, When I Left Home: My Story was released in May 2012. What inspired you to write and tell your story?

BG: Well, first of all, I didn't think I would get

the opportunity. The author, David Ritz, came along and I thought about it and said, 'I guess I better tell my story because most of the guys who should have told their stories are no longer with us.' So I said, I better go tell the truth and where I'm from in Louisiana, they say 'coming straight from the horse's mouth', so at least I know the little history I've been through. I said if I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it my way and tell the truth about 99.9 percent in the book and that is exactly what I did.

A+T: You are considered a blues legend. What do you want your legacy to be?

BG: Well, I tried to keep the music alive. I stole from those guys. Some of them weren't mentioned in the awards I have received, like the Kennedy Hon-

ors at the White House. I played for the president, I went in to the Oval Office with President Bush, and a lot of those guys should have been in there long before I did, so I would like to say, if I hang around a little longer, I did something for those guys who didn't live to see me go to the places I've been lately, which is a shock and surprise to me.

A+T: What inspires Buddy Guy outside of music?

BG: Well, I was born down on a farm in Louisiana and I don't have a high school education, so I taught myself how to play the guitar. My parents were so poor, we were sharecroppers, and they would eat to live and live to eat. I still love to cook, and I love making people smile, and I think music does that a lot. I think if I sit and talk to people, I hope to try to tell a joke to make them smile some time, because everybody looks like they are angry now and it looks like it's getting

smile some time, because everybody looks like they are angry now and it looks like it's getting worse. When I was coming up in Louisiana, when they gave you a gun, it was to kill some wild game. They didn't give me a gun to kill people. When I was growing up as a kid, there was no such thing as that. Everyone was loving and always wanted to make people smile.

A+T: What advice would you give young musicians who want to get into the industry today?

BG: Just keep on doing it, because you don't have a guarantee on anything, and you don't even have a guarantee if you go to college. I meet a lot of college kids who have these student loans. One girl was working here at my club about seven or eight years ago, and I didn't realize it because I didn't get that kind of education and she said, 'I got these student



Buddy Guy, pictured here with Mick Jagger, cites The Rolling Stones as helping America wake up to the talents of black blues musicians.





Buddy Guy Continued from Page 23

loans and I will be 57 years old before I'm able to pay it off.' I said, 'Who would want to hire you at 57 years old (chuckles)?'

I tell a young person now, if you have YouTube, you can look at this kid, Quinn Sullivan. When I met him, he was 6 years old, and he plays as well as I do and as well as Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray (Vaughan). We have a record company with him now, and I'm hoping to keep the blues alive with that, so maybe he can influence some other kids. Kids today don't know what a blues player is until they are 21 years old. My own children didn't know I could play until they were 21, because that is the only time you can go in to a blues club. They said, 'My God, Dad, I didn't know you could play.' For the last 20 or 30 years, at least in the summer time, we played in outdoor theaters and you would see some kids out there with their parents.



Buddy Guy (right) at the Kennedy Center Honors with David Letterman (left) and Dustin Hoffman.

A+T: What can we expect to hear from you in the future?

BG: Well, I'm still going into the studio hoping they play us on the radio. They don't play blues on the radio much anymore. If you're a blues player, you may get lucky and somebody says play that because I like it. That will help keep blues alive.

At the end of our interview, Guy spoke more on his love for cooking and his favorite Louisiana meal. When asked what his favorite meal is, he laughed and asked in return, "Back then or now? I can get what I want now." He said he loves to boil his food, and he got up at 4 a.m. to boil some black eyed peas so when he was finished with his day, they would be ready for him. His wish came true. We had a lot of smiling and laughing while listening to him tell his story. He truly is a man who loves his blues.



Students Perform in Honors Choirs



Three Krueger Middle School students participated in the American Choral Directors Association Central Division Middle School Honors Choirs. Eighth-graders Keon Oliver (from left), Ananda Osenkarski and Davion Carroll performed in the Girls and Boys Honors Choir concerts Feb. 27 at Chicago's Palmer House Hilton. They were chosen based on the auditions from among several hundred middle-school vocalists across Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. All three are members of Krueger's "KMS Singers" show choir under choral teacher Shirley Allen's direction.

Genealogical Society

The La Porte County Genealogical Society met Feb. 9 at the La Porte City Park Department Headquarters, 250 Pine Lake Ave. A business meeting was followed by refreshments provided by Larry and Kathi Carlson.

In celebration of Indiana's bicentennial, the program committee's theme is ethnic groups that shaped the state.

The meeting's speaker, Gerry Jones, former director of Stepping Stone Shelter for Women in Michigan City, discussed "Generations of Firsts in Our Black Community." Sel Dunlap, an active participant in La Porte County politics and community life, offered further insights along with Allen Williams of Safe Harbor, who spoke about Black History projects at the former Mullen Elementary School in Michigan City.

Pet First Aid/CPR Seminar

The Purdue University-North Central Office of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach will partner with the North Central Veterinary Emergency Center to offer a three-night seminar on First Aid and CPR skills for pet owners.

The program will meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 17-31. The registration deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday, March 10. The \$119 fee includes all materials. A special rate is available for PNC and Purdue Calumet students, alumni and employees, as well as existing North Central Veterinary Emergency Center clients.

Visit www.pnc.edu/gel/ or contact Cassandra Boehlke, Continuing Education and Academic Outreach coordinator, at (219) 785-5748 or cboehlke@pnc.edu to register or for more information.

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Spring Garden Show

La Porte County Master Gardeners will host the Spring Garden Show "Think, Eat, Live Green" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road.

The cost is \$10 per person payable at the door. The family event includes three keynote speakers, more than 15 breakout sessions, a children's series, vendors, demonstrations and door prizes.

Keynote speakers are:

- Dawn Pape, "The Lawn Chair Gardener," who will present two talks: "Mason Meets a Mason Bee & Planting for Native Pollinators" and "Goodbye Ornamentals, Hello Functional Yards."
- Steve Sass, Northern Indiana Chapter of INPAWS president, who will present: "The Important Role of Native Plants in the Home Landscape" and "Taking the Plunge: Transforming to a Wildlife Friendly Landscape with Native Plants."
- Victoria Jostes, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, award-winning amateur photographer and author, who will present "Wetlands: The Ordinary & the Extraordinary" and "To Bee or Not To Bee."

Cooking demonstrations will include Chef Brad Hindslev of Spire Farm-to-Fork Restaurant, who will provide recipe ideas using fresh herbs.

Children 12 and younger not only are free, but also can attend with an adult an entire series of classes, as well as a puppet show.



Chef Brad Hindsley

Vendors will feature local and handcrafted items, and sell beverages, breakfast and lunch items.

Call Tina DeWitt at the Purdue Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 for more information.



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Michigan City Public Library

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

• Writer's Group at 6 p.m. Thursdays, March 3 and 17.

Writers can share ideas and work with other people with similar interests.

• Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, March 5.

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach. Take a mat because extras are limited.

• Indiana Through the Camera Lens at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6.

The showing of "Black Robe" (1991) is a joint effort with the library and La Porte County Genealogical Society.

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

Sarett Nature Center

The following programs are offered at Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor. Mich.:

• Learn birding basics at 11 a.m. EST Saturday, March 5.

The fee is \$7.

• Spring Trivia Night.

Doors open at 6 p.m. EST, with trivia at 7 p.m. EST. Teams of 10 adults can register for \$100. Individuals cost \$10.

• John Harville, Michigan Bluebird Society's Berrien/Cass/Van Buren County coordinator, will discuss the Eastern bluebird at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, March 6.

Individuals or families can use the woodshop to build a bluebird house. The program-only fee is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. The house-building fee is \$20 per house. Pre-registration is required.

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

New FADA Location

Franklin Art District Artists will have a reception celebrating its new location from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 4, at 617 Franklin St.

FADA is a collective of working artists, artisans, photographers, makers and entrepreneurs. Members are: April Lynn Photography and Art, April Dillingham; Beachbased Designs, Cheryl Solberg; Beach Bum Jewels, Linda Mickevicius; Brabant Projects, Brabant Lenting; Catchlight Studio, Carol Estes; Henry Schultz Photography and Art, Henry Schultz; Treasures by the Lake, Jamie Kessler; and Whispered Photography, Rhonda Mullen.

First Friday Artist Reception

South Bend Museum of Art will present its First Friday Artist Reception for "Stacey M. Holloway: Dyed in the Wool" from 5 to 9 p.m. EST Friday, March 4.

The event is free, with Holloway leading an artist's talk at 6:30 p.m. EST. Refreshments will be served.

SBMA is located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Email info@southbendart.org, call (574) 235-9102 or visit www.southbendart.org for more information.

Cookies and Canvas

Jennifer Martin will host a spring edition of Cookies and Canvas on Friday, March 11, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Children ages 3-7 can attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and ages 8-14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The evening will include an 8x10 spring-themed, stretched canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice.

The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. Interested students must register by contacting the center at (219) 926-4711 no later than Wednesday, March 9.

Pysanky Program

A free interactive program on *Pysanky* is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Portage Public Library, 2665 Irving St., Portage.

Theresa Child will teach the traditional Polish art of creating wax-resistant Easter eggs using her grandmother's methods. Participants will create their own egg to take home.

All materials will be provided. Class size is limited to 25. Preregistration is required by calling (219) 763-1508, or sign up at the library's checkout desk.



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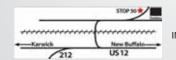
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Memoir Writing to Kick Off Series

The Friends of New Buffalo Township Library will kick off the 2016 Community Forum season with a memoir writing session at 6:30 p.m. EST Monday, March 7, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Annette Van Dusen, retired English teacher and writing instructor, will lead "Writing Your Story," which involves writing-process activities designed to establish purpose, draft stories and anecdotes, and cover tips for editing and sharing what is written. Participants should take a spiral-bound notebook and favorite writing utensil.

Upcoming programs, all at 6:30 p.m. EST except for "American Songbook," are:

- "The Civil Rights Movement from 1945-1965" on Tuesday, March 29, by Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College.
- "The Archeology of Southwest Michigan" on Monday, April 18, by archeologist William Mangold.
- "The American Songbook," presented by the School of American Music musicians and singers, at 3 p.m. EST Sunday, April 24.
- "How to Write Your Family History So That Someone Will Want to Read It" on Tuesday, May 10, by Aloma Custer of Berrien County Genealogical Society.
- "Personal Safety and Scams" on Tuesday, May 17, by Kelly Laesch.
- "Stormy Weather" on Tuesday, May 24, by Timm Pschigoda of Lake Michigan College.

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

Unity Foundation Program

Unity Foundation of La Porte County representatives will provide an update for the community from 2 to 3 p.m. Friday, March 4, at Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The public is invited to hear President Maggi Spartz and professional advisor liaison Warren Ransom discuss work by Unity, progress on the \$1 million Lilly Endowment challenge match, which ends March 31, and legislation that affects taxes.

Light refreshments will be provided. Call (219) 879-0327 to reserve a spot.



Tri Kappa

Tri Kappa's Michigan City Delta Mu Chapter recently met at Barker Mansion, with Sue Woodland and Barb Macudzinski serving as hostess.

The group welcomed Christine Pahssen as a new member. Deb Surface reported members raised \$867 at December's silent auction, with proceeds aiding The Salvation Army and a special-needs family. Mary Lou McFadden reported nut sales exceeded goals. The Scholarship Committee is reviewing college scholarship applications.

The January meeting was held at Imagination Station, with members donating items from their wish list. They also toured the facility.

Denitta Newenhouse reported a Valentinethemed dinner is planned for Swanson Center clients. Guest receive a valentine goodie bag.

The annual Art Night is March 9 at Springfield Elementary School. Delta Mu partners with Lubeznik Center for the Arts for the family event.

Members will host the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen on April 3. The Annual Geranium Sale is in April, with orders arriving the first week of May.

The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Barker Mansion.

City Kids Day Camp

Children ages 6-11 can celebrate summer in Michigan City at City Kids Day Camp at Lake Hills Elementary School.

The cost is \$35 per week, or \$20 per week for youth enrolled in Michigan City Area Schools summer school

The program is limited to 65 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required at the Park Office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Age verification with a birth or baptismal certificate is required.

The camp opens the week of June 13 and ends Aug. 5. The schedule is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday (no camp July 4). Leaders will leave with campers for all scheduled field trips and special events.

Call the Parks Office at (219) 873-1506 for additional information.

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Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship La Porte County Finalists

Unity Foundation of La Porte County announced 10 high school seniors as La Porte County finalists for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Two La Porte County students will be selected, receiving full-tuition scholarships to pursue baccalaureate degrees at any accredited public or private Indiana college or university, and an annual \$900 book stipend.

The finalists and their schools are:

- John Glenn High School: Camille Allison.
- La Crosse High School: Kylie Kaiser.
- La Lumiere High School: Megan Gillen.
- La Porte High School: Hannah Jongkind; Patrick Tubaugh; Madeline Watterson.
- Michigan City High School: Kristen Gushrowski; Sage Santana; Rodrigo Serrano.
- Westville High School: Sabrina Bryan.

and alternate names submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the final selection, which will be shared by March 25.

Past scholarship recipients from La Porte County are: Rebecca Yaw, Olivia Glowacki, Mariah Micallef, Johnna Belkiewitz, Benjamin Gibbs, Jared Dyjak, Brittany Belkiewitz, Mitchell Orzech, Ryan Byers, Kelsey Tuholski, Jill Fischer, Jackson Troxel, Jessica Nieman, Jana Hunsley, Mindy (Marsh) Heidel, Jada Anderson, Melissa Spurr, Aaron Albrecht, Peter Davis, Suzanne Dolembo, Laura Durazzo, Macara (Hostetler) Aloi, Patricia (Jongkind) Willhite, William Kelly, Andrew Knaup, Mary Kutch, Zachary Lute, Sara Mahoney, Cheryl Miller Winters, Mary Rodecap, Melanie Thomas, Elizabeth (Hunter) VanHook, Keith Kalvaitis, Kyle Kownacki, Brett McNeal, Kathryn Meyers,



Camille Allison



Kylie Kaiser



Megan Gillen



Hannah Jongkind



Patrick Tubaugh



Madeline Watterson



Kristen Gushrowski



Sage Santana



Rodrigo Serrano



Sabrina Bryan

Unity Foundation received 55 applications for the scholarship from La Porte County students. They were judged on academic achievement, service to others, extracurricular activities and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee comprised of La Porte County residents reviewed the applications, not knowing the names until after the finalists were selected. Those 10 were interviewed, and nominee Patricia Minich, Federico Pabon, Alexandra Pagels, Virginia Pagels, Teresa (Spence) Parkhouse, Sarah Valatka, Erica Valdez, Jennifer (Warfel) Juskiewicz, Sandra (Wood) Graves, Charles Zila, Angela Zolvinski, Jonathan Gray, Jessica Thompson, Anna Kammrath, Karen Wassel, Sondra Jeske, Robert Wedow, Yana Alekseeva and Ian Nielson.



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ASL Class for Beginners

Purdue University-North Central will offer a non-credit program for anyone who would like to learn basic American Sign Language.

The program, "Survival ASL for New Beginners," is presented by the Office of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach and Department of English and Modern Languages. Jonanna Wituski, PNC limited term lecturer, is the instructor.

Class meets from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 16 through April 27. Registration costs \$229 and includes a workbook and all other materials. Special discounted rates are available for PNC and PUC students, alumni and employees. Seating is limited, and the registration deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 8.

Visit tinyurl.com/pp28zw8 or contact Cassandra Boehlke, Continuing Education and Academic Outreach coordinator, at (219) 785-5748 or cboehlke@pnc.edu for more information.

Genealogy Bus Trip

Reservations are being accepted for the annual Genealogy Bus Trip to Allen County Public Library.

Co-sponsored by La Porte County Genealogical Society and Michigan City Public Library, the trip is Wednesday, April 6. The bus will leave Marquette Mall in front of the former Marquette Theatre at 7 a.m., with a pickup at Kabelin's Ace Hardware in La Porte at 7:30 a.m. The bus will leave ACPL at 4 p.m. for the return trip.

Paid reservations of \$21 per person are due by March 14. Send reservations with a check payable to La Porte County Genealogical Society c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360-5426.

First Friday Artists Sought

The staff at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., are seeking people to appear as featured artists there during Uptown Arts District's First Fridays.

One artist is sought per month April through October. All forms of art are considered. Contact Jessica at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 4, or jrosier@emichigancity.com if interested.

Social Media Seminar

Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a breakfast seminar on social media Thursday, March 10, at T-Bones Pier 11, 1110 Lakeside St., La Porte.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with breakfast and the presentation at 7:30 a.m. Pre-registration is encouraged at www.lpchamber.com or by calling (219) 362-3178.





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La Porte County Extension Office

La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte, will host the new "Be Heart Smart" program at 11 a.m. Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22 and 29.

The program aims to complement health-care providers' recommendations and help prevent or manage heart disease. Topics include:

- Identifying and understanding risk factors for heart disease.
- Guidelines for healthy cholesterol and blood pres-
- A heart-healthy eating plan, including a cooking demonstration.
- Techniques for stress reduction.
- Best practices for talking to health-care providers.

Also planned is the free program "Hands-Only CPR" at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Extension Office.

Registration for either program is required by calling (219) 324-9407.

Teachers Association Scholarships

The Indiana Retired Teachers Foundation Scholarship Committee has announced \$2,000 scholarships are available for upcoming juniors or seniors in education programs at any state university or college for the 2016 school year.

Up to 10 scholarships will be awarded around the state to students with a relative who is an IRTA member.

Visit www.retiredteachers.org, then go to the IRT Foundation Tab, to view the association's district map and online application material. Call (888) 454-9333 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for more information.



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MCAS Kindergarten/Pre-K Roundup

Due to weather-related school cancellations Feb. 25, Michigan City Area Schools has rescheduled Kindergarten and Preschool registration for the 2016-2017 school year.

It now is Thursday, March 3. Kindergarten students must be 5 by Aug. 1, 2016. Pre-K students must be 3 by Aug. 1, 2016.

Roundup is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all MCAS elementary buildings. Kindergarten students should be enrolled at the school that serves the area in which they live:

- Coolspring Elementary, 9121 W. County Road 300 North.
- Edgewood Elementary, 502 Boyd Circle.
- Joy Elementary, 1600 E. Coolspring Ave.
- Knapp Elementary, 321 Bolka Ave.
- Lake Hills Elementary, 201 Ferguson Road.
- Marsh Elementary, 401 E. Homer St.
- Pine Elementary, 1660 County Line Road.
- Springfield Elementary, 3054 W. County Road 800 North.

Pre-K Roundup also is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 3. School-based Pre-K programs are offered in partnership with La Porte County Family YMCA and Imagination Station at Coolspring, Knapp, Marsh, Springfield and Pine (also serving Edgewood, Joy and Lake Hills students). There are tuition fees associated with Pre-K programs; however, need-based scholarships are available and CCDF vouchers accepted.

Parents who need assistance to determine which school their child will attend may contact the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127. For all other questions regarding Pre-K and K Roundup, contact the school where your child will be enrolled.

Parents should take the following information to kindergarten/Pre-K roundup:

- The child's official birth certificate from the state Board of Health.
- An updated record of the child's immunizations.
- The parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID.
- Emergency contact information.
- Proof of residency (a utility bill, property tax bill, lease agreement on business letterhead, public assistance documentation).

Information and application forms for MCAS Magnet School programs will be available at Kindergarten Roundup. They also are available at http://EducateMC.net/magnets

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

March 3 — "The Health Secrets of Dark Chocolate," 1:30 p.m., La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, La Porte. Free. Registration: (219) 324-9407.

March 3-7 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Now showing: "Carol." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "The Lady in the Van." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Thur., 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Also: "Oscar-Nominated Short Films — Live Action." Not Rated. Time: noon Sun. Also: "Oscar Nominated Short Films — Animated." Not Rated. Time: 12:30 p.m. Sat. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

March 4 — "Wide Open Mic," 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900, lubeznikcenter.org

March 4 — Opening reception, "La Femme: The Female in Image and Form," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association Gallery, 724 Franklin St. Info: southernshoreartassociation.com

March 4-6 — "Hoosiers in Music — Celebrating 200 Years," La Porte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$12. Reservations: (219) 362-5113, laportelittletheatreclub.com

March 5 — Children's Movie: "The Lorax," 10 a.m., Westchester Public Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 5 — Free Gentle Flow Yoga, 12:15 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 5 — Crystal Bowersox, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

March 5-6 & 12-13 — Annual Maple Sugar Time festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 & 12. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 6 — "Indiana Through the Camera Lens," "Black Robe" (1991), 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

March 6 — Sunday Matinee: "The Danish Girl," 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 7 — Community Forum season, "Writing Your Story," 6:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

March 9 — Shake Off the Winter Blues, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte.

March 9 — St. Patrick's Day 3-D Printing Program, 4-7 p.m., MakerSpace Lab @ Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Register by March 4 @ library.

March 10 — Save the Dunes lecture. "The Connection Between Organized Labor and Environment," 6-7:30 p.m., Barker House, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City. Reservations: office@savedunes.org

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.

Farther Afield:

March 3-20 — "The 39 Steps," The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Times: 2 p.m. Wed. & Thur, 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sun., select Thursday and Sunday nights and Saturday matinees. Tickets: \$40-\$44. Tickets: (219) 836-3255, Tickets.com

March 4 — Meet-the-artist reception, Jean Bargeron, 1:30 p.m., The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

March 4 — First Friday Artist Reception, "Stacey M. Holloway: Dyed in the Wool," 5-9 p.m. EST, South Bend Museum of Art, located in The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. Free. Info: (574) 235-9102.

March 4-19 — Musical-comedy "Guys on Ice," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. March 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19/3 p.m. March 13. Tickets: \$19/adults, \$17/students, seniors 62+. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

March 5 — Spring Trivia Night, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Doors open @ 6 p.m. EST/trivia @ 7 p.m. EST. Teams of 10/\$100. Individuals/\$10. Registration: (269) 927-4832.

March 6 — Artist reception, "Dwellings, Cathedrals, Shanties and the Like: The Art of Tim Bruce and Jacqueline Moses," 1-3 p.m., The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Info: www.southshoreartsonline.org

March 6 — Eastern bluebird program with John Harville, Michigan Bluebird Society's Berrien/Cass/Van Buren County coordinator, 2 p.m. EST, Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor, Mich. Costs/registration: (269) 927-4832.

March 6 — ArtsBridge Collage Concert and Exhibit, 4 p.m. EST, First Presbyterian Church, 475 Green Ave. on Morton Hill, Benton Harbor, Mich. Free, donations accepted. Info: (269) 925-7075, FirstPresBH.org

March 6, 8 — Auditions, "The Dixie Swim Club," 7 p.m. EST, Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Info: (574) 848-5853, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org

March 8 — Free interactive *Pysanky* program, 6-8:30 p.m., Portage Public Library, 2665 Irving St., Portage. Registration: (219) 763-1508.

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4. Tammy Vouri		155
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7. Cindy Beck (series)		409
8. Margie Midkiff (series)		405
SPLITS		
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Where It Hurts by Reed Farrel Coleman (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

The mother asks the crying child, "Where does it hurt?" The child points to the cut on his hand, mom cleans it, puts a Band-Aid on it and all's well.

It's not that simple when we become an adult, and the hurt is internal and doesn't heal in several days, even several years. Especially when the hurt involves the death of one's child...

Gus Murphy had a good life: wife Annie, son John, daughter Krissy, job as a policeman, nice house. Nice until the day his teenage son fell over dead while playing basketball. Not an accident, not foul play, just a genetic defect in his heart no one knew about.

Now, two years later, the hurt has blown up into an all-consuming thing that has created an invisible barrier between him and his wife and ruined his marriage, and put his daughter on a self-destructive path of booze and bad decisions.

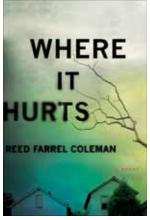
Gus retired from the force and is now living in a run-down hotel by the airport, driving the courtesy van and acting as a bouncer at the hotel's night club. It's certainly not much of a job, but Gus doesn't notice—he's too deep in his pain. The story is told in Gus' own voice: "There were reminders of John everywhere and in everything. And with the reminders came the reminders of our loss. From moment to moment, we relived his death over and over and over."

Gus' pain is palpable. It leaks out his pores and spreads across the pages like spilt milk. Sometimes, it's hard to read his feelings without remembering something from our own past that hurts so much. His only friend at the hotel is a big Polish immigrant named Slava: "Slava was full of surprises, a gorilla with the instincts of a cop and the soul of a poet." He stands quietly in the background, but is always around when Gus needs him.

Reading this story is like cop stories from the 1940s and 1950s—the images in my mind are all in black and white. The story takes place on Long Island, N.Y. Cracked sidewalks, smelly bars and strip joints, sad streets with sad people, living not far from the beautifully manicured lawns of people who don't have to worry about where their next meal comes from. By the time I finished the story, it felt like I knew the area even though I've never been there.

Back to Gus.

Living this life, shunning human contact as much as he can, it is a big surprise when a visitor comes



to the hotel to see him. It is Tommy Delcamino, a small-time crook Gus had several run-ins with over the years when he was on the force. The man is a mess. His son, TJ, is following in daddy's footsteps: a small-time crook himself, mostly dealing in stolen auto parts. But now TJ is dead—tortured and murdered, his body dumped in an empty lot like yesterday's garbage. Nobody deserves an ending like that.

Tommy shoves the newspaper story of his son's death and \$3,000 in small bills across the table to Gus. He wants him to

find out who killed his son because the police are doing nothing. Gus tells him there is nothing he can do, and as Tommy sadly walks away, he also leaves a duffle bag on the table. It contains a notebook with pictures, names and dates. What do they mean?

A few days later, word comes down to Gus that Tommy was killed. Now, Gus is in a moral dilemma. He feels bad he didn't give Tommy a chance to explain more, and while also thinking about his own son and how Tommy's loss is no less than his own.

Trying to call in a few favors from cops he knows and worked with, Gus suddenly finds himself a pariah on the police force. No one wants to give any information. In fact, he is told to back off and get on with his own life.

Following up leads from the binder Tommy left behind, Gus is suddenly followed, threatened, shot at, beaten up, his room at the hotel ransacked and, well, lots more.

This only enrages Gus to keep going no matter what. Trying to make him back down is not a good idea on the part of — whoever it is. But sometimes, help comes in the strangest forms...

This certainly is a different kind of murder mystery story with its intertwining stories of Gus' struggle to regain some semblance to his life and the pursuit of justice for two murdered men.

When the smoke clears, you'll find a changed Gus and the answers to questions some on the police force don't want asked. And, you'll get a back street view of Long Island reminiscent of the writing of Raymond Chandler.

Publishers Weekly gave Where It Hurts a starred review, calling it a "Stellar series kickoff..."

From Jackie K. Cooper, book critic of *The Huff-ington Post*: "Fascinating reading and will richly entertain you."

From bestselling author Nelson DeMille: "Where It Hurts is a gut punch of a novel, a murder mystery layered with grief, greed and grit."

Till next time, happy reading!



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Long Beach Realty would like to recognize Zak as our highest dollar volume salesperson for 2015!

Zak Elhidaoui started selling real estate for Long Beach Realty in 2007 and quickly rose to the top. He has a professional background, and enjoys working with individuals and investors. He resides in Michigan City with his lovely wife and young son and is very familiar with the city, as well as surrounding beach areas. Zak prides himself on establishing life-long client relationships by providing exceptional service, which results in building a solid foundation of clients through referrals and loyal repeat clients.



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