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The Old Concrete Giant

by William Halliar

Return with me now to those thrilling days of yesteryear, when the steam locomotive was the fastest, most powerful vehicle created by man, the engineer considered a hero to inspire poems and songs with each blast of the steam whistle.

Michigan City was a hub of the rail industry. The Michigan Central Railroad provided and maintained the ribbons of steel upon which was carried the commerce, hopes and dreams of people in Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan.

The lakefront once shook to the thunder of rushing wheels and thrilled to the pulse of powerful pistons. The air was filled with smoke, steam and the sound of whistles blasting and bells clanging.

Indeed, there was a certain romance associated with the railroad business. Many still feel the pull of that not-so distant past. Memories still come alive at the sound of a far-off train whistle.

By the early 1920s, the Michigan Central, incorporated in 1846 to run rail service between Detroit and St. Joseph, Mich., had extended its service to Indiana and Illinois. It was reported that

by the end of 1925, the railroad owned and maintained 4,139 miles of track. That same year, it boasted 600 million passenger miles that same year.

Continued on Page 2



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CONCRETE GIANT Continued from Page 1

Today, the Michigan Central is all but a distant memory to a few. Eventually, the railroad was controlled by New York Central Railroad, which became Penn Central Railroad and finally Conrail. Now, Norfolk Southern owns much of the right of way that was once the proud Michigan Central.

Today, the sights and sounds of that yesteryear are all but forgotten, and many of the landmarks associated with it are gone. However, shades of history surround us each day as we go about our lives. Often, we don't take the time to look around as we hurry from here to there, bowing to the demands of our busy lives. We pass by monuments to the past every day, but simply do not notice them. Sometimes, it takes a new viewpoint to make something old and familiar stand out and be noticed.

Tom Jachimiec and his wife moved to Michigan City in 2006. Before retiring, Tom worked for Paddock Publications in Arlington Heights, Ill., as a copy editor for 38 years. He wrote and edited copy

for *The Daily Herald*, and his eye was trained to sift out and recount the details of a story.

Many of us pass the old Michigan Central coaling tower every day, but the sight has become so familiar, we no longer wonder what that large concrete structure is on U.S. 12 just east of town. Perhaps we fail to notice the huge, ungainly, deteriorating concrete behemoth that straddles the railroad tracks leading into town from the east.

Jachimiec did notice, and the journalist's curiosity and love of a good story ingrained in him compelled him to look into the history of the structure.

Because of his persistent digging, the story of the Michigan City coaling tower will not be lost to history. As is typical, no single source held the entire story, and conflicting facts had to be sifted through to determine the true story. When was it built, when and why it was abandoned and, most importantly, what its fate would be.

Jachimiec was determined to find the answers.

The Michigan City Coaling Tower was built in 1923 by Michigan Central Railroad. It was designed

by Roberts & Schaefer Co. of Chicago, an engineering and design firm specializing in structures for material handling. The company is still in business today.

In 1923, coal was the fuel and steam generated in huge boilers the breath of the giant engines that crossed our country at a dizzying pace carrying passengers and freight. Trains of the era carried coal for fire and water for steam in tenders that trailed behind the main traction engine.

A powerful engine consumed water and coal at an amazing rate. It is estimated by one source that one pound of coal can turn six pounds of water (0.7 gallons) into steam. A train could travel, on average, 15 to 20 miles to a ton of coal, so the trains had to be refueled often. Coaling and water stations were built at regular intervals along the route to service the engines. Generally, there were two water stops for

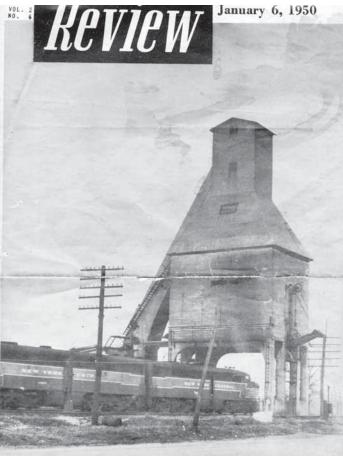


Tom Jachimiec stands by the historic structure that has captured his attention for several years.

Photo by William Halliar

every coal stop.

Although coaling and watering stops were as old as railroading itself, the Michigan City coaling tower was to be the first of its kind, with patented designs and machinery to improve efficacy. The coaling plant was to have many automated features and was powered by electric motors. It was a one-stop shop for water, coal and sand. Special "green" dried sand was loaded into domes on the tops of locomotive boilers. The sand would be applied to the rails to improve traction on days when there was rain, ice or snow on the rails.



A 1950 edition of Michigan City Review reveals the tower on its cover.

Photo provided by Mike Fleming.

The Michigan City coaling tower was constructed of reinforced concrete, which made it durable, relatively maintenance free and immune to the shocks and vibrations that could accompany the crushing and loading of coal. The versatility of reinforced concrete allowed designers to literally sculpt a du-



The sign still remains indicating the building's designer.

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one restrictions. Some restrictions apply. □2016 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers include independently owned and operated businesse **Concrete Giant** Continued from Page 3 rable structure to suit their requirements. The entire building, walls, hoppers and roof were poured in one piece, all reinforced by steel rods.

Speed of loading and efficiency were the factors considered in the tower's design. A track located at the side of the structure was provided for coal cars to dump their loads of coal. This operation was conducted under a reinforced concrete canopy to keep the coal relatively dry. The coal was deposited in a hopper under grade, or track, level that fed into a measuring feeder that loaded a $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton capacity bucket. This measuring feeder was a patented feature first used here in Michigan City that would not allow the bucket to be overfilled.

The bucket was fitted with large steel wheels that rode on a track made of angle iron, up a gently curving, covered side chute, also made of poured and reinforced concrete. A 22 horsepower electric motor powered pulleys and a 7/8" dia cable to pull the filled bucket to the top of the coal chute. In the head house at the top of the structure, the bucket, which was precisely balanced by a concrete counter weight, was dumped. The contents of the bucket would fall into a double roll coal crusher. The crusher was powered by a 25 horsepower electric motor

and could reduce large lumps of coal to 4" cubes suitable for use in steam locomotive fire boxes. These operations were controlled from an operator's "hoist house" at ground level using patented "Safety First" equipment.

The January-June Railway Review from 1923 reported that "There is no vibration whatever to the structure caused by the operation of the coal crusher located over the concrete pocket, and all dust occasioned by crushing coal is contained in the coal pocket, which is the proper place for it."

The crushed coal then fell into a large double hopper of 500-ton capacity. Beneath the double-hopper structure ran four railroad tracks, and over each of these was a smaller chute that could be raised and lowered to position it over the coal car or tender of a waiting locomotive.

Included as part of the integral structure of the coal chute was a sand storage and drying plant. Coal burning dryers were employed to evaporate moisture from 100 cubic yards of sand that could be stored at the facility. This sand then was fed by gravity into the sand domes of locomotives.

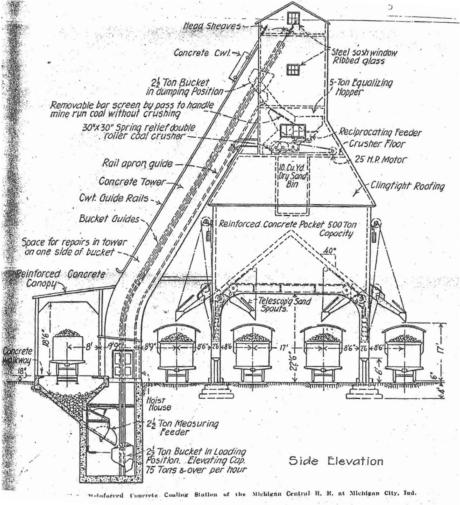
While the coaling and sanding operations were under way, water was

pumped into the tenders of the trains so that in just a few minutes time after pulling under the coaling tower, the train was ready to be on its way.

The Michigan City coaling tower was built over mainline tracks so no switching was required to bring the trains into position to replenish fuel and water. Trains loaded with freight and passengers would pull under, and then through, the coaling plant many times each day. Many passengers travelling in plush Pullman sleepers of the 1920s and 1930s must have been surprised as their train stopped beneath this concrete giant. They could look up to see such an efficient and unusual operation occurring as they paused for a few moments from their travel.

In the late 1940s/early 1950s, steam engines began to disappear from the scene, replaced by more efficient, more powerful diesel electric locomotives. Photographic records show steam trains were still using the coaling facility as late as 1952, and some said that for quite some time after that, a few small steam switch engines were used in the nearby yards. They used the old coaling station to fill their hungry coal tenders and slake their boilers' thirst for water.

Eventually, all of the iron and steel equipment inside the structure was sold for scrap, the steel



A schematic of the inside of the structure when it was in operation.

ladders and gratings removed from the outside. The old concrete giant stood in silence, at the mercy of the elements.

On Oct. 27, 2010, a notice was published announcing "The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) proposes to demolish the Michigan City Coaling Tower...Amtrak has determined the coaling tower is structurally unsound and should be removed."

(Amtrak still utilized the track under the coaling station for many of its trains.)

A public meeting was held to discuss the project. Jachimiec was in attendance. Thus began his quest to collect information on the tower. To date, it is still with us. Other historic coaling towers still exist across the country. As can be imagined, there had to be many hundreds in existence at one time to feed the great steel beasts that thundered across our landscapes.

Some of these towers have been at least partially restored. Because many were literally sculpted out of concrete, they are each of unique design. Michigan City's coaling station was gutted years ago, and because of its location over active tracks, and the fact that pieces of concrete occasionally fall to the tracks, its days are numbered.

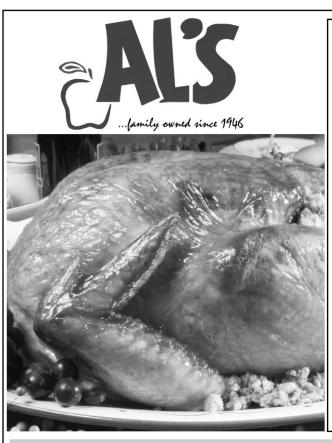
To some, the old Michigan City coaling tower was a "filthy, noisy, dark and dangerous" place to work. Others, each time they pass the old structure today, are reminded of the romance of the rails.

Whatever the fate of the structure, it is because of Jachimiec's efforts to document its history that it will never be forgotten nor lost to history. All of his collected records can be found in the Michigan City Historical Society archives at Washington Park's Old Lighthouse Museum.

While the old coaling tower remains with us, take a moment to drive by slowly. As you do, use your imagination and listen for the lonely blast of an ancient steam whistle.



Much of the structure has succumbed to the elements.





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Tom Hanks (left) and Aaron Eckhart star in Clint Eastwood's "Sully."

Eastwood, Hanks Pack Quite a Punch With "Sully"

by Andrew Tallackson

Love him or loathe him, the indisputable truth about Clint Eastwood as a director is that, at 86 no less, the guy can tell a story and tell it exceptionally well. This is the filmmaker who, if you recall, two years ago released a film that came out of nowhere to gross nearly \$550 million worldwide, in the process canonizing the memory of an American sniper.

Now, with "Sully," he's tackled another recent chapter in U.S. history. Considering the sensational events behind it, you brace for Eastwood's pumped up version of the truth. The 2009 heroic plane landing in the Hudson River — how can you not go for the jugular? Eastwood, however, offers middle-of-the-road, matter-of-fact realism. Arriving in theaters amid the 15th anniversary of the terror attacks on 9/11, Eastwood has made a powerful film that has an unexpected healing effect in watching salt-of-the-earth Americans rise to the challenge amid catastrophic events and come out victorious.

Based on the autobiography "Highest Duty," and working from a concise script by Todd Komarnicki, Eastwood packs quite a punch in the film's brief 96-minute running time. He uses the National Transportation Safety Board investigation into the emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 shortly after leaving LaGuardia Airport as the framework to reveal what happened that fateful day. Under intense scrutiny are the pilots, Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) and First Officer Jeffery Skiles (Aaron Eckhart). With airline concerns over liability and insurance, the two are grilled for not diverting the plane to the nearest landing strip.

We meet a few of the passengers. Eastwood, however, isn't too concerned with their stories, which is fine. The movie is named "Sully" for a reason, to explore the man at the center of the extraordinary feat that day. The performance Eastwood culls out of Hanks is not the showy type that screams Oscar at every turn. Sully is a man riddled with doubt and plagued by nightmares. Barely able to articulate himself, even to his wife (Laura Linney, in a mostly thankless part), Hanks offers a brittle portrait of a man on the verge of collapse.

The flight itself is recreated with astounding authenticity. Eastwood relies on actual sets and carefully orchestrated visual and sound effects to create an unnerving you-are-there sensation.

The image of a plane careening through a densely populated metropolitan area makes it impossible not to resurrect painful memories of 9/11. But by revealing the swift action taken by rescue officials, we are reminded, and incredibly moved by, the sight of New Yorkers rallying together. And it is amid the final moments of "Sully" that we realize Hanks does, indeed, warrant Oscar's attention. Upon finally learning all 155 passengers survived the landing, Hanks' reaction, a trembling, yet controlled release of emotion, is a devastating piece of acting. And as Eastwood treats us to the final moments of the landing for a second time, but now amid the NTSB hearing, Hanks' Sully is an incredible portrait of grace under pressure.

This is one of the year's best pictures.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Harbor Country Opera Brings "La Traviata" Back to The Acorn

by Andrew Tallackson

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Soprano Christine Steyer is no opera lightweight.

Critics virtually pen love letters to her "international-calibre voice of size and color," whether as the title role in "Madama Butterfly" or as Frasquita in Bizet's "Carmen."

The Oak Park, Ill., resident has graced stages across the country, but something remarkable happens, she says, at more intimate venues.

"What we do that other art forms don't do vocally is that we don't sing with microphones. So, when you are in a small space, the audience is feeling your voice move through their body," she said.

"That's what we do. That's what opera can do, what the technique can allow us to do, to create these sounds through the core of our bodies that touch an audience."



Steyer helped unveil Harbor Country Opera to local audiences 10 years ago with its rendition of "La Traviata." Now, Giuseppe Verdi's masterpiece returns to The Acorn, with Stever, as Violetta, joined by Rumanian tenor Emanuel Caraman and baritone Bill McMurray.

The performances are at 8 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 17, and 4:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 18, at the Three Oaks, Mich., theater, 107 Generations Drive.

Verdi's opera in three acts, with libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, was first performed in March 1853 at Venice's *La Fenice* opera house. It was based on the play "La Dame aux Camélias" (1852), which was adapted from Alexandre Dumas' semi-au-

tobiographical novel inspired by his brief affair with courtesan Marie Duplessis.

Steyer notes the heroines in works by Verdi or Giacomo Puccini fall into certain traps: They die



Christine Steyer

of consumption, suicide or murder. Why that's so, Steyer says, she does not know, but having played Violetta on more than one occasion, it is a character she savors.

"It is a great role, one you grow into every time you do it," she said. "You find new things in the character. It's interesting, going back into a very emotional role. All those feelings come up again."

Also performing, as the spoken voice of the elder

Germont, is Stever's husband, Paul Geiger, who serves as narrator. In a storytelling device aimed at making the Italian work more accessible to audiences, Geiger will explain and highlight what's transpiring on stage.

"It's almost like flashbacks or diary entries," Steyer explained. "The narration helps explain what's going on in this complicated world set 150 years ago in Paris."

Steyer and Geiger used that approach through a production of "La Traviata" staged by Bellissima Opera, of which Steyer serves as artistic director.

"We've had great success with this," she said. "People have said, 'I've never really understood what this is about until we saw your production'."

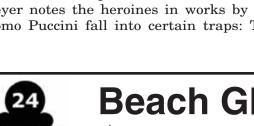
For the performance at The Acorn, Harbor Country Opera Producer Robert Swan has amassed an impressive array of talent not just on stage, but behind the scenes as well.

Carl Ratner is the director. Robert Smith, who provided the sets for "La Boheme" two years ago, is the production designer. The costumes are by Broadway Costumes of Chicago. Pianist Marta Letofsky provides accompaniment.

Steyer hopes "La Traviata" reminds audiences why Verdi remains a master of conveying emotion through his works.

"He really takes people away by it," she said. "It does what a good story should do. It makes us think about our own lives, about the complexity of life, the injustice of life.

"If people watch it and want to be transformed by it, then that would be a great thing."



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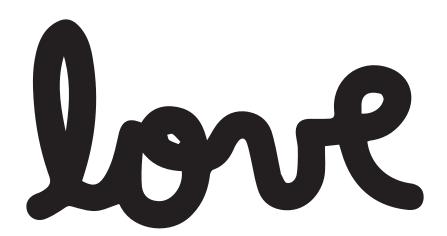
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Oh Yeah! Music Festival Celebrates Music, Art and Community

Live Music Matters will host Oh Yeah! Music Festival, a one-day event celebrating live music, art and communi-

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Cole DeGenova

to the visual entertainment, while DJs will provide background sounds throughout the day.

ty, from 11 a.m. to midnight Saturday, Sept. 17, at Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets.

Performances will be at Seventh and Wabash streets — the former Pullman building site. Festival attendees can expect to hear jazz, soul, funk, hip-hop and rock. The lineup is:

- Sam Trump Noon to 1:30 p.m. The trumpeter, singer and songwriter has become a sought-after musician on the Chicago music scene. His music is a mix of innovation and down-home soul.
- Natalie Oliveri 2 to 3:30 p.m. Music by the singer, songwriter and composer has been featured in TV shows such as "Being Mary Jane" and "Burn Notice." Her eclectic Latin Soul sound transcends cultures.
- Slim Gypsy Baggage 4 to 5:30 p.m. Playing a blend of rock, country/Americana, roots and blues the four-piece hand from
- and blues, the four-piece band from Michigan has been featured on NPR and toured extensively in the Midwest.
- Cole DeGenova 6 to 7:30 p.m. The eclectic Chicago singer/keyboardist has built a loyal following, and played with the likes of Lupe Fiasco and Chance the Rapper.

• Sidewalk Chalk — 8 to 10 p.m. The eight-

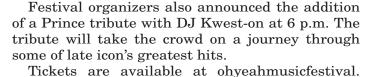


Sam Trump

piece Chicago group, named "Most Outstanding Group" at the 2012 Chicago Music Awards, has played behind Buddy Guy and Talib Kweli.

Also planned are interactive attractions such as a game truck, musical instrument petting zoo, food trucks, craft breweries and local wineries.

Live painters will add



com. Online general admission tickets for guests 21 and older are \$10. Guests are encouraged to take lawn chairs and blankets to relax on the lawn surrounding the stage.

General admission lawn tickets may be purchased at the gate starting at 11 a.m. Sept. 17. Prices are:

- 12 and younger free.
- 13-20 \$5.
- 21 and older \$15. Parking is free.

Live Music Matters is a nonprofit arts organiza-

tion that bring music to small communities through live performance, education and community outreach. It also produces the successful Lighthouse Jazz Festival and Ship and Shore Blues Festival in Washington Park.

John Moultrie, Live Music Matters founder and Oh Yeah! Music Festival artistic director, says the new event was created to mirror the diverse communities sur-

rounding Lighthouse Place.

"I've always wanted to do a music festival that wasn't genre specific," he said. "Artists need opportunities to showcase their talents and original music to a wide variety of people. Our goal is to spotlight indie, emerging and regional artists while entertaining the local community."



Natalie Oliveri



Slim Gypsy Baggage



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John Barker Sr. Builds the City

by Matthew Kubik and Anthony Kalin, Barker Mansion history researcher

Just before Michigan City was incorporated in 1836, a pioneer settler arrived who would have the most profound effect on the city's future.

His name was John Barker Sr. John, himself, was hardly a senior — he was the youngest of 11 children. He was American as American could be, with his Massachusetts ancestors ranking as some of the earliest settlers.

Childhood ended early in the 1700s. John started his work life at 11 as an apprentice,

learning the ins and outs of the mercantile business. Here, he learned the skills he would use in Michigan City to begin a family fortune worth more than \$60 million in 1910.

He left Massachusetts in 1834 to seek his fortune. Of course, in the 1830s, northern Indiana was raw wilderness populated with Native Americans and bursting with opportunity. John stopped off in New York to gather up a cousin, Jacob Carter, then spent 1834 and 1835 in various business ventures in Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio. We get a sense of his character from a letter he wrote to his father explaining his departure from Cincinnati. He cited disapproval of his Cincinnati coworkers' unPuritan lifestyles as the primary reason for leaving, stating Cincinnati was, simply put, "not the place for me."

It was pioneer Michigan City where he finally decided to seek his destiny. On Jan. 19, 1836, John was granted the deed for a plat of land purchased from Isaac C. Elston for the sum of \$100. This was the time of land speculation and high profits. It is interesting to note that Elston had only paid \$200 for the entire city a few years prior, and John paid half that sum for the third quarter of the 20th block. For the pioneers who bought into the developing new city, it was time to get to work, and workers needed supplies. There was John, trained in the mercantile business, ready to fulfill their needs.

Not long after his arrival, John and his cousin began the dry goods business Carter and Barker, which counted as one of only 12 businesses in 1836. John continued with various partners to supply merchandise to citizens and travelers throughout the 1840s.



John Barker Sr.

With shipping as the main form of merchandise transport, Barker understood the importance of establishing a Michigan City harbor. By April 1836, he was listed as harbormaster in the first meeting of the city's common council. Barker also was president of the Michigan City Harbor Co. for its entire duration until it dissolved upon the harbor's completion. According to Ogelsbee and Hale's History of Michigan City Indiana, John was a major proponent of the harbor works in Michigan City, taking it

upon himself to build a pier for his own grain exports when the government continually stalled the harbor works project.

In addition to the pier, John also built a grain elevator, both of which facilitated his move out of the dry goods store and into the grand commercial enterprises of the growing Midwest. By the 1850s, John saw Michigan City's future as a center of industry. Soon, he considered expanding, from being a mere broker of goods into becoming a captain of production and heavy industry.

John's opportunity came when The Aldridge, Sherman and Haskell Freight Car Co. moved to Michigan City from New York in 1852. Three years later, Sherman retired from the fledgling factory and John took the opportunity to buy into the business. Ultimately, the business became Haskell and Barker Freight Car Factory, manufacturing railroad cars that delivered goods to those brave individuals who were ever pushing westward to settle and tame the vast wilderness of the United States.

More About This Series

This year marks Michigan City's 180th anniversary of incorporation, which will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Heritage Ball. The event starts with champagne with Mayor Ron Meer at Barker Mansion and continues to Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church for food, drink and live entertainment. Historic costumes are encouraged. Tickets, which are \$40 per person, are available at Eventbrite.com or by calling Barker Mansion at (219) 873-1520 or Barker Hall at (219) 874-4355. Proceeds benefit preservation of the historic Barker buildings.

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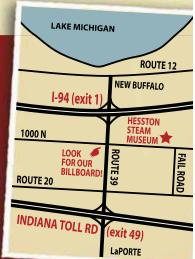
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Fall Film Series

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., as part of its Fall Film Series, will show "Hello, My Name is Doris" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18.



Sally Field and Max Greenfield star in "Hello, My Name is Doris."

The free screening is part of a collaboration with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series. Rated R, the movie centers on Doris (Sally Field), a frumpy woman in her 60s and invisible to the rest of the world. She has spent her adult life caring for her recently deceased mother and is seeking a new purpose in life, also hiding the fact that behind closed doors, she is a hoarder.

Her life changes when she hears a motivational speaker (Peter Gallagher) stress taking big risks and pursuing fresh goals. Soon thereafter, she sets out to snag the attention of a new co-worker (Max Greenfield).

Contact Judy Jacobi, Purdue Northwest assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collections & Special Programs, at (219) 785-5593 for details.

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Book Sheds Light on Indiana-Born Baseball Players

by Matthew Werner

Editor's note — This is the next installment in our series on America's favorite pastime.

Last November, I attended an author fair at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis and sat next to fellow writer Pete Cava. Between hawking books, we talked about everything from writing and publishing to baseball and basketball.

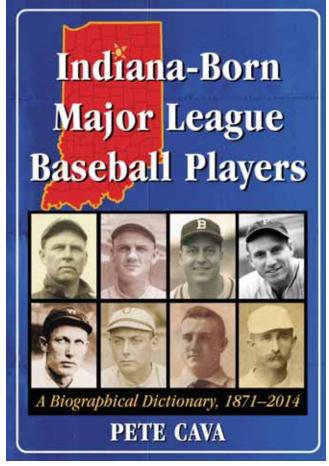
A native New Yorker, Pete is a Hoosier now. He wrote the book, "Indiana-born Major League Baseball Players: A Biographical Dictionary, 1871-2014." It chronicles the baseball career of every major league player born in Indiana, including 10 Hall-Of-Famers, Cy Young's primary catcher and the only two men to play in a World Series and the NCAA Final basketball tournament.

When I told Pete the director of the baseball classic "Bang the Drum Slowly" lives in La Porte County, he replied, "I swear, if there's life on other planets, we'll

probably find at least one Hoosier there."

Pete and I recently talked about his book.

Matt: Indiana-born major league baseball players — that's a unique subject. What motivated you to write this book?



Pete: About 24 years ago, I read a story about Deacon Scott, the shortstop who held the record for consecutive games played before Lou Gehrig. Turns out he was from Indiana — born in Bluffton and a Fort Wayne resident. That got me wondering what other interesting big leaguers were Hoosiers.

Matt: When did you start this book, and how long did it take you to compile all of these players and their information?

Pete: I started work on the project shortly after reading the article. That would have been in the late summer or early autumn of 1992. I turned in the book to McFarland in January of 2015, so it took over two decades to get it finished.

Not that I worked on it straight through. When I started, I was still work-

ing as media information officer for USA Track & Field. In 1999, I became a full-time author, taking on freelance assignments like Olympic Games coverage (2000) and working the World Baseball Classic (2006, 2009, 2013). I also turned out a couple of





other books along the way.

Matt: How many players are included in your book? A lot of players go back a long time. Are you sure you didn't accidentally leave anybody out?

Pete: There are 364 players in the book. Along the way, I found some players listed as Indiana natives who were actually born elsewhere, and at least one whose birthplace was listed as another state, but was actually born here. I didn't miss anyone, as far as I know.

Matt: Which player in your book had the shortest major league career? Who had the longest career?

Pete: Johnny Corriden, a pinch-runner in one game for the Dodgers in 1946, had the shortest career. He wasn't even on the field for an entire inning. Red Corriden, his dad, played in the big leagues between 1910 and 1915.

The record for longevity belongs to Tommy John, who's very much alive and well! He pitched in the big leagues from 1963 to 1989.

Matt: If forced to pick one favorite player featured in your book, who would it be and why?

Pete: Boy, that's a tough one ... I spent so much time researching these guys, they're almost like personal friends. In fact, some of them became my good friends.

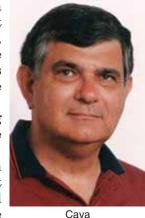
But if I had to pick just one, it'd be Bert Shepard, a one-game big leaguer with the Washington Senators in 1945. Bert played minor league ball until Pearl Harbor, when he served in the Army Air Corps. He was shot down during a raid over Germany and woke up in a POW camp with his right leg gone below the knee. Sent back to the U.S. as part of a prisoner exchange, he wound up as a batting practice pitcher for the Senators. In August 1945, Washington brought in Bert for a relief appearance. He gave up one run over five and one-



third innings. Not bad for a guy with one leg! There's a lot more to Bert Shepard's story, but I'd need an hour or more to tell the whole story. He was something else, and I admire him.

Matt: Are you working on anything new at the moment?

Pete: Currently, I've been writing a lot about baseball at the professional, college and high school levels. When the



season's over, I plan to start work on another book about Indiana big-leaguers. Deacon Scott, George Crowe, Tommy John, Johnny Corriden and Bert Shepard will be in it, along with Babe Ruth, who once hit three homers in an exhibition game here in Indianapolis.

There's a rich baseball history here in Indiana. And too often, it gets overlooked.

(Pete's book is available at amazon.com and bookstores everywhere.)

(Editor's note — Our baseball series concludes in early October with an exclusive Beacher interview with a true legend of baseball.)





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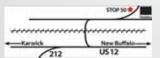
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Double Take Tour

The public can experience two of Michigan City's most historic buildings Sunday, Sept. 18.



Candleabra detail at Barker Mansion.

The Double Take Tour begins at 3 p.m. with a look at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., built by freight car magnate John Barker in 1857 and expanded in 1905. The manfeatures sion Gilded Age dé-

cor, with heavily carved woodwork and many furnishings imported from Europe. The Italian sunken gardens will be open as well.

The tour then heads three blocks to Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Uptown Arts District. Along the way, Heritage Interpreter T.J. Kalin will point out historical sites of interest.

Architect Matt Kubik will shed light on Barker Hall, construction for which was financed by Barker in 1886 and reconstructed by his daughter, Catherine, in 1929. The Romantic, Gothic-style building includes the 3,600-square-foot Great Hall. The oakpaneled room is lit by 4-foot wide, tiered chandeliers and 20-foot tall leaded glass windows.

The tour ends with light refreshments served on monogrammed Barker Hall china. Reservations are not necessary. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per youth 15 and younger. The event precedes the Oct. 1 Heritage Ball, which celebrates 180 years of Michigan City history. Visit www.barkermansion.com or call (219) 873-1520 for more details.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• New program, "Making Your Food Dollars Work," from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

Registered dietitian Gia DeMartinis will discuss "The Ins and Outs of Getting Through the Month on a Budget."

 Bits & Bytes series, Twitter Basics, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Serials/Automation Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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

 Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

The selection is Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

• Kids Science Explorer Club at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.

Duneland School Corp. teacher Kim Stahura leads the science-based program for children 6 and older. The focus this month is the science of magnets and electromagnetism. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.

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

 Battles of the American Civil War from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 17, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

History buff and Civil War enthusiast Thomas Murphy will discuss the battle of Fredericksburg.

 Annual St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery Tour on Sunday, Sept. 18.

Westchester Township History Museum, in conjunction with Duneland Historical Society, will lead the tour of several individuals and families buried in the cemetery. Attendees can park in the Post Office lot. A crossing guard will be posted to assist with street crossings. Participants should meet at the cemetery between 2 and 3:15 p.m. The tour lasts about 45 minutes and covers some uneven terrain. Limited parking for people with disabilities is available at the cemetery. The last tour begins at about 3:15 p.m.

 Maker Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in the Thomas Library upstairs IT classroom.

Local software engineer Adam Johnson will lead a hands-on program, appropriate for patrons 12 and older, about Arduino circuit devices.

• NorthShore Health Center free blood-pres-

sure screenings from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 21, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

 Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays 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 in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Aimed at children in third grade and older, attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Class size is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

 Pizza Pajama Book Club for Teens from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, in the Thomas Library Young Adult Room.

Teens in grades 6-12 can discuss books they have read or are reading. Pizza will be provided. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696 or visiting the library.



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Full Steam Ahead

Hesston Steam Museum experienced another wildly successful Labor Day weekend as visitors flocked to its grounds for the 60th Annual Steam and Power Show. Photos by Paul Kemiel





















New Methods Exist to Assist Students With ADD and ADHD

Imagine, if you will, that you wake up one morning just like every other morning. You go downstairs, start the coffeemaker, possibly start reading the newspaper or watching the news, but something is different.

There's too much noise in your head.

You can't concentrate. The information you're reading in the paper isn't sticking. You read the same paragraph six or seven times before you understand what's being written.

The TV is worse. You only catch about five percent of what people are saying.

You may completely forget you made coffee. It's already cold.

Your leg bounces up and down restlessly. You absentmindedly tap on the table or countertop with your fingers.

These actions cannot be controlled without conscious thought.

At work, your mind wanders every 30 seconds. You can't concentrate on the task at hand. Worse, you don't *want* to concentrate. You stare at the ceiling, out the window, at a random point in space. You can't seem to finish what you started.

People in life seem to move forward while you feel held back. They view your sudden impulses and tangents as annoying or detrimental to your character. A doctor says, in fact, there is something going on, and you'll struggle with it for the rest of your life without end or cure. It will never go away, but with constant medication, it can be mitigated.

Such is the life of someone who suffers from Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

I speak from experience.

Having been diagnosed with ADD early in my childhood, I have lived with these symptoms every day of my life, and will continue to do so until the day I die. A bright kid, I scored above average on tests and showed promise. However, I was prone to acting out. I gained a reputation as the "class clown," falling behind my classmates in homework and schoolwork.

Homework, by the way, was a six-hour ordeal between my mother and me. Nothing could get done.

by Drew Holt



Drew Holt poses by a Purdue University Northwest banner near the school cafeteria.

Soon, I was diagnosed as having a learning disability. Several years of testing with rough therapeutic drugs such as Adderall and Ritalin took its toll. By the time I found a semi-stable medication, I had already been offered — due to my test performance — and lost — due to my in-school performance — a scholarship to one of the best high schools in the area. My performance in high school would best be characterized as "mediocre" despite the fact that my SAT score was in the top 4 percent of the entire nation.

This is, by far, not an isolated story. The good news is, at college campuses like Purdue University Northwest, educators and staff not only are aware of the issue, but are also finding ways to help such students adapt and succeed.

Donelle Henderlong is PNW's student disabilities services coordinator at the Westville campus. Her job is to assist students medically diagnosed with learning disabilities to succeed in school. Her warm, welcoming smile and sunny disposition greet everyone who walks in seeking help.

While her mission statement is to help those who struggle with learning disabilities, she was quick to







Donelle Henderlong (right) presents a Purdue student with an award in 2015.

point out it isn't her goal to give students with disabilities an unfair advantage over others.

"I help them to be successful in school," she says, "not necessarily to give them a leg up, but just to make sure they can reach their full potential."

She also works with campus faculty, educating staff on how to properly work with students with disabilities, and ensure the campus is equally accessible to all students. While Henderlong works with students who have all sorts of disabilities, when asked about ADHD, she said that condition and others like it are on the rise.

"I'd say ADHD is probably one of the more widely disclosed disabilities, at least on our campus and campuses across the country," she said.

According to Henderlong, "invisible disabilities" like ADHD represent the largest demographic of disabilities, at least at PNW. Despite their rise, Henderlong and the university employ some special tools, in addition to extra test time and special testing conditions designed to minimize distractors, to ensure these students stay up-to-date with their work.

"There are a lot of different technologies that can help students with ADHD," she said. "Probably the two biggest ones on this campus are the Smart Pen (a pen that can record lectures, tape-recorder style, while taking notes), and the other one that a lot of students with ADHD use is Kurzweil." That is specialized software that contains PDF versions of a student's textbook, which it is capable of reading aloud to the student. Each word is highlighted individually on the computer screen as the program reads the book, allowing the student to follow along.

After having used Kurzweil for a semester, I can attest that it dramatically increases the speed at which I can read the material. Without it, I would have spent many a sleepless night reading the same page over and over again just to make sure I comprehended the material.

Before technologies such as Smart Pen and Kurzweil, the methods with which schools assisted students with learning disabilities were limited to extended test time and even a different testing environment.

Students are not the only ones affected by ADD/ADHD.

Bethany Lee, an assistant professor of English with a doctorate at Purdue Northwest, also has the disorder.



Bethany Lee (right) receives a check from the Department of English and Modern Languages from the PNC Women's Association.

"I never thought that I had it as a kid," she began, "because ADD was for those kids who were twirling in circles on the playground and couldn't focus on anything, and I didn't have that problem."

Nonetheless, Lee, who did well in her early school years, still had issues with attention.

Continued on Page 26





New Methods Continued from Page 25

"I was very good at reading from an early age," she said. "I was able to read and process information very rapidly, so even though my attention wasn't fantastic, because I read ahead of my peers, I did well until about middle school, when all of a sudden I had to learn new things that I didn't already know and hadn't already sort of just absorbed from the universe, and it became much more difficult."

While her story echoed mine in the early stages, by high school, it differed drastically.

"I went from getting all A's as a kid," she said, "to failing out of high school."

Her story, however, didn't end there. Her drive to succeed in the face of ADD/ADHD resulted in her excelling in school even faster than her peers.

"I home-schooled myself for a brief period during my junior year, and then earned my GED, and then started going to community college during what would have been my senior year," she said.

Asked if she "overcame" the disorder, and if so how, she replied with a question.

"Define 'overcome.' If by 'overcome,' you mean that I've become excellent at time management and physical organization and all of those things, then no, not at all," she said, chuckling. "However, in terms of professional achievement, in terms of being able to be successful in school, then yes."

Another PNW professor of mine, Jerry Holt, has had quite a bit of experience with students who have ADD/ADHD over his storied career. Former chair of what was then known as Purdue University-North Central's English department, Holt is a multitalented individual who counts author and playwright among his titles.

As one with experience across many fields related to education, his exposure to students with the condition is especially important to document. Asked how he accommodates students with diagnosed conditions, he said he doesn't have to do much to get these students into the groove of his lectures.

"I have never had any difficulty working with ADD/ADHD students," he said. "Once they catch the rhythm of my lectures, they adjust easily."

Which, speaking from my own experience, is true. Holt's classes are uniquely suited to my specific condition. Mainly lecture-based, his class allows students with ADHD to focus on a par-



Jerry Holt receives the "Dreamer Award" in 2015 from Purdue. The award goes to an individual or organization within the Purdue community that embodies the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ticular thing (his excellent ability to turn a lecture into a story with a clear start-to-finish procedure). His ability to hold the attention of his ADD/ADHD-diagnosed students is a testament to his experience and love of storytelling and teaching.

However, his teaching experience has afforded him an in-depth look at the way these students are accommodated by the educational institutions they attend.

"A decade ago, there were very few special needs offices," he said. "So, as you might assume, students in this situation did not get extra time for assignments or controlled environments.

"These are innovations of recent emergence. For students, it was pretty much the luck of the draw as to whether an instructor was sympathetic or not."

Such empathy offers hope for students with ADD/ADHD, that they *can* succeed in college and earn a degree.

Lee, and myself, now a senior at PNW, are living proof.



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New Lubeznik Center Director



Bloch

Janet Bloch, long-standing director of education at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will take over the helm as the center's executive director, replacing Erika Hanner.

"I want to thank Erika Hanner for her service to the LCA over the past two years and wish her well in her future endeavors," LCA Board President Nick Bridge said.

Bloch has a Master of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Before coming to the LCA, she served for a decade as gallery director for Woman Made Gallery in Chicago, where she curated exhibits and developed programs on the topic of marketing one's art. She also wrote a book on the subject, "Strategic Marketing Tools for Visual Artists."

She has been the center's director of education since 2009, forging dozens of successful arts partnerships and outreach programs throughout the region. Her efforts have resulted in a highly recognized educational arts program serving young people and adults across the community. She also has played an integral role in writing many successful grant proposals for the LCA, attaining essential funding for its programs.

"I have spent my entire life in the arts," she said, "and I know what a positive impact they can have on a community.

"Lubeznik Center for the Arts is a cultural treasure. I want everyone in our region to feel welcome here and enjoy the excellent programs we offer."





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Sunflower Fair

The 18th Annual Sunflower Fair, a celebration of fall and full grown sunflowers, returns to downtown La Porte from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.

The event, held along Michigan Ave and Lincolnway, begins at 8 a.m. with the Kiwanis 5K Fun Run and Health Walk, along with more than 100 arts, crafts and nonprofit vendors and the Rumely Art Show. Also on tap are community non-profit food vendors, kids rides, live entertainment, a classic car show, the Tom R. Fara Memorial Great Rib Cook Off, La Porte Library Coloring Contest and sunflower contests. The Lions Club will offer a train ride throughout the fair.

Visit www.sunflowerfair.com for more details.

Calumet Outdoors Series

The Calumet Outdoors Series, hikes organized by the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, continues at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, with Shirley Heinze Land Trust, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

Reservations are requested. Contact Series Coordinator Eric Neagu at (773) 403-5237 or ericneagu@gmail.com

The Calumet Stewardship Initiative is a coalition of more than 40 organizations that promotes a sustainable relationship between people and nature in the Calumet region of Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois. Visit http://calumetstewardship.org/events for additional information.

Celebration of the Arts

Schoolhouse Shop in Furnessville will present the 28th Annual Celebration of the Arts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18.

The multi-media event features more than 30 artists displaying watercolor and oil paintings, metalworking, pottery, jewelry, woodworking, fabric art and photography.

Admission is free. Santiago's of Porter will cater lunch on the patio. Schoolhouse Shop is located at 278 E. County Road 1500 North.

"Closing the Gap"

Area Artists Association will host "Closing the Gap," a motivational, strategic talk by Sergio Gomez and Dr. Yanina Gomez, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Sergio Gomez is an artist and gallery director in Chicago. Dr. Yanina Gomez is a psychologist who specializes in practical resources for artists. They will share personal stories on how to face obstacles in one's creative life.

Blues & Brews at Taltree

Chicago blues legend John Primer will headline the Blues & Brews concert Saturday, Sept. 17, at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens.



Two-time Grammy nominee John Primer will headline the Blues & Brews concert.

The event kicks off at 6 p.m. with Valparaiso's The Ben Franklin Blues Project from Ben Franklin Middle School. The group is the brainchild of eighthgrade U.S. history teacher Scott Cvelbar, who uses blues as a tool to teach about the African-American experience during Black History Month. In March, students begin performing the songs they've studied with the help of Ben Franklin staff members and local professionals.

Up next is Valparaiso-based The Planetary Blues Band, which features brothers Martin, Bobby and Michael Schaefer-Murray and friend Nick Evans. The group, which has shared the stage with Son Seals and Buddy Guy, performs throughout the Midwest.

Primer, a two-time Grammy nominee, is one of the last traditional Chicago blues men with Mississippi roots. He has performed with the likes of Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy and Lonnie Brooks. He was named Traditional Bluesman of the Year at the 2016 Blues Music Awards and received his second Grammy nomination in 2016 for Best Blues Album of the year for the "Muddy Waters 100" album.

Craft beers will be sold and food trucks on site. Carry-in alcohol and smoking are prohibited.

Tickets, which are \$15, are available at www.taltree.org or on site the day of the show. Call (219) 462-0025 or email info@taltree.org for details.

Taltree is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Proceeds from the concert aid the nonprofit environmental organization's conservation, restoration and education initiatives.

Community Forum

A community forum, "The Abrahamic Religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism — How Alike Are We?" is at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, in the undercroft at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The panel includes: Bishop Donald Hying, diocese of Gary/Merrillville; Imam Saved Mohammad Hanif Shah, Islamic Center of Michigan City; Rabbi Reni Dickman, Sinai Temple, Michigan City; and the Rev. Ericka Parkinson-Kilbourne, First Presby-

Each panel member will speak about the main precepts of their faith, followed by a question-andanswer period.

The program is sponsored by Concerned Citizens for Syrian Refugees.

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"Inspiring Women" Luncheon



Botts

Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce's "Inspiring Women" Luncheon & Program is from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at Blue Chip Casino.

Environmentalist Lee Botts and film producer Pat Wisniewski will discuss, and show clips from, their collaborative effort "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability."

The 60-min-

ute film highlights the strength, leadership and resolve of Botts and others committed to preserving Northwest Indiana's landscape for future generations.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Stardust Event Center. The luncheon is open to the public, and not just women. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$30 for



Wisniewski

chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Registration is required. Call (219) 874-6221 or visit MichiganCityChamber.com to pay or for more information.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• South Shore Scribes at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15.

The writing group meets the first and third Thursdays each month.

• Bookmarks: Elin Hilderbrand's "Here's to Us" at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

Jessica Hoffmaster is the reviewer.

• Film showing: "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.

The library is showing the Johnny Depp-Tim Burton version (2005) in celebration of Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. Light refreshments will be served. Youth 18 and younger are eligible to win a DVD of the movie.

• Understanding Your Dreams at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.

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

• Films on DVD Series: "Hello My Name is Doris" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18.

The series is co-sponsored with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Series.

• International Talk Like a Pirate Day at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19.

Meet at the Youth Services Department for the family program.

• Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 20 and 27, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 21 and 28.

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• Night Time Story Time at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Wear pajamas and take a stuffed animal to the family story time.

• MCPL Steam Ahead Kids: Ozoblockly with Ozobots! at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Appropriate for youth 7-18, program Ozobots through mazes using the Ozoblockly app. Registration is required, in-person only, at the Youth Services desk.

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

Shopping Cart Parade

The Homeward Bound Shopping Cart Parade, which supports local agencies that provide housing, shelter and support services, is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 818 Franklin St.

Participants can form teams, decorate carts and raise money for the effort to fight homelessness.

Contact Leigh Coburn at leigh.coburn@comcast. net or (219) 561-1068 for more details.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City will host the program "Protecting, Expanding and Improving Our Urban Forests" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.

Holly Jones, executive director of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light in Indianapolis and former Indiana Urban Forest Council executive director, will discuss how residents can become interested and involved with the well being of their city's trees, woods and forests. If time allows, she may share how HIPL has added to metropolitan tree canopies.

Also, as a chapter of Northwest Indiana Green Drinks along with Valparaiso and Gary, Michigan City will celebrate receiving a Green Light Award and being inducted into the Bicentennial Green Legacy Hall of Fame by SustainableIndiana 2016 last month in South Bend.

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks events are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 874-4076 for details.

Youth Orchestra Auditions

Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra will have auditions for students in grade school through college from 6 to 8:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 20-21, at Upton Middle School, 800 Maiden Lane, St. Joseph, Mich.

The youth orchestra is one of several educational programs through Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Directed by Burke Lokey, Joe Oprea and Beth Oeseburg, the Youth Orchestra, Encore Strings and Concert Strings rehearse Monday nights during the fall and spring of each school year. They perform four public concerts: a fall concert, holiday concert, spring concert and "Side by Side" concert with SMSO.

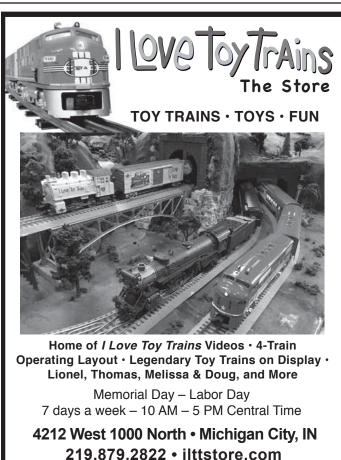
Visit tinyurl.com/zqfhw4r for audition requirements. Students should call the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 to schedule an audition time.

Healthy Minds Matter Fair

Healthy Communities of La Porte County and the Health Council of La Porte County will host the first Healthy Minds Matter Fair from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at 301 E. Eighth St., Michigan City.

The free event includes presentations on mental health topics, a panel discussion, Q&A, health vendors and activities. Free snacks, raffle items and giveaways also are planned.

Contact Jennifer Olson at (219) 210-3499 or jennifer@healthycommunitieslpc.org for details.





Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

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

• Apples, Apples from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17-18, at Chellberg Farm.

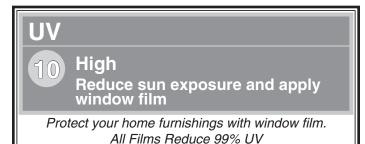
Celebrate apples through traditional music, crafts and farming demonstrations. Use an old-fashioned apple cider press before trying a free sample. The Chellberg/Bailly parking lot is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

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.

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the former St. Mary School, 321 W. 11th St.

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



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

Friday, Sept. 16

• 6 p.m. — Dunes Birds and Brews.

Part of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, join other wild bird enthusiasts at Chesterton's Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive, for the bimonthly social event that includes a specific theme and prizes.

Saturday, Sept. 17

• 10 a.m. — Trek to the Paw Paw Patch.

Meet at the Wilson Shelter to hike down Trail 2 to visit the many Paw Paw patches, and search for some "Indiana Bananas."

• 2 p.m. — Tree ID Trek.

Meet outside the Nature Center to explore simple ways to ID trees in the park and in any backyard.

• 5 p.m. — Twilight Photo Workshop.

Local art photographer Jesse Meyer will share techniques refined from years of shooting land-scapes after dark. An overview of important camera settings and post-production techniques at the Nature Center precede an outdoor shooting session at dusk. The workshop is a primer to novice night photographers, touching on advanced concepts for experienced shooters looking to expand their tool kit. A digital camera with manual/bulb settings and tripod are required. Remote shutter release/remote and flashlight are recommended. Registration is limited and can be made by calling (219) 926-1390. The program is part of the Arts in the Parks series.

Sunday, Sept. 18

• 10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.

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

• 2 p.m. — An Apple a Day!

Meet at the Nature Center Program Area for an apple quiz while making apple treats over the campfire.

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.

Read The Beacher On Line http://www.thebeacher.com/



Purdue Northwest Success Forum

One of Northwest Indiana's successful sons returns home Thursday, Sept. 22, to discuss his life — from athletics to finance — at Purdue University Northwest's Success Forum.

Napoleon Brandford III will share perspectives, advice and lessons learned during the free presentation, "Build Your Brand, Live Your Mission," at 10:50 a.m. in the Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, Room 1113. A reception of light refreshments is planned afterward.



Brandford also will address student groups.

An East Chicago native, he first attracted Northwest Indiana attention on the basketball court as a contributor to former Roosevelt High School's unbeaten run to the 1970 Indiana high school state championship. He graduated from the former Purdue University Calumet before carving a niche as a partner with Siebert Brandford Shank Inc., the only small, national investment company to be ranked among the top 10 firms on Wall Street in 2010.

Student Haley Miller, a double major in leadership and nursing, will facilitate the forum.

The Success Forum aims to encourage students and Northwest Indiana residents to strategically explore opportunities to maximize success in their lives. Call (219) 989-2595 for details.

Bison-tennial Bill Auction

Bison-tennial Bill, a Bicentennial Public Art Project in partnership with the La Porte County Indiana Bicentennial Committee, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Sealed bids are being accepted, with the winner revealed at the "After the Torch Run Party" at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Washington Park's North Point Pavilion. The event includes music, food and a cash bar.

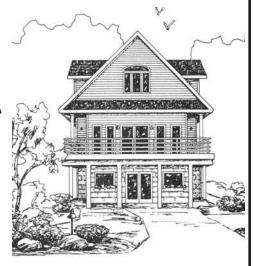
For Bison-tennial Bill, a public art project, a call went out for La Porte County artists to decorate a 5-foot-tall fiberglass bison for public display throughout the county. Sierra Mullican, La Porte, an art student at Indiana University-South Bend, decorated the La Porte County bison. Makenzie Marie Roberts, a fourth-grader at Lake Hills Elementary School in Michigan City, provided the name Bison-tennial Bill.

The bison is valued at \$1,500. Bidding starts at \$100, with increments of \$50. Email Mitch Bishop at mbishop@laportecounty.org for details.

The state's goal is that at least one, if not a herd, of bison will be on display in each of Indiana's 92 counties.



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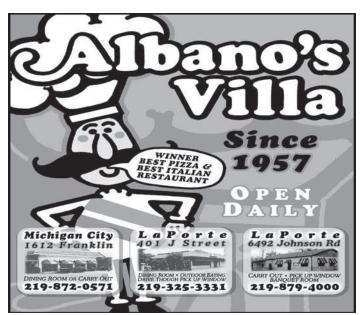
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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues



9-Hole League

Sept. 1, 2016 Event: Trash Em

"A" Flight

Event:Eunie NondorfLow Net:Donna HennardLow Putts:Eunie Nondorf

"B" Flight

Event: Mary Weithers, Susan Keeley Low Net: Susan Keeley Low Putts: Joan Carey, Weithers, Keeley

"C" Flight

Event: Tina Sonderby
Low Net: Dottie Healy
Low Putts: Rima Binder, Tina Sonderby

"D" Flight

Event:Alison KolbLow Net:Kathie MoleLow Putts:Regina Bradley

Birdies

Eunie Nondorf Hole 5

Sunken Approach

Connie Sullivan Holes 3 and 9
Marge Walsh Hole 18
Tina Sonderby

LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League



Aug. 30, 2016

Event: Best Chance to Win

"A" Flight

Event: Eunie Nondorf

"B" Flight

Event: Melanie Davis
"C" Flight

Event:

"D" Flight
Event: Alison Kolb

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



Sept. 8, 2016 Event: Low Net

"A" Flight

Event: Kathy Kenefick
Low Gross: Eunie Nondorf
Low Putts: Eunie Nondorf

"B" Flight

Event: Marge Walsh
Low Putts: Marge Walsh

"C" Flight

Event:Babs WardLow Gross:Tina SonderbyLow Putts:Babs Ward

"D" Flight

Event: Alison Kolb **Low Gross:** Nancy Thill

Low Putts: Regina Bradley, Jean O'Neill

Sunken Approach

Kathy Kenefick Hole 16

LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League



Sept. 6, 2016 Event: Regular Golf

"A" Flight

Low Gross:Eunie NondorfLow Net:Eunie NondorfLow Putts:Eunie Nondorf

"B" Flight

Low Gross: Donna Hennard, Kathy Peters
Low Net: Donna Hennard
Low Putts: Donna Hennard

"C" Flight

Low Gross:Mary WeithersLow Net:Mary WeithersLow Putts:Rima Binder

"D" Flight

Low Gross:Nancy ReinertLow Net:Nancy ReinertLow Putts:Jayne Krol

Sunken Approach

Lisbeth Slattery Hole 2 Alison Kolb Hole 13

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Sept. 15 — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 15 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5, \$2/students. Info: (219) 874-4076.

Sept. 16 — Bookmarks: Elin Hilderbrand's "Here's to Us," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 16 — Dunes Birds and Brews, 6 p.m., Chesterton's Craft House, 711 Plaza Drive.

Sept. 16 — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 16-19 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing*: "Indignation." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also*: "Captain Fantastic." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also*: Rick Erwin's local documentaries, "Going Rolling" and "Looking for Apple Ken," and Q&A. Both films not rated. Time: Noon Sept. 17. Cost: Adults — \$10, seniors/students — \$8. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Sept. 17 — St. Stanislaus Catholic Church farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Sept. 17 — 18th Annual Sunflower Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan Ave. & Lincolnway, La Porte. Info: www.sunflowerfair.com

Sept. 17 — Homeward Bound Shopping Cart Parade, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 818 Franklin St. Info: (219) 561-1068, leigh. coburn@comcast.net

Sept. 17 — Walk to assist Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North. Check-in/9 a.m., walk/10 a.m. Info: www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana

Sept. 17 — Film showing: "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 17 — Trek to the Paw Paw Patch, 10 a.m., Wilson Shelter @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 17 — Oh Yeah! Music Festival, 11 a.m.-midnight, Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets (Seventh & Wabash streets). Tickets/info: ohyeahmusic-festival.com

Sept. 17-18 — Apples, Apples, Apples, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 17-28 — Celebration of the Arts, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat./11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun., Schoolhouse Shop, 278 E. County Road 1500 North, Furnessville.

Sept. 17-18 — Harbor Country Opera, "La Tra-

viata," 8 p.m. EDT Sat./4:30 p.m. EDT Sun., The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25/side sections, \$35/center sections. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Sept. 17, 21 — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat./4-8 p.m. Wed., Eighth and Washington streets. Info: tinyurl. com/hhaajz2

Sept. 17, 24 — Pokémon Go History Hikes, 5 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$2. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Sept. 18 — Films on DVD Series: "Hello My Name is Doris," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 18 — Double Take Tour, 3 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$10/adult, \$5/youth 15 & younger. Info: Visit (219) 873-1520, www.barkermansion.com

Sept. 21 — MCPL Steam Ahead Kids: Ozoblockly with Ozobots!, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

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

Through December — Michael Koscielniak's "Collages in Dimension," Purdue University Northwest Technology Building first-floor, north-study area. Building hours: 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 785-5593, jnjacobi@pnw.edu

Farther Afield:

Sept. 17 — Run to the Center of the World, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Registration/packet pickup: 8-9 a.m. 10K Run: 9 a.m. 5K Run & Walk: 9:15 a.m. Awards: 10:30 a.m. All times Eastern. Registration: tinyurl.com/zs3omtf

Sept. 17 — Blues & Brews concert, 6 p.m., Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Tickets: \$15. Info/reservations: (219) 462-0025, info@taltree.org

Sept. 18 — Meet-the-artist reception, Barb Lucas' "Through the Lens Naturally," 1:30 p.m., The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Artist Talk at Lubeznik

Learn more about the stories and photographs behind the exhibit "Project Simple: Capturing Silent Conversations" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The talk by husband-and-wife duo Chelsea Nix and Mariano Cortez is free. The two use the camera to share individual stories, and help indigenous communities in Third World countries. For the exhibit, they focused their lens on India and Nepal.

The exhibit runs through Oct. 28.

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Help needed with housework in Rolling Prairie. Approx. 12 hours per week. Send resume/information attn: Housework ad to The Beacher, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Long Beach Country Club is now hiring: AM/PM Banquet and Dining Room Server (must be 21, experience preferred). Must be a team player and dependable. Shifts vary depending on clubhouse needs. Pay ranging from \$9 - \$22/hour (availability dependent). Apply in person, Tues-Sat, noon-3pm. Or download and mail application: www.longbeachcc.org, 2309 Larchmont Ave., Long Beach, IN 46360

GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

The Fall Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman's resale clothing event, is scheduling appointments now through Oct. 7 to consign up to 30 items for resale. To participate email whatsnexta@comcast.net or call Susan Vissing at (219) 861-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F,10 a.m.-4 p.m., plus weekend dates of Sun., Sept. 25, and Sat., Oct. 1. Be sure to bring a fall coat, jacket, sweater or handbag to donate, with proceeds benefiting Samaritan Center. For more details ask for the "participation guidelines."

Shopping dates:
Friday, Oct. 14, 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends.
Saturday, Oct. 15 & 22, 10-2 p.m. open to the public
Sunday, Oct. 23, Noon-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day
Saturday, Oct. 29, 10-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day.
Long Beach Community Center

Studio # 11 2501 Oriole Trail. GARAGE SALE: tools, household items, furniture. Sat., Sept 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 2904 Lothair Way, Long Beach. Rain or shine.

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United Way Campaign Kickoff

United Way of La Porte County will host its 2016 campaign kickoff from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex at Purdue Northwest.

The event, part of Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours, will include Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce and Westville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Visit www.unitedwaylpc.org for more details.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Ana Isabel: a respectable girl by Antonia Palacios. Translated into English by RoseAnna Mueller (paperback, \$13, through the Internet sites for Amazon and Barnes & Noble)

Big surprises come in small packages! The proof is in this 110-page novel you won't find on *The New York Times* best-seller list; nonetheless, it is an important piece of world literature.

Let me explain.

The author, Antonia Palacios (1904-2001), is regarded as one of the most important and prolific Venezuelan writers of the 20th century. She was also a civil rights activist and prominent feminist.

She published the book in 1949, and in 1976 became the first woman to receive the Venezuelan National Prize for Literature.

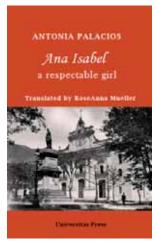
The translator is RoseAnna Mueller of Grand Beach, Mich. She is professor emerita at Columbia College Chicago, where she taught Latin American literature and art. A teaching/research Fulbright Scholarship took her to Venezuela in 2002-2003, when she taught Latin American Women's Writing at the *Universidad de los Andes*, Merida. While there, she discovered the works of Palacios, whose poetic writing style was a departure from literature of the day. Taken with the novel <u>Ana Isabel: a respectable girl</u>, she obtained permission from Palacios' estate, and now gives us the first English translation of this amazing book.

That's the background. Now, here's a little more about Ana Isabel Alcantara and her sometimes joyous, sometimes sad life in Caracas, Venezuela, in the 1920s...

Caracas in this time period was not the great cosmopolitan city of today. The discovery of oil and subsequent boom in the economy wasn't to happen for a few years. So, we are introduced to a society still steeped in the traditions of the past colonial era, its class-based system keeping people locked into their "place." It would take more time to pass before social mobility would be achieved.

In this time period, we see children of all races and classes playing together, and this is how we learn about life in Caracas, not in the politics of the time, but through the eyes of 8-year-old Ana Isabel and her friends. Her story is a mixture of prose, poetry and a child's view of the world — simple and loving. Ana Isabel has blond hair, a genetic nod to the German side of her family. But no one thinks she is pretty. It's her brother, Jaime, who has everyone's eye. What a handsome boy!

Ana Isabel spends her days in the Plaza Candelaria playing games and singing songs with her friends. She has little idea yet of the scope of class



distinctions. There is a black woman, Estefania, who walks her to school each day and is the family servant. But Ana Isabel only knows that she tells great ghost stories.

Ana Isabel's father best explains their higher status in this multi-layered society: "Alcantara blood will not mix with plebeian blood! We have a very spotless coat-of-arms...And we don't have any money: proof that we're not thieves or scoundrels..."

Natives and black servants were at the bottom of the social ladder. Ana Isabel learns this one day when she is invited to a birthday party for a wealthy friend. She

innocently asks a black girl, Carmencita, to go with her. Carmencita is quickly stopped at the door and told to leave. This is Ana's first confrontation with the lingering class system. When asked why Carmencita couldn't go to the party, she is told, "When you are older, you'll understand." Not much of an explanation for an 8-year-old to comprehend.

I love the way I could follow Ana Isabel through the streets and alleys, hear her thoughts on everything around her. As adults, we've lost the magic, that sense of wonder. One of my favorite lines in the book happens one day in geography class: Ana Isabel asked Cecilia what she thinks of the ocean — "The sea? It's a sky that moves." How lovely!

Ana Isabel dreams of running away, of funerals, of wondering why there are poor people — "If everyone was rich, it would put an end to the poor. It would be the end of the poor."

The reader follows Ana Isabel on a field trip to a piñata party, and most amusing, getting ready for her first confession in church. She has been given a book listing sins, but some don't make sense to her — "Don't fornicate." All the teacher said was "it's a sin girls can't commit." After reading the book, she ends up thinking she has committed all kinds of sins and gets tongue-tied in the confessional!

This is an amazing piece of literature. Like Professor Mueller, it's a great piece on cultural diversity and would make an outstanding read for middle and high school students — adults, too. Education combined with an open mind are the first steps to mutual respect and understanding — something the world desperately needs right now.

Harbor Country Book Club, of which Mueller is a member, is using <u>Ana Isabel</u> as its Sept. 29 selection. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. EDT at New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Club meetings are always listed in *The Beacher*; and new members are welcome.

Till next time, happy reading!



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