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Life Skills

by Kayla Weiss



Amy Armstrong, a teacher assistant with The Social & Learning Institute, chats with Barbara and Bill as they work on art projects at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Photo by Paul Kemiel

Each morning, Bill looks forward to saying The Pledge of Allegiance. Barb loves to start the day off by giving everyone hugs.

By far, what they both enjoy the most is arts and crafts. Fresh from a class at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., Bill and Barb appear extremely eager to show off their *papier-mâché* creations. Bill, an “all-American guy,” as staff at The Social & Learning Institute describe him, is a huge Chicago White Sox fan, so he created a *papier-mâché* rendering of one of the

players. Barb, who creates anything and everything, shows off a striking figure painted black and red and covered in chains.

Bill and Barbara are two of the institute’s longest running members, having attended courses and activities since the institute opened its doors in 1976.

I had the pleasure of speaking with them, their families and staff at the institute, which has been in operation 42 years, thanks in the early days to dedicated volunteers led in large part by the late Mar-



**The Social
& Learning Institute**

Where Socializing & Learning are Key to Growth

Continued on Page 2

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Life Skills

Continued from Page 1

guerite Gardner and James Guerrucci. The latter, in fact, served as teacher and institute director for 39 years until his passing in March 2015.

“We do everything we can to make sure we are living up to our name and Jim’s memory,” the institute’s executive director, Debbie Sellers, said. “It’s the institute’s desire to honor and continue his legacy.”

The institute, located at 201 E. Garfield St. in Michigan City, remains a valuable community asset, with a simple, direct mission: “We strive to help individuals with developmental disabilities expand their minds, learn important life skills and recog-

following:

- Providing a social learning program.
- Programs that emphasize self-help, motor, language and speech development, daily living and pre-vocational training, and adjustment skills.
- Fellowship and resources for individuals, families and the community.

The institute’s origins date back to between 1973 and 1976, when the LaPorte County Therapy Center in Michigan City played host to a state-funded experimental program called the Adult Activities Class. It provided a safe, supportive environment for people with disabilities to thrive.

However, program funding ended in the spring of 1976, replaced instead by a new program that



The Social & Learning Institute building on Garfield Street.

nize their worth through a structured balance of socialization and learning activities.”

The institute derives its name from two of life’s personal growth activities: socializing and learning. Through the courses and activities offered, the students are able to learn new skills, socialize with others and learn about the world around them.

Staff go about achieving that mission through the

emphasized vocational skills. Unfortunately, the new program excluded many prior participants who were more severely disabled and unable to learn the skills taught.

From that sudden need to serve those the vocational program could not, countless volunteers, led by Gardner and Guerrucci, helped birth what today is known as The Social & Learning Institute. Aiding



James Guerrucci



Marguerite Gardner

the cause was the late State Sen. Anita Bowser, who assisted with the process of becoming a non-profit entity. Bowser also is credited with having inspired the institute's name.

The inaugural class had only five students, one teacher and six volunteers. Today, the institute has grown to accommodate 28 students, four regular part-time staff and multiple volunteers. Program leaders include familiar faces in the local arts community, including Debra Sawyer for art, Dennis Brittain for music and Marsha Wenig for yoga.

The institute is privately funded, with no dollars coming from local, state or federal government. A monthly fee is assessed for each student. Scholarships are available on a limited basis.

The institute also celebrated a considerable expansion/renovation project in 2013 designed by Michigan City's dh2w Architecture.

Bill's brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Cheryl, have nothing but praise when discussing the positive impact the institute has had on him.

"Since Bill has attended The Social & Learning Institute, he has improved on his social skills, household living skills, and he loves being a helper to his classmates as well," they wrote in an email to *The Beacher*.

"Over the years, Bill had developed skills which have helped him to be much more independent, confident and self-sufficient. He looks forward to every day he knows he will be attending."

Bob and Cheryl also stressed how they appreciate the safe, clean environment where Bill and others with disabilities can thrive, make friends and have fun.

"It is impressive how long The Social & Learning Institute had been in operation, and how long some of the staff and students have been there," they said. "The staff truly care about their students and helping them learn and develop their skills to the best of their abilities."

Frances, Barb's sister, told *The Beacher* she is impressed as well with how much confidence Barb has because of her experience with the institute.

Continued on Page 4

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Life Skills

Continued from Page 3

"Earlier this year, Barb lost her sister Virginia and was faced with being alone for the first time in her entire life," Frances said. "It was her confidence in what she was taught at The Social & Learning Institute that sustained her. She deeply misses her sister, but has blossomed and become enlivened by her newly found independence."



Photographed with Bill and Barbara are Teacher Assistant Shirley Dolph (left) and Executive Director Debbie Sellers (right). Photo by Paul Kemiel

Frances says because Barb could not attend public school, no other alternatives existed for her at the time. The institute gave her opportunities she might not have had available in the community.

"All of the life skills that she has learned have come from The Social & Learning Institute," Frances said.

So what's the secret to the institute's success?

The staff realize the needs for each student are unique, requiring individualized plans and goals. All of the classes are specifically designed to stimulate and engage students, and enhance a short- and long-term sense of self-help, motor skills, language and speech development. The philosophy behind the institute is that everyone can learn a new skill, so

the goal is encouraging that within their students.

Physical exercise, for example, may include yoga, swimming and bowling. Adult daily living and leisure skills may emphasize meal planning and preparation skills, computer usage, basic technology, public library use, and music and art therapy.

Indeed, learning is balanced out by plenty of opportunities to have fun, whether it be trips to the library, holiday and birthday celebrations, or recognizing a student of the week.

The institute also has begun teaching students sign language.

"We recently had a student sign up who was unable to hear, so suddenly, we saw the extreme need for the students to learn a skill like ASL (American Sign Language)," Sellers said. "Now, our teachers sign everything they do and say during their course instruction, and the students follow along, learning two skills at once."

That care, and loving attention to detail, is something the family members of those served by the institute greatly appreciate.

"Not only has Barb been taught life skills," Frances said, "she has also been taught how to be the best she can be (through) being part of a community of such caring people whose sole purpose is Barbara's, and her classmates', well-being."



Bill and Barbara say arts and crafts at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is something they enjoy. Photo by Paul Kemiel

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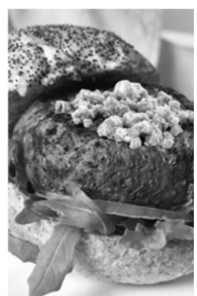




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Spielberg Back in Fine “Spielberg” Mode with “Ready Player One”

by Andrew Tallackson

Gotta hand it to Steven Spielberg. At 71, he’s cranking out movies with more oomph and ingenuity than directors half his age.

With “Ready Player One,” Spielberg is back in full “Spielberg” mode: playful, inventive, embracing his fantastical inner child. And Ernest Cline’s 2011 novel – wildly clever sci-fi nostalgia and prophecy – is his cup of geek tea.

The essence of Cline’s tale carries over into the film, which on its own is one enormous Easter egg. It may take 10 or so viewings just to catch *half* the visual cues, gags and pop culture references. While it lacks the heart of a Spielberg classic, it *is* loads of fun.

Cline helped pen the screenplay, so the core story remains intact. In 2045, the planet is an overpopulated slum where the only escape is a virtual world called the Oasis. You can be anything you like, do anything you please, embark on any adventure that tickles your fancy. The hero is Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), a crafty 18-year-old living in The Stacks – the book’s iconic image, brilliantly rendered by Spielberg – a dump that’s basically a trailer park, but with the trailers stacked atop each other.

For the past five years, Wade and millions of others have been playing a game created by the late founder of the Oasis, James Halliday (“Bridge of Spies” Oscar-winner Mark Rylance, beautifully nuanced). Halliday was like Steve Jobs meets Willy Wonka. Victors in his game require Asperger-like retention of ‘80s pop culture. The top prize? Halliday’s entire fortune, and control of the Oasis.

That’s where the bad guys come in: the video game conglomerate Innovative Online Industries, which wants control of the Oasis and is headed by Nolan Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn, carrying over his “Rogue One” snarl).

Cline sprinkled into his novel a plethora of ‘80s references, from Atari video games to movies like “The Dark Crystal” and “The Last Starfighter.” However, his tributes were intensely focused: Wade was a kid who, in the real world, existed on a TV diet of “Family Ties” reruns. Halliday’s game required its

players to exist as characters in “War Games” and “Blade Runner,” cognizant of every minute detail to advance to the next round.

I suspect the royalties to reproduce what Cline envisioned were too expensive, and that’s where the movie detaches from the book. In Spielberg’s world, the Oasis is everything Warner Bros., which released “Ready Player One,” could get its hands on. The fun of the movie is hunting down as many Easter eggs as possible. The nods

I caught, and these are just a handful of them: “King Kong,” “Friday the 13th,” “A Nightmare on Elm Street,” “Child’s Play,” “Lord of the Rings,” “The Iron Giant,” “Robocop,” “Batman” and video games like “Minecraft” and “Sonic the Hedgehog.” “Back to the Future,” directed by Spielberg pal Robert Zemeckis, gets its share of winks, complete with Wade’s souped-up DeLorean and an affectionate score by none other than “Back to the Future” composer Alan Silvestri. The gem of the movie is a laugh-out-loud excursion into “The Shining” that reproduces every detail of the Stanley Kubrick helmed/Stephen King loathed chiller.

In some ways, Spielberg improves on Cline’s novel by streamlining the third act, which stumbled on its way to a rousing finish. The movie, by comparison, zips along with

rarely a lull.

There’s just one problem. A Spielberg classic is as emotional as it is adrenaline-charged. Olivia Cooke and Lena Waithe are ideally cast as the ultimate video game fantasies, but Sheridan, as Wade, is underwhelming, his face a blank slate in a role that requires him to be in just about every scene.

The novel also did a better job exploring how, in today’s world of iPhones and technology that place entertainment at our fingertips, we’ve forgotten how to interact with each other. That element exists in the film, but it feels rushed, the message an afterthought.

Then again, that may be Spielberg’s intention. If the book wanted you moved and thrilled, the director just wants us to go on a lark: eye candy that’s a wild blast of a trip down memory lane.

On that level, “Ready Player One” is killer.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Tye Sheridan stars in Steven Spielberg’s “Ready Player One.”



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“Annie” Marks Fifth Show in Footlight Season

Footlight Players will present the beloved musical “Annie” as the fifth entry in its latest season, with performances set for April 6-8, 13-15 and 20-22 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

In the play, set in 1930s New York City, Little Orphan Annie (Maddi Ames) is determined to find her real parents after they left her at the orphanage run by the boozy Miss Hannigan (Amy Crane). She finds friends and family through Oliver Warbucks (Tom LeDonne) and Grace Farrell (Candace Archer).

Key to the story are Annie’s orphan buddies (Tatiana Miller, Eleanor Crane, Alli Fernandez, Sophia Bush, Raegan Smedley, Erin Ames), her dog, Sandy (Floral Antrim), Drake the butler (Jamel “Yogi” Williams), her enemies, Rooster and Lily (Andy Crane and Kristina Moore), Lt. Ward (Jim Snyder) and President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Thom Nelson). The chorus of street bums, presidential cabinet members, NYC night life and War-



Maddi Ames (front), Tom LeDonne (back, left) and Candace Archer appear in “Annie.”

bucks’ servants include Joe and Emma Blanchard, Kathy Chase, Michael Miller, Ian Pappas, Crystal Lundstrom-Sobus and Abigail Sobus.

Robert Komendera is the director, with Laura Meyer serving as assistant director. Shannon Wyels is the music/vocal director, with Lee Meyer playing keyboard. Denise Barkow is the choreographer.

Reservations are recommended. Times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Call the theater at (219) 874-4035 or visit www.FootlightPlayers.org for reservations.

“Drowsy Chaperone” Auditions

Footlight Players will have auditions for the comedy “The Drowsy Chaperone” from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday, April 8-9, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Performances are the first three weekends in June. The farce, which won five Tonys, centers on a die-hard fan who plays his favorite cast albums, while the characters all come to life.

No experience is necessary. Director Laura Meyer, Musical/Vocal Director Lee Meyer and Assistant Director Alayna Lauritsen will have those auditioning do cold readings from the script and sing a prepared vocal selection.

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Gregg Hertzlieb Relishes “The Possibilities of the Imagination”

by Linda Weigel



Gregg Hertzlieb

Inspired by nature and art, Gregg Hertzlieb uses characters and elements as fantasy or metaphor in “Time Ghost, Surrealism,” which runs April 6-May 6 at Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood.

On display are works in watercolor with pen/ink drawings, acrylics on wood and painted sculptures.

Gregg is the director/curator at

Valparaiso University’s Brauer Museum of Art. He holds a Master in Fine Arts from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago and a Master in Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He and his wife live in LaPorte. His message is “one of peace, delight and joy in the possibilities of the imagination.”

As a surrealist, Gregg follows a long-established tradition that has its roots in the mid-20th century *avant-garde* art and literary movement started by the poet Andre Breton. It began as a reaction against rationalism and the destructive horrors of World War I, drawing heavily on psychoanalysis, free association, dreams and the unconscious mind. Early 20th century visual artists included René Magritte,

Salvador Dali, Joan Miró and Max Ernst.

Magritte once said, “If the dream is the translation of waking life, waking life is also a translation of the dream.”

As a contemporary artist, Gregg finds that for him, surrealism represents “a different realm and different place to be expressive.” He is not relying on psychoanalysis and the unconscious as explorative devices, but rather on encountering things that speak volumes and personally resonate with him. He is strongly interested in evolution and the sense of time passing, which is reflective of his studies: collecting and appreciation of ancient fossils.

“The fossil is like a piece of art that existed at one time and still communicates its origin,” he said.

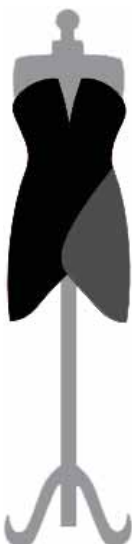
As do many surrealists, Gregg incorporates a range of symbols in his works. One of his key allegorical images is the fish. The fish has been around for millions of years, as seen in ancient fossilized samples. Yet, the fish seemingly remains the same and changes slowly.

Flagstones also are found in his work. They are a flexible tool in that they can change shape and position as they rotate across the page.

Another frequently used device is a mask-like face appearing as a benevolent observer. The red cardinal represents nature and the seasons — the rotation of one season to the next and one



A watercolor with pen and ink.



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year to the next. It also acts as a counterpoint to the fish. Butterflies represent metamorphosis, and he sees them as more feminine and lightly weighted. However, the moth — also natural and seasonal — is much hairier and heavier when compared to the butterfly and thus may appear more masculine.

Gregg's work has less to do with the high color of comic books and more to do with a "mild adventure narrative" — a narrative the viewer can comfortably enter and explore.

"I was never really interested in

realism," he said, "as realism was about matching one's work to something real, something visually in front of the artist."

He is drawn more to exploring and making his own world rather than trying to capture a scene accurately. Not surprisingly, such an attitude provides for him latitude and permission to make something fun for its own sake.



A three-dimensional work.

If You Go

An opening reception for "Time Ghost" is from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at The Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Center hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (773) 822-8086 or visit on Facebook at Miller Beach Arts & Creative District.



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BACK TO MY OBSESSION WITH LAKE MICHIGAN BEACH OWNERSHIP

Gunderson V. Long Beach, State of Indiana et al. Supreme Court decision came out Feb. 17, 2018. The issues were: a) how far toward the water do the Gundersons own and; b) what (if any) rights does the public enjoy along the edge of Lake Michigan in front of, or on, private properties.

Glass V. Goeckel in Michigan ruled a private person can own (*jus privatum*) down to the edge of the water, but the public (*jus publicum*) has rights to walk on private land along the edge of Lake Michigan from the water up to the point where recent action of the lake has left what I call "detritus" (water marks, twigs left behind in a line, a new cut in the foredune).

Glass ruled (because "walking" is all Glass sued for) that I can walk along a beach owned by a private party in the area where the water has left "detritus." I can walk on your land by a public right. Nothing said about what else I can do on the "*jus publicum*."

Gunderson ruled that the private owner only owns to the "detritus" mark. The *jus publicum* is owned by Indiana (not the private property owner as in Michigan) and is open to public use.

Then, the Indiana court "punted." After saying there have been various interpretations of what the public can do in the *jus publicum* area, the court only determined the public can walk along the beach. They said they leave whatever other activities might be permitted up to the other two branches of government to decide.

The Glass decision said nothing about anything other than walking. The Indiana decision raises questions about what we can do in the *jus publicum* of Michigan.

More to be decided in both states? I hope so. Michigan has not gone further in several years. But the Indiana Supreme Court has encouraged further definition of what the public can do in the *jus publicum* by the legislature or the executive branch.

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Jewish Film Festival

Two documentaries that delve into people facing differing life circumstances highlight the annual Jewish Film Festival from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. Sunday, April 8, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The free event is co-presented by the library, Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple. Refreshments are served.



"Dancing in Jaffa."

In "Dancing in Jaffa," directed by Hilla Medalia, renown ballroom dancer Pierre Dulaine takes his program, Dancing Classrooms, back to his birthplace, Jaffa. Teaching ballroom basics to the ethnically mixed population of children, they are forced to confront issues of identity, segregation and racial prejudice as they dance and compete together.

The film runs 90 minutes.

"Sugihara" is set in the fall of 1939, during Hitler's murderous wave sweeping through Eastern Europe. The documentary captures the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who set about saving thousands of Jewish refugees.

The film runs 90 minutes.

Contact Judy Jacobi, PNW assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collections and Special Programs, at (219) 785-5593 for more details.



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Poetry Slam @ Lubeznik Center

J.W. Baz, a national and World Poetry Slam finalist, returns to host the annual Poetry Slam event from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 6, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Part of First Friday Art Walk, admission is free to the event that attracts poets from across the region. Lite bites and a cash bar are planned.

Poets can showcase their works in the raucous, audience-juried event. Each poet can present one work. In tournament style, they are eliminated each round until one remains. Readings start at 5:30 p.m. Poets who wish to participate should prepare three original pieces, each under three minutes. They can register by contacting Hannah Hammond-Hagman at (219) 874-4900, Ext. 203, or hhammond@lubeznikcenter.org.



Baz

Baz has participated in slams across the country. He is half of the poetry-comedy duo Beard Fight (with Dan Sully), and has appeared on NPR and CBS, in *The Chicago Tribune* and numerous literary journals. He also is executive director of the non-profit Chicago Slam Works.

Guests also can view the Michigan City Area Schools Student Art Exhibit in the NIPSCO Education Studios through April 12. Ongoing is "Birds & Bees," where 10 artists share personal interpretations and connections to birds or bees through drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, mixed media, installation and video. That exhibit runs through June 2.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for details.

Trash & Treasure Sale

Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park will host its annual Trash & Treasure Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 7.

At the same time, the Parks & Recreation Department will have 2018 parking stickers as part of the annual "Sticker Saturday" event.

The Trash & Treasure Sale is an indoor flea market with more than 40 tables of gently used items and collectibles. WEFM will broadcast live from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by Aperion Care/The Arbors of Michigan City.

Parking stickers are free to Civil City residents, \$23 for Senior Center members who live outside Civil City limits, \$25 for LaPorte County residents, \$40 for all other Indiana residents and \$100 for out-of-state residents. Anyone receiving a sticker must have a current vehicle registration card. The temporary 8½x11 paper registration is not accepted.

Those who live outside Civil City limits, but own property within the limits, may receive a free sticker provided they take proof of the property they own, in addition to current vehicle registration. Acceptable documents include tax bills, current utility bills with their name and the address of the property within city limits.

"Mulan" Auditions

Young People's Theatre Co. and Michigan City Area Schools will hold auditions for "Disney's Mulan Jr." at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The production is open to youth ages 11-14. There is a \$20 costume fee per cast member.

The play is based on the 1998 Disney film. Performances are June 29-30 and July 1.

Rehearsals start April 16. The schedule is:

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturdays, 9-11 a.m.
- Starting June 4, 9 a.m.-noon daily Monday through Saturday.

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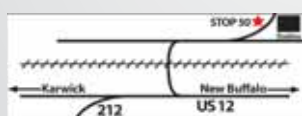
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Michigan City Public Library

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

• Sand Art Craft at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 5, in Youth Services.

Children 4 and older, accompanied by an adult, can make a craft using colored sand. All materials are provided, and children must be present to receive supplies.

• Jewish Film Fest at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 8, in the meeting room.

Two films will be shown: "Sugihara" and "Dancing in Jaffa." The screenings are in conjunction with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Art Series and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple. Refreshments are planned between movies.

• Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts at 11 a.m. Monday, April 9, at the center, 101 W. Second St.

The Story Time Crew takes its act to the center, with no admission charged. The program is appropriate for children up to age 5 accompanied by an adult.

• Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 9, in the meeting room.

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 20th season. The discussion is "Turkey: A Partner in Crisis." Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, April 10, 17 and 24, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, April 11, 18 and 25.

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

• Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast.

Tickets for the annual fundraiser, held April 21 at Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St., are \$25. Martin Papke will share his expertise on collector items. Guests can take one item for appraisal. Portofino Grill will cater breakfast. Tickets are available from Friends' board members and at the library circulation desk.

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

Friday the 13th Trivia Night

Junior Achievement will host Friday the 13th Trivia Night from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, April 13, at Silver Palace, 1719 State St., LaPorte.

The evening also includes prize giveaways and a silent auction. The cost is \$10 per ticket, or \$100 for a team of 10 (minimum of six players per table).

Registration ends April 13. Visit bbpnet.com/x13a for details and to register.

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Native Visions

For the fourth year, Southern Shore Art Association will host "Native Visions," an arts-and-crafts exhibit produced by Indiana State Prison's Native American Circle.

The exhibit runs through April 29, with a reception during First Friday Art Walk, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. April 6 at the gallery, 724 Franklin St.

The exhibit is curated by Karl and Kathy Dennis. Through the Native American Circle, Native American inmates with many different tribal affiliations meet weekly to study, learning to respect themselves, their families, their friends and their community. They also study Native American thoughts, philosophy and spirituality.

On view during the exhibit are paintings and Native American jewelry and crafts, all handmade. Proceeds from sales are split between:

- Camp New Happenings, which is run by the Episcopal Diocese in Northern Indiana. It provides a week-long experience for boys and girls ages 8-11 with an incarcerated parent(s).
- The Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, which collects, preserves, researches and interprets the history and heritage of the Potawatomi 1838 Trail of Death March from Indiana to Kansas.

During the opening reception, Native American flute instructor John Sarantos will perform. He has facilitated contemporary Native American flute workshops for more than 20 years, including at New York City's Open Center, at national cultural gatherings and intimate flute circles.

Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com or the SSAA facebook page for more details.



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Egg-cellent Adventure

Families were in abundance as the Seventh Annual Easter Egg Hunt commenced March 24 in Washington Park's Fedder's Alley. The event is hosted by Police Chief Mark Swistek, Capt. Ed Beutner, Mayor Ron Meer and the Michigan City Police Department. All photos by Paul Kemiel



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Women in Leadership Seminar

Women in Leadership of LaPorte County will present "Winning Grants Among 917 Competitors" from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 24, at Purdue University Northwest's Dworkin Student Services and Activities Center.

Patricia Doyle, St. Mary's College director of corporate, foundation and government, will reveal how to successfully win grants for an organization.

Doyle has written federal, state and local grants during her 40-year career in health care and community involvement in the arts. In 2005, she established Doyle and Associates, which focused on development and fundraising through grants. She joined



Doyle

St. Mary's College in 2012 and has since helped facilitate more than \$7 million in federal, corporate and foundation grants for the college.

Her career in health care included work with people with disabilities, geriatrics, mental health, sexual abuse, chemically addicted clients and at-risk adolescents.

The cost is \$40 for WILL members and \$50 for non-members. A continental breakfast will be served. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

The event is sponsored by Horizon Bank. Register at www.women-in-leadership.com or on the Women in Leadership of La Porte County Facebook page.

Group Exhibit @ Blink

Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., will host "Pages," a group exhibit guest-curated by Chicago-based artist Yoonshin Park, on April 6-May 27.

An opening reception is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 6.

The exhibit features six Chicago women who explored the notion of the "page," and using a variety of techniques. The artists are: Pamela Paulsrud; Rebecca Wolfram; Yvette Kaiser Smith; Allison Svoboda; Jennifer Mannebach; and Yoonshin Park.

Visit www.blinkcontemporaryart.com or call (219) 879-2994 for details.



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EDCMC Awards Dinner

The Economic Development Corp. Michigan City will host its 2018 Business Investment & Anniversary Awards Dinner from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel & Spa.

Held every two years, the event recognizes local companies that made substantial investments in their business, and honors businesses celebrating anniversaries. Also recognized are companies that located to Michigan City and made investments.

The keynote speaker is Becky Frankiewicz, president of ManpowerGroup North America.

Companies receiving Business Investment Awards include: Michigan City Paper Box; Williams National Lease; Sullair; Impreglon; SERA Solutions; LEF-CO; Vanair, Michigan City Chrysler Dodge Jeep and Ram; Cool Runnings; Holladay Properties; Reprographic Arts; Sonic Restaurant; and Edgewood Dental.

Table sponsorships and individual tickets are available. Make reservations at conta.cc/2u2OA6P or contact the EDCMC at (219) 873-1211.



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Low-Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

To help owners keep their dogs and cats healthy, and comply with animal-control ordinance, Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St., will host a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 7.

A licensed veterinarian will give the vaccinations. Services are available to all pet owners, but limited to the first 100 pets. The cost for basic vaccinations is \$18 each. An additional service available at a slightly higher price includes puppy vaccinations and heartworm tests.

Vaccinations available for dogs are rabies, distemper and Bordatella. Vaccinations for cats are rabies, distemper and feline leukemia. All dogs must be on leashes and all cats in carriers or secured containers.

It is the law in Michigan City that "all dogs and cats over 3 months old must have shots protecting them against contracting rabies." Pets also must wear tags at all times. Owners not in compliance are subject to expensive fines.

Michigan City pet regulations are:

- A dog may not run at large and must be kept on a leash unless in a fenced area.
- No more than three dogs and/or cats are allowed in a single residential unit.
- Pet owners must remove any animal waste deposited by their pet on public or private property immediately.
- All dogs and cats older than 3 months must have shots protecting them against rabies.
- All dogs and cats must wear tags at all times.
- Animals are prohibited on school grounds while school is in session, and in city parks and cemeteries at all times.
- Owners must keep dogs and cats in a clean, sanitary area where they are adequately sheltered.
- Owners must provide veterinarian care when needed.
- Dogs barking, molesting passersby, chasing vehicles or attacking domestic animals are considered "creating a nuisance" and will result in a fine and/or impounding of the animal.
- It is unlawful for a person to knowingly or recklessly abandon or neglect an animal.
- It is unlawful for an owner to conceal animals from law enforcement officers.
- It is unlawful to torture or kill animals.



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Box Top Champ



Max Olesker, a fourth-grader at Notre Dame Catholic School, collected the most box tops in a school-wide contest that ran Jan. 18-Feb. 16. To celebrate, Principal Natasha Magnuson took him and a friend, Kai Keehn, also a Notre Dame fourth-grader, to lunch March 23 at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. Max's class also was recognized for collecting the most box tops by grade. The annual fundraiser supports school endeavors. Max (right) is pictured with Magnuson and Keehn.

Lunch With the League

Craig Phillips, director of Michigan City's Planning and Redevelopment/Inspection Department, will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, April 10, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

Phillips' presentation will include information, updates and future projects, as well as questions and answers. The public is invited, and reservations are not required; however, a donation is requested from non-members. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and can buy lunch from the menu.

Visit LWVlaporte.org or email lwvlaporte@gmail.com for details.

First Saturday Hike

Gabis Arboretum (formerly Taltree) will host a free First Saturday Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. April 5.

A naturalist guides visitors through the arboretum, focusing on seasonal changes and interests.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Email ekapitan@pnw.edu or call (219) 462-0025 for details.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Teen Library Council, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 5, Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

• **Creepy Petting Zoo, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Tom McCarthy will show snakes from his collection. Children also will make a sparkly beaded snake to take home.

• **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, April 7, at Thomas Children's Department.**

Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime during the day (while supplies last) and make an egg wreath.

• **Teen Movie: "Justice League" at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Rated PG-13. Free popcorn will be offered.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 8, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cubes is invited, with all levels welcome. Email Eric Malapanes at ebmalapanes@gmail.com for details.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, April 9, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Katarina Bivald's "Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend."

• **Alzheimer's Association Presents "Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana, the program explores diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **Bits & Bytes series, Intro to Evernote, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

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.

• **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Westchester Township museum.**

Angel Goins will review Heather Graham's Krewe of Hunters series. Light refreshments will be served.

• **Peeps Diorama Extravaganza from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Thomas Library.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can create a diorama based on their favorite book, movie or TV show using marshmallow Peeps and other candies. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.



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Curatorial Roundtable

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host the first Curatorial Roundtable from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 12.

During the free, moderated discussion, a panel of established and emerging curators will discuss the role of the curator: generating exhibits that balance the relevant with the popular, and the political with the historical, while implementing interpretive and engaging exhibits for a variety of audiences.

The moderator is Michigan City resident Amanda Freymann, a partner at Glue + Paper Workshop,

a book-packaging company specializing in designing and producing museum publications. Joining her are five curators:

- Doug Stapleton, associate curator of art with the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery and an adjunct faculty in the interdisciplinary arts graduate program at Columbia College Chicago. He also is an artist and educator.

and curator of Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art. He teaches museum studies, managing facilities and printmaking, and serves as art editor for VU's journal, *The Cresset*.

- Sharmyn Cruz Rivera, a Puerto Rican curator based in Chicago whose practice examines the intermedial qualities of sound art, contemporary dance, installation and performance art. She also is a recipient of the 2017-2018 Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation Curatorial Fellowship.
- Jessica Cochran, a Chicago-based independent curator who in 2013 was named a "curator to watch" by *Chicago Magazine*. Academically and curatorially, her interests include emerging art, the history and theory of curatorial practice, art world studies, artists' books and social practice.
- Faheem Majeed, an artist, educator, curator and community facilitator. In 2015, he had his first solo museum exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and was selected as a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant Recipient.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.



Having a Blast



Barker Middle School students raised \$1,344 through the American Heart Association's "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser. Barker's twist was a free pass for fun on the last class period of the last day before spring break. This year, the event took place March 29. Students played either dodgeball or "Omnikin ball," which is played with a giant ball on a volleyball court. This year, 144 Barker students participated. The Barker Student Council and teacher adviser Mariah Pol spearheaded and promoted the effort. Teachers Bruce Parker and David Ortiz supervised gym activities. Parker, who has coordinated the school's Hoops for Heart fundraiser for many years, says Barker students have raised more than \$13,000 over the last decade for the AHA.

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Queen of All Saints Tourney Champs



The Queen of All Saints seventh- and eighth-grade boys basketball team won the 2018 PAC Basketball Tournament at Marquette on March 8, defeating Notre Dame 50-35. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Imran Khan, Andrew Oleksiuk, Kamran Khan, Joe Henrich and Reagan Hendricks. The back row is (from left) Assistant Coach Juliene Hendricks, Sam Johnson, Nick Lemon, Courtney Loper, Colin Thompson, Will Crane, William Buskirk, Jacob Zientarski and Head Coach Julie Lemon.

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Dunes Learning Center

The following events and programs are hosted by Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Chesterton:

• **Summer Camp Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7.**

Sample popular activities, tour camp facilities, meet the staff and ask questions about the upcoming summer.

• **"Ponds, Polliwogs and Pollinators: Connecting Species to Place Educators Workshop" from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 14.**

Learn how frogs and insects depend on vernal pools for survival, and how these habitats might be changing. The workshop culminates in a field trip to a nearby vernal pool.

While participants don't have to be educators, some activities can be used by educators, naturalists and other youth leaders working with upper elementary through high school-aged youth.

Indiana teachers can receive Professional Growth Points, and Illinois teachers CPDUs, for attending. The \$40 registration fee includes dinner and materials. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, April 5.



Visit duneslearningcenter.org to register or for more details.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

March 27, 2018

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	30	18
2. Bitchin Bowlers	29	19
3. Blind Side	28	20

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Cindy Beck	199
2. Lenore Hadaway	192
3. Mary Lou McFadden	173
4. Nancy Kubath	166
5. Celena Byrnes	165
6. Sue Labovitz	159
7. Dottie Brinckman	157
7. Barb McCorkel	157
8. Carrie Alexander	151

SPLITS

1. Sue Woodland	4-5
2. Ellie Parkerson	3-10

STRIKES

Four Strikes	Cindy Beck
Three Strikes	Lenore Hadaway, Cindy Beck



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.



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

- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon to 5 p.m. Friday, April 6.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 8.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, April 9.

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 details.

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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will replace water and sewer lines, and create a new streetscape.

New Buffalo DDA staff provided this information with answers to specific questions about the project:

Question: Is New Buffalo planning an "opening" upon completing the North Whittaker Street improvements?

Answer: New Buffalo is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony and street party for the community after the completion of phases II and III to celebrate the downtown redevelopment effort and contributions of the Pokagon Fund. Additional details will follow in the next few weeks.

Q: Why did the city decide on parallel parking on North Whittaker Street, and how many parking spaces will be available in the Central Business District after Phase III is completed (compared with pre-project spaces), and where are the spaces located?

A: The decision to convert to parallel parking on North Whittaker Street was based on discussions and feedback during numerous public meetings. Factors included safety, creation of a pedestrian-friendly downtown, developing a year-round CBD economy and the opportunity to create parking in adjacent areas.

After Phase III is complete, the total net, on-street parking spaces in the CBD will be an increase of 34 spaces. Angle and pull-in spaces are still available on Thompson, Barton, Mechanic and Merchant streets, in addition to the new parking lots at North Barton and West Mechanic streets.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

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



Barker Middle School seventh-grader Eric Wroblewski competed in the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair on March 24 in Indianapolis. He earned the "Pete Kissinger Entrepreneurial Spirit Award" in the Junior Division for his project, "Till — No Till," which explored the impact of tilling soil on corn yield. Wroblewski won second place in the Junior Biological Division at the Valparaiso University Regional Science & Engineering Fair before advancing to the state event.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Wildflower Wander from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 7.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for a jaunt to see which woodland spring wildflowers are blooming.

- **Snakes Alive! from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, April 7.**

Meet at the Nature Center to experience native snakes of the dunes.

- **Shipwreck Stories from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, April 8.**

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for an interactive program on Lake Michigan shipwrecks.

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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Ned E. Kalb Award Winner

Wanatah's Elaine Shurte is the recipient of the seventh annual Ned E. Kalb Community Leadership Award.



Pictured are Molly Kalb-Schroeder (from left), Ned Kalb's daughter, Elaine Shurte, the 2018 award winner, and Dee Kalb, Ned's wife.

Shurte is dedicated to Hanna United Methodist Church, La Porte County Extension Homemakers and South County Food Pantry. She started her community service and leadership years ago as a 4-H Club leader with the Cass MerryMakers. She also has been involved with the Wanatah Scarecrow Festival, Wanatah Chamber of Commerce, Wanatah American Legion Auxiliary and her church's Women's Group. Quietly, she loves to send cards to cheer up people, drop by for a visit and offer rides to sick or injured neighbors.

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

The annual leadership award is a partnership between the Purdue Extension La Porte County office and Leadership La Porte County. Kalb served as extension director for many years and was a catalyst for Leadership La Porte County's formation. He died in November 2011, and the award was created soon after to honor his memory. Previous award winners include: Herb Higgin (2017); Cynthia Hedge (2016); Diana Werner (2015); George and Dory Morley (2014); James Dworkin (2013); and John Coulter (2012).

Nominations for the next award will be taken starting in January 2019. Call (219) 325-8223 or (219) 324-9407 for details.

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

Barker Teacher Earns Fellowship



Mariah Pol, a Barker Middle School social studies teacher, has earned a third teacher fellowship in two years. Pol received the Gilder Lehrman Teacher Fellowship from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which hosts summer teaching seminars for social studies teachers. Educators across the nation apply, and each institute only accepts about 30 teachers. Pol was admitted to the seminar "Westward Expansion," which is from July 22-28 at the University of Colorado, Boulder. The fellowship includes an all-expense paid trip. The seminar is led by leading scholars in this time period.

Shirley Heinze Partnership Lunch

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a partnership luncheon for conservation partners and the general public Friday, April 13, at The Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend.

The keynote speaker is James Turnwald, executive director of the Michiana Area Council of Governments, the regional planning agency for St. Joseph, Marshall, Kosciusko and Elkhart counties. Turnwald will provide an update on its priorities and new initiatives, including regional mobility as a model for more comprehensive planning, and its role with entities like Shirley Heinze Land Trust.



Turnwald

Heinze Trust Executive Director Kristopher Krouse will speak about the organization's mission and work, and its plans for Lydick Bog, a 176-acre property containing one of the state's last remaining bog habitats.

Krouse also will describe plans to enhance public accessibility at the bog. A system of hiking trails and interpretive signage will be developed, with a parking lot, public restrooms and equipment storage structures to follow.

Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. EDT, followed by the program at noon EDT. Tickets and table sponsorships may be purchased at www.heinzetrust.org, or by contacting Bonnie Hawksworth at (219) 242-8558 or bhawksworth@heinzetrust.org. RSVPs are requested no later than Monday, April 9.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

April 5 — Sand Art Craft, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 6 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

April 6 — First Friday Poetry Slam, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

April 6 — Opening reception, "Pages," 5:30-8:30 p.m., Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St. Info: www.blinkcontemporaryart.com, (219) 879-2994.

April 6 — Opening reception, "Native Visions," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

April 6 — Adventures in Glass debut, 5-8 p.m., Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St. Info: risingphxgallery.com

April 6 — Kids Night In, 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. www.barkermansion.com

April 6-9 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "The Greatest Showman." Rated PG. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 — "Annie," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/\$10 kids 12 & younger. Reservations: www.FootlightPlayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

April 7 — Trash & Treasure Sale/Sticker Saturday," 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

April 7 — Wildflower Wander, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 7 — Summer Camp Open House, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Chesterton. Info: duneslearningcenter.org

April 7 — Teen Movie: "Justice League," 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 7 — Meet the Beetles, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$20/\$10 for \$18 & younger. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

April 8 — Jewish Film Fest, 1:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 8 — Shipwreck Stories, 2-2:45 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 9 — Story Time Crew, 11 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 9 — Popular Books, Katarina Bivald's "Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 9 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219)

873-3049.

April 10 — Lunch With the League, noon, Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: LWVlaporte.org, lwvlaporte@gmail.com

April 11 — Peeps Diorama Extravaganza, 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Through April 29 — Photography exhibit, "David Larson: 50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes," Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through May — "Up Up and Away!: A Look at Aerial Photography from La Porte County!," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

April 5 — First Saturday Hike, 10-11 a.m., Gabis Arboretum (formerly Taltree), 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Info: (219) 462-0025, ekapitan@pnw.edu

April 8 — Meet-the-artist reception, Patti Shaffner, "Multi-Media From Then to Zen," 1:30 p.m., Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

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

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Town of Long Beach Community Center
Part Time/20 hours/week

POSITION OVERVIEW: The activities coordinator will: oversee TLB Community Center programs, activities and events; identify the need for all proposed and ongoing programs or activities and their anticipated target audience; review all program development projects with TLB Community Center board members and TLB Park Board members; allocate resources accordingly and review and implement marketing and advertising efforts. The activities coordinator may coordinate activities and monitor activities on weeknights, weekends and holidays, and may need to perform emergency custodial maintenance work, such as set up tables, sports equipment, chairs for classes and programs.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: High school diploma or GED is required. Working experience in a Community Center environment or

other area of activity coordination is preferred.

Qualified candidates should send their resume to:

P. J. Krueger-HR Solutions, LLC

2608 Oriole Trail

Long Beach, IN 46360

FAX: (219) 872-0053

Email: pjksphr@comcast.net

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Dunescape Condo, 4th floor, 2BR/2BA, available now-May. \$1,100/mo+ utilities. Available June & July at market rate. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among \$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basketball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no pets. (312) 399-5341.

LB summer rental: July-August. Big, beautiful house ½ block from beach. 4BR/1BA. **Call (219) 210-1181.**

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Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers will resume rehearsals from 6 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 11, at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

Singers will prepare for a concert during Three Oaks' Civil War Days, which is July 28-29. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, April 11-May 23, with two additional practices in July prior to the performance.

Email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or call (269) 409-1191 for details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian
(hardcover, \$26.95 retail in bookstores and online;
also available as an eBook)

"Of course, that was the one constant in her life: she drank. Alcohol gave her pleasure and it gave her courage and it gave her comfort...it gave her the faith that whatever she was, was enough."

Meet Cassandra "Cassie" Bowden. Binge Drinker. Flight attendant for a major airline. Which title should come first is up for grabs. Yes, Cassie drinks. But only to excess.

She's now into her 40s with no permanent boyfriend, no kids, not even a goldfish. It's so much easier to hook up with some random man in a bar during a layover in some far away country, binge drink (part of) the night away and have sex. Fly back to New York City. Wait for next assignment. Repeat. It's a simple, but unfulfilling pattern.

On this latest assignment, Cassie flew NYC to Paris and now Paris to Dubai. Seeing to passengers in her section of the plane, she can't help but notice the handsome man who wants to talk to her. He is Alexander Sokolov, a hedge-fund manager on his way to Dubai for meetings. Of course, they agree to meet later. Once in his hotel suite, they no sooner get down to more drinking and the obligatory sex when a woman shows up at the door with a bottle of wine. She says her name is Miranda and will see Alex at tomorrow's meeting.

Needless to say, after Miranda's departure, the rest of the evening is a hazy, fade-to-black scene, but the real surprise comes in the morning along with the usual hangover. Cassie rolls over to find a very dead Alex lying next to her. His throat is cut. She panics, wipes everything down and sneaks out of the suite back to her hotel and the flight back to N.Y.C. Did she kill Alex in a drunken moment? Did someone sneak into the room and she was too drunk to notice? In Cassie's state of mind, it could go either way.

Of course, Alex's body is found that day and the news hits the airwaves.

The airline union rep comes calling on Cassie in New York...says they are talking to all the attendants on that flight to Dubai. He is followed closely by the FBI. It is apparent she cannot deny being with Alex, as hotel cameras show her coming and going. Only thing to do? Concoct a plausible story:

Alex was alive when she left the hotel room. Good story, Cassie, but will it be good enough? Maybe it's time to seek a lawyer...

There will be a lot of players in this fascinating study of guilt, subterfuge and stupidity.

Remember I mentioned the FBI? Now, why are they getting involved? It's complicated...

And that's what makes this such a multi-layered, intelligent read.

There's Miranda,...no one can locate her. Then there's some Russians. It seems "Miranda" is actually Elena, a Russian spy. Adding to Cassie's woes, the FBI questions her brother-in-law, an Army engineer who works with disposal of chemical weapons. Just where is this investigation going?

The burning question remains: who wanted to kill a nice guy like Alex? That question brings up more questions, and everyone — the FBI and the Russians — seems to think Cassie knows more than she is telling.

Ultimately, this is more than a murder-mystery because who kills Alex is soon revealed. Instead, the focus is the investigation and its effect on Cassie. She knows she lied, but she's also pretty sure she didn't kill Alex...maybe. The insecurity remains, the result of years of drinking and self-doubt. While Cassie drank to get lost, now she drinks to forget. What she should ask herself is, did she pick up Alex, or did Alex pick up her? That might answer a lot of questions because events aren't always what they appear to be.

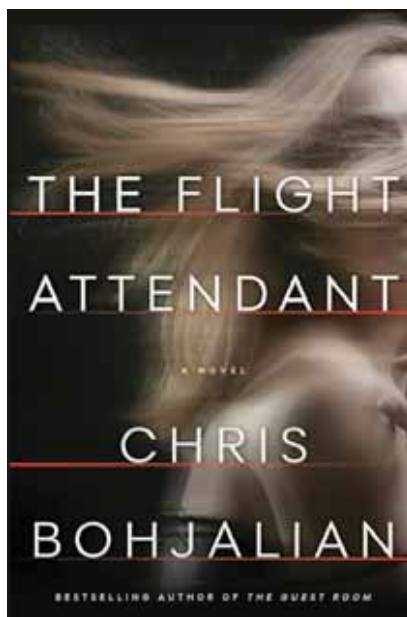
This is an absorbing, can't-put-down look at a woman in crisis. Telling the story from Cassie's perspective gives an honest view of a woman desperately trying to rise above herself. I was mesmerized from the beginning.

Booklist (starred review): "...a read-in-one-sitting escapade that is as intellectually satisfying as it is emotionally entertaining."

The Washington Post: "...a very rare thriller whose penultimate chapter made me think to myself, 'I didn't see that coming.'"

Bohjalian is the author of 20 books. *Midwives* was a *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah's Book Club selection. Three of his novels have been made into movies, and his books have been translated into more than 30 languages. Website: www.chris-bohjalian.com. Also on FB, Instagram, Twitter, Lit-sy and Goodreads.

Till next time, happy reading!



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