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RESCUING A TIMELESS TREASURE

by William Halliar



The "old greenhouse" in Washington Park, taken in late February by Paul Kemiell.

Washington Park is on the cusp of obtaining a new jewel in its crown when the old Works Progress Administration greenhouse is restored this year to its former glory. For too many years, it has languished in near ruin, blending into the background, almost forgotten.

As a youth, I was fascinated by photographs of ruined castles along Germany's Rhine River. Vine-covered bastions of a bygone era scattered through the forests and meadows of England and France. Buildings that, if their stories could be told, conceal the history of the land and people in whose midst they stood.

Built of natural rock and quarried stone, mud, cement and

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fire-hardened brick, these castles and keeps of old stand witness to time and history. With flying buttresses piercing the sky and fierce gargoyles guarding ancient inhabitants, these monuments give testament to the lives of those who labored to build them, and those who planned and financed them even into modern times.

Michigan City is filled with magnificent works of architecture, not quite as ancient, but impressive all the same. They silently reflect the history of our city. A casual observer may look around and note many architectural styles that bespeak the era in which they were constructed.

What began as a single cabin on the shores of Lake Michigan, Michigan City has been under construction since the first settlers moved into the valleys nestled between sand dunes and swales back in the early 1800s.

Families need shelter, and growing businesses need working space and warehouses, places of worship and houses of amusement.

Thus, the lakefront was a bustling place from the beginning.



Broken windows and overgrown shrubbery are visible around the building. Photo by Paul Kemiel

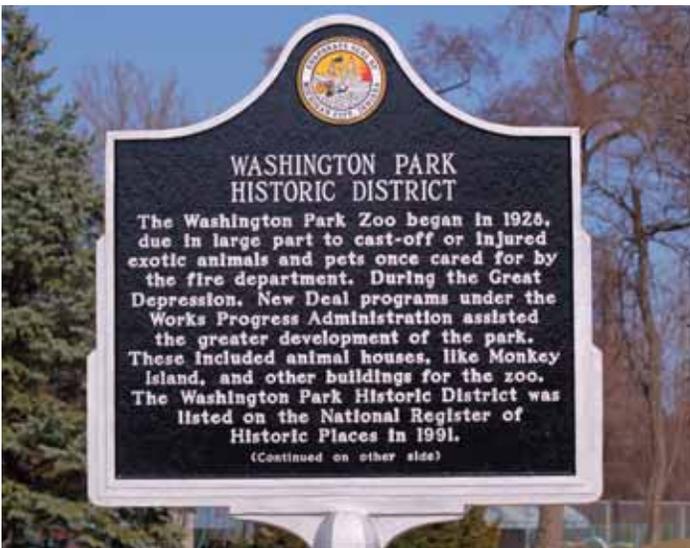


A quick survey of the building's exterior reveals damage to the roof. Photo by Paul Kemiel

Buildings made of wood were quickly erected to house the town's burgeoning industry and commerce. As the community grew and prospered, more substantial buildings of stone, brick and steel emerged on the landscape.

Michigan City's fondly remembered mayor, Martin Krueger, dedicated the lakefront park to the people of his city. Clearing the land of warehouses and other inappropriate businesses, he opened the land and beach for public recreation. The lakefront exploded with activity and an amusement park, peristyle, bandstand and dance hall/casino.

The Great Depression catastrophically began on Black Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1929, and al-



A sign in Washington Park honors the Works Progress Administration's role in its past. Photo by Paul Kemiell

most overnight, 13 to 15 million men were out of work. Although people still enjoyed their beach and lakefront, in Michigan City, many structures originally built for recreation fell into disrepair due to lack of funding.

In 1933, Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd president. On May 6, 1933, he established the Works Progress Administration, later called the Works Projects Administration. It aimed to put Americans back to work. Millions of men were employed, building public-works projects such as buildings, roads, bridges and dams.

Michigan City Mayor Robert (Hemp) Fedder (1934-1938 and 1942-1946) traveled to Washington, D.C., to secure funds for building construction in his hometown. A massive building and landscaping project was planned for the lakefront park. The WPA supplied the funds to pay for labor, but construction materials had to be supplied by municipalities. Ads went out far and wide for any materials — new and used — that might be used to complete the projects.

Brick, limestone, steel and pieces of concrete salvaged from razed buildings were piled in the park, awaiting direction from master architects.

Soon, work began on what would become known today as “the finest existing park in Indiana (and perhaps the nation) designed and built by the WPA,” according to a recent Michigan City Redevelopment Commission report. The structures in Washington Park, so imaginatively and creatively executed by WPA architects and builders, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

No one knows for sure all of the names of the architects, designers and builders, but one thing is for sure: They took great pride in their work. And, they were artists adding detail and features not needed for utility, but included for the enjoyment of the people: a shared beauty that imbued their creations with the joy and passion of their art.

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TIMELESS TREASURE Continued from Page 3

Famed architect Frank Gehry once said, "Architecture should speak of its time and place but yearn for timelessness." That, indeed, is what Washington Park's builders and planners achieved. They constructed buildings to stand the test of time, and for 80 years, the WPA benches, ponds, paths and buildings have stood as witness to their dreams.

Situated at the entrance of our historic park, at a curve that leads either to the lake or zoo, is a building that for many years has been abandoned to the elements. In a way, it resembles those old castles

and abandoned relics of the past, a sort of ruin that for years begged for attention each time we pass by on our way to the beach on a summer's day. Old-time Michigan City residents remember the structure simply as "the old greenhouse."

The former park administration building, garage and greenhouse complex was constructed in 1934 as a part of the WPA effort. The outside walls are constructed of brick and stone, the roof is slate and the interior girders are of sturdy wood construction. A recent inspection of the exterior walls conducted by preservation consultant Kurt West Garner stated that "the mortar used for the stone facing when the

About the Photos

The Beacher's Paul Kemiell tried to capture as many images as possible of the Works Progress Administration's legacy in Washington Park.



building was constructed is exceptional for its durability and continued integrity.”

Actually, the old greenhouse is comprised of two buildings: an office designed on a “square plan” measuring 30 feet on all sides, and the garage connected to the office by a covered passageway. The garage measures 40 feet in the east-west direction and 20 feet in the north-south direction.

As originally intended, several glass greenhouse structures were attached to it. They predated the stone and masonry office and garage, but were connected, making it a contiguous structure at the completion of the WPA work. The greenhouses were built and maintained to supply flowers and landscaping materials to add to the beauty of Washington Park.

In 1932, the park board issued its first report of previous year’s activities. The glass portion of the greenhouse had been in existence for some time, and it was reported that during the previous year, “the greenhouse has been completely reputtied, and frames painted.” New flower boxes were built, and



The greenhouse under construction in 1934.

the plumbing and steam piping for heat were completely rebuilt.

It is interesting to note the number and types of flowers cultivated for planting in the park. Listed in the report are “1,431 red and 1070 pink geraniums, 148 moss roses, 1,000 Lantana, 1,500 Supernivum, and 1,200 Cannas,” to name a few varieties.

(The greenhouse at the time also supplied flowers to Greenwood Cemetery.)

Over time, it was discovered more cost effective to buy plants and bulbs from outside vendors rather than cultivate them in the special greenhouse, so that portion of the old structure fell into gradual disuse. The office and garage also became obsolete. In time, it was used as a storage area for park equipment. Meanwhile, through neglect, weather and lack of maintenance, the building took on a tumbled-down look. The roof leaked and collapsed in several places.

In the early 1980s, it was suggested the glass house portion of the old greenhouse be donated to

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TIMELESS TREASURE Continued from Page 5

Westville Correctional Facility, and the Park Board unanimously voted to make it happen. It was first offered to area schools, but the expense was prohibitive. Westville Correctional Superintendent G. Michael Broglin sought the donation to provide an additional program to rehabilitate his inmates.

Thus, the once proud structure was dismantled and stood sinking slowly into the sand dune on which it is built, all but forgotten by most Michigan City residents. Some seeing only the problems and expense of rebuilding the structure talked of consigning it to the wrecking ball.

By that time, even those who realized the importance of preserving the structures took a dim view of the possibilities. What should be done with the old greenhouse? It had become an eyesore at Washington Park's entrance. Some suggested turning the structures into a "Living Ruin" reminiscent of the ruined castles of Europe, complete with strolling paths and rock walls covered in decorative ivy.

In a 1980 letter to G.C. Calvert of the Michigan City Historical Society, Jan Finney, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana director of development, wrote, "So many members of our staff were disturbed by the defeatist tone of the article on the Washington Park Green House in your June issue of *The Old Lighthouse News*...we hope Michigan City won't give it up so easily."

Finney continued.

"The Greenhouse was conceived in an era when



Park department staff in front of the greenhouse in the 1930s.



The exterior greenhouse stabilization crew at the structure in March.

public amenities were considered an important part of making a city a better place to live...I think a means of supporting it exists if someone would use a little imagination, as in the case of the Lighthouse, all it takes is a few people who really care."

Thankfully, two people who really care are Sharon Carnes, Michigan City Fifth Ward councilwoman, and Larry Silvestri, Michigan City Redevelopment Commission vice president and park board secretary. Both have a heart for our city and care about preserving our past for future generations.

A letter sent by a concerned resident to Sharon Carnes in late 2016 thanked her for her efforts and voiced concerns over the fate of the greenhouse. The writer stated that in

her opinion, some in positions of power wanted to tear down the buildings. This, the writer said that illustrates they "haven't any regard for our precious heritage." Continuing, the writer said, "Please don't allow it to be lost to those of us who love our history."

The Redevelopment Commission ordered a restoration feasibility study of the old greenhouse. As a result, immediate stabilization was recommended by the consulting engineers. The commission approved \$2,605.86, and Interstate Restoration completed the work Dec. 6.

Cables were attached across the structure, and the walls and roof were shored up in the main building and garage, where deterioration resulted over the years from neglect due to rain water leaking through holes in the slate roof. Now, the structure was stable and safe for additional work. Debris was removed from the interior of the structures that collected over the years.

Work will begin this spring to turn the venerable old WPA structure into a "real showplace," Silvestri says. It will be restored to its former glory. Many ideas for use of the building have been proposed and will be considered. For now, the main office building and garage will be restored for use by park life guards, and storage for the city's police and fire departments.

Goethe wrote that "architecture is frozen music." Through the efforts of many with foresight in our community, the old greenhouse will continue to serenade us each time we pass, reminding us of our fathers and grandfathers who built these timeless structures for our enjoyment.



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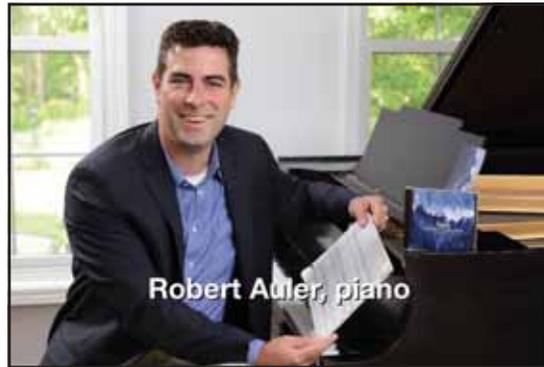
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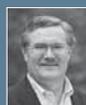
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“Fate of the Furious” Respects Formula, But With a Few Surprises

by Andrew Tallackson

The “Fast & Furious” movies are the equivalent of empty calories: insatiably ingested, momentarily gratifying...but admittedly useless in the long run.

Two years ago, having only sampled the first three pictures, I binge-watched episodes four through seven, curious as to the franchise’s enduring popularity. It became apparent the fourth entry — the 2009 reboot after a three-year lull — established the template for which each ensuing film’s only deviation was the bigger-is-louder-is-better approach. Every element was firmly locked in place:

- The showstopping, if logically inconceivable, opening five minutes.
- The ADHD visuals with scantily clad babes gyrating to hip-hop music.
- Vin Diesel’s fortune cookie wisdom.
- The scowl by Michelle Rodriguez that suggests a hint of prune juice might loosen her up a bit.
- Tyrese Gibson’s chatterbox, deer-in-the-headlights comic relief.
- The nondescript overseas villain.
- The “Ocean’s Eleven” heist, complete with the requisite cast shot around the planning table.
- The showstopping, if logically inconceivable, big finish.

You could pick at the scabs of these pictures for hours. The specifics of what went down in each one quickly fade from memory. Truth is, the “Fast & Furious” movies appeal to our baser instincts. Flashy cars and sexy stars. And things go boom. A lot. The creators of these movies aren’t satisfied until they’ve sufficiently laid waste to entire city blocks.

Their secret weapon is how representative the cast is of today’s climate. There is no ethnic “token,” to put it bluntly. Black, white, Hispanic, Asian — they’re all represented here, and not as lazy stereotypes.

So it’s almost reassuring that the latest installment, “The Fate of the Furious,” does not tinker with a proven formula. It exists as franchise comfort food for anyone who arrives at these pictures with modest expectations.

And yet, I prefer this chapter over the last two in the series. It is more compact, focused. Direc-

tor F. Gary Gray, whose “Straight Outta Compton” was the most relevant film of 2015, never feels compelled to top himself every five minutes with another in-your-face action sequence. He waits, and when he delivers the goods, they’re worth the wait.

The movie opens in Cuba, where Dom (Diesel) and Letty (Rodriguez) are honeymooning in Cuba...and by honeymooning I mean that in the technical sense. Wedded bliss or not, there’s always room for an impromptu street race where Dom stops, drops and rolls out of a vehicle engulfed in flames...and amazingly unscathed.

It is in Cuba, however,

that Dom is bullied by the cyber-terrorist Cipher into ditching Letty and their “family” of thieves — now scattered about the U.S. — and helping her steal a nuclear weapon. Cipher is played by Oscar-winner Charlize Theron, and she ends up being the film’s most special effect. The role is beneath her, but the actress wisely underplays her, every threat or taunt a seductive purr. And, she is not hesitant at bumping off any of Dom’s associates. She is chilling, easily the best villain in the entire franchise.

When Cipher finally let’s God’s Eye — a techno means of hacking into every system imaginable — wreck havoc, Gray stages the chaos with the epic thrill of a Roland Emmerich disaster picture, complete with cars raining down on a Russian motorcade. This is why you go to a “Fast and the Furious” movie, to shut down your brain for a spell and be wowed by action eye candy.

The big finish unravels in the Barents Sea, and it is straight out of a James Bond finale, complete with a mammoth submarine, an impregnable fortress impregnated and bad guys on snowmobiles. It’s ludicrous, of course, but the payoff, where Letty and crew use their vehicles to protect one of their own, drives home the “family” theme of this franchise better than anything before it.

For anyone who embraces this series for what it is — high-octane silliness — that shot puts a smile on your face. Heck, when Helen Mirren — yes, *that* Helen Mirren — turns up in a hilarious cameo, the filmmakers prove that, even after eight movies, they still have a few tricks up their well-worn sleeves.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Vin Diesel and Charlize Theron star in “The Fate of the Furious.”



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Old Lighthouse Museum Opens for its 44th Season

by William Halliar

Spring is in the air, and the winds off Lake Michigan carry with them exciting news from our 1858 lighthouse and the Historical Society museum housed within its sturdy brick and stone walls.

The Society and museum have planned several exciting exhibits to enhance their extensive collection for this, the 44th season.

Michigan City's own submarine is the featured exhibit this month. As a nod to World Creativity and Innovation Week, our own enigmatic inventor, Lodner Phillips, and his patented undersea "propeller" boat will be celebrated with models, drawings and writings backed by extensive historical research. Phillips built and tested his boat on and under Trail Creek in 1845. Some claim this to be the first successful undersea boat, and the Old Lighthouse Museum is home to the most extensive collection of Phillips' documentation in the world.

Baseball fans and old-timers will especially enjoy the collection of memorabilia celebrating our city's connections with the major leagues. On display is a baseball signed by Babe Ruth, who once hit a few exhibition pitches at Ames Field. The exciting exhibit also showcases a baseball signed by Don Larsen as well as Juan Marichal.

For those up on their baseball lore, it might be remembered that Larsen began his career at Ames Field as a Michigan City "White Cap." He went on to play for the San Francisco Giants, and on Oct. 8, 1956, during the World Series against the Brooklyn



A replica of Lodner Phillips' undersea "propeller" boat is on display. Photo by William Halliar

Dodgers, he pitched the only no-hitter in World Series history. Larsen was crowned the "Perfect Yankee" that year. His overall record for the Giants was 243 wins, 142 losses.

The folks who volunteer at the Old Lighthouse Museum are looking forward to another exciting year. The docents are knowledgeable about our history

and ready to share their stories with those who venture out to the museum this year.



Historical Society President Jim Retseck stands by one of the baseball displays. Photo by William Halliar

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The original Barker home on Franklin Street.

The Springtime History Hike, led by Heritage Interpreter T.J. Kalin, Director Jessica Rosier and volunteers Bruce and Pat Frankinburger, departs at 10 a.m. from Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. It covers just over one mile, and participants should wear comfortable shoes. Along the way, sites include the historic Haskell and Barker Car Co. workers cottages, the location of Michigan City's first log cabin and the site of the original Barker house, along with trails used by Native Americans and fur traders prior to the city's 1836 founding.

Reservations are required via Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per senior or youth. All participants receive a Barker Mansion refillable water bottle to take home.

Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for more details.

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Student Awards Competition Concert

Winners of Monday Musicale's annual Student Awards Competition will present a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Twenty-six candidates in grades 4-12 auditioned April 9 at First Presbyterian Church. Judges Candace Archer, Deborah Beien, Sue Cassler, Kathy Chase, Carol Garrett and Stan Shepard heard selections for piano, voice, flute, piccolo and violin.

The following students were recognized:

JUNIOR DIVISION

Elementary Piano

- Brayden Sobecki – first.
- Claire Feeny – second.
- Abigail Schreeg – third.
- Eva Johanna Bauer – honorable mention.

Middle School Piano

- Miriam Carpenter – first.
- Hannah Feeny – second.
- Aidan Feeny – third.
- Alex Lenig – honorable mention.

Voice

- Madeline Martino – first.
- Marie Parrette – second.
- Danaka Howard – third.
- Molly Lenig – honorable mention.

Violin

- Hunter Zdyb – first.
- Danielle T. Burgess – second.

Joy Carson Memorial Award

- Miriam Carpenter — piano.

SENIOR DIVISION

- **Mildred Bowman Memorial Award** — Sophia Gardner Orbovich, voice.
- **Roy Hibner Memorial Award** — Sam Salyer, violin.
- **Lee Meyer Piano Award** — Michael Bim-Merle.
- **Past Presidents Award** — Bethany Eyrick, piano.
- **Marilyn Whiten Memorial Award** — Christian Ferrara, piccolo.
- **Monday Musicale Award** — Valarie Wright, piano.

All senior-division honorees, as well as first-place Junior Division winners, will perform at the concert. Certificates, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$2,100 will be presented. Donations to the club's scholarship fund will be accepted. Call (219) 874-3754 or (219) 362-1421 for details.



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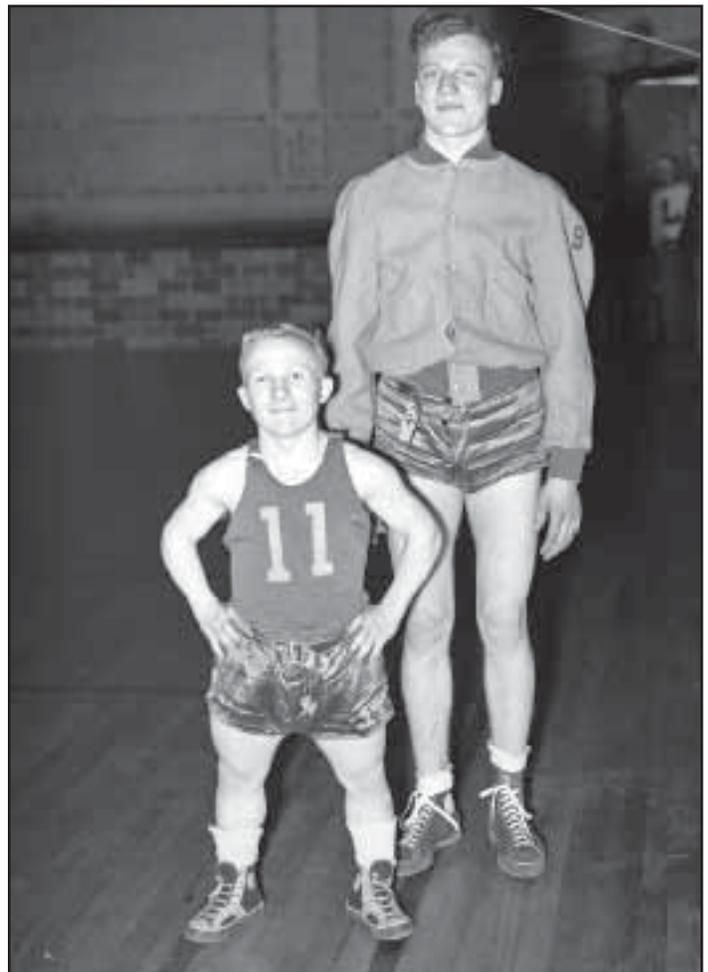
The deadline to submit orders for La Porte County 4-H Club's annual plant sale is Friday, April 21.

The sale, itself, is from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 13, at La Porte County Fairgrounds.

Orders are being taken for hybrid seed geraniums in various colors, hanging baskets, pansies, marigolds, impatiens, petunias, tomatoes and peppers. Herbs and other varieties of flowers will be available for purchase the day of pickup.

Order forms can be picked up from 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. through Friday at the La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, at extension.purdue.edu/laporte or facebook at "La Porte County 4-H." Sale proceeds go to the 4-H Booster and Alumni Association. Call La Porte County Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 for details.

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Do You Know the Story Behind This Photo?

by Andrew Tallackson

Did this photo capture your attention? We thought it might.

In the May 18 edition of *The Beacher*, Matt Werner will reveal the story behind it. As our readers know, Werner wrote last year's incredibly popular Elston state basketball championship series, along with this year's compelling look at "The Patch Players."

Put your history knowledge and storytelling to the test by guessing the story behind this photo. The person who submits the most accurate and well-written story wins an autographed copy of Werner's "Season of Upsets" or "How Sweet It Is," a gift certificate from a *Beacher* advertiser and a *Beacher* baseball cap.

The submission deadline is noon Wednesday, May 10. Entries should be fewer than 200 words. Submit your entry to drew@thebeacher.com or mail it to The Beacher, c/o Drew Tallackson, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Include your name, phone number and an email address. Only one entry per person is permitted.

The contest winner will be revealed in the May 18 edition alongside Werner's story.

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28th Annual Readers' Theatre

Purdue University Northwest students will take part in a Readers' Theatre at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23, in Library-Student-Faculty Building Room 02.

The free event lasts about one hour.

The Readers' Theatre showcases students in Communication 240, "Introduction to Oral Interpretation," taught by Daniel Padberg, associate professor of communication. The program, "Journey in Time," hails from an original script by Padberg.

The Readers' Theatre has been an annual feature since 1989. While the theme changes and reflects various moods, trends and social issues, it is built around literature and music of varying genres that illustrate the theme from different perspectives.

The program marks the final one by Padberg, who is retiring. Participating students are: Donovan Barrier, La Porte; Ronnie Boggs, Michigan City; Tamika Braxton, Chicago; Alex Cunningham, Chesterton; Peter Dalis, Valparaiso; Dan Drakulich, Crown Point; Karac James Fulk, Valparaiso; Jenna Gloy, Michigan City; Ethan Hall, Valparaiso; Zak Lane, La Porte; Abbie Michaels, La Porte; Nikki Szymkowski, La Porte; Ariana Thompson, La Porte; Emma Woodbury, Kouts; and Emily Zamitis, Demotte.

Zoobilee "Flight Night"

Zoobilee "Flight Night," a fundraiser to benefit Washington Park Zoo, is from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Michigan City Municipal Airport, 1300 Indiana 212 North.

The event has two ticket levels:

- Coach — \$50, includes 10 tickets used for food or drinks. Each ticket is good for one tasting. Two tickets cover a flight of drinks (three tastings served on handcrafted flight paddles) and four free game tickets.
- First Class — \$100, includes unlimited food and drink for the night, along with four game tickets.

The event is 21 and older only. Extra food and drink tickets will be available (three for \$5). Dave Sisk from United Way is the emcee. Indiana Ballet Theatre will perform, and Apple Productions D.J. Service will provide dance music.

Buy tickets at <https://zoobilee2017.eventbrite.com>. Visit www.facebook.com/WPZooSociety/ for more details.



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Earth Day Celebration Planned in Valparaiso

Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction will present the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.

Approximately 70 exhibitors will highlight energy efficiency, recycling, natural products, reducing emissions, wildlife and nature. Admission and parking are free. The first 300 families receive free reusable bags

Silly Safaris will offer two live animal shows at 10 a.m. and noon, as well as an all-day exhibit featuring mammals, reptiles, birds and bugs. Dumpster Drummers will bring percussion and animation to the stage with two shows at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Anyone planning to visit the celebration should check out the Reuse Fair Wish List at www.PorterCountyRecycling.org to see if they have items they can donate to benefit 13 schools and non-profits. Working Bikes will be back as part of the Reuse Fair, collecting old and unused bicycles. Working Bikes, a Chicago organization, refurbishes and gives bicycles to people in third world countries and to people in transition in Chicago.

The children's activity "Build Your Own Birdhouse" will guide children 7 and older to construct new bird houses thanks to Boy Scout Troop 907.

Document shredding is from 9 a.m. and noon. Metro Recycling staff will confidentially collect and transport sensitive documents to Opportunity Enterprises Secure Shred to be destroyed. Each attendee is asked to limit material to be shredded to two boxes.

Another new feature is a Book Swap sponsored by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District.

Attendees can give a book and get a book — all ages and genres in good, reusable condition will be accepted. From 1 to 2 p.m. — the last hour of the event — the public can give one book and get two books while supplies last. Participants also can make and take upcycled and reusable bookmarks.

Thirty-two schools are vying for cash scholarships in the School Rain Barrel Design Contest. In addition, the Re-Think Art Competition & Exposition will showcase artist creations using 100 percent recycled materials. The public is asked to vote on its favorites in both contests, with the schools and artists winning cash prizes.

Visit www.PorterCountyRecycling.org or call (219) 465-3819 for more information.



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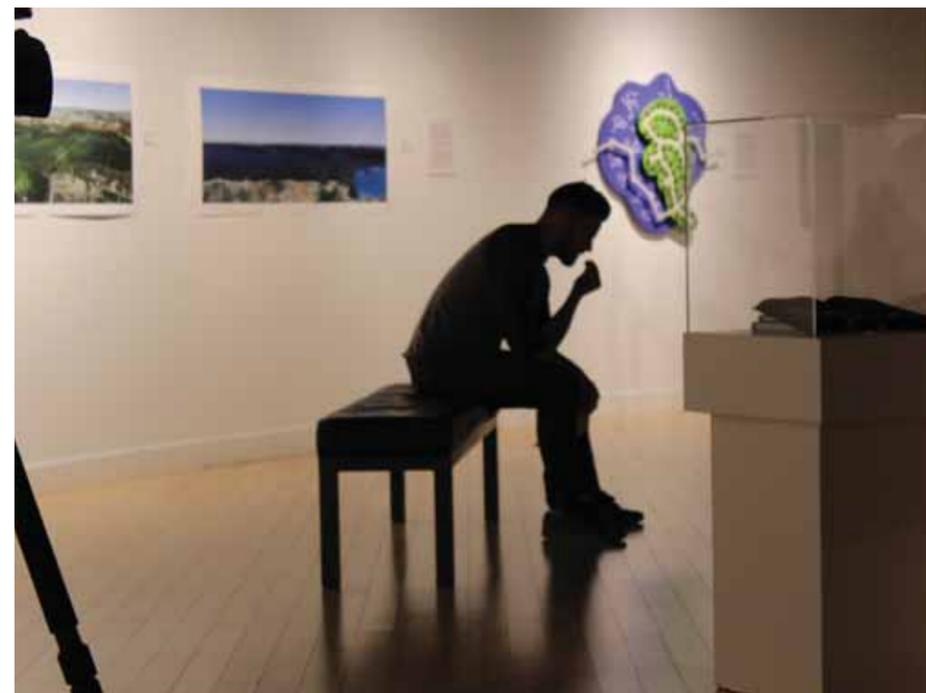
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I can't tell you if it was a mistake.

Nervousness, excitement — maybe dread is the right word — consumed me while stepping outside my comfort zone, all to gain insight into the art of a poetry slam.

My work week ended on a successful note, so I should have been relaxed. Also, a friend drove up from Indianapolis, but as each participant came and went across the stage — part of First Friday events at Lubeznik Center for the Arts — those pleasant sensations gave way to a thrumming inside my chest that felt like a bass drum.



Matt takes a moment to collect himself.

As I sat in mock nonchalance waiting, a folded sheet of paper on the nearby table, one I hoped was my poetry, not my grocery list, I was struck by a few things.

The first was advice from the event's emcee, J.W. Basilo.

"Breathe," he'd said in an email we exchanged a few days before. "Seriously, take some deep breaths before you get on stage and a few more once you're up there and start speaking. Don't worry about succeeding, 'killing' or winning a competition either. You're on stage reading an original work in front of people. That takes more guts than 90 percent of the populace has, so just worry about doing your best."

Secondly, the rising tempo of the bass drum in my chest tuned my attention in and out. I had no control over it. My body was regulating me. At one point, I snuck out for a quick walk.

Many performers pursue this rush.

"At its most basic level, it's just biology," Basilo said. "The funny part is, I know this and I don't care. I need it. N-E-E-D. I'm much more even-keeled than I used to be, age will do that, but still if I go even a

week without performing, I can feel it. The only time I feel like I'm truly myself is when I'm in front of a crowd."

I did not feel like myself in front of the crowd. That would have been clear even if I hadn't blurted out that it was my first experience with a slam. I rumbled off an impromptu thank you to Basilo and

Lubeznik organizers before reading the poem in my shaky hands.

Someone gasped at my title, "Hairdressers and Heroin," based on a conversation I've never been able to forget. As I read, I breathed and focused my eyes to follow the lines that unrolled before me—familiar and strange. More than once, my sight tumbled back toward the page, doubt rising for a split second about my place, but I took a breath and got through it.

And so it went. I glanced up and thanked the crowd. I didn't linger on stage. There was a sense of relief, but also a sense I had done something unusual, maybe, brave — certainly not with bravado, but it had been accomplished, despite the bass drum's hammer, which never really stopped, but slowed down after learning I was eliminated from the competition.

In a break between rounds, Basilo said I was "hosed." I was amused. There was an undercurrent of competitive spirit swirling for articulation somewhere, but those vague feelings were trumped by the assurance that I was done. I told a friend I was secretly happy about this.

(He didn't believe me either, so believe what you will.)

It's tempting to end this reflection with my poem, but that feels gratuitous, more so than I have been, and defeats the lesson, which isn't that any one of us showed up, but that a group of us did, and that there's value in attending live events whether as participant or observer.

Basilo put it best.

"In a culture of increasing immediacy and isolation, it's important to remind each other that we're alive," he said. "Every time we choose a screen over

Inside Out

Beacher Correspondent Performs at Poetry Slam

by M.D. Cunningham

"That is my principal objection to life, I think: It's too easy, when alive, to make perfectly horrible mistakes."

Kurt Vonnegut



Matt Cunningham (left) appears with emcee J.W. Basilo. All photos by Thomas Datzman Jr.



The moment of truth.

an experience involving actual humans, we give up a small part of ourselves...Even though it doesn't feel like it, going to a god-awful rock show is better for you in the long run than watching your favorite television show, no matter how good it is."

If you missed Basilo while he was at the Lubeznik Center, track him down at the Chicago Slam Works Ensemble Theatre (ChicagoSlamWorks.com/ensemble/) and Sundays at the Green Mill Jazz Club, where he co-hosts the internationally known Uptown Poetry Slam.

If you missed me, I can't make any promises about future performances, but as long as there's people throwing shows, and the bass drum that's replaced my heart is ticking, I'll be around to catch them.



Matt reads from his original work, "Hairdressers and Heroin."



FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

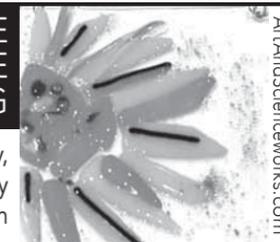
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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 21, 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.

- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22.**

Join staff and gardening enthusiasts working in the Chellberg Farm garden. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment are provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. Chellberg Farm is located on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20.

- **Gary Poetry Project Workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Celebrate Earth Day and National Poetry Month at the free event hosted by The Gary Poetry Project and Calumet Artist Residency. Learn about regional poets, contribute to a local poetry project and take a Miller Woods hike.

- **Junior Wildland Firefighter Program from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso.**

Meet the IDNL's fire crew and learn about their jobs and equipment. Children then receive a Junior Wildland Firefighter activity book and patch. The 30-minute program is repeated throughout the day

- **Pinhook Upland Trail Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at Pinhook Bog.**

Join a ranger for a program that showcases the bog's watershed while hiking a ravine, crossing a bridge over a secluded pond that feeds the bog, and through towering trees. Meet at the Pinhook Bog parking lot, 920 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City.

April 15-23 is National Park Week. The Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered through Indiana Dunes State Park:

- **Wood Ducks and Marigold Meander from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22.**

Meet at the campground gate to hike Trail 2 in search of flowering marsh marigolds and nesting wood ducks in the oaks above. Take binoculars.

- **Bird Drawing and Painting Workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23.**

Local artist Kristina Knowski will lead the hands-on workshop where participants paint some of Indiana's diverse bird life. Visitors receive assistance from professional artists, work with high-quality materials and learn facts about native and migrating bird species. The workshop is a 2017 Indiana Arts in the Parks program. Email kristinaknowski@gmail.com for more details.

- **Are They Here Yet Hike!? from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23.**

The 45-minute early wildflower foray begins at the Nature Center.

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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“Loving”

A free screening of the Oscar-nominated “Loving” is at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.



Oscar-nominee Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton star in “Loving.”

The screening is in collaboration with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series.

Rated PG-13, the film relates the true story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple who married in 1958. Living in Virginia, they hoped to raise a family in their small town...until officers broke into their home to arrest them. Mixed-race couples were banned in Virginia and 15 other southern states. The two avoided jail time by promising to leave Virginia and not return for 25 years.

When Mildred grew frustrated they could not visit their families, she wrote to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, setting the stage for a landmark 1965 U.S. Supreme Court civil rights decision that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

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

Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale

The Berrien Conservation District will hold its annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale Fundraiser at Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 Old U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Times are (all Eastern) 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 21, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22.

Pre-orders can be picked up at this time. A variety of bare root evergreens, deciduous trees and shrub seedlings will be sold in bundles of five, 10 or more. Fruit tree seedlings will be sold individually. Quantities are limited. Rain barrels and composters also will be offered, along with books on nature and related subjects.

Visit www.berriencd.org or call the Berrien Conservation District at (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, for more information.

On Arbor Day (Saturday, April 29) between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. EDT, C&A Arborists Inc. will host an Arbor Day celebration at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve. Our certified arborist, Christian Siewert, will present a speech to promote tree education to adults and children, a walk to identify local trees and a demonstration on how to properly climb trees. Of course, we also will plant a tree. Extremely kid friendly! The first 50 people will receive a White Pine sapling or Bur Oak acorn seedling.



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

- **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Ronnie Early will review Lisa See's "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane."

- **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The selection is Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

- **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 21, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.



Oscar-nominee Dev Patel stars in "Lion."

- **Sunday Matinee: "Lion" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 23, at the Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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

- **Bits & Bytes series, Networking Basics, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 27, 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.

- **Eating Well for Healthy Living Series from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at the Baugher Center.**

Registered Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss "Beneficial Bugs: Kombucha, Kimchi, Kefir and other Cultured Foods." Registration can be done in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 7:30 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.

- **Spy Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

The focus is pop culture portrayals and real-life events. Teams of 1-4 people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

- **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 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.

Classifieds work! Call (219) 879-0088

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FUMC Scholarship Applications

First United Methodist Church, Michigan City, will offer scholarships to students entering college or trade school for the first time, as well as those continuing or returning to school, regardless of age.

While most require church membership, three scholarships are open to the community.

Applications for the Richard Presser Scholarship (\$500), named for the late local educator, have been sent to guidance departments at Michigan City and Marquette high schools.

The Swinehart/Bartholomew Arts Scholarship (\$400) is offered to La Porte County residents. The applicant must have completed one or more years as an arts major. This includes vocal music, instrumental music, theater or visual arts. The Swinehart and Bartholomew families have been involved in local music and community theater productions for three generations.

The Timberlake Scholarship (\$300), given in memory of Joan Thomas Timberlake and Diane Fike Timberlake, is open to a non-traditional student. The applicant must be a mother, at least 18 and an active member of any recognized church, synagogue or mosque. Residents of La Porte, Porter and Berrien counties are eligible.

Applications are available at First United Methodist, 121 E. Seventh St. A typewritten essay is required, outlining the applicant's future goals and the means of achieving them, and including significant people and/or events that influenced him/her.

Applications must be submitted to the church office no later than May 5. Scholarships will be awarded during the 8:30 a.m. May 21 worship service. Contact Higher Education Committee Chairwoman Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

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Reading and Riding in Style

Six Joy Elementary School students received the royal treatment April 10, enjoying a limo ride to lunch at Culver's as a reward for their achievements in the school's "Read-A-Thon" last month.



Joy Elementary School Curriculum Coach Shannon Chavis (from left), Connor Vanderberg, Bailey Chavis, Audrey Poston, Alex Mota Lopez, Joy Principal Lisa Suter, Lance Payne and Joy teacher Denise Yackus enjoy the April 10 limousine ride.

The project, held March 13-22, had students log minutes spent reading at home, raising funds through pledges for minutes read, or both.

The school's top reader was Justice Hansen, who logged 2,400 minutes (40 hours) of reading outside of school in just one week. Bailey Chavis also received top honors for reading minutes, while Audrey Poston and Alex Mota Lopez were the top fundraisers. Two additional participating students, Connor Vanderberg and Lance Payne, won a random drawing, joining the limo ride and lunch.

The limo service was funded through donations by Epic Limo and Horizon Bank, while Culver's provided lunch and gifts. Many other local sponsors donated prizes for the effort, which Joy Curriculum Coach Shannon Chavis organized.

Funds raised through reading pledges will be used to buy T-shirts for all Joy students, which will be worn for the school's field day celebration this spring.

Walk to Prevent Child Abuse

The Sixth Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse, organized by La Porte's First United Methodist Church, is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27.

The event, held in conjunction with April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month, starts at the church parking lot, 1225 Michigan Ave., then heads north on Indiana Avenue toward the courthouse, where community leaders will address the importance of child protection.

Expected to attend are Mayor Blair Milo, Chief Deputy Ron Heeg, Judge Greta Friedman, Family Advocates Executive Director Karen Biernacki and Take Ten Director Ellen Kyes.

Those joining the walk are encouraged to wear blue as a symbol of Child Abuse Prevention. Those unable to make the walk can join the group on the courthouse's southwest corner.

The procession then will head back down Michigan Avenue to the church for refreshments and community fellowship. Call the church at (219) 362-2443 for more details.

Dining with Diabetes

Purdue Extension's four-session "Dining with Diabetes" program runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 3-24, at the Purdue Extension La Porte Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2.

Take favorite recipes for a makeover, sample a light meal featuring "Dining with Diabetes" recipes and learn important information about positive lifestyle changes. Topics include: planning a healthy meal by reducing sodium, fat and carbohydrates; increasing fiber; eating out; and healthy choices at parties and celebrations.

Registration is required. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Otherwise, the cost is \$25 per person or \$35 when attending with a friend and sharing materials. The fee includes course materials and a light meal at each session.

Contact Marcia Wolff at (219) 324-9407 or email her mwolff@purdue.edu for more information or to request a scholarship.



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

- Franciscan St. Anthony Health — Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., Michigan City, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Bookmarks: “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane” at 2 p.m. Friday, April 21, in the library meeting room.**

Ronnie Earley will review Lisa See’s book about a Chinese mother and daughter adopted by an American couple.

• **Friends of the Library Annual Collector’s Corner Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at Full Gospel Church, 2700 Ohio St.**

Tickets are \$25, and guests can take one item for appraisal by Martin Papke. Portofino Grill will cater breakfast. Tickets can be purchased from Friends board members and at the circulation desk. Call (219) 873-3049 for more information.

• **Films on DVD Series: “Loving” at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23, in the library meeting room.**

Rated PG-13, the Oscar-nominated film follows an interracial couple as they fight Virginia’s miscegenation laws. The film is co-sponsored with the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Series.

• **STEAM Ahead Kids: Ozobots at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in the library meeting room.**

Program Ozobot robots using color-coded and block-based coding with the Ozoblocky app. Advance registration is required at the Youth Services desk. Call Dave at (219) 873-3055 or (219) 873-3045 for more information.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 26.**

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

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

Trivia Night

Youth Service Bureau-Big Brothers Big Sisters of La Porte County will host a Trivia Night fundraiser from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 21, at La Porte’s Silver Palace, 1719 State St.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the competition at 7 p.m. A cash bar is planned. Take food. Awards go to the best team name/decorated table/dressed team. The cost is \$100 per team of up to 10 people.

Visit www.youthservicebureau.com for details.

Banned Books! Series

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., continues its “Banned Books!” series with “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 20.

Ensuing programs include:

- May — “1984.”
- June — “The Sun Also Rises.”

Call the church at (219) 879-9415 for details.

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Teddy Jacobi Scholars

Two Purdue University Northwest College of Business faculty have been recognized as Teddy Jacobi Scholars for the 2017-2018 academic year.



Turedi



Lee

The honorees are: Assistant Professor of Marketing Ceren Turedi, Chicago, and Assistant Professor of Accounting Seung Won Lee, Munster. They were acknowledged at a university reception.

The award allows young assistant professors to spend a summer conducting research.

Prior to his passing at 15, Teddy Jacobi was an honor student, athlete and two-time state chess champion who loved to compete. He also demonstrated a strong, entrepreneurial spirit and drive to succeed in business.

“Going back many generations, our families came from the entrepreneurial world in both Europe and America,” Judy Jacobi, PNW assistant vice chancellor of art collection and special programs, said. “Their successful ventures were important to the employment of people and economic growth of the places they lived.”

The endowment established by Jacobi and her husband Mark, a local pediatrician, is intended to further the academic discipline of business.

Recognition as a Teddy Jacobi Scholar goes to untenured faculty members dedicated to successful scholarly pursuits and instructional activities.

Lydick Bog Update

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has raised \$50,000 in donations to purchase a two-acre homestead adjacent to Lydick Bog where public-access amenities will be built.

Shirley Heinze Executive Director Kristopher Krouse made the announcement at a Partnership Luncheon on April 7 at South Bend’s Century Center. Lydick Bog encompasses 176 acres west of South Bend, containing one of Indiana’s last remaining bog habitats.

Krouse thanked donors, including the NiSource Charitable Foundation, South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society and many individuals.

NIPSCO’s Violet Sistovaris also presented the organization with a \$30,000 check from the NiSource Charitable Foundation.

The next step in the land trust’s Lydick Bog Capital Improvement Project is to raise an additional \$200,000 to create public-access amenities on the homestead. That includes demolishing existing unusable structures, building a parking lot and trails and installing preserve and interpretive signage. Plans also include constructing restrooms and a pole barn for stewardship equipment storage. A plan will be developed and implemented to protect additional natural areas surrounding the bog.

Public access to Lydick Bog now is limited to guided hikes only, due to inaccessible conditions. Shirley Heinze will host guided hikes from 10 a.m. to noon EDT Friday, June 23. Details will be available at www.heinzetrust.org.

Dancing Feet Yoga

Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 W. U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich., has several programs scheduled.

They include:

- April 22 — YogaKids class (ages 5-11).
- May 13 — Sacred Water Kirtan.
- May 20 — Access Consciousness Bars, an all-day workshop with Don Wenig.
- May 20 — Detox Yoga Workshop with Maria Rosner.
- May 21 — Partner Yoga with Don Wenig.
- Free Yoga classes from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Tuesdays through May 16.

Visit www.dancingfeetyoga.com/events for details and registration.




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ROSE Awards Luncheon

Indiana Dunes Tourism will cohost the annual ROSE Awards lunch at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 10, at Chesterton's Sand Creek Country Club.

Dan Bearss, Northern Indiana Tourism Development Commission executive director, is the keynote speaker.

The event, set each year during National Travel and Tourism Week, is cohosted with Visit Michigan City La Porte Convention and Visitors Bureau. Among the awards are best restaurant, best hotel, best retail store, best attraction and best service industry professional.

Tickets are \$40, or \$295 for a table of eight. Email brooke@indianadunes.com by 3 p.m. Monday, April 24, with reservations, or call (219) 926-2255 for more information.

Indiana Dunes Tourism also is accepting nominations for future awards. Visit www.IndianaDunes.com/rose to nominate a business or person, or send the nominee's name, their place of business and town, and a brief explanation of why they deserve a ROSE Award to Indiana Dunes Tourism, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The awards go to service professionals or businesses that go above and beyond to provide a great experience.

Art+Science Special Programs

Art+Science Works, located in Trestle in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District, has planned several events in conjunction with World Creativity and Innovation Week.

All times are 6 to 8 p.m. The schedule is:

- Thursday, April 20, fused glass fusion. The cost is \$25 for materials, instruction and firing.
- Friday, April 21, Bubble-ology. Free.
- Saturday, April 22, paper marbling. Free.
- Friday, April 28, acrylic (dirty pour technique) hands on workshop, canvas, paint and instruction. The cost is \$25.

Art & Science Works is located at 622 Franklin St. Visit www.artandscienceworks.com or call (219) 214-1839 for more information.

Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will offer a "Copyright 101 for Artists Seminar" from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

Intellectual Property attorney Jessie Christine Bassner will present a thorough introduction to copyright law for artists, and answer questions about registering work, address common copyright myths and explain the best steps to take if a work is infringed.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.csartvalpo.com/workshops/



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Golf Instruction Clinics

Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, La Porte, will offer its "No Fear" ladies group golf clinics.

Subjects include: fundamentals of the swing; short game; how to get started playing golf; etiquette; rules of the game; and how to purchase equipment.

Conducted by Briar Leaf PGA Professional Jay Williams, the sessions are from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. each night. Class size is limited to ensure proper student/teacher ratio.

The \$50 cost for each three-lesson session includes additional free golf and use of the practice range. Clinic dates are:

- First session – May 2-4.
- Second session – May 9-11.
- Third session (advanced) – May 16-18.

Williams also will reveal how to putt better using drills, games and training tools. The \$40 per session cost includes take-home materials. Dates are:

- Session 1 – April 24-25.
- Session 2 – May 23-24.

Register in advance by calling Briar Leaf at (219) 326-1992 or email briarleaf@comcast.net. Space is limited to ensure proper teacher/student ratio.

Bowl for a Cure Proceeds

The Michigan City Women's Bowling Association raised \$8,310 during the 16th Annual Bowl for a Cure on Feb. 26.

Proceeds are equally divided between the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte's Breast Cancer Project and Franciscan Health Michigan City Hospital Women's Health Center.

HFL's Breast Cancer Project is a comprehensive effort that encourages and educates women in and around La Porte about breast health and the importance of early detection. It provides screening mammograms and diagnostic mammography services to uninsured women who meet ACS high risk criteria or are 40 and older.

Bowl for a Cure has been supporting HFL's Breast Cancer Project since 2009, gifting a total of \$44,945.

The Michigan City Women's Bowling Association hosts Bowl for a Cure the last Sunday in February each year, with the 2018 event set for Feb. 25.

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La Porte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. May 1, June 5 and 19, July 10 and 24, and Aug. 7, 21 and 28 at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Attention Homeschooled Participants

"Fishing Fun," a free program guided by park staff, is from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 2, at Luhr County Park.

Children ages 6-13 accompanied by an adult will learn basic fishing skills and go fishing. The program allows a minimum of five and a maximum of 40 individuals. All supplies are provided. Pre-registration is required by April 27.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- June 21 — Fishing Fun.
- June 28 — Wild Neighbors.
- July 19 — On the Move.
- July 26 — A Sense of Nature.
- Aug. 2 — Play Trail Adventure.

Senior Lifestyles

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

- May 3 — "Landscaping Your Yard, Where to Begin" with Sacha Gee-Burns, Sunkissed Organics.
- June 7 — Learn what's new in La Porte, Mayor Blair Milo.
- July 12 — Pulmonary health by La Porte Hospital staff.
- Aug. 2 — La Porte County Genealogical Society, President Dorothy Palmer.

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Barker Teacher Receives Fellowship



Mariah Pol, a Barker Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade social studies teacher, is one of 50 U.S. teachers who received the USS Midway Institute for Teachers of History and Social Studies Fellowship. The two-week fellowship, an all-expense paid trip plus a stipend, is this summer in San Diego.

Pol will stay on the USS Midway, learning about the Cold War, particularly the Korean and Vietnam wars. After learning from leading professors, she will build curriculum to use in her classroom. Professors from University of California, San Diego and George Washington University are among the faculty speakers.

Ladies Golf Leagues

- **Michigan City Municipal North Course Nine Hole Ladies Golf League begins play at 8:30 a.m. Monday, May 1.**

New members are welcome. The opening luncheon is Monday, April 24. Call Carol at (219) 879-6919 or Margie at (219) 872-1847 for details.

- **The Michigan City South Course Nine Hole Wednesday Morning Ladies Golf League begins play at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 3.**

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

- **The Wags Nine Hole Lady Golfers seeks new members.**

The group meets at 8 a.m. Tuesdays at the Michigan City Municipal North Course. Call Pat at (317) 626-3588 for details.

State of the County

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host the State of the County Luncheon on Friday, April 28, at Heston Hills Banquet Center, 1933 E. County Road 800 North, Galena Township.

The annual event highlights the past year's accomplishments and 2017 goals.

Check-in begins at 11 a.m., with lunch and the program from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is required. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$30 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members.

Visit MichiganCityChamber.com or call (219) 874-6221 to register.

Women of the Moose

Women of the Moose recently honored members at the annual dues payers banquet.

The following members received service pins: Mary Amm, 25 years; Alice Hovey, Wilma Loniewski, Barbara Zook and Anna Bell Miller, 40 years; Barbara Albin, 45 years; Betty Coons, 50 years; and Grace Bowen, 60 years.

Meetings are at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month at Moose Family Lodge 980.

Barker Spring Craft Show

Barker Middle School, 319 E. Barker Road, will present its second Spring Craft Show to benefit school STEM projects from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22.

More than 30 vendors and crafters are planned, with concessions and raffles available.

Enter through the school's main entrance. Additional parking is in the back. Contact Kristi Steinhiser at ksteinhiser01@mcas.k12.in.us or (219) 873-2057 for more details.

Well Armed Woman Public Event

The Northwest Indiana Chapter of the Well Armed Woman will celebrate its third anniversary from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 24, at Michigan City Rifle Club, 4820 U.S. 20.

The event is open to men and women. A local self-defense attorney will give the presentation on Indiana gun laws and self defense, followed by Q&A. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact twawindiana@gmail.com for details.

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Garden Container Class

North Range Garden Design Owner Janice Casper will lead a class on making a "Hypertufa" trough garden from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 29, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Trough gardens are ideal places to display tiny horticultural items: dwarf conifers, alpines, miniature succulents, even a small fairy garden. Antique stone troughs from Britain are prohibitively expensive, but it is easy to make a convincing substitute using a mixture of Portland cement, perlite and peat moss. Hypertufa troughs can be left outside in the winter and are lightweight once dry.

The \$40 cost covers materials to make the troughs. Take rubber gloves and two forms/molds in which to make the troughs. One should be 2 inches smaller than the larger one. A good starting box is a shoe box or plastic container such as a small dish pan. Call Casper at (219) 204-0494 with questions.

Call (219) 878-9885 or email info@friendshipgardens.org to register. Provide your name, address and phone number in the email or voicemail. Payment can be made at friendshipgardens.org/ or mail a check made payable to Friendship Botanic Gardens to P.O. Box 8834, Michigan City IN 46361.

Garden Hotline

La Porte County Master Gardeners are available to help the public with home-gardening questions through their Garden Hotline.

The free service is available from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through Sept. 29.

Master Gardeners can answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. They also can provide those having yard and garden issues with research-based materials produced by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other regional land-grant universities.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2655. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions can be emailed to lpmastergardener@gmail.com, or view www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte

Miller Garden Club

The Miller Garden Club will host a special meeting for members and Lake County Master Gardeners at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary.

The event begins with a hands-on work session in the courtyard, followed by the regular meeting at 10 a.m., which includes a screening of the documentary "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability" and a talk by Nathanael Pilla of Save the Dunes.

Guests and members wanting a lunch reserved should RSVP by April 18 to Corya Channing at artisticpartners@att.net

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

April 20 — “Banned Books!” series, “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian,” 10 a.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave. Info: (219) 879-9415.

April 20 — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, Theodore Dreiser’s “An American Tragedy,” 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 21 — Bookmarks: “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 21 — Youth Service Bureau-Big Brothers Big Sisters of La Porte County Trivia Night fundraiser, 6-9 p.m., La Porte’s Silver Palace, 1719 State St. Cost: \$100/team. Info: www.youthservicebureau.com

April 21 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 21-24 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Kedi.” Not Rated. Times: 6:30 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “A United Kingdom.” Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: vickerstheatre.com

April 22 — Spring Craft Show, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Barker Middle School, 319 E. Barker Road. Info: (219) 873-2057, ksteinhiser01@mcas.k12.in.us

April 22 — Friends of the Library Annual Collector’s Corner Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Full Gospel Church, 2700 Ohio St. Tickets: \$25. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 22 — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9 a.m.-noon, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 22 — Springtime History Hike, 10 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/senior, youth. Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520.

April 22 — Wood Ducks and Marigold Meander, 10-11 a.m., campground gate @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 22 — Spring Stroll, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.facebook.com/threeoaksmerchants/

April 22 — Zoobilee, “Flight Night,” 6-10 p.m., Michigan City Municipal Airport, 1300 Indiana 212. Info: www.washingtonparkzoo.com

April 22 — 2017 Spring Fling, 6-9 p.m. EDT, Judy Ferrara Gallery, 16 S. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: judyferrara.gallery, (269) 756-9338.

April 22 — An Evening with Singer-Songwriter Michael McDermott, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

April 23 — Kiwanis Club of La Porte Annual

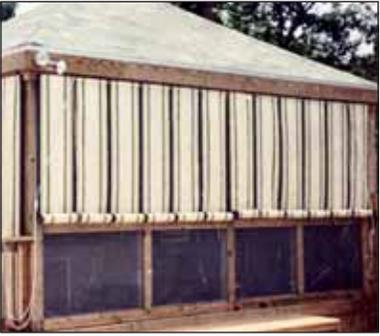
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Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., La Porte National Guard Armory, 2391 W. Indiana 2. Cost: \$7/adult, \$3/12 & younger, free/preschool. Info: amy@michigancitylaporte.com

April 23 — Sunday Matinee: "Lion," 1:30 p.m., Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

April 23 — Pinhook Upland Trail Hike, 1-3 p.m., Pinhook Bog, 920 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882.

April 23 — Monday Musicale annual Student Awards Competition, 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Free. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

April 23 — Films on DVD Series: "Loving," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 23 — Purdue University Northwest Readers' Theatre, 2 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty Building Room 02. Free.

April 25 — Spy Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

April 25 — STEAM Ahead Kids: Ozobots, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through April — Hazel Hannell exhibit, SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St. Info: www.sfcgallery.com

Through December — World War I exhibit, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

April 21-22 — Berrien Conservation District Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale Fundraiser, Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 Old U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich. Times (Eastern): 3-8 p.m. April 21/9 a.m.-noon April 22. Info: www.berriencd.org

April 22 — Miller Garden Club, 9 a.m., Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary. Info: artisticpartners@att.net

April 22 — Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Road, Valparaiso. Info: www.PorterCountyRecycling.org, (219) 465-3819.

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.



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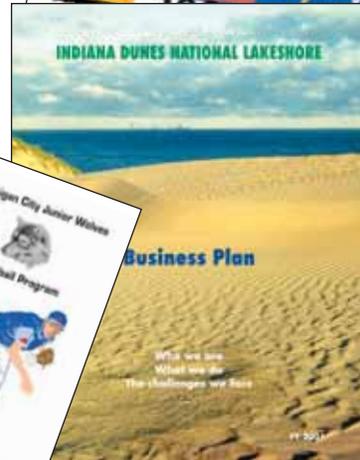
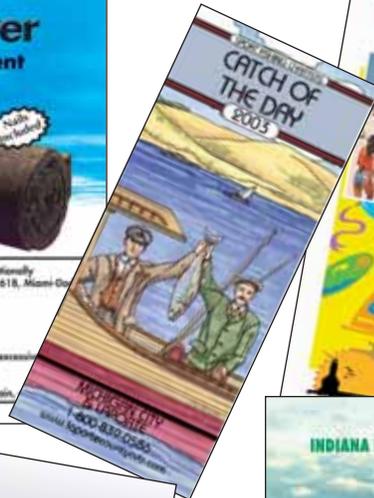
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To participate email thegirlfriendsale@gmail.com or call Susan Vissing at (219) 861-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F 10 a.m.-4 p.m., plus Sat., April 23. Be sure to take a spring jacket, sweater or handbag to donate, with proceeds benefiting the Samaritan Center.

For more details ask for the "participation guidelines."

Shopping dates:

- Friday, April 28, 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends
- Saturday, April 29 & May 6, 10a.m.-2 p.m. open to the public
- Sunday, May 7, Noon-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day
- Saturday, May 13, 10a.m.-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day.

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Duneland Beach (Stop 33). 4BR/3.5BA, 3,300 sq. ft. Call/text (219) 861-7190 or jabk66@yahoo.com for details.

Michiana Annual Art Competition

Artists have until April 30 to submit entries into the Michiana Annual Art Competition, a juried fine art event open to artists in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana

The MAAC is held annually in June — this year marks the 15th anniversary — at Box Factory for the Arts, St. Joseph, Mich. All entries must be submitted at maac.boxfactoryforthearts.org, with the show running June 16-July 29.

Categories include photography, digital imaging, mixed media, painting, drawing, glass, sculpture and ceramics.

Entrants may submit up to two works, two per category max, that are original in concept and execution, created within the last two years, not completed under instruction and not previously exhibited at Box Factory. The nonrefundable fee is \$30 per entry.

Prizes include:

- Best of Show – \$2,000.
- Best in Category – \$250.
- Additional merit awards — announced later.

Online jurying begins May 6, with acceptance notification May 10. An opening reception is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EDT Friday, June 16.

The Box Factory is located at 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph. Visit boxfactoryforthearts.org or call (269) 983-3688 for more details.

Community Health & Resource Fair

A Community Health & Resource Fair, part of National Public Health Awareness, is from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at HealthLinc Michigan City, 710 Franklin St., Suite 200.

Visit www.healthlincchc.org for details.



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.

CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

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



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Good Neighbor by A.J. Banner (paperback, \$14.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an audiobook)

The title suggests a feel-good story of neighborhoods and friendships, but the story actually poses the question — how well do we really know the people around us? And how much can we trust them?

This is a psychological thriller that shows all too well how we can misjudge others, drawing wrong conclusions based on the most inconsequential evidence.

Shadow Cove, Wash., is a beautiful place. Just ask author Sarah Phoenix and her dermatologist husband, Johnny McDonald. They have no children and no pets, living on Sitka Lane, a quiet cul-de-sac with only six houses.

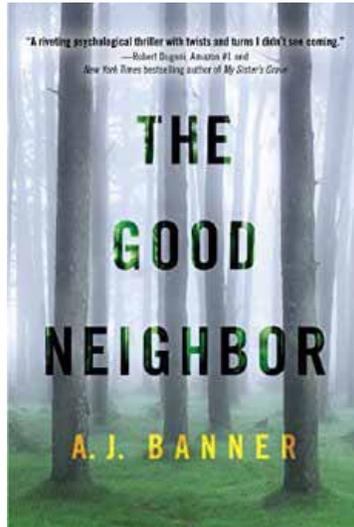
Sarah takes time to introduce the other residents — only four others as one house is empty and for sale. Next door are the McDonalds' best friends, Monique and Chad Kimball, and their little daughter, Mia. Sarah is somewhat jealous of Monique's timeless beauty, but who wouldn't be? "*Monique resembled Marilyn Monroe in a striking way, curvy and breathless...*"

Across the street is teenager Jessie Ramirez, who drives her parents, Pedra and Don, crazy. Her boyfriend, Adrian, is of dubious character, but we all know how raging teen hormones and anti-parent rebellion can cloud judgement.

Then there's Felix and Maude Calassis, a retired couple. He has Alzheimer's. The last house is the Frenkels with twin boys Lenny and Lukas. All these neighbors eventually play a part in events that will turn Sitka Lane upside down.

A fire breaks out in the Kimball house the night they come home from vacation. Sarah is the first one up and manages to save the Kimballs' 4-year-old daughter, Mia. Chad and Monique, however, die in the fire. Unfortunately, the wind carried sparks over to the McDonalds' house. Soon, both houses are reduced to rubble.

This event starts up a series of incidents, rumors and self-doubt for Sarah. What about the fire? The fire chief says it was arson. Who would want the Kimballs dead? Or was the wrong house torched? Felix Calassis may have seen something, but his



memory comes and goes. One thing leads to another, and soon Sarah wonders who her husband really is and how she might have missed the clues. Answers to her questions are slow in coming, leading her on a path from which there is no turning back.

A raging river provides the backdrop for an exciting climax and the truth. At only 196 pages, this is a well-written story that shows how you can't always believe what you see and hear.

From Catherine McKenzie, bestselling author of *Hidden* and *Smoke*: "A fast-paced psychological thriller with a fantastic twist at the end. Not to be missed."

This is Banner's first novel. She was born in India, raised in Canada and California and graduated from University of California, Berkeley. She lives on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state.

Paris For One and Other Stories by Jo Jo Moyes (hardcover, \$25 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

From the author of *Me Before You* comes this delightful volume containing a novella and eight short stories to warm your heart as surely as a cup of camomile tea — or a shot of tequila. Your choice.

In the title story, Nell is left at the London train station alone. Her boyfriend, who was supposed to spend a romantic weekend with her in Paris, is a no-show. What's a girl to do? Sit and cry? No, Nell does something she thought she wasn't capable of — go on vacation to Paris by herself. It's a story to warm your heart and chuckle at the improbabilities of life.

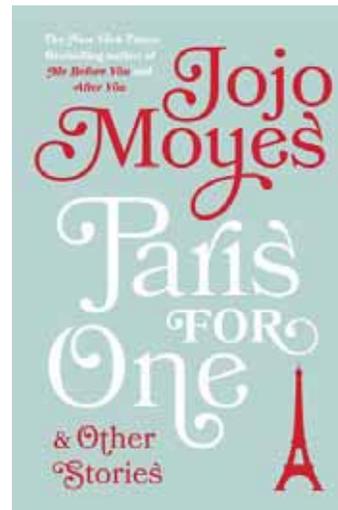
The other short stories also are heartwarming, funny and address the relationships that can sometimes frustrate and sometimes fulfill...like the jewelry heist gone terribly wrong, yet so terribly right! It's another winner from a talented writer.

Kirkus Reviews: "Moyes is at her most charming here, writing with a sense of humorous affection about family dynamics among working-class Brits. ..."

Till next time, happy reading!

Read The Beacher On Line

<http://www.thebeacher.com/>





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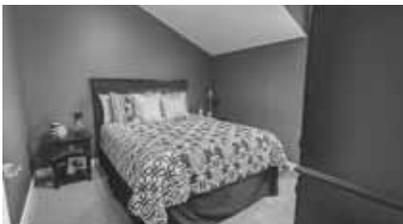
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320 Northbrook Drive | Shoreland Hills | \$429,000



 4  2.5  2,196

A Shoreland Hills gem, just 2 years young! A short walk to the private beach, this is the ultimate beach house from exterior charm to interior amenities. Main floor master suite has an exquisite bath, with over sized shower & walk in closet. Kitchen with granite & stainless, open to great room, complete with a fireplace. All complemented by Mohawk oak flooring. An unfinished basement is ready for your imagination. Attached 2-car garage & rear patio for your summer enjoyment. Don't miss out, schedule your appointment today!



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2919 Loma Portal Way, Long Beach • \$354,000
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1629 Lake Shore Drive, Sheridan Beach • \$975,000
Large brick home with walkout basement and seasonal views of Lake Michigan. Sets high on dune with 142.5 ft of frontage property. 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, great 2nd-floor deck for entertaining or relaxing and plenty more.



805 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$179,500
Enjoy this wonderful low-maintenance 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo living within a beach community! Only one of four units this size. Wonderful amenities include garage, private patio and pool area. Beautiful common area. Association fee includes gas, trash, water, grass, snow removal and all of the pool maintenance.



100 Lake Shore Drive #305 Michigan City • \$400,000
Living at the beach is all about relaxing and enjoying life! This 3-bed, 2-bath Dunescape turnkey condo has been professionally rehabbed and ready for its new owner. With its modern contemporary flair and stunning views of Lake Michigan, it should be on your list of homes to consider. The private gated community of Dunescape also offers a lovely beach, a new indoor 50' x 25' heated swimming pool, upgraded gym facilities, sauna/hot tub, locker rooms and a kiddie pool, plus pvt garage parking.

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