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FOUNDING FATHERS

by William Halliar



A portrait of Clarence Mathias.

he soul of any great community rests in the heart of its people. The first stirrings and tentative beatings of this heart begin with the dreams of the founders and follow through to the work of those who make plans for its future.

The soul flourishes or flounders depending on the education and upbringing of the community's youth. Will the roots of its soul be passed on, or will they be forgotten by future generations?

This is a story of one such community. Long Beach, Indiana. A small town built on and around a most wondrous and historic landscape of sand dunes and wooded knolls, built over swamp and bog, carved out of the forest. The community's early newspaper, *The Long Beach Billows*, called it a "land where harmony resides and all discordant elements have been banished."

Of the personal lives of the founders of this idyllic community, little is known, but their legacy cannot be mistaken. It is evidenced in the character of the meandering roads, the designs of the quaint cottages, in the memories of those who grew up beside the shore of Lake Michigan and in hills sculpted from the sand of its beaches.

This account relies heavily on the memories of Long Beach residents



A portrait of Orphie Gotto.



Orrin Glidden.

and research compiled in Barbara Stodola's 2003 book, "Michigan City Beach Communities." Not to be overlooked is material gleaned from obituaries and articles found at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, Michigan City Public Library and the Internet. Of special help was Debbie Steele-Semla of the newly formed Long Beach Historical Society.

It is the account of three men with the vision and audacity to found a new community even while stretching their resources to the limit, then one man dedicated to educating its young people so it might step proudly and with confidence into the future.



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FOUNDING FATHERS Continued from Page

In the beginning was Lake Michigan and the dunes, creeks, bogs and forests of its southern shore. The land remained mostly untouched by man-made improvements until the beginning of the 20th century. Before that time, it was the haunt of wild animals, Native Americans, fur trappers and traders who occasionally wandered through peaceful landscape.

Land speculators — a moneyed few with political connections and influence — began purchasing tracts of land along Lake Michigan's southern shore, some sight unseen, shortly after Indiana became a state in 1816. Their hope and plan was to cash in if the area proved to be of any worth. Maj.Isaac C. Elston, who made a small fortune in Crawfordsville, Ind., through his involvement in banking and railroading, was one of these men (His son-in-law was Gen. Lew Wallace, author of Ben-Hur). Elston purchased a 160-acre tract in the area that became Michigan City, including the mouth of Trail Creek, in 1830 for a sum of about \$200. Some 60 years later, Judge Harry B. Tuthill would do the same as he became the owner of land to the east of Michigan City, a rough wooded area that was to become Long Beach in the 1920s.

Michigan City was a thriving community in the early 1800s. It was incorporated into a town in 1836, by which time there were already 1,500 residents, with businesses growing to meet the demands of a thriving population.

One of these businesses was a feed, coal and wood store operated by Clemens J. Gotto, a native of Germany. Clemens brought his son, Orphie, up in the trade, and eventually the business passed to him. Orphie has a colorful, though somewhat unrelated history in Michigan City. He became known for his prowess as an athlete. In 1911 or so, Orphie became the pitcher for a semi-pro baseball team in town known as the Yukons. The Gotto store was located at Pine and Ninth streets in Michigan City.

Of course, what would a prosperous town be without a bakery? The Glidden family filled that need handily. The business was begun by Orrin Glidden "the first" and, as was the custom in those days, his whole family pitched in to make the business a success. Jacqueline Glidden, wife of Orrin Glidden III

(the third), remembers that in the early days, individual homes did not have ovens large enough to prepare a ham or turkey for holiday meals, so the local bakery set up on days before holidays to prepare the meat that was served in many of the finer homes during the holidays.

The Glidden bakery was prospering, and Orrin began to look outside of Michigan City for investment opportunities. He began to develop property in the Sheridan Beach area, then purchased property from Judge Tuthill in what would become Long Beach. Glidden was the first to build a permanent home in the sand dunes there. He called his home, which was built in 1917, the "Overlook."



"Overlook," the first cottage in Long Beach built for Orrin Glidden in 1917 near Stop 15.

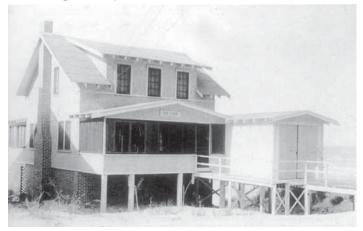
The prosperous Gotto family followed suit. Soon, Orrin Glidden and Orphie Gotto joined forces in sharing a dream of developing a new community. They formed the Long Beach Company in 1919. The South Shore interurban was completed in 1908, and there became a demand, by wealthier city dwellers, for a place to get away from the big city of Chicago and enjoy nature.

Glidden and Gotto worked in partnership for several years until the Glidden family began buying and developing properties in Michigan and Wisconsin. Glidden sold his interest in the Long Beach Company to Orphie Gotto and his wife. Although Gotto was also developing land in Florida, at the time, it seems he had a special connection with the sand dunes of Long Beach. Clarence Mathias, who eventually became known as "the Father of Long Beach," joined with the Gotto family and continued to develop the new community.

In 1920, a golf course and clubhouse were constructed on the site of what had once been a cranberry bog. Tennis courts were built for summer guests and a wonderful swimming pool called "The Roman Plunge," with a low dive as well as a high dive and slide, was constructed. Dressing rooms built into a building that resembled a Dutch windmill and a checkerboard deck completed the decorations.

As the little community expanded, roads had to be built and lots plotted. According to an early Long Beach News article, "It was the guiding genius of Orthie Gotto that put the touches of splendor where nature spreads her wings shielding her favorite nest from the cares of each blue day." Ah, early ad campaigns did wax poetic!

Sales brochures were printed advertising lots for sale in the new community. One such pamphlet from the 1920s read "that the winding, curving roads had not been laid out by an engineer who might callously map a checkerboard plat." It was Orthie Gotto who planned the new roadways between the dunes and leading to the beach so residents and visitors alike would "constantly to be discovering new charms, new vistas of great distance, new valleys of green broad expanse of water."



"The Lark" typefied the frame cottages built by Long Beach Company.

Gotto named the streets in the new town, often giving them names reminiscent of streets and roads in California, such as Golden Gate, Glendale, Claremont, Loma Portal. A curious tradition began at this time, and that was giving each of the cottages and homes a name. Strolling around the curving lanes, one could encounter many homes of unique architectural design with names such as Four Winds, The Lark, Casa Del Lago and Sweet Brier posted on ornate gate posts.

In an article for *Long Beach Billows* sometime in the 1920s, Robert Moore, a prominent Michigan City lawyer, wrote, "A season of toil is behind us.

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FOUNDING FATHERS Continued from Page 3

There is a longing to steal away from the stifling oppression of the city, from its toil, its tumult and its strife, to seek some quiet repose where tired bodies and even more tired brains may find rest."

Creative advertising during the formative years of the new community invited visitors to enjoy, "a fairyland of nature lovers, a symphony of color aglow with grandeur and filled with charm and romance of the far-famed and fascinating dunes."

Long Beach became a home to many families who appreciated the opportunity to live in the bucolic arms of nature, yet be close enough to Michigan City and Chicago to carry on business there.

Soon after families began to move into the new community, it became apparent that if the children had a school nearby, they would not have to travel to Michigan City for classes. A school was founded and housed, at first, in the Bob White Cottage. Then, in 1927, a school designed by architect and Long Beach resident John Lloyd Wright was built. Eventually, than 10,000 more students would pass through its doors and



This undated photo shows Ray Steele outside Long Beach School with some of his students.

graduate from eighth grade before moving on to attend high school in Michigan City.

It may be argued that equally important as the founding fathers are the young folks and students who carry on the traditions and values taught

through lessons or by example from those who cared about them, taught them and nurtured them as they grew to adulthood.

One such person was longtime principal of the old Long Beach School, Ray Steele. He served the Long Beach community as principal from 1952 until his retirement in 1979. He was a dedicated educator and one who set an example of high standards for his students.

He might best be remembered by notes left for his family at the time of his passing in 2010. He was known as a gentle, caring man who took interest in each student.

Former student Pamela Zylstra remembered him as a "kind and lov-



Ray Steele appears outside Long Beach School.

ing shepherd during my years from kindergarten through sixth grade.'

Another former student wrote, "Ray was such a fine man and tribute to his profession. Many of us chose to follow the same path to become educators, because of people like Ray."

And this poignant memory from Dirk Ewy brings Steele's character to the fore: "After school one day, Mr. Steele showed me how to dig for worms so that I could go fishing. He showed me that learning could be fun. I doubt many 40-year-olds have such fond memories of their elementary school principals. Long Beach School was a special place and it all started with Mr. Steele"

Steele was known as an honest man who knew

and taught the value of family and commu-

The May 17, 1979, edition of The Beacher speaks of Steele's days at the Long Beach School.

"When Ray took charge of the school in 1952 enrollment was 175. Enrollment went up to 537 even before Michiana, Shoreland Hills, Birch Tree Farms and the Courts were added to the district." Continuing the account, "Ray came here in 1952 from Columbia City, Indiana, where he taught 3

years and was principal 14 years. In Long Beach he served as Superintendent in the town school until it was incorporated in the Michigan City School System in January 1965. Ray Steele closed the doors to

his office for the last time in June 1979."

Now, Steele's daughter, Debbie Steele-Semla, a retired grade-school teacher, carries on his traditions at the old Long Beach School building, working with a group of volunteers who make up the newly formed Long Beach Historical Society so all of the special traditions, memories, even artifacts can be preserved for future generations. The Long Beach School was for so many years the hub and center of the community. Now, it houses a museum dedicated to the history of the small community.

Debbie remembers the days of her youth, growing up in Long Beach, in the 1960s. She talks of times at the beach, the old Long Beach School and especial-



Debbie Steele-Semla

ly her father. "Dad left such a legacy", Debbie says. She remembers that all of the kids in the small community could hear the school bell from their homes as it sounded to begin each new day. She and her father would arrive at school early, and there would be many children on the playground —all friends, all excited about another day of leaning and playing

There was a tennis court adjacent to the school, and in the wintertime, volunteer firemen would flood the court so ice could form for skating. Children would take their skates to school and spend their recess time on the ice. On the weekends, the whole community would come out to skate on that homemade pond. Debbie remembers that after a long weekend when the pond was crowded with skaters, the ice would become damaged and rough. She and her father would arrive early the next Monday and fill buckets with water from the teachers lounge to spread out over the rough ice, making it smooth again and preparing it for the children's arrival later that day.

There are many stories and memories of the families who grew up in Long Beach. So many over the years have tried to keep their homes in the family, even as the older generations pass on.

Debbie is writing a book," "Soft as Steele," that will be filled with memories of her father and of

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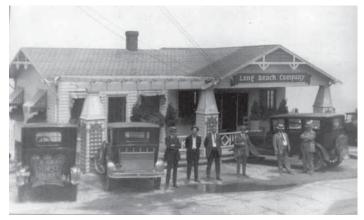


FOUNDING FATHERS

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growing up in Long Beach.

For those who would like to add their memories and stories about Long Beach history to those already collected in the New History Museum, Debbie invites those interested to attend the next Historical Society meeting from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, in the Long Beach Community Center Gym. Additional information is available on the Historical Society's facebook page.



Long Beach Company established its real estate office at Stop 20.



Cottages began to spring up along Lake Shore Drive in Long Beach as more people took notice of the community.



The new clubhouse in Long Beach opened in 1922.

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Contemporary 3BR 3.5BA with Private Association Beach at Stop 31! Master BR/BA on main. 2 upper BRs share hall bath. Cathedral ceilings, FP in living/dining, 15 x 14 screened porch. Lower level offers large rec room and den/4th BR with BA, laundry room and generous storage, two car garage.



2913 ROSLYN TRAIL, LONG BEACH \$399,000

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1 Marine Drive (#1 & #3), Marina Park West \$386,000

One-Of-A-Kind Condo Combo! 2 units with 55' boat slip, 3BR, 4BA panoramic views of Lake Michigan, 2 decks, floor-to-ceiling windows. Elevator from ground floor beside laundry/storage, sauna & steam shower, association pool. 4 reserved parking spaces. Close to restaurants, Arts District and Casino.



430 Lake Avenue, New Buffalo, MI \$875,000

New 2 bedroom, 2 bath beach front condo. Lake Michigan views, Jenair and Whirlpool appliances, farmer's porcelain sink, and Silestone countertops throughout. Designer hardware, doors, lighting, fans and flooring. 2 car garage w/ storage, pool, and 687 FT of Lake Michigan shoreline.



2002 Lakeshore Drive, Long Beach \$1,100,000

Spectacular Lake Michigan views with private beach! 5 beds, 4 baths, 3200 sq ft, and a main floor den, which could convert to another bedroom, means there is room for everyone! Lower level with second kitchen and rec room open to lakeside patio and miles of sandy shoreline.



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Couple's First Child, New Home Arrive in Same Day

by M.D. Cunningham

They say life has a plan for us. But, it must be true that our reactions to events in life dictate the outcome.

Melissa Misiukiewicz was finishing her grocery store shift. She was very pregnant — nine months, to be precise. She and her husband, Tim, a NIPSCO employee, were expecting the baby anytime. What they didn't anticipate was Melissa's water breaking just before chasing down their dream house.

Melissa immediately called her doctor, then her motherin-law. The next thing she did was not what you'd expect from a rapidly approaching motherto-be. She and her husband, Tim, went to look at potential houses with their Realtor and longtime family friend, Lisa Moore.

"Tim texted me a couple hours before the showings and said that Melissa's water was

leaking," Moore recalls, but they still wanted to see the houses she had set up.

She told them, "Go to the hospital!"

The young couple, however, was undeterred. Their doctor assured them they should wait for contractions to quicken, so they headed toward La Porte, where the couple is originally from — 30 miles in the opposite direction of their hospital.

"As soon as I saw the listing," Tim said, "I had a good idea this was going to be the house we raised our kids in. Melissa and I were both fairly certain that this was our perfect house, a place our future children would call home."

Moore said she met the couple at the house.

"I could tell they loved it immediately," she said. "Every few minutes, Melissa would stop to have a contraction."

Melissa recalls being "jokey" about the entire experience.

"The contractions weren't bad," she said. "Going up the stairs was the hardest part."

After looking over the property, and after Melissa's contractions grew stronger and closer together, Moore asked if the couple wanted to put in an offer. Tim seemed to be the only one feeling pressure. Unscheduled buyers stopped by while they were there.

The couple left for Memorial Hospital in South Bend. About 20 minutes later, Tim messaged Moore.



The Misiukiewicz family in their new home.

They wanted to make an offer.

"I said, that's fine, why don't you call me tomorrow after the baby comes," she said. "Tim was very concerned with losing the house, so he asked me to come to the hospital where I wrote the offer with Tim while Melissa was in labor."

The offer was submitted in a few hours. A few hours later, a beautiful, healthy girl, Cecilia, was born.

"It was a great day — they delivered their first child and they got an accepted offer on their dream home," Moore said.

"I have been a Realtor for 18 years...however, this type of situation has never happened before. I feel so honored to have been a part of Tim and Melissa's home purchase, and especially the circumstances surrounding it."



Tim and Melissa Misiukiewicz pose at their potential new home not long before she was rushed to the hospital.



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Tricia Meyer @ 219-871-2680



2701 Ardmore Way, Long Beach

Open House Sunday, April 3 ~ 1 - 3 pm \$560,000

A perfect beach home! Beautifully renovated with a modern flair as natural sunlight pours through the windows and Lake Michigan views greet you! Located just one home from Lake Shore Drive, enjoy the benefits of being just a few steps to the gorgeous beach at Stop 28! 5 BR, 3.5 BA, two fireplaces, Central Vac, Multiple family living areas, 2 Laundry Areas, Beach Shower, Parking up to 8, Landscaped Outdoor Space including a LARGE side & rear yard, gazebo, patio and deck!

Cari Adams Gee @ 219-898-5412

112 Lady Lane, Michigan City Open House Sunday, April 3 ~ 1 - 3 pm \$197,500

Great house, great neighborhood, great community! What more could you ask for? 3 bedroom, 2 bath home gives a nice open feel between the rec room, kitchen and living room. The bedrooms are off down the hall, allowing for privacy. With an extra large yard (front yard boasts an irrigation system, fenced-in backyard offers a deck and storage shed), kids or grandkids have plenty of room to run. Of course, you'll also love being within walking distance to the beach and Long Beach Community Center. Stop by!

Tricia Meyer @ 219-871-2680



Musical Version of "Little Women" Debuts at Footlight

"Little Women," a musical take on Louisa May Alcott's beloved story of the four March sisters, begins a threeweekend run Friday at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The tale, itself, is one of director Leslie Evans' favorites.

"This is a story of perseverance through life's tragedies and happiness through personal growth," she said. "I love directing a play that is semiautobiographical. It brings a reality to the viewer that this can happen to anyone."

The Civil War is in full swing as the show unfolds, and the March sisters – Meg (Amanda Sixbury), the oldest and a romantic, the spirited and tomboyish Jo (Brittney Urban), sweet and loving Beth (Erin Shields) and irascible, playful Amy (Paige Fowler) — live in Concord, Mass., with their Marmee (Candace Archer) while their father is on the battlefield.

Filled with adventures lived and imagined, heartbreak and a deep sense of hope, the struggle of these "Little Women" to find their own voices mirrors the growing pains of a young America.

When it debuted on Broadway in 2005, "Little Women" starred celebrated actresses Maureen Mc-Govern and Sutton Foster, the latter nominated for a Tony for her role as Jo March.

Urban, 22, Highland, said taking on the role of Jo has been a fun challenge. The musical, like the book, follows Jo as she attempts to have her writing published, and much of the action is based around her character.

"Jo is a spirited young woman whose energy pro-



Appearing as the March family are (standing from back left)
Amanda Sixbury and Brittney Urban. Erin Shields, Candace
Archer and Paige Fowler are seated from left to right.

pels her through a meaningful journey, only to find out what she's been looking for has been right in front of her all along," Urban said. "She's what I'd call one of the first feminists. She doesn't care about what society thinks of her."

Other cast members include Tyler Franklin, Alexander Bonner, Thom Nelson, Kay Wagman, Dan Ball and Allyson Holt.

At least half the cast is new to Footlight, but they are not new to the stage.

Urban, for instance, starred in more than a dozen shows in the region before appearing here.

"What I've noticed about Footlight is that there are so many helping and caring hands," she said. "The people behind the scenes are working so hard to put on a great show."

Evans is working with assistant director Anthony Holt

and musical director Sharon Angelina.

"I'm very proud that this talented cast includes actors from the entire Northwest Indiana area," Evans said.

Performances are April 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Call (219) 874-4035 or visit footlightplayers.org for reservations.

Tickets are \$15 (or two for \$25 with a coupon printed off the website). Tickets for children 12 and younger are \$10. Reservations are held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by a season gift card or payment

Auditions for "The Cemetery Club"

Footlight Theatre will have open auditions for "The Cemetery Club" on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3.

Times are 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday. Director George Maslankowski seeks four women and one man ages 50-65. Show dates are June 3-5 and 10-13.

No onstage experience is necessary. Actors will be asked to read cuttings from the script with others onstage. Ivan Menchell's "The Cemetery Club" introduces three Jewish widows who meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband's graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life, Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene.

Call 874-4035 or email Maslankowski at daddio_maz@frontier.com for more information.



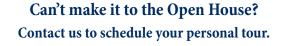
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Mainstreet Theatre Honors Past With Name Change To Canterbury Theatre

Mainstreet Theatre, the 20-year-old performance venue located at 807 Franklin St., has officially changed its name to Canterbury Theatre.

A newly-designed awning for the theater, approved by the city's Historic Review Board, recently was unveiled to herald the transition.

The change is a nod to the building's historical roots as the longtime home of Canterbury Summer Theatre, one of the Midwest's oldest professional summer companies, as well as its younger sibling, the Canterbury Winter Arts Series, which focuses on local and area programming.

The producing nonprofit organization, Festival Players Guild, which owns and operates the theater, now will be known as the Canterbury Guild Inc.

The Guild was formed in 1969 by Lyman Taylor, who led a group of Michigan City businessmen, which would later include local educators Jerry Peters and John Troyer, in the quest to bring professional theater to the area. The original initiative was Canterbury Summer Theatre, a professional summer com-

pany that produced its performances from 1969-1996 in the former St. John's Church at 907 Franklin St., which became known to locals as the Canterbury.

The Guild's current home was purchased in 1989, renovated into a performing arts complex and officially opened with Canterbury productions in the summer of 1997.

When the Guild moved its operations a block north to 807 Franklin St., Jerry Peters, then Guild board president, feared there might be confusion in naming the new space for Canterbury since the former building still had such strong recognition under that name.

Today, that is no longer the case.

"I don't think of this as a 'name change', but rather a 'name restore'," said Ray Scott Crawford, who has served as artistic director of Canterbury Summer Theatre for 31 years. "Canterbury, which is known around the country for its long-lived summer stock theater, has survived through 47 years of change — change in location, in programming and in people."

"The name 'Canterbury' has finally come home to

the storefront revitalized into a theater production space by Jerry Peters and the Festival Players Guild in 1997."

The renamed Canterbury Theatre building also contains rehearsal space, scenic and costume shops, dressing rooms, offices and storage on three levels.

"We also wanted to unify our programs, venue and organization under the Canterbury brand," said David Graham, associate artistic director of Canterbury Summer Theatre and a Guild



Mainstreet Theatre honors its origins by changing its name to Canterbury Theatre. Photo by Duane Thompson.

board member.

Canterbury Winter Arts continues its 2016 season with an upcoming co-production with Purdue University Northwest of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on April 9-16.

Canterbury Summer Theatre marks its 48th season this year with a new slate of productions — to be announced soon — beginning June 15.

Call (219) 874-4269, email info@canterburytheatre.org or visit www.canterburytheatre.org for more information.

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Buddhist meditation center Michigan City Shangpa Rinpoche is visiting Manjushree Hermitage for special programs, April 7-10th and 29-30th.

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



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PNW, Partners to Present Jewish Film Festival

Purdue University Northwest's Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series will present its Jewish Film Festival from 1 to 4:45 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The free event, co-presented by the library and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Indian Pagamand against a regard from a

Julius Rosenwald appears with students from a Rosenwald school in this image from "Rosenwald."

Temple, includes a coffee klatch and cake break.

The two films examine the lives and contributions made by two noted businessmen who impacted the

country, but in different ways.

Aviva Kempner's "Rosdocumentary enwald" shows how Chicagoan Julius Rosenwald, the son an immigrant peddler who rose to head Sears, changed the lives of countless individuals he never met. He partnered with Booker Washington to build 5.400 southern schools in black com-

munities in the early 1900s during the Jim Crow era. He built YMCAs and housing for blacks during the Great Migration.

The Rosenwald Fund supported artists like Marian Anderson, Woody Guthrie, Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks and Jacob Lawrence. Interviews in the documentary include civil rights leaders Julian

nists Eugene Robinson and Clarence Page, Cokie Roberts, Rabbi David Saperstein, Rosenwald school alumni writer Maya Angelou and director George C. Wolfe, along with Rosenwald relatives. The film runs 1 hour, 40

Bond, Ben Jealous

John Lewis, colum-

Congressman

minutes.

Lloyd Handwerker's documentary "Famous Nathan" highlights the life and times of the original

Nathan's Famous, a hot dog stand opened in 1916 by Handwerker's grandparents. Nathan and Ida Handwerker. documentary was 30 years in the making and weaves decadesspanning archival footage, family photos and home movies, a wide-ranging soundtrack and never-before-heard audio from Nathan's only interview. It



An image from "Famous Nathan."

also includes interviews with the dedicated band of workers who offer open, honest, often hilarious opinions, memories and an occasional tall tale. The film runs 1 hour, 36 minutes.

Contact Judy Jacobi, assistant vice chancellor of university art collections and special programs, at (219) 785-5593 for more information.

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Poetry Slam

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will present a Poetry Slam with host J.W. Basilo from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 1.

Poets are invited to showcase their works during the audience-juried event. Participants should prepare three original pieces, each under three minutes. Each registered poet will have the opportunity to present one of their works in the first round. In tournament style, poets will be eliminated each round until one is left standing as the Poetry Slam Champion.

Basilo is executive director of the non-profit Chicago Slam Works and its lead teaching artist. After teaching for years with organizations such as Urban Gateways and Young Chicago Authors, he has developed a unique way of teaching performance poetry to youth and adults. It traditional combines theater training and improvisation techniques with the fundamentals of poetry composition.



J.W. Basilo

Outside of the classroom, Basilo has toured and performed all over North America and Europe, and has been a national and world poetry slam finalist. He is the creator and host of LitMash, a slam show that affords people from a variety of literary genres the chance to perform and compete monthly.

Contact Janet Bloch at (219) 874-4900 or jbloch@ lubeznikcenter.org to pre-register. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is free.





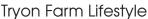
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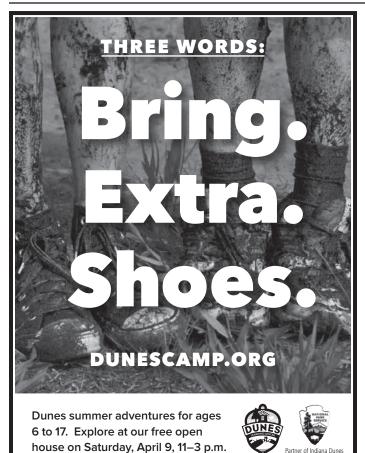






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Tri-County Jr./Sr. High Exhibit

South Shore Arts is accepting entries for the 42nd Annual Tri-County Junior/Senior High School Art Exhibit, which runs April 22-May 22 at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.

A reception and awards ceremony is from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

Invited to participate are junior and senior high schools from Lake, Porter and La Porte counties and south suburban Cook County in Illinois. The exhibit features original artwork created by students in grades six through 12 from public, private and parochial schools.

Area teachers interested in receiving an entry form should contact Bridget Earnshaw at bridget@ southshoreartsonline.org or (219) 836-1839, Ext. 108. Art teachers will submit a list of student work, which is to be entered into the exhibit. The teachers then are invited to install their student's artwork in the gallery.

The event features a wide range of media, including drawings, paintings, ceramics, photography, fiber arts and sculpture. Trophies are awarded for the best overall school display in the junior and senior high school levels.

More than \$6,000 in prizes were awarded last year, including the \$2,500 Donald H. Berwanger Scholarship Award for a graduating high school senior to attend an accredited college or university to study fine art. Seniors competing for the scholarship are entered by their teacher and must submit an application, portfolio and letter of recommendation.

Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org for additional information.

Books and Coffee Series

Purdue University Northwest will continue its "Books & Coffee" series with Sunny Akhigbe's review of Ambrose Okosun's "A Boy and His Dream."

The free program is from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Westville campus in Library-Student-Faculty Building, Assembly Hall, Room 170A, which is adjacent to the cafeteria. Copies of the book are available in the PNC Bookstore.

Akhigbe, a graduate of Purdue's MBA program, wrote the book under a pen name. He was beginning his life in March 1973 in Lekki, Nigeria, as his parents' marriage was ending. Left with his grandparents to eke out a living in a small village, he was separated from his mother and not allowed to see his birth father.

Akhigbe shares the struggles he endured, and how he overcome those early challenges.

Additional information is available by contacting Jerry Holt, English and Modern Language chair, at (219) 785-5346 or jgholt@pnc.edu.

"Retro-Perspective" Exhibit

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., in partnership with JB ArtWorks studio gallery, will host a solo exhibit featuring more than 50 artworks and original oil paintings by Chicago actor/artist Jeffrey Baumgartner on April 1-30.



An opening reception for the exhibit, "Retro-Perspective: Plein Air and Figurative Works," is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 1.

Originally from Fort Wayne, and a professional actor for more than 30 years, Baumgartner relocated to Michigan City as an artist in residence at ArtSpace Uptown Artist Lofts. He has traveled extensively in the United States and paints almost exclusively *en plein air*, from the French term "in the open air." Works include subjects from Central Indiana, Miller Beach, Indiana Dunes, Chicago, Amana Colonies, Iowa, Florida's Gulf Coast and the Adirondacks in upstate New York.

The exhibit also will include figurative studio works such as a movement/yoga series, still lifes and two large-scale pieces depicting a flamenco dancer and a matador.

Memberships include Actors Equity Association, Indiana Plein Air Painters, Plein Air Painters of Chicago, Oil Painters of America, Art Institute of Chicago, Palette and Chisel and Adirondack Mountain Painters. As an actor, he has appeared at such Tony-winning theaters as Chicago's Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, Marriott Lincolnshire, Denver Center Theater Co., Shakespeare Theater in Washington, D.C., as well as Theater Squared in Arkansas, Milwaukee's Shakespeare Theater and Renaissance Theater Works.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.southernshoreartassociation. com for more information.

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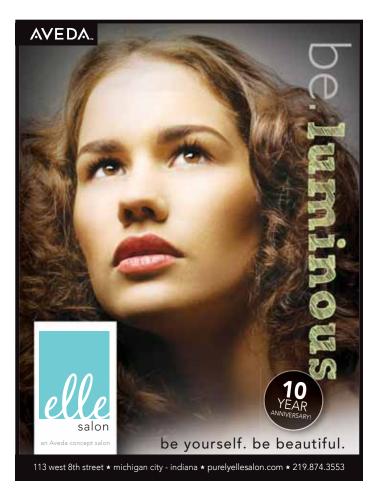


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Group Tours Sager Metal

by William Halliar

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana caught a glimpse of the business model that makes Sager Metal Strip Co. a success during its Board of Governors meeting — dubbed "Project Transformation" — on March 16.

The annual meeting is held at an innovative public- or private-sector workspace. This year's site was Sager Metal, 100 Boone Drive.

Project Manager Brian Thorp, General Manager and Partner Jerry Eapmon and Purchasing and Safety Manager Kathy Andrews each explained their functions within the company, and appraised the board of the importance of their contribution to local and world economies.

Sager Metal has designed and fabricated custom metal products in the Michigan City area for more than 60 years. Since 1976, it has designed, manufactured and installed custom conveyor systems for industries around the world.



Jon Ahlborn, IT manager and systems administrator, leads the factory tour.

Jon Ahlborn, IT manager and systems administrator, led the tour, educating Society members on the manufacturing process and offering a wealth of facts about custom metal cutting and forming. Sager, he explained, has installed its products on every continent on the globe except for Antarctica.

The company's officers and leaders pride themselves in using local talent and resources whenever possible to accomplish their goals. Engineers are hired from local colleges, steel is purchased from area mills and components needed to build their complex systems are sourced locally.

After a system is completed, it is set up and tested on the factory floor, then expert project managers are sent to sites around the world to install the systems and work with local officials to ensure their successful implementation.

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The first trailer for "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" dropped two weeks ago, confirming what was obvious from the start: There was no way Tim Burton could muck this up.



Author Ransom Riggs.

Ransom Riggs' wondrous debut novel, the first in an exceedingly inventive series, was the equivalent of extending an olive branch to the wildly eccentric filmmaker, literary catnap for a director who has made a career out of embracing "peculiars" both fact and fiction. All Burton had to do was run with it.

There are moments of awe during the trailer's first glimpse into Burton's big-screen adaptation, set for release Sept. 30. That's no easy feat. On the page, writers let their imaginations run wild, generously allowing readers to tag along for the ride. Unfortunately, fans arrive at the film versions fearful they won't look or feel as they imagined them to be.

Riggs and Burton, however, are kindred souls. They drink from the same unconventional well. Everything about this first trailer rings true. And if the emotional core of Riggs' tale remains in tact, then this could be Burton's oddball masterpiece.

When it debuted in 2011, "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" was a welcome gust of fresh air amid a sea of Young Adult novels showing signs of fatigue. Even the compelling ones, like "The Hunger Games," were falling into the same trap: Either the future sucks, or the hot guy at school is a mopey vampire.

"Miss Peregrine," however, heralded Riggs as an exciting presence. The journey for him began with his fascination with old photographs. A collector, himself, he scoured through flea markets, his



Asa Butterfield stars as Jacob Portman and Ella Purnell as Emma Bloom.

ery that makes you wonder the stories behind them. Many had a freak show element to them: a baby that appears to levitate, a youthcontortionist. Others, like an elderly woman concealed by darkness, a pipe nestled in her mouth, oozed with mystery.

passion odd imag-

Riggs' original idea was to create a picture book, but his editor at Quirk challenged Books him to spin a nar-

"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children"

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

by Andrew Tallackson



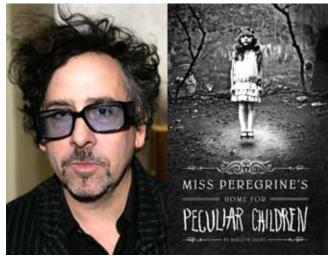
The many "peculiars" who live in Miss Peregrine's time loop.

rative around the photos themselves. The result wasn't a literary gimmick, but an unexpected triumph, so clever, witty, thrilling and moving that, yes, I would compare the achievement to that of J.K. Rowling and her "Harry Potter" series.

The story is complicated, but Riggs carefully spins it. Sixteen-year-old Jacob Portman, the only child of a relatively wealthy Florida couple, discovers his grandfather concealed a secret about the unseen world around them, one populated with hideous creatures that show with no mercy.

When these monsters attack and kill his grandfather, Jacob persuades his father to travel with him to the Welsh island of Cairnholm, one that might answer the mystery of not just his grandfather's tragic end, but also his heretofore unknown past.

On Cairnholm, Jacob stumbles upon an old, bombed out orphanage, and it is here his journey into the extraordinary begins. A time loop has preserved the residents of the orphanage and their eccentric caretaker, Miss Peregrine. They live the same day every day from 1940, specifically the hours before a bomb dropped from the sky, sealing their fate forever. The orphans can briefly slip through time into the present. If remaining too long, they rapidly age. Emma Bloom, who in reality is 88 years old, sneaks out one night and introduces Jacob to her world.



Director Tim Burton (left) and the cover for

And what a remarkable one it is. Riggs' imagination knows no bounds. Propelled by the many photos he collected, we meet a teen girl with the strength of a body builder, a boy who can briefly bring the dead back to life, a girl with a second mouth on the back of her head, an invisible boy, a young man who stores bees in his belly, a fragile young thing who levitates. And, of course, Miss Peregrine, herself: kind, wise, nurturing, with the ability to transform into a bird.

While in their loop, the children are safe. But unsavory creatures, some of whom resemble humans, want these children badly. Not dead, but for their own venomous purposes.

Miss Peregrine's orphanage is a safe heaven for these children, who society otherwise would cast

> away as "peculiar." They are perfect fodder for Burton who, somehow, with his warped sensibilities, has made mainstream America embrace the outcast, the ones who don't quite fit in, starting with Pee Wee Herman and marching on to Batman, himself, followed by Edward Scissorhands, Ed Wood and the circus folk of "Big Fish."

Before arriving on Cairnholm, Jacob feels alone, never marching to the same beat as his family. But within Miss Peregrine's time loop, he feels a sense of belonging. It is the very peculiarity that withdraws these youngsters from society, that tugs on their insecurities, that also binds them together. The wards of Miss Peregrine's facility take on Jacob as one of their own, and at just the right time, because danger lurks like a cobra ready to strike.

In films, casting is everything. For Jacob, Burton secured Asa Butterfield, a young actor with big, deeply expressive eyes. He was in virtually every scene of Martin Scorsese's gorgeous, yet curiously ignored masterpiece "Hugo" (2011), carrying the weight of the picture on his nimble shoulders. Last year, he proved his acting chops with an exceedingly difficult role, that of a teen with Asperger syndrome competing in a math olympiad, in "A Brilliant Young Man." He is an actor who can convey strength, bravery and vulnerability.



Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children.

For Miss Peregrine, Burton attracted one of his new regulars, Eva Green. The only lively presence in the director's otherwise dreadful misfire, "Dark Shadows" (2012), the actress remains the best "Bond Girl" of the Daniel Craig era, making 007 putty in her hands before her death broke his heart in "Casino Royale" (2006). As an actress, she "gets" Burton, how the women in his film should look, sound and behave, and it appears from the trailer she has slipped into the role as if it was written just for her.

Effortless, by the way, is how special the effects must be. On the page, Riggs had not just photos, but his literate writing style at his disposal to make us, the reader, accept and embrace his unusual world. For the film, the visuals must be seamless. We must never be conscious of the fact that we are watching an effect, but characters of flesh and blood. The minute we see through all the smoke and mirrors, the movie collapses.

Based on the snippets revealed in the trailer, though, it appears Burton is working at the top of his game. What's in store for us could be a rare treat: a melding of visual genius and inventive storytelling to create a "Wizard of Oz" for our time. If the movie clicks with audiences — while successful, it lacks the same curb appeal as "Harry Potter" — then we are all but guaranteed film versions of the next two entries: "Hollow City" and "Library of Souls," each equally as enthralling as their predecessors.

There is magic on the pages of Riggs' novels, all of it just itching to make its way onto the big screen.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Hyde Park Forum

The 32nd Purdue University-Northwest Hyde Park Forum Public Speaking Contest will be presented on the North Central campus from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.

The free event is scheduled in Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The winners will meet in a Speak-Off competition at 1 p.m. Friday, April 15, in the same LSF location. Those winners will earn monetary prizes: \$250 for first place; \$150 for second place; \$75 for third place; and \$50 for fourth place.

The annual forum is open to all PNC students who will present their thoughts on a variety of subjects. Many will be students in the PNC Communication 114 class. The speeches are thought-provoking, insightful and often present new or differing points of view to the listeners. Topics include commentary on current news, observations of the social or cultural climate or a subject of interest to the speaker.

The concept is loosely based on London's Hyde Park, a public park known as a gathering place for speakers who wish to state their minds. Hyde Park has gained prominence as a reference to freedom of speech and intriguing speaking.

The deadline to enter is Friday, April 8. Each speaker will be assigned a classroom. Eight to 10 speakers will be in each room. The speakers will give a short, persuasive speech, followed by up to two minutes of questions from the audience.

The speeches will be rated by a panel of judges. Participants and guests then can attend an award ceremony in which all speakers are recognized and plaques presented to the first-, second- and third-place winners from each room.

Hyde Park Forum and Speak-Off are sponsored by the Department of Communication. More sponsors are still being sought.

First Friday Art Walk

Michigan City Mainstreet Association will present its monthly First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. April 1 in the city's Uptown Arts District.

Participants include: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.; The Down Gallery, 525 Franklin St.; FADA!, 617 Franklin St.; Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St.; Prince Galleries, 726 Franklin St.; The Nest, 803 Franklin St.; Blink Contemporary Art Gallery, 1709 Franklin St.; Darling, 418 Franklin St.; Revive Consignments, 523 Franklin St.; The Crib, 11 E. Sixth St.; Urban Soles, 624 Franklin St.; Paris House of Bridal, 732 Franklin St.; dh2w Architecture, 813 Franklin St.

Seventh Street will be closed just west of Franklin Street. Dunes Learning Center will host a tent for children to create an art project, while Safe Harbor will have sidewalk chalk art.

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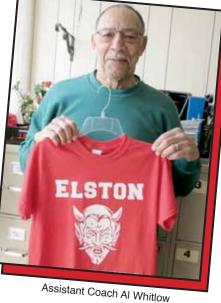
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March Busy Month for JROTC

The Michigan City High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps supported numerous activities that affected the community, as well as the high school, in March.

Cadets assisted in table setup and recovery in the high school gym for the Indiana Department of Education testing of all sophomores March 7-8.



The Color Guard presents the Colors for The National Anthem before more than 5,000 fans for the Regional Tournament Championship.

For the Indiana High School Athletic Association Regional Boys Basketball Playoffs, cadets helped direct parking for the more than 12,000 fans who attended the three games March 12. The JROTC Color Guard also presented the Colors before the semi-final and final games. Cadets assisted the custodians in cleanup between those two games.

The cadets also marched in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade. On March 18-19, they assisted the La Porte County Garden Club in its Spring Exposition at MCHS.

Cadets provided guides for parents during the Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 23, as well as information on the JROTC program for parents during the Wolfpack Round-Up. On Saturday, March 26, the Color Guard presented and retrieved the Colors at a dinner at Michigan City's Disabled American Veterans hall. Senior Marine Instructor Maj. Tom McGrath was the guest speaker.

The cadets will continue their community service in April, supporting the high school boys and girls track meets, Michigan City Mainstreet Association, Brown Mackie College, St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Marine Corps League Adopt-A- Highway road cleanup program.



Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 31, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

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

The first program is Jeff Manes, author of "All Worth Their Salt," on April 2 in Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave. A Q&A session follows a brief reading from the book.

• "Peg and Cat Save the World" movie premiere from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2, at the Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The screening, held in conjunction with Lakeshore Public Television, shows how Peg and Cat use math and problem solving to help the president avert a crisis. Free popcorn, Peg and Cat giveaways and the chance to make a cape are planned.

• Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at Westchester Township History Museum.

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• Sunday Matinee: "The Danish Girl" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at the Library Service Center.

The movie is Rated R.

• Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, April 4, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

This month's selection is Jennifer Chiaverini's "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker."

• Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at Hageman Library.

Registration is necessary and can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-9080.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Company of the Year



UPS-Tri City Service Center, Westville, was recognized as the United Way "Company of the Year" at the United Way Banquet on March 17 in Indianapolis. UPS raises more than \$30,000 locally for the United Way of La Porte County, and as a company raises more than \$250,000 throughout the region for United Ways. UPS always participates in local events that benefit United Way, including the upcoming Dodge Ball Tournament, a fishing tournament on Pine Lake and the annual Fall Gala. Pictured are Tom Reamer (from left), UPS North Division, Jeff Carr, UPS-Tri City business manager, Sue Dusz, UPS north division manager, Indiana Association of United Way representative Sarah Nahmias and United Way of La Porte County representatives Dave Sisk and Kris Pate.

ASL Club Silent Dinner

Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club will host a silent dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 4, at Culver's Restaurant, 3966 Frontage Road, Michigan City.

The event is open to ASL students and community members. Participants are asked to use ASL only for conversation and to place orders. A student may translate orders into English for the server, or participants may point to the menu or write out an order. Those who attend can be beginners or fluent, or simply interested in knowing more about ASL.

Information about other events in the community is posted at www.nwidhhc.com/. Additional information is available by contacting Karen Donah, PNC continuing lecturer and coordinator of American Sign Language coordinator, at (219) 785-5432 or kdonah@pnc.edu

Documentary Screening

Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave., will host a screening of an award-winning documentary from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5.

"Alive Inside" highlights the therapeutic power of music for people with dementia. Barbara Dzikowski, Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana program director, will lead the discussion.

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MCAS Students Win Awards at Regional Science Fair, Two Qualify for State

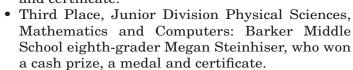
Five Michigan City Area Schools students won awards at the Regional Science Fair on March 19 at Valparaiso University.

Two of the students, MCHS junior Nicole Pomeroy ("Electromagnets vs. Neodymium Magnets") and Barker Middle School seventh-grader Grant Wyness ("Ice, Ice Baby"), have been invited to compete at the state level Saturday, April 2, at the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis.

Those awarded were:

• Honorable Mentions, Junior Division Physical

Sciences, Mathematics and Computers: Barker Middle School eighth-graders Adam Howard and John Thatcher, who won a cash prize, a medal and certificate.



- First Place, Junior Division Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computers: Barker Middle School seventh-grader Grant Wyness, who won a cash prize, medal, certificate and invitation to compete at the state level.
- Second Place, Senior Division Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computers: MCHS 11th-grader Nicole Pomeroy, who won a cash prize, medal, certificate and invitation to compete at the state level. This is her sixth year competing at the state level. Nicole also received several additional awards:
- Club Educate Award for enthusiasm in STEM Research (cash award and certificate).



Barker Middle School students who competed at the Regional Science Fair include: Adam Howard (back row, from left), Emylee Moye, Megan Steinhiser and John Thatcher. The front row is Grant Wyness (left) and Lauren Summa.

- Mu Alpha Theta Award for a project demonstrating the most challenging, thorough and creative investigation of a problem involving modern mathematics in the senior division (cash award and certificate).
- U.S. Navy/U.S. Marine Corp Naval Science Award for outstanding project (cash award, medal and certificate).



Nicole Pomeroy

In the 63rd annual Northwestern Indiana Science and Engineering Fair, students from Porter, La Porte, Starke, Jasper, Newton and Pulaski counties competed as individuals or in teams.

The top senior division (high school) winners, the senior division team project winner and the top junior division (middle school) winners receive invitations to compete in the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair on April 2.





Trash & Treasure Sale

PEO Chapter DF members will present their annual Trash & Treasure Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

Sale proceeds contribute to the organization's continuing education scholarship fund: awards set aside for local women continuing an educational path interrupted at some previous point. Recipients in 2015 were Marianne Maddox, Desiree Spring and Amanda Stephany.



Scholarship recipient Desiree Spring (left) receives her award from PEO member Pat Graham.

Museum Opens for Season

The Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park will open for its 43rd season from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 1, during the First Friday Art Walk.

There are no admission fees during First Friday. A two-part revolving exhibit will highlight Elston High School: the school, itself, and the 1966 Red Devil State Championship.

An open house showcasing the exhibit is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 3.

Regular hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.



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Chesterton Art Center

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

• Mara Wible will offer a different jewelry class from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays.

The schedule is April 5 — Crochet Bracelet, \$25, no prior experience required; April 12 — Leather Wrap Bracelet, \$30; April 19 — Multi-Strand Bracelet, \$25; April 26 — Colorful Dangle Earring, \$25.



Examples of crocheted bracelets.

Participants often will work with small beads, so take appropriate glasses. Supplies are included, and members receive a \$5 discount per class. There is a three-person minimum, and students must be signed up no later than the day prior to the start of class. In some cases, a project may not be completed in the two-hour time slot.

• A new session of Monday Night Ceramics starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 4.

During the six-week class, beginning students will develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students will refine their techniques to create more complex forms.

Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students individually to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture also are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue

construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class.

The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. The cost of clay is \$15. All other supplies are included.

• Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.

Guests are welcome, with no prior registration required. All ability levels and artistic styles are encouraged to attend. While VanderVinne is a painter, he can advise artists in other mediums.

Guests may sit and listen; however, participation is encouraged. Artists can take a piece of work at any stage, from conception to the final version. While it is a safe and friendly environment, it is a critique involving VanderVinne and others providing advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• VanderVinne will teach the two-day workshop "The Nuts and Bolts of Painting" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

The workshop will give a brief, but thorough understanding of what goes into making successful art. It is designed for each student to begin acquiring the understanding and visual vocabulary necessary to make progress with their paintings.

Because the workshop is not about technique, students should have experience painting. The cost is \$75, with members receiving a \$5 discount.

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

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

Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www. chestertonart.com to register or for more information.



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• Monthly Stargazing Program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Kemil Beach parking area.

Chicago Astronomical Society members will take telescopes so visitors can get a closer look at the night sky. Visitors should see Jupiter and its four moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Calisto. Baring cloud cover, other highlights include the Beehive Cluster and galaxies in the constellations Leo, Virgo and Ursa Major.

The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.

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

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Saturday, April 2

• 10 a.m. — Early Birder Gets the Worm (or donut middle!)

Take binoculars or borrow a set at the Nature Center for a walk in the woods. Discussion centers on various Dunes birds and their dining preferences. A snack is planned afterward.

• 2 p.m. — Bluebirds of Happiness.

Meet at the Nature Center to learn more about the birds.

Sunday, April 3

• 10 a.m. — Another Dam Hike.

Meet a naturalist at the campground gate entrance for a 45-minute easy stroll to check out recent beaver activity.

• 2 p.m. — Fire on the Prairie.

Meet at the Nature Center for the hour-long program exploring how prescribed fire is used to aid habitats, then help a naturalist start a fire if conditions are right. Children 12 and younger must be accompanied by a parent.

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

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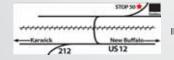
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Biennial Quilt Show

String-A-Long Quilt Guild of Northwest Indiana will host "Quilted Crossroads," its 2016 Biennial Quilt Show, on Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, at Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.



String-A-Long Quilt Guild members made this quilt, which will be raffled off during the show.

Times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults and free for children 12 and younger.

The show includes hundreds of quilts and quilted items made by Guild members, antique quilts from the Porter County Museum collection, Comfort Quilts for Porter County CASA, Quilts of Valor, pet beds for local animal shelters, the Indiana Quilt Challenge, a Merchant Mall, Guild Boutique, silent auction, food for sale, raffle quilt and baskets.

Tickets for a raffle quilt made by Guild members are \$1 or six for \$5. Quilt appraisals are available for a fee by Sandy Rice, AQS-certified quilt and textile appraiser.

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HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE
1. Cindy Beck		222
2. Tammy Nelmar		155
3. Mary Lou McFadden		150
3. Nancy Kubath		150
4. Mary McDonald		134
SPLITS		
Mary McDonald		1-2-7
Ellie Parkerson		1-6
Nancy Klausner		3-10

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Cindy Beck

LaLu in National Tournament

La Lumiere School's nationally ranked boys Varsity White basketball team (25-3) is headed to New York City to compete in the Dick's Sporting Goods High School National Tournament.

The Lakers (No. 5 seed) are one of eight boys teams selected to play in the tournament, and will take on No. 4 seed St. Benedict's Prep (New Jersey) at 11 a.m. CDT Thursday, March 31.

The three-day, single-elimination tournament begins with quarterfinals on Thursday, March 31 (ESPNU), and continues with semifinals on Friday, April 1 (ESPN2), at Christ the King High School, Middle Village, N.Y. Finals will be played Saturday, April 2, at Madison Square Garden (ESPN).

The 2015-2016 team is: James Anderson, Victoria, Australia; James Banks, Decatur, Ga.; Grant Beucler, Dallas, Texas; Brian Bowen, Saginaw, Mich.; Tyger Campbell, Nashville, Tenn.; Brandon Cyrus, Carlsbad, Calif.; Isaiah Coleman-Lands, Indianapolis; Josh De St. Jean, South Bend; Eduardo Maitin, Caracas, Venezuela; Peyton Marker, La Porte; Jeremiah Tilmon, East St. Louis, Ill.; and Kevin Zhang, Shenyang, China.

CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088

Michigan City

Endowment Scholars

Two La Porte County students have been named recipients of full-tuition, four-year scholarships as Unity Foundation of La Porte County 2016 Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.

Madeline Watterson and Rodrigo Serrano will receive tuition to the Indiana colleges of their choice, as well as an annual \$900 stipend for required books and equipment.



Madeline is ranked at the top of her class at La Porte High School. She will graduate with an academic honors diploma, having taken 11 AP/Honors classes and nine dual credit courses. She serves as president of Debate Club and as a four-year competitor. She's

also president of National Honor Society and is on the school's Student Advisory Council. She served as a senator for Hoosier Girls State, participates in monthly Math League competitions and was recognized as Most Outstanding Junior by classmates and teachers.

She has been part of the school "Kindness Campaign" for two years and plays school and travel softball. She's been an active Teen Court and Girl Reserve volunteer for several years. Her parents are Charles and Audra Watterson, and she plans to pursue a law degree.



Rodrigo will graduate with an academic honors diploma from Michigan City High School, having taken nine dual credit courses at Purdue University Northwest and 12 AP/ Honors classes.

As a junior and senior, Rodrigo has participated in Lead-

ership La Porte County and was chosen as a student leader. He's been active in Spanish Club, Ping Pong Club, Steering Committee and Mathletes, as well as National Honor Society. He received the Wolf Math Award & Alpha Science Award, and was student of the month twice. He's played soccer for four years and been captain as a junior/senior. He was All-Academic in the state these years and earned the "Heart of a Lion" Coaches Award as a senior.

Rodrigo enjoyed a year of tutoring an elementary student who couldn't read or write English. He has also volunteered several hours of community service through National Honor Society. He plans to pursue a medical career and is the son of Perfecto and Viviana Serrano.

Unity received 55 applications for the scholarship. The 10 finalists were interviewed, and nominee and alternate names submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc. for the final selection.



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PNW Student Earns Grant

Purdue University-Northwest student Anna Zipay, a member of the Delta Sigma Science Club at the North Central campus, recently earned an Indiana Campus Compact Service Engagement Grant.

The money will help fund an April 2 science fair Delta Sigma will host for students in grades 3-8 on the North Central campus.

Delta Sigma members host the event so younger students can experience a professional science fair setting.

"The science fair participants will be able to interact with biology students as well as the judges, who are biology and chemistry professors," said Zipay, who serves as Delta Sigma vice president and secretary.

A club advisor suggested Zipay apply for the grant so the club could give T-shirts to participating students, volunteers and judges, and to buy medals, trophies, gift bags, gift bag items, banners and science kit prizes.

Science Fair participants will see demonstrations done by a chemistry professor and two biology students. Also planned are an interactive quiz table, where students can test their knowledge of various science topics, and the chance for youth to write on a reflection poster about their favorite part of the event or a science career they may like to pursue.

Zipay credited Carol Bailey, business administrator for the North Central Campus, Mary Jane Eisenhauer, associate professor of Early Childhood Education and Campus Compact faculty liaison for the North Central campus, and Kristin Sarver, associate director of Sponsored Programs from the Calumet campus, for their assistance in moving the grant through its proper channels.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.

• Jewish Film Festival at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3.

The event, held in conjunction with Purdue University Northwest's Odyssey Art Series and the Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple, includes the documentaries "Rosenwald" and "Nathan's Famous."

• Spring Break Craft at 10 a.m. Monday, April 4.

Children 4-10, accompanied by an adult, can make a robot decoration. The child must be present to receive craft materials



"The Good Dinosaur"

• Spring Break Film Showing: "The Good Dinosaur" at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5.

The movie is Rated PG. Light refreshments will be served, and children 18 and younger will be eligible to win a copy of the DVD.

• The Magic of Steven Kellogg at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 6.

Kellogg returns to present the all-ages show.

• Genealogy Bus Trip on Wednesday, April 6.

The library and La Porte County Genealogical Society will sponsor a bus trip to Allen County Public Library. The cost is \$21. Payment can be made to Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360. Call (219) 873-3049 for more information.

• Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27.

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

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

La Porte County Parks



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

Stroller, Baby and You

Aimed at toddlers and preschoolers, programs include music, dance, storytelling and a hike (weather permitting).

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, April 4 and 18, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- April 6 Flower Power.
- April 13 1 Bird, 2 Birds, 3 Birds.

Senior Lifestyles

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

- April 6 "Birds and How to Attract Them to Your Home," Potawatomi Audubon Society.
- May 4 Gardening with Sacha Burns of Sunkissed Organics.

Tea Party

Take a favorite cup and enjoy tea or lemonade inside the Nature Center from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at Luhr County Park.

A storyteller, continental breakfast and arts and crafts are planned for children 4 and older accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. The program allows a maximum of 24 people. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

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





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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 1 — Opening reception, New Buffalo Railroad Museum and Visitor Center, 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B, New Buffalo, Mich. Museum hours: noon-5 p.m. EDT. Info: www.newbuffalorailroadmuseum.org, (269) 469-8010.

April 1 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

April 1 — Poetry Slam with host J.W. Basilo, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Registration: jbloch@lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

April 1 — Opening reception, "Retro-Perspective: Plein Air and Figurative Works," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www. southernshoreartassociation.com

April 1-2 — "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Times (Eastern): 7 p.m. Fri., 1 and 7 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$10, \$8/students with valid student I.D.). Reservations: www.acorntheater.com, (269)756-3879.

April 1, 3 — Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park, opens for season, 5-8 p.m. April 1. Elston exhibit open house: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 3.

April 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 — "Little Women," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15 (2 for \$25 with coupon printed off website), \$10/\$12 and younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, footlightplayers.org

April 1-4 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Now showing: "Where to Invade to Next." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "Mustang." Rated PG-13. In Turkish with English subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3:15 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 2 — PEO Chapter DF Trash & Treasure Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

April 2 — "Peg and Cat Save the World" movie premiere, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chester-

April 2 —Local Author Series, Jeff Manes' "All Worth Their Salt," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 2 — Chicago author/bridge historian Patrick McBriarty book signing, 2:30-4 p.m., Book Warehouse of Michigan City, 1203 Lighthouse Place.

April 2 — Monthly Stargazing Program, 7:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 3 — Another Dam Hike, 10 a.m., campground gate entrance @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 3 — Jewish Film Festival, 1-4:45 p.m.,

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 785-5593.

April 3 — Sunday Matinee: "The Danish Girl," 1:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 3 — Fire on the Prairie, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 4 — Spring Break Craft, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-6248.

April 4 — Popular Books, Jennifer Chiaverini's "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 4 — Purdue University Northwest American Sign Language Club silent dinner, 5-8 p.m., Culver's Restaurant, 3966 Frontage Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 785-5432, kdonah@pnc.edu

April 5 — Spring Break Film Showing: "The Good Dinosaur," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-6248.

April 5 — Documentary screening, "Alive Inside," noon-1:30 p.m., Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

April 6 — The Magic of Steven Kellogg, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-6248.

April 6 — "Books & Coffee" series, Ambrose Okosun's "A Boy and His Dream," noon-1 p.m., Westville campus Library-Student-Faculty Building, Assembly Hall, Room 170A. Info: (219) 785-5346, jgholt@pnc.edu

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

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

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

Farther Afield:

April 2 — Ed Bagatini's New Quintette Plus One, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10/general admission, \$8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

April 2-3 — String-A-Long Quilt Guild of Northwest Indiana, 2016 Biennial Quilt Show, Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Times: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$6/adults, free/children 12 & younger.

April 2-3 — Magician Dennis Watkins, Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Times: 3 & 7:30 p.m. April 2/2:30 p.m. April 3. Tickets: \$30/ adults, \$15/students. Reservations: Tickets.com, (800) 511-1552.





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Elementary Basketball Champions



Coolspring Elementary School took home first place in the 2016 Elementary Boys' Basketball Tournament held in Wolves Den at Michigan City High School on Feb. 27. Teams from all eight MCAS elementary schools participated in the event sponsored by the MCHS boys basketball team. Pictured are Coolspring team members and coaches: bottom row (from left): Jamie Hodges Jr., Cesar Serrano, Ryan Cuma and Jamie Bradford; Row 2: Omarian Hatch (from left), Tariq Neal, Shallun Culp Jr., Bryan Drzewiecki and Tyree Young; Row 3: Coaches Julia Flowers (from left), Kyron Meriweather-Burks, Jamie Hodges and Shallun Culp Sr.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of Westchester Public Library will host the Spring Friends of the Library Book Sale on April 15-17 at Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The sale begins Friday, April 15, with the Friends Only Preview Sale from 4 to 8 p.m. Only current members will be admitted, but memberships will be sold at the door for \$5.

The public sale is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag. Prices for newer and special books will be individually marked. A large selection of hardcover books will be sold for \$1 each and paperback books for 50 cents each.

Patrons donating materials for the sale are encouraged to take them to the collection box in the library lobby. The library cannot use damaged books or books without covers, smelly or water-mildewed books, textbooks or encyclopedia and reference sets more than 10 years old.

The Friends also need volunteers to help sort materials for the sale at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 9, as well as to staff the sale, proceeds from which are donated to the library and help fund many supplemental and special programming efforts.

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Lighted china cabinet with glass shelves & glass doors, 2 wood doors below. Also, matching dining room table with leaves & six chairs. Excellent condition. (219) 872-2513.

GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

The Spring Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's resale clothing event, is scheduling appointments now through April 18 to submit up to 30 items for resale. To participate, email whatsnexta@comcast.net or call Susan Vissing at (219) 861-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F (no Wednesday appts.) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. plus weekend dates of Sat., April 9, and Sunday, April 10. Ask for the participation guidelines if you don't have them already. Be sure to bring along a spring jacket, sweater or handbag to donate, with proceeds benefiting The Samaritan Center.

Shopping dates:

Friday, April 22, 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends Saturday, April 23 & 30, 10-2 p.m. open to the public Sunday, May 1, Noon-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day Saturday, May 7, 10-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day. Long Beach Community Center 2501 Oriole Trail. Long Beach IN 46360

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WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

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Open Houses: 11am-2pm April 2 & April 9



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

- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., La Porte, 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Participants receive a Marco's Pizza coupon for free cheeztbread or Cinnasquares while supplies last.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3.

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

Opening Day at Railroad Museum

New Buffalo Railroad Museum and Visitor Center will open for the season, its kickoff dubbed "A Little Train Foolery," on Friday, April 1.

There is no admission fee, and free guided tours are planned. Open daily, hours are noon to 5 p.m. EDT.

The museum is located at 530 S. Whittaker St., Suite B, New Buffalo, Mich. Call (269) 469-8010 or visit www.newbuffalorailroadmuseum.org for more information.

Habitat Reaches 40% of Goal

Donors continue to respond to La Porte County Habitat's 2016 Challenge Match.

"We have received nearly \$14,000 in matching funds from individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups and foundations," Executive Director Bob Long said. "We have reached 40 percent of our goal of \$35,000."

The 2016 Challenge Match began in response to an anonymous donor's offer to pledge up to \$35,000 for home construction for this year. The donor requested Habitat raise an equal amount from the community.

Construction will begin in late spring on the new Habitat Home on Park Street in La Porte. Long said the potential funding of \$70,000 will cover the cost of the home.

"The challenge will continue throughout the year until our goal is reached," Long said.

Gifts may be mailed to La Porte County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 8874, Michigan City, IN 46361-8874. Credit card gifts may be made through www.laportehabitat.org/Donate

Interactive Voice-Over Workshop

The Purdue University Northwest Office of Graduate and Extended Learning is partnering with Such-A-Voice, a voice-over training and demo production company, to offer "Behind the Mic: Inside the Voice-Over Industry."

There are no prerequisites. The interactive noncredit workshop is for anyone interested in learning about the voice-over industry and ways to join it. It will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at the North Central Westville campus. The \$58 registration fee includes all materials. The registration deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.

The hands-on session will be taught by Brian Thon, an international voice artist and national producer.

Visit www.pnc.edu/gel/ or contact the Office of Graduate and Extended Learning at (219) 785-5343 or gel@pnc.edu to register or for more information.

Author to Promote New Series

Chicago author and bridge historian Patrick Mc-Briarty will promote his series of children's picture books from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Book Warehouse of Michigan City, 1203 Lighthouse Place.

McBriarty will showcase his first two illustrated children's books, "Drawbridges Open and Close" and "Airplanes Take Off and Land." Both are part of the PTM Werks series, which highlights engineers, builders, designers, architects, pilots, artists and trades people.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

<u>Back Blast</u> by Mark Greaney (hard-cover, \$27 online and in bookstores; also available as an eBook)

I've just read 513 pages of pure pulsepounding adrenaline! You want action? I give you an action novel you won't soon forget! Combine that with a story that has more twists and turns than a roller coaster.

I found myself transported to Washington, D.C., south to Florida, east to Trieste, Italy, and back again to D.C. courtesy of the CIA. Spies for the CIA, agents playing

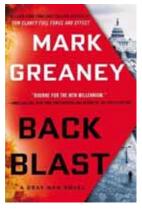
both sides against the middle and two newspaper reporters who just want to know what the heck is going on...and maybe get a Pulitzer for their paper out of it, too. But the real problem is — where lies the truth? Does anyone really want to know what the CIA is doing?

This is one of the best action/spy books of the year. Meet the Gray Man, call sign Sierra Six, code name Violator, real name Court Gentry. He was a paramilitary operations officer for the CIA Special Activities Division. He was never mentioned in the newspapers nor seen on CNN. He was one of an elite group of spies who handled covert missions never spoken of nor acknowledged in public.

Five years ago, Court was sent on a mission where something went horribly wrong and he killed the wrong man. Problem is, Court did everything by the CIA handbook. He dispatched his target in Italy and got safely out of the country. He didn't think, at the time, that being sent on a mission alone was unusual. Of course, that meant no other CIA witnesses to know what went down. So when the CIA and even his team turned on him, and he became the target, Court had to fight back, not knowing why he might have been set up.

Court has spent the past five years running and hiding around Europe. Enough! He's made up his mind that he has to go back to D.C. and find out why he was booted out of the CIA and targeted. He really doesn't think he'll get out of there alive, but he must find out the truth. Will the truth set him free? What it might do is open Pandora's Box on a lot of secrets someone doesn't want to get out.

The man who put out the kill-on-sight notice on Court is his former boss, Denny Carmichael, director of National Clandestine Service for the CIA. Denny has plans for himself. After all, Denny's boss is a lifelong politician, appointed to his post. What does he know of clandestine affairs? Jordan Mayes, Denny's assistant director, just follows orders. He has no idea what his boss is capable of, nor what he has already done. Enough said about that pair.



Court arrives in D.C. with nothing but the clothes on his back. So, what better place to find accessible money and weapons than at a drug house?! He soon finds one and attempts to rob them without collateral damage, but the drug dealers fight back and a few pay the price with their lives. When Carmichael hears of the confrontation, he knows Court Gentry is back in the States. Bad news for him. He knows that sooner or later, Court will be coming after him. But Carmichael has spun such a good story about Court going rogue, ev-

eryone is on board with the shoot-on-sight order.

It is fascinating to see how Court uses his CIA training to first dig in, find a hiding place, gather supplies and cover all possible contingencies. Next, he must make contact with anyone who might give him information about what happened five years ago. That might prove harder than playing keep away from all the police and government agencies out to get him.

One night, Court comes upon four men about to rob a convenience store. He could just leave, but his conscience won't let him, and he ends up shooting the would-be robbers. Another lead for Carmichael.

A police reporter for *The Washington Post* gets suspicious when CIA men are seen at the drug shootout and convenience store robbery. Since when does the CIA show up at events normally covered by local police? Along with Catherine King, famous political journalist for his paper, the pair start to investigate what's really going on.

The action is non-stop, the storyline intriguing and totally believable. It's easy to see how Court could be trapped into Carmichael's phony story of going rogue. But it is pure excitement following Court around, getting into impossible situations that look like the end of him until his training kicks into gear and he extracts himself from one predicament after another, all while I cheered wildly from the comfort of my favorite recliner!

But, as someone once said, "It ain't over until it's over!"

Publishers Weekly gave <u>Back Blast</u> a starred review, saying it "will keep readers glued to the pages." My sentiments exactly!

Not hard to see where Greaney got the background to write about Court Gentry. He has a degree in international relations and political science, and has traveled to many countries training alongside military and law-enforcement agencies to make his stories realistic. Learn more about him at markgre-aneybooks.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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Gorgeous open concept living. Oversized kitchen opens to family room with soaring two story fireplace. Large master suite with a fireplace, walk-out private deck & huge master bathroom, all in marble with a walk-in shower. Three fireplaces, high end finishes & in-ground pool. \$1,690,000



2223 Oriole Trail Long Beach

Well kept 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on a large double lot bordering Long Beach golf course offering quiet and privacy.









Living room gives panoramic view of green fairways. New kitchen with corian countertops. Lower level rec room with wet bar. Large deck along whole length of house for summer entertaining. Nicely landscaped & double garage. An inviting neighborhood on a dead end street. \$399,000

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Hidden Treasure with lake views! This home offers 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 fireplaces, sliding glass doors to wonderful patio, and much much more! Asking \$480,000



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