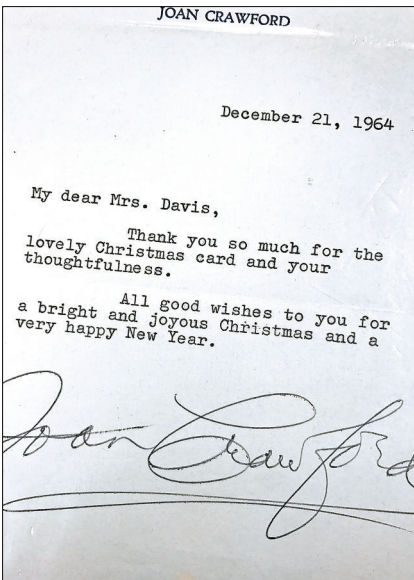


Helen Gladys Davis of Gary received **thousands of Christmas cards**, personal letters and autographed photos from around the world, thanks to her husband's request. Now the collection is in need of a new home.



This letter from Hollywood actress Joan Crawford is one of hundreds of such letters mailed to Helen Gladys Davis during the 1960s and '70s.



Tami Reynolds' father, James Davis, poses with a few Christmas cards that were mailed to his wife Helen Gladys Davis in the 1960s.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TAMI REYNOLDS

Helen Gladys Davis, of Gary, writes back to the thousands of people who mailed her Christmas cards, personal letters and autographed photos in the 1960s.

# CARD SHOPPING

**J**ust more than 50 years ago, James Davis had a genius idea for the ultimate gift for his wife, Helen.

The World War II veteran from Gary wrote a letter to the Post-Tribune, asking its local readers to mail Christmas cards to his wife, who was deaf since she was 9.

"What I am after is some way to get her a lot of Christmas cards, because she gets a bigger kick out of cards at Christmas than anything I can buy her," he wrote. "I only want this unusual Christmas present for my wife. She will answer all cards next Christmas, if possible."

Davis, a laid-back factory worker,



JERRY DAVICH

included the couple's address, 800 Washington St., and hoped for the best.

His published letter was picked up by The Associated Press and it spread worldwide, sort of like a viral video today on the internet. Within days, Christmas cards began arriving at the couple's home from every state and corner of the world.

"I remember my dad coming home with several mailbags from the post office, each one filled with Christmas cards," said the couple's daughter, Tami Reynolds, who teaches in Gary. "He dumped them all out on the stairs leading down to our apartment, and we couldn't even see the stairs. My mother



Tami Reynolds, on the right, poses with her mother, Helen Gladys Davis, with thousands of Christmas cards, personal letters and autographed photos mailed to their home in the 1960s.

was stunned."

Christmas cards came not only from local, goodhearted readers in Gary and Northwest Indiana, but from Hollywood celebrities, the White House and

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## GIRLS SOCCER

### Andello helps send Munster to regional

Junior Adeline Andello, right, who has become Munster's career leader in goals, scored the go-ahead goal with 29 minutes left to snap a 2-2 tie against Crown Point on Saturday night in the Class 3A Munster Sectional final. Kayla Ziel and Kendal Ziel scored after Andello to give Munster a 5-2 victory and its third straight sectional title. **Sports**



JOHN SMIERCIAC/POST-TRIBUNE

### GOP touts Trump's tax plan, despite debt

Paul Ryan is championing the president's tax plan, which experts say will add \$2 trillion to the nation's red ink over a decade. **Nation & World, Page 8**

### Commissioners in Porter County approve purchase of EMA, 911 cars **Page 3**

## ENVIRONMENT

# Schools sign up for lead testing

EPA settlement to fund water fountains, lighting at two East Chicago sites

By **MEREDITH COLIAS**  
Post-Tribune

More than 90 Northwest Indiana schools have signed up for free state lead testing for water fountains, sinks and fixtures.

Sixty-two schools in Lake County and 29 schools in Porter County so far have opted to have the state test lead levels, according to the Indiana Finance Authority website. The department plans to finish the majority of testing by May.

About 150 schools have signed up for the state's testing program statewide, according to IFA's website.

A list of specific Region schools that have opted for state testing was not immediately available. The department's program pays for lead testing, particularly for aging water faucets, drinking fountains and plumbing fixtures. Schools are responsible for remediation costs, although the state does have loan programs available.

A spokeswoman for IFA said lead testing in Northern Indiana schools has not yet begun. Preliminary results in southern Indiana were being analyzed, she said. The EPA action threshold is 15 parts per billion for lead in drinking water.

In a separate initiative, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced that part of a settlement agreement with Heritage Environmental Services LLC would fund the installation of water foundations and PCB-free light fixtures at Carrie Gosch Pre-K Center, 4001 Indianapolis Blvd., and Block Middle School, 2700 Cardinal Drive, in East Chicago.

The settlement stemmed from "multiple hazardous waste violations" in July

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## LAKE COUNTY

# A closer look at parties

Rules considered on events in unincorporated areas

By **CARRIE NAPOLEON**  
Post Tribune

Lake County officials are looking at regulating how residents in the unincorporated areas can gather for a block party.

The discussion comes in the wake of an ordinance passed in September outlining rules for outdoor events and gatherings in the unincorporated areas. Lake County Commissioners signed off on the ordinance approved by the council, but sought an amendment applying only to block parties.

The ordinance defines outdoor events as any circus, carnival, bazaar, festival, exhibition, athletic contests, outdoor beer garden and "other public spectacles or outdoor events which are detrimental to the health, safety, welfare and protection of the citizens of Lake County," according to the ordinance.

The ordinance does not apply to established businesses such as private clubs or other established private organizations or associations. It also does not apply to events conducted at the Lake County Fairgrounds, which currently has a similar application policy.

Organizers of an outdoor event must now pay a \$100 application fee and apply for permit approval from the board of commissioners. The application and fee must be received 10 days prior to the commissioner's meeting where the permit will be discussed. As part of the approval process, event organizers must provide proof of liability

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