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Good Bones

by William Halliar



Michigan City's landmark, architecturally award-winning library is midway through an all-around upgrade. Two phases of the comprehensive redesign are finished, with work on the main circulation area, then the main entrance and outside landscaping on the way.

Don Glossinger, the library's director, becomes visibly emotional as he speaks of this 43-year-old building and his 30-year relationship with it. He proudly points out all of the recent upgrades, saying, "What has happened here is very special."

The library board of trustees, he continues, loves this unique and historic structure, and contractors enjoy the challenge of working on it. A structure created with such care to light and space. A work of art. An architectural masterpiece.

The first phase of upgrades concentrated on the Youth Services Area and Reference Department. The space was entirely reconfigured with whimsical wall murals and new shelving that draw young people to the colorful covers of books on display. Many seating areas and desk clusters were added that are family friendly, lending themselves to storytelling and interaction with parents.

Michigan City Public Library staff meet in one of the new enclosed meeting areas within the building.
Photo by Paul Kemiell

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Michigan City Public Library staff try out the new computer work station area. Photo by Paul Kemiell

Good Bones

 Continued from Page 1

A puppet stage is central to the reading area. It is inhabited by an assortment of fuzzy, Muppet-like creatures children can use to let their imaginations take flight. Here in this special space, young folks can create their own stories and plays.

Central to the first phase was the addition of a makerspace for kids and teens. According to information provided by the library, *"The Makerspace is a place where young people can tinker, design, craft, create and explore. It includes a variety of equipment and projects for guided exploration and hands-on learning..."*

Phase Two officially opened to the public Monday, Feb. 10. Included were renovation of the Indiana Room, and construction of study rooms and a conference room. These spaces are private and enclosed, yet offer plenty ambient light through the translucent outside walls of the building, and the glass walls and doors facing the interior of the library. Each room has computer capabilities and a white board for note taking. These spaces are available to the public and can be reserved upon request.

Still to come are lighting system upgrades to include modern LED lights in 2021 and tasteful new landscaping in 2022.

The library's staff and board are well aware pub-

lic debate continues about its location, the argument being the building blocks traffic to the lake. But their commitment to its history, and the ingenuity of the architect who designed it, honor a long-standing legacy.

Early in Michigan City history, civic leaders realized the importance of reading for self-improvement and the community's common good. In the early 1880s, George Ames, a pioneer and druggist in town, apparently loved reading and bequeathed in his will a \$5,000 endowment to create a public library for the fledging town. The catch: The site had to be built within 10 years of the endowment.

According to the Michigan City Public Library website, *"This bequest encouraged a local literary society, the Fortnightly Club, to take the necessary steps to secure a library for the town."* A library association formed in 1895.

An architect was hired to design a building worthy of housing a fine collection books. It was determined \$25,000 was needed to purchase property and erect a suitable building. John H. Barker offered to donate a third of the entire cost if the community contributed the rest.

The library association raised \$30,000 from residents, and property at the northeast corner of Eighth and Spring streets was purchased. A building was constructed of *"Indiana blue limestone in*

the classic style of the day.” The library officially opened the doors to its new building and collection of 3,000 books on Oct. 9, 1897.

By 1975, the library had outgrown the much-beloved location. A separate children’s library had to be built on an adjacent property. According to the library website, *“The building at Eighth and Spring Streets was bursting at the seams. Space was severely limited and, some areas, substandard. It was a difficult place to study in, and access to materials was cumbersome.”*



Don Glossinger (left), Michigan City Public Library director, and Assistant Director Andy Smith. Photo by Paul Kemiel

It was decided a new, modern facility should be built. The library website says 15 sites were considered. Glossinger remembers this period as being the era of urban renewal in Michigan City.

In 1968, the north end of Franklin Street was closed to vehicular traffic with plans for a pedestrian mall. A north end “anchor” for the project was needed, and some considered making it a retail store such as Sears. Finally, it was decided to place the new library across the north end of the new Franklin Street Mall. The city gave up on the idea of a pedestrian mall, reopening Franklin Street to one-way traffic in 1982. The former Eighth Street library subsequently housed the John G. Blank Center for the Arts, which later would change its name to Lubeznik Center for the Arts and move to 101 W. Second St.

In the early 1970s, Glossinger says, “people were thirsting for something new and exciting.” Where better to find new and exciting ideas than in the mind of up-and-coming architect Helmut Jahn Jr., architect with C.F. Murphy Associates in Chicago? Jahn was seeking a challenging project, and the new Michigan City library at 100 E. Fourth St. would be it.

Library planners at the time were ambitious.

Continued on Page 4

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Good Bones Continued from Page 3

Why not make this new building a landmark, a showplace, a functioning work of art for downtown Michigan City?

According to the library's website, in the new building, "Services would be dramatically expanded. Available space for books would be more than doubled. There would be seats for over 200 casual readers. The Youth Department would be incorporated in the new building, bring both children and adults under the same roof." And what a roof Jahn had envisioned!

In 1977, the library's collections and personnel moved into their new digs on Fourth Street.

As we study Helmut Jahn's philosophy on how buildings should be designed, we can understand the nature of the fine building he created to be the home of our new library.

Jahn said of his designs, "It's my goal to make a building as immaterial as possible. Architecture is a very material thing. It takes a lot of resources so why not eliminate what you don't need as long as you're able to achieve the same result." As we study our library building, we see the lightness of its design. There are no heavy girders or thick walls, but a lightness and airiness of design, almost as if a tent has been pitched for our pleasure on our lakefront.

Some have described the library as an envelope to house books and resources. Jahn said, "I strive for an architecture from which nothing can be taken away." Take away just one strut or stay or beam, and the whole building would fall. There is no extra decoration added. The air ducts and wiring are exposed, celebrating the industrial nature of Northwest Indiana.



Helmut Jahn Jr.

The building itself sits on a 6" slab on concrete woven throughout with steel-reinforcing bars. Angular struts at the corners keep it square, giving it a stiffness against the battering lake winds. The building is 35,000 square feet of open, naturally lit space. Two hundred seventy separate windows open the roof space to the sun, while an interior courtyard allows more light to enter the center of the building.

"Higher ceilings allow the use of indirect lighting, which is much healthier and reduces glare," Jahn said. The high ceilings, and interior walls that do not reach the ceiling level itself, allow light to filter to every corner of the building.

Today, in considering how to reconfigure inside space, Assistant Library Director Andy Smith has given great thought to the new shelving units.

"The top shelf of each unit was removed to let light from the ceiling windows to reach into every aisle and every stack," he says. The endcaps are frosted shades of glass arranged in order of color, from light to darker.

Ten thousand square feet of translucent fiberglass, an inner and outer wall that sandwich a 2 1/2" airspace between, form the outer walls of the building. These "Clearstory Walls" allow daylight into every space of the building. At night, with the interior lights ablaze, a welcoming warm glow shines from within the building.

Glossinger and Smith have more than 60 years combined with the library (Glossinger 30 and Smith 38), leaning the ins and outs of this landmark building: how to use the space to its full potential, and how to make it run most efficiently. In a way, they literally know every nut, bolt, screw, air duct and conduit, where it runs and what it does.

Together, they are always thinking of new ways to make the building function economically, in a more user-friendly fashion. New technology means ad-



The new enclosed meeting space area. Photo by Paul Kemiel

justments have to be made. Recently, data baskets, which can take the place of conduit for computer-related cables, were added around the perimeter of the building. This is something that did not exist when the building was created.

Indeed, a building this unique takes much thought and care to maintain and operate.

“A building is hard to judge,” Jahn once said. “It takes many years to find out whether it works. It’s not as simple as asking the people in the office whether they like it.”

Glossinger and Smith have spent their lives making this wonderful structure work for the people of Michigan City. From the wire ducts cast into the concrete floors to the galvanized roof panels which, Glossinger says, “are insulated just enough to keep heat in, but not enough to keep the snow from melting off,” they are in tune with the structure.

Glossinger and Smith think of themselves as “stewards” of the building.

“As we remodel, we think of the practical over the aesthetics,” Glossinger says. This philosophy is in keeping with Jahn’s original approach: “A good engineer thinks in reverse and asks himself about the stylistic consequences of the components and systems he proposes.”

Of course, as wonderful and unique a work of art a building might be, it takes people to make it work, especially in a business dedicated to helping

the community. The friendly library staff certainly work together as a family, often having group gatherings and even barbecues on the grounds to share a camaraderie that lends life to a static building, even though it is a work of art.

Often, staff members who began their careers at the library stay for many years and finally retire, a testament to the love of the work and the *esprit de corps* shared by everyone there.

Glossinger and Smith, who crafted the library’s mission statement many years ago, still stand by their credo, which is as relevant today as when it was first penned 30 years ago, to “provide a center for information, education, culture and recreation for all patrons throughout their life span, through its collections, programs and special services.”

Michigan City’s library is a unique tribute to design and constant planning. Glossinger and Smith, along with their staff, continue to work and plan with great enthusiasm and love, making sure Jahn’s creation, and the collections within it, are a living tribute to reading and learning for years to come.

Read On!

An interview with Robin Kohn, the library’s longtime public relations director, is on Pages 18-19.



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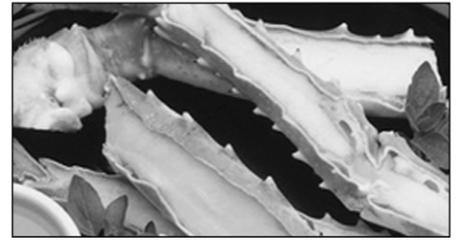
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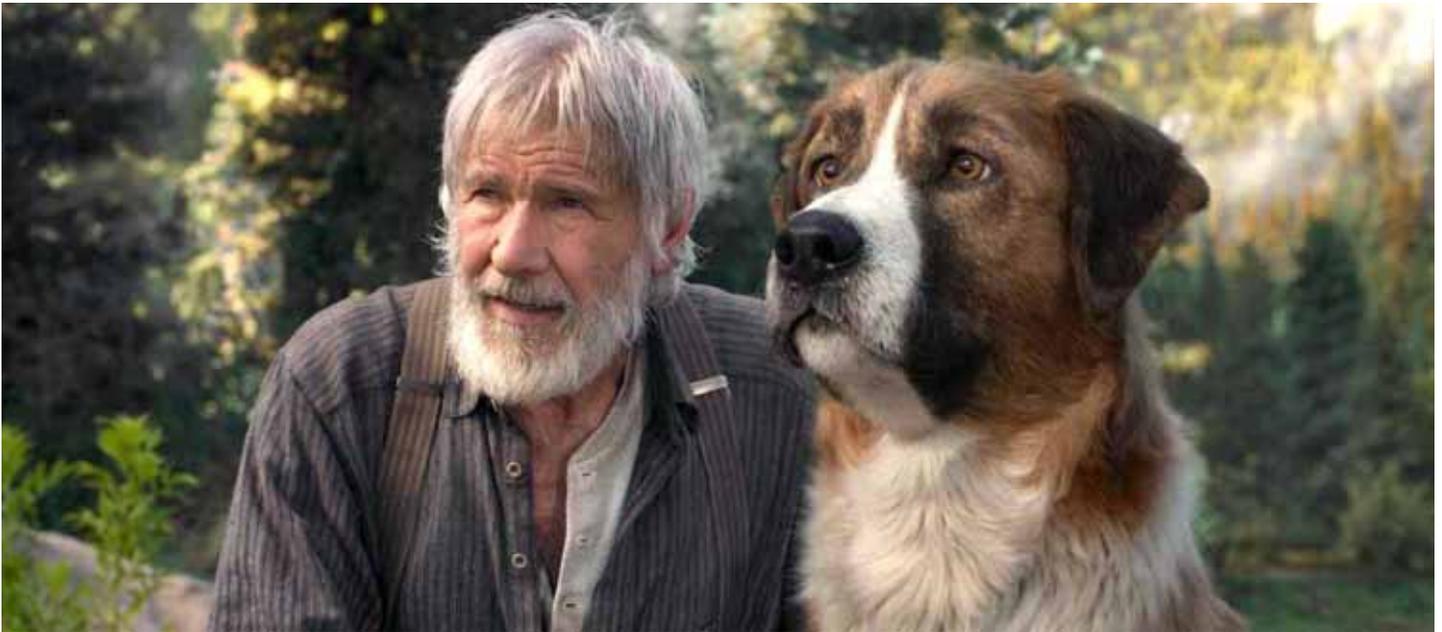
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The Highs and Lows of “The Call of the Wild”

by Andrew Tallackson



Harrison Ford stars in “The Call of the Wild.”

If movie magic can resurrect dinosaurs with stunning realism, or imbue our super heroes with extraordinary powers, can we at least concoct a dog that isn’t so alarmingly fake?

Early in this otherwise handsome update of Jack London’s “The Call of the Wild,” I found myself distracted by its special-effects pooch: a rambunctious St. Bernard-Scotch Collie mix named Buck. You get why former animator Chris Sanders, in his live-action directorial debut, opted for CGI animals. London’s classic tale requires of its canine stars far more than is possible with live animals. And when Buck sits still, no problem. But when in motion, *aye-yi-yi*. Those wobbly, Scooby-Doo legs. And those glassy, vacant eyes.

But much as how we adjust to darkness when leaving a brightly lit room, in “The Call of the Wild,” we acclimate to the iffy effect and get caught up in London’s classic adventure. It is the kind of old-school story that rarely gets made these days, where the greatest visual is the untainted American landscape, and a star like Harrison Ford can command a movie like it’s nobody’s business.

The story charts how Buck is abducted from his California family and sent to the Yukon, where he first crosses paths with the film’s most engaging pair: a dog-sled mail-delivery team played by Omar Sy and Cara Gee. These two have dynamite chemistry: bursting with good cheer and humor. They also experience the story’s special-effects highlight: an avalanche that shows no mercy in its pursuit. London, as a writer, was a master of grand adventure, and here, “The Call of the Wild” has everything money can buy.

When the mail route is canceled, Buck ends up

★ ★ 1/2

“The Call of the Wild”

Running time: 100 minutes. Rated PG for some violence, peril, thematic elements and mild language

with John Thornton (Ford), still grieving the loss of his son and seeking companionship while prospecting for gold. Ford, at this late stage in his career, has nothing to prove but time-tested star power, and that’s what he delivers. Unsentimental, always in command, willing to protect Buck from all threats.

That includes a disgruntled prospector named Hal, out for revenge after John takes Buck from him. Hal is played by “Downton Abbey” alumnus Dan Stevens in a laughable performance. Over-the-top exaggerated, he may trump Buck as the film’s most cartoonish presence. His showdown with John and Buck is anticlimactic not only for how rushed it feels, but mostly because we just don’t care.

Then again, the fault may rest with Sanders. As a director, his previous efforts include Disney’s “Lilo & Stitch” and Dreamworks’ “How to Train Your Dragon.” Working only in animation, he seems to rely more on what succeeded in cartoons to tell his story.

He does know how to accentuate the beauty of the Alaskan wild, though. The movie is gorgeously photographed, as passionate about nature as it is Ford’s charismatic presence.

Is “The Call of the Wild” worth seeing? Yes, but not necessarily in theaters. It may play better at home, on TV, where the sting of disappointment isn’t as potent.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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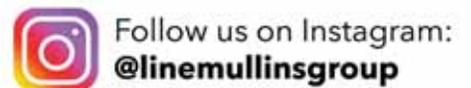
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All Hail “Diary of a Future President”

by Andrew Tallackson

In many ways, “Diary of a Future President” is standard Disney TV fodder. A bright young girl navigates the treacherous minefield that is middle school, her quirky family the rock that guides her through it. And with each episode no longer than 30 minutes, all crises are neatly resolved, packaged as life-affirming lessons for its titular character.

That conventionality, ironically, is the show’s refreshing selling point. We’ve seen this material before... but *not* from this perspective, so what appears routine is the jumping-off point for a savvy exploration of family and gender in America.

Now, why, you ask, is a guy pushing 50 watching a Disney+ series about a middle-school girl? Believe me, having just binged all three seasons of “Deadwood” and last year’s movie, this is *not* my standard cup of tea. But I also have a 13-year-old son. The older he gets, the closer he is to leaving the proverbial perch, the more imperative it becomes that we embrace as much quality time together as possible.

The title of the new Disney+ series is what drew us to it. Presidents and American history have piqued my son’s interest since preschool. Must have trickled down the bloodline, my father having taught college-level history much of his life.

The series opens with a woman who, before her first address as president, receives her middle-school diary in the mail from her mother. The woman is played by Gina Rodriguez, that winning actress from “Jane the Virgin,” and her presence reveals why “Diary of a Future President” exists on a plane altogether unique from its Disney forebearers. Rodriguez is the show’s executive producer through her company, I Can & I Will Productions. By depicting the future president not only as a woman, but as hailing from a Cuban-American family, the show is part of Rodriguez’s desire to create entertainment “for and by the underrepresented,” according to an article in *HipLatina*, an online lifestyle publication.

“Diary of a Future President” was created by Ilana Peña and is in large part based on her childhood. It proves that children need to see children



Elena (Tess Romero, left) and best friend Sasha (Carmina Garay), deal with catty girls at school in “Diary of a Future President.”

on TV who look like them, whose lives mirror their own and are instantly relatable.

The future president, Elena (Tess Romero), is introduced at age 12, living in Florida with her older brother, Bobby (Charlie Bushnell), and mother, Gabi (Selenis Leyva), an attorney dating her good-natured colleague, Sam (Michael Weaver).

Right off the bat, the show explores middle-school peer pressure not through alcohol or drugs, but through tween girls now having their periods. Back in my day, an entire “Afterschool Special” would have treated the subject as weepy melodrama, the likes of Kristy McNichol branded with a middle-school Scarlet A for having to buy feminine hygiene products. *Not* the tween bullies in “Diary of a Future President.” These girls carry their menstrual cycles as badges of honor. In their eyes, they are now women in a sea of little girls.

The show handles the issue with good humor... but for a moment, the male-centric dad in me figured this was the *wrong* series for father-son bonding. But my son was laughing. Loudly. Asking me to hit pause, saying he’s heard girls talk about the exact same thing, in the exact same manner, during lunch period. He was not squeamish...so I figured, what the heck, let’s keep watching. And with that, the show dragged me out of the parental stone age.

“Diary of a Future President” does not make

much of an issue out of Elena being Cuban American. She has her hands full, asserting herself among catty girls, or protesting the school mascot for having treated women with disdain. Not to mention coming to peace with her mother dating after their father's death.

(The adults, by the way, have their own issues, and they are individuals of flesh and blood, who place their children at the top of their priority list.)

With Bobby, though, the show introduces the issue of ethnic pride in a compelling manner. For years, the teen has seen his last name misspelled on school jerseys. The family name is Cañero-Reed. The accent mark over the n frequently gets omitted so it is printed as Canero-Reed. Now in eighth grade, his tennis jersey finally reflects his name accurately...and he's teased by boys who say the accent mark looks like a worm. The same boys, in fact, sneak a batch of worms into his gym bag. The show never calls out the behavior as racist, but that's what it is. Plain and simple. The hateful act, however, backfires when Bobby's teammates arrive with the same accent mark over all n's in their names. A powerful show of support through solidarity.

We need more TV shows like "Diary of a Future President." There is a certain innocence to it, but



The most powerful episode of "Diary of a Future President" arrives when Bobby (Charlie Bushnell), pictured here with pal Liam (Brandon Severs), is teased and bullied for the ethnic spelling of his last name.

that innocence does not descend into naivete. It accepts that its teens live in the real world, tackling those issues with intelligence.

And good humor. "Diary of a Future President" wants us to smile. To laugh. To cheer on a world where a woman of color can become president, who, in her younger days, faced the same challenges all teens do.

What's in store for Elena and her family? My son and I eagerly await each new episode to find out.

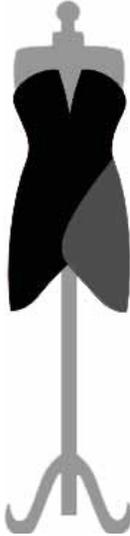
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The School of American Music will present “Dreams and Visions,” an oboe, viola and piano program featuring oboist Jennet Ingle, at 7 p.m. EST Friday, Feb. 28, at Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich.

The concert, part of SAM’s Free Family Concert Series, will feature the world premiere of “Visions and Dreams” by Marjorie Rusche.

The program, a collaboration with the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, also will be presented at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., as part of the festival’s Cookies, Coffee and Classics Series.



Performing in the concert are (from left) Jennet Ingle, Rachel Goff and Mariah Boucher.

Ingle is principal oboist with South Bend Symphony and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, and an oboe instructor at Valparaiso University. Other trio members include Rachel Goff on viola and Mariah Boucher on piano. Goff is violist with the SBSO, and Boucher a collaborative pianist at Indiana University-South Bend and a vocal coach at the University of Notre Dame.

Both concerts are free, but attendees are encouraged to secure advance tickets for the New Buffalo performance through schoolofamericanmusic.com under the “Tickets & Merchandise” tab.

SAM and MCCMF have collaborative programs scheduled for April and May.

SAM’s free family concerts are supported by a Pokagon Fund grant. MCCMF programs are underwritten through grants, corporate sponsors, donors and friends of MCCMF.

Michigan City Public Library

- **Makerspace: open lab hours at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

- **Graphic Novel Club: “The Picture of Dorian Gray” at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27.**

Stop by Youth Services for more information.

- **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that’s required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.



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High School Sophomore Raising Money for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

by Kim Nowatzke

A LaPorte High School sophomore is learning more than the periodic table or why World War I began. She's realizing how one person with a big heart can make a difference in the world.

Parker Peterson was nominated by Pam Ribordy, her former Kingsbury Elementary School kindergarten teacher, for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Students of the Year program.

"When the campaign specialist, Diane Hale, talked to me," Peterson said, "I felt called to do it and signed right then."

As explained at www.studentsoftheyear.org, Students of the Year is "a philanthropic leadership development program for exemplary high school students.

During the campaign, participants foster professional skills such as entrepreneurship, marketing and project management in order to raise fund for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)."

The title of Student or Students of the Year is awarded to the candidate or co-candidates who raise the most funds during the competition. The seven-week campaign began with a kickoff event Jan. 30 and ends March 19. Parker and her team, "Parker's Sparklers," have set a \$25,000 goal and raised 47 percent, or \$11,676, as of Feb. 18.

"We felt that the \$25,000 was a stretch, but something that we can accomplish," Peterson said.

Her team, she explained, is one out of 11 (comprised of one to three candidates) in the South Bend area, which also happens to be a newly represented area for the competition. The winner receives a college scholarship and goes on to compete at a national level with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Peterson said she is the only candidate in LaPorte.

The "Parker's Sparklers" team consists of: her mother, Amanda Peterson; her grandmother, Beckie Tarver; her aunt, Cindy Hoehne; her uncle, Matthew Mrozinski; and other family members, friends and teachers.

"It's a great experience," Peterson said. "It's a lot to learn. I've learned great life skills such as time management, leadership skills and how to communicate through letters, emails and phone calls."

"Parker's Sparklers" held its first fundraiser, a give-back at Buffalo Wild Wings, on Feb. 12. Peterson was happy with the outcome, raising \$475.

From 4 to 7 p.m. March 8, a spaghetti dinner and lantern lighting is at First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte. Attendees are encouraged to



Above: Members of "Parker's Sparklers": Haleigh Miller, Amanda Peterson (Parker's mother), Parker Peterson and Jayme Noll. Below: Parker Peterson.



buy a paper lantern in memory of or honoring a special loved one. Another give-back fundraiser is from 5 to 9:30 p.m. March 10 at Trattoria Enzo in LaPorte.

Although she's only halfway through her experience, Peterson said, "I've already learned so much.

"This is something I never thought I'd be doing, but here I am," she continued. "It's a great feeling to know that with this money I'm raising, I could be part of finding a cure for cancer. I feel honored to be a part of this."

(Visit <https://events.lls.org/in/sbendsoy20/ppeterson> or Parker's Sparklers — Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Student of the Year on facebook for more details.)

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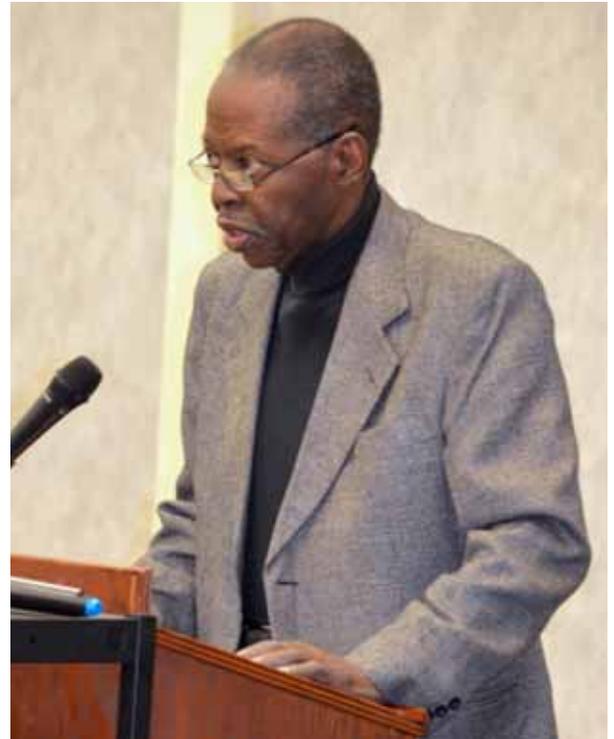
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Celebrating a Special Legacy



The public helped celebrate what would have been the 100th birthday of Charles R. Westcott during a special event Feb. 15 at The Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City. Westcott served as director of Elite Youth

Center for nearly 40 years. The Boys & Girls Club's main location at 321 Detroit St. is named in his honor. After the speakers' presentations, the public could share memories and enjoy light refreshments.



*Photos provided by
The Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City*

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A Champion for the Library

by Andrew Tallackson

Robin Kohn describes herself as an ambassador for Michigan City Public Library. A promoter who keeps the community updated on all the available services and programs, whether it be new materials, special events, genealogy or the new children's makerspace.

Indeed, as public relations director, Kohn's duties at the library are not ones she takes lightly. The responsibilities are considerable, but never dampen her demeanor. In fact, it's tough to imagine her, greeting visitors at special events, *without* that welcoming smile and jovial laugh.

Her enthusiasm stems from a genuine love for what she does.

"I like to think of us as a cultural center," she said, relaxing in new meeting space at the library, 100 E. Fourth St. "Yes, we have your traditional uses of the library. We have books and that kind of stuff... but we try to keep up with the times and changing technology. We do programming. A lot of libraries don't do that.

"We're also a place where people can gather, where they can use our space for whatever they need it for. Or, just to bring their children or grandchildren."

Kohn has been a steady presence at the library for so long, it may surprise some to learn she began her career in radio. Having lived most of her life in Trail Creek, and having graduated from Rogers High School in 1975, Kohn received a degree in communications, attending classes for two years at Purdue University-North Central (now Purdue University Northwest), then the last two years at the West Lafayette campus. For 10 years, starting in 1979, she worked at WEFM, first in on-air programming, then as program director.

"I really loved radio," she said, then with a laugh, "first of all, you could work in your pajamas, and nobody saw you.

"You were anonymous in a way," she continued, "but people heard your voice all the time, so you would get that little bit of recognition when people realized you were that voice from the radio."

In 1988, Kohn left WEFM, working for a year with Glen Haven Management Co., which operates local McDonald's restaurants. When she and her husband, Dan, became parents, she opted to stay at home to be with their son, Brett. She briefly returned to WEFM for part-time weekend work.

Then, in 1990, a new opportunity presented itself. Having attended PNC with Don Glossinger, he was now at the library and aware she wanted part-time work. She joined the library's staff



Robin Kohn is photographed by *The Beacher's* Paul Kemiel.

by working in the circulation department. After about five years, she began work as the assistant to public relations director Kay Franklin. When Franklin fell ill, Kohn took over duties with the

assumption Franklin would eventually return. Sadly, Franklin's health took a turn for the worse. She passed away in the fall of 1996. Kohn became the full-time public relations director that December.

The position entails not just marketing the library to the community, but also planning programs for adults. That includes the successful, long-standing author's talk *Writing Out Loud* series, *Bookmarks* (the library's book club), movies (both at the library and in Washington Park during the summer), *Great Decisions*, special events and music programs.

Now, you must know, Kohn is humble. In fact, before her interview with *The Beacher*, she admitted she is uncomfortable being in the spotlight. So when the topic of library programming surfaces, the conversation briefly takes on a hushed tone, almost as if it has become the equivalent of a confessional.

"I always tell people, I feel like a fraud sometimes," she says. "People think I do such a great job. They're always telling me, 'You do such a great job here, you do such great programming,' but most of the programs I do walk in my front door. They come to me and say, 'I've got this great information I'd like to get out.'

"I just say I'm good at recognizing what I think people want to see. I don't always come up with the ideas. I just implement them." Then, she adds, chuckling, "I'm a *really* good implementer. I'm the logistics girl."

Take, for instance, PNW's summer slam camp for teens. Purdue, she says, plans the curriculum,

all the activities. Kohn oversees the library's particulars, from getting children signed up to speak with parents.

Writing Out Loud, however, is a different story. That entails more considerable work, from identifying and securing speakers to orchestrating the specifics of the programs themselves. Started in 1984 by Long Beach's David Hoppe, the series over the years has attracted everyone from Brad Meltzer to Joyce Carol Oates and Ann Beattie.

"We're very proud that we have kept it going this many years, that we've had such interesting authors," she said.

Many may not realize that Kohn also is the library's site coordinator for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which offers free tax help to specific individuals, such as seniors, those with disabilities or speak limited English.

"That is an important job because we deal with people's personal information," she said, "and I am very careful about not compromising people's personal information. We're really super careful about that."

With all the changes, renovations and upgrades at the library, Kohn is most excited about the makerspace for children and teens. Since its debut about a year ago, the number of youngsters in the Youth Services area has increased.

"When we have open hours on Thursdays," she said, "the place is packed."

Aimed at ages 6-18, youngsters can explore with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. And, Kohn emphasizes, more traditional elements of play.

"Kids are very interested in the technology, but I always like to promote the stuff that is not technology," she said. "We have crayons and coloring pencils and markers and scissors. You can make something that you don't need to know technology to do it."

What's the best compliment library staff receive from patrons?

"The one we hear all the time is, 'We can't believe a library of this size can do all the things you do,'" she says. "The author series (*Writing Out Loud*) is always complimented big time, and I always feel really good about that. A lot of times, we get compliments from people who live in Chicago and have access to different libraries...and they come here and go, 'We love this library.'

"That always makes us feel good, because I feel like we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. We're meeting the needs of the community."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Friday at Footlight

Footlight Players will host "Friday at Footlight," its monthly open-mic night, at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.



Leavitt

The evening, free to the audience, features Dylan Reed Leavitt, a 15-year-old singer, songwriter, instrumentalist and actor from Chesterton.

Donations are requested. Footlight membership provides refreshments. Performers must pay a \$2 fee and register at www.FootlightPlayers.org.

Call (219) 874-4035 for more details.

Comedy Night @ Orak Shrine

Orak Shrine Temple, 3848 Frontage Road, will host "Just for Laughs," a night of comedy and music, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29.

The program features Lucky Luciano, Marci De-loney, Colleen Brennan and musical group Nick Danger. Tickets range from \$25 to \$30.

Reservations can be made on EventBrite, or call (219) 872-0485 or email info@orakshrine.org

Community Concert Association

The LaPorte Community Concert Association will host pianist Bobby van Deusen at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Kesling Middle School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

The Philadelphia-born van Deusen took to the piano early, listening to everything from Beethoven to Stan Kenton.

"I was 8 years old when I heard 'Rhapsody in Blue' and thought it was the most beautiful thing I'd ever heard," he said in a press release. Determined to play the Ger-shwin piece in its entirety, he not only learned it, but also won a young musician's competition at age 11. After high school, he studied classical piano at a conservatory, but discovered people who embraced Elton John and The Rolling Stones outnumbered those attracted to Liszt, Beethoven and Brahms. By the 1980s, van Deusen was on the road with Sammy Davis Jr.

Van Deusen's repertoire includes: "The Entertainer," "Maple Leaf Rag," "Dizzy Fingers," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "The Sound of Music," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

The program is included with a season ticket. The public may buy tickets at the door for \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-5292 or (219) 362-8262 for information

Enter the school through Door 22.



van Deusen

Insights in History

Philanthropy is the topic of "Insights in History" at 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 4, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

The speaker, Dé Bryant, director of the Social Action Project in Indiana University-South Bend's Psychology Department, will explore how philanthropy inspires communities to unite. Also planned is a tour of the new exhibit "The African American Community Fund: Celebrating 20 Years." The endowed funds held within the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County began in 1999.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.
- Purdue University Northwest, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, March 4-5.

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.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with "Modernists & Expressions of the Psychic Landscape" at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Feb. 27, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The focus is the spotlight exhibit on Abstract Expressionists.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

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Women's Suffrage Program

A prominent historian will speak on the financial history of the women's suffrage movement as part of Purdue University Northwest's celebration of Women's History Month.

Joan Johnson, Northwestern University director of faculty, will discuss "Funding Feminism: Following the Money in the Woman Suffrage Movement" at 2 p.m. Monday, March 2, in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 002.



Johnson

Johnson also will discuss the role of female philanthropists in gaining passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which extended voting rights to women.

In 2017, Johnson published the book Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy, and the Women's Movement, 1870-1967.

The PNW program is free. Johnson's appearance is supported by the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial, Indiana Humanities, the Indianapolis Propylaeum, the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau.

LaPorte County Public Library

- **Family program: LEAP into Science from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 29, at the main library.**

As a family, explore the wind's effects on other objects, make wind detectors and launch air rockets.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.**

Students in grades 3 and older can move through levels, earning a certificate for each completed level. They work independently and chart their progress while completing hands-on, interactive projects.

- **MAKE a Difference from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays in February.**

The focus is fidget sleeves for Golden Living residents.



LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

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Gabis Arboretum Astronomy Series

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest kicks off a series of free stargazing events at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.

Other parties are at 8 p.m. March 31 and 8:30 p.m. April 28. The host is Adam Rengstorf, Purdue University Northwest associate professor of physics and astronomy. If weather conditions prevent stargazing, a presentation is in the Railway Depot.

Also planned are two classes by Rengstorf and PNW astronomy faculty. "A Beginners Guide to Telescopes," presented at 5 p.m. April 4, coaches attendees in the setup and use of telescopes. An Astrophotography Class at 8 p.m. April 18 presents information on how the night sky is captured through photography.

Register through pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum, by emailing gabisarboretum@pnw.edu or calling (219) 462-0025. Gabis Arboretum is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.



Rengstorf

Indiana Dunes National Park

• **Snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Movie Screenings at the Douglas Center from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary. Feb. 29 includes films on Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and Maggie Walker.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

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



Indiana Dunes State Park

• **Leap Day Hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 29.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the moderate two-mile hike that heads to the beach house blowout and back.

• **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the sinking of the J.D. Marshall just offshore of Indiana Dunes State Park.

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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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.

Extension Homemakers Gives to LaPorte PADS



The LaPorte County Extension Homemakers gave a donation to Lisa Pierzakowski of LaPorte People Acting to Deliver Shelter. The group aims to provide temporary overnight shelter during the winter, and Pierzakowski is one of the group's founders. Pictured with her (fourth from the left) are Extension Homemakers executive officers (from left) Kathy Ulman, Sue Howell, Connie Carter, Penny Flick, Della Wittgren, Pat Day and Joanna Doscocil.



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- Stop by the shelter and cast your vote
- Donate through the teams Facebook fundraiser



Be sure to include the name of the Sweetheart you are voting for.

Join us for the Sweetheart Day event on Saturday, March 7th from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave Valparaiso, IN 46383
Donations directly benefit all of the cats and kittens at ICS.

For more information:
www.catsociety.org shelter@catsociety.org www.facebook.com/INCatSociety

Traveling Prohibition Exhibit



A 1920 *Indianapolis News* photo shows police displaying a large still and 38 gallons of "white mule" whiskey confiscated from a New Bethel raid.

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum will host the traveling Indiana Historical Society exhibit "Hoosiers and Their Hooch" on March 5-April 2.

The exhibit traces the rise and fall of prohibition in Indiana and throughout the country, from the temperance movement of the 1900s to the repeal of the 18th amendment in 1933. Learn about the Anti-Saloon League, and the bootleggers, moonshiners and bathtub gin distillers who found their way around the law. The end of the exhibit provides an update on what has happened since 1933 and the present day, demonstrating the effects prohibition has had on Indiana's regulatory landscape and how it is represented in modern culture.

Regular admission fees apply: \$5 for adults, \$4 for adults 60 and older and free for children 18 and younger. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave.

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2. Lucky Lefties	17	11
3. Wrecking Balls	16.5	11.5
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Tammy Nelmar		211
2. Sue Luegers		189
3. Pat Collado		179
4. Ginny Hogan		178
5. Sue Labovitz		172
6. June Salmon		171
7. Deb Konicek		160
7. Cindy Beck		160
8. Ann Bogart		157
9. Kim Stokes		153
10. Linda Neulieb (series)		440
11. Nancy Kubath (series)		406
11. Kathleen Staninger (series)		406
12. Carolyn Wiggins (series)		402
SPLITS		
Carolyn Wiggins		2-7
June Salmon		3-10
Kathy Staninger		2-7
Susan Kieffer		4-5
Ginny Hogan		4-8
STRIKES		
Kathy Osborne, Sue Luegers, Tammy Nelmar		3

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

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Recycle Rally Challenge



Krueger Middle School won \$10,000 in the 2019 PepsiCo Recycle Rally challenge. Students are aiming higher this year, seeking the community's help in collecting cans and plastic bottles during the next two months. Pictured is Daisy Lee (far right, back row) with some of her seventh-grade Environmental Science students who are helping sort and collect items. Email Lee at dlee03@mcas.k12.in.us for more details on how to help.



Drive home the savings.

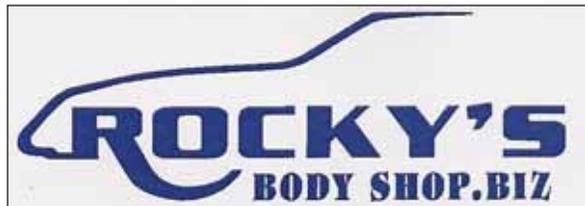
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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 27 — Graphic Novel Club: “The Picture of Dorian Gray,” 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 28 — Open-mic venue, “Friday at Footlight,” 7 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: free/audience, \$2/performers. Signup: www.FootlightPlayers.org. Info: (219) 874-4035.

Feb. 28 — Corky Siegel & Ernie Watts with Kalyan Pathak, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$60/reserved, \$35/general. Info: acornlive.org

Feb. 28-29 — Concerts, “Dreams and Visions.” Times: 7 p.m. EST Feb. 28/Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich.; 3 p.m. Feb. 29/First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free admission. Advance tickets suggested for New Buffalo concert@schoolofamericanmusic.com

Feb. 29 — LEAP DAY.

Feb. 29 — Leap Day Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 29 — Family program: LEAP into Science, 11 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 29 — “Just for Laughs,” 7:30 p.m., Orak Shrine Temple, 3848 Frontage Road. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Reservations: EventBrite, (219) 872-0485, info@orakshrine.org

Feb. 29 — WPL Movies in February: “Maleficent: Mistress of Evil,” 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 2 — “Funding Feminism: Following the Money in the Woman Suffrage Movement,” 2 p.m., Purdue University-Northwest Library-Student-Faculty Building, Room 002. Free.

March 3 — The LaPorte Community Concert Association, pianist Bobby van Deusen, 7 p.m., Kesling Middle School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$5/students through high school. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

In the Region

Feb. 28-March 7 — “First Date,” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28-29, March 6-7, 3 p.m. March 1. Tickets: adults/\$21, students & seniors (62+)/\$19. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, elkhartcivictheatre.org/tickets

March 3 — Stargazing event, 6:30 p.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso. Free. Info: (219) 462-0025.

Wednesdays — Musician jam sessions, 6-9 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Performer signup: Nicole Pierard @ anso91@yahoo.com. Audience donation: \$5.

Through April 29 — Free display, “Cruisin’ Through the Times,” Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Info: (219) 989-7979.

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 Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 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.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6:15 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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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.

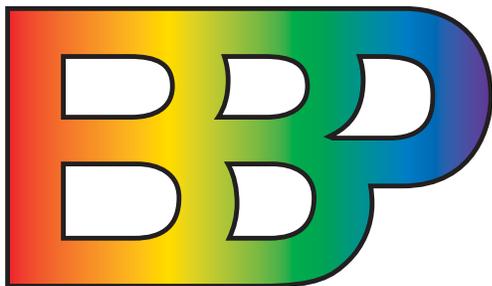
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On February 27, 1902, author John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, Calif.

On February 27, 1922, in a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court guaranteed women the right to vote.

On February 27, 1964, the city of Pisa asked the Italian government to spend in excess of \$1 million to straighten the 184-foot Leaning Tower of Pisa. The world famous tower, at that time, slanted 11-feet from the perpendicular, and engineers predicted that, without immediate correction, it would soon collapse.

On February 27, 1979, Jane Byrne defeated Mayor Michael Bilandic in Chicago's Democratic mayoral primary.

On February 28, 1827, the Baltimore and Ohio, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, was incorporated.

On February 28, 1846, a new warship, the U.S.S. Princeton, was cruising on the Potomac River. Aboard was President John Tyler and top government officials. During a demonstration, a large gun, which was called the Peacemaker, exploded. Killed was Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy Thomas W. Gilmer and many others.

On February 28, 1917, it was reported the United States intercepted the "Zimmermann Telegraph," reputed to be a proposal for a Mexican-German alliance should the U.S. enter World War I.

On February 28, 1983, the final episode of "M*A*S*H" aired on CBS.

On February 29, 1960, the first Playboy Club, featuring waitresses in "bunny" outfits, opened in Chicago.

On February 29, 1968, the discovery of the first "pulsar," a star that emits regular radio waves, was announced by Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell in Cambridge, England.

On February 29, 2004, "The Return of the King," won 11 Oscars, tying "Ben Hur" and "Titanic" for most Oscars in a year.

On March 1, 1864, Rebecca Lee received a medical degree from Boston's New England Female Medical College, becoming the first black woman licensed to practice medicine in America.

On March 1, 1932, the infant son of Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindberg was kidnapped from his Hopewell, N.J., bedroom.

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy authorized the establishment of the Peace Corps.

On March 1, 1962, in Garden City, Mich., the first Kmart opened for business.

On March 1, 2002, NASA said its Mars Odyssey spacecraft had found evidence vast regions of Mars may abound in water.

On March 2, 1836, Texas declared itself to be a free and independent nation, no longer bound by the laws of the Republic of Mexico.

On March 2, 1837, Rush Medical College, predecessor of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, incorporated in Chicago.

On March 2, 1888, H.G. Wells, reacting to criticism his poetry lacked meter, responded, "Meters are used to measure gas, not the outpourings of the human heart."

On March 2, 1899, Congress authorized the establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in the state of Washington.

On March 2, 1933, the motion picture "King Kong," starring Fay Wray, premiered in New York.

On March 3, 1831, Chicago railroad-car magnate George Pullman was born in Brocton, N.Y.

On March 3, 1851, Congress appropriated \$250 for President Millard Fillmore to buy books to start a library in the White House.

On March 3, 1875, "Carmen," Bizet's famous opera, premiered in Paris.

On March 3, 1885, the U.S. Post Office began offering special delivery for first-class mail.

On March 3, 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the home of Capt. and Mrs. Arthur Keller to become the teacher of their blind and deaf 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

On March 3, 1923, the first issue of *Time* magazine was published.

On March 3, 1931, Congress proclaimed the "Star Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States.

On March 4, 1789, the U.S. Constitution went into effect when the first Congress met in New York.

On March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, the nation's new capital.

On March 4, 1837, the Illinois Legislature granted a city charter to Chicago, dividing the city into six wards.

On March 4, 1851, fire destroyed Chicago's first hotel, the Sauganash, located at the southeast corner of Lake and Market streets.

On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, in his inaugural address, uttered these famous words, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right..."



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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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Call (219) 879-2195 for details.

Large studio with separate kitchen. Total renovation! Private, but close to everything. \$850/mo., includes all utilities, cable and Internet, snow removal/trash pickup. No smoking/pets. Call (219) 221-2228.

Rental room with kitchen access. Ideal for college student. \$350 rent with monthly lease. References required. Write: Room for Rent, P.O. Box 9112, Michigan City, IN 46361.

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Westchester Public Library

• **DIY Pom-Pom Wreaths from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

All materials are provided. Registration is required.

• **Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus this month is Ben Hatke's "Mighty Jack." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **WPL Movies in February: "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at The Baugher Center.**

The movie is Rated PG, with free popcorn served.

• **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at Thomas Library.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome.

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

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



Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will host it Lenten season fish fry from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 28-April 3, at Queen of All Saints School, 1715 E. Barker Ave.

The menu includes a choice of side. A portion of the proceeds benefit a charity.

Chesterton Art Center

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.**

Artists can take a piece at any stage, from conception to the final version, with all ability levels and styles invited.

Guests may simply listen; however, participation is encouraged. While being a safe environment, it is a critique involving advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• **The next Life Drawing Open Studio is from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, March 4 and 18.**

Artists can use any media, including pencil, charcoal, pastel or paints. They must take supplies and clean up after. Organizer Ivan Chermel can provide some guidance; however, the class is not structured. Fully clothed models are used.

The cost \$15, and students must pre-register.

• **Leona Jurincie will offer a six-week Beginning-to-Advanced Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 6.**

Jurincie will lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques and styles.

The cost is \$200, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Jurincie will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

• **Jennifer Martin will host March children's art classes.**

The goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. March focuses on surrealism, including Dali, Ernst and Magritte.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1:30-3 p.m., homeschool, 8-to 15-year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary, 7- to 12-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool 3- to 5-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m., elementary, 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 5-year-olds
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary, 7- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m., middle school, fifth to eighth grade.
- Friday, 3:30-5 p.m., high school, ninth to 12th grade.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Families must be current members to receive the discount. Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. All payments made after the 15th of the month are subject to a \$20 late fee.



Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Lost Hills by Lee Goldberg (hardcover, \$24.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 224 pages.)

If you are a fan of police crime drama, I have one heck of a book for you this week!

Consider this. A complicated multiple murder that causes the most jaded cop to lose his lunch. Prejudices against women in the police force. Do I have your attention? Here's the lowdown...

Sheriff's Deputy Eve Ronin finds herself having to prove herself daily as she walks into the office. She's only being harassed for being in the right place at the right time. Let me explain...

Eve is a sheriff's deputy in the small town of Lancaster, Calif. Coming out of a restaurant, she sees a man assault a woman in the parking lot. She gets in the middle of the confrontation, decking the man and holding his face to the pavement until backup arrives. How could she know he is Blake Largo, famous movie star known as the action hero Deathfist? Big deal to Eve? No. She was just doing her job. But the men on the force look at it otherwise, as do the 11 million people who see the YouTube video. To prove their disdain, the other cops now call her Deathfist.

At the same time, the Los Angeles sheriff's department is under scrutiny for deputies allegedly beating up prisoners at the county jail. The publicity surrounding Eve takes the heat off the sheriff for a while, so he milks Eve's takedown of Largo as long as he can, even offering her a promotion. She says she always wanted to be a robbery-homicide detective. Done deal. Of course, she now is the youngest female in that division, and the men there don't like it...nope, not one bit.

Eve is partnered with Duncan Pavone, who's looking forward to retirement soon. One morning, they receive a wellness check call on a woman who lives up in the hills of the Santa Monica Mountains, Tanya Kenworth. They find the neighbor who made the call. Tanya's car is still in the driveway, but no one seems home. But neighbor Alexis says she looked in the kitchen window and saw blood on the floor — that gives police a reason to kick in the door.

What the pair see in the house is the most realistic description of a crime scene I have ever read. Copious amounts of blood smeared over the kitchen floor, sprayed on the walls, tracked along the hallway and into two bedrooms and the bathroom, which is enough to make the most hardened cop

want to puke — Eve, too.

The kids' backpacks are on the floor in the living room. Even the dog is missing. What happened here? The medical examiner says the only thing she is sure of is that more than one person died in this house and bodies were removed — but not before they were dismembered.

Where to begin the investigation? Goldberg wins the blue ribbon when it comes to the police procedural. If you never understood the whys and wherefores of how police proceed with a possible murder investigation, Goldberg will show you in brilliant black and white. But don't get me wrong — it's anything but boring — it's a fascinating process.

The obvious first choice is to question the live-in boyfriend, Jared Rawlins, followed by the ex-husband, Cleve Kenworth. Both seem shocked at Tanya's disappearance, not an unusual ploy if you're guilty. But Eve senses something in both men that tells her they probably are innocent.

Eve checks the perimeter of the house and finds a sleeping bag in the woods nearby, but is hit on the head before she can call anyone over. Sounds like someone is watching the

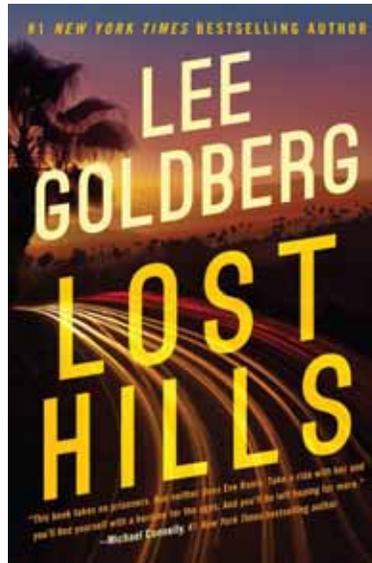
house? Looking for an opportune moment?

But the real question is, who would want Tanya, her kids, even her dog, dead? And in such a brutal way. No fingerprints, no DNA. The person knew how to cover his tracks. And, Eve knows everyone on the department is looking for her to blow this case. She must prove herself to this boy's club, but most of all, she wants badly to find this mad man and get him off the streets.

Goldberg has written a thoughtful, yet exciting aspect of murder the public doesn't always understand: how the days after affect the family, how the press hounds for lurid photos, and how frustrated the police are when it seems nothing will come together, until...Eve remembers something that just might answer all her questions. But can she prove her theory before it's too late?

Goldberg has written more than 30 novels, including his "Mr. Monk" series and "The Fox & O'Hare" series (co-written with Janet Evanovich). His writing has earned him awards, and he has written or produced a number of TV shows. He is an international television consultant in Canada, France, Germany, Spain, China, Sweden and the Netherlands. More on him at www.leegoldberg.com

Till next time, happy reading!





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