

Eliminate clutter and help another by spring cleaning

Brittany Belkiewitz
Editor-in-Chief

This spring season, purge the piles of junk! Learn how to get rid of practically anything by exploring some of the charitable and worthy websites below:

STUFFED ANIMALS

Send gently used Beanie Babies, stuffed animals, and other items to soldiers in war-torn regions such as Iraq and Afghanistan. There, they will distribute the fluffy toys to deserving children. Similarly, LovingHugs.org ships soft stuffed animals to children living in war zones, orphanages, refugee camps and medical facilities. With both, there is a small fee for postage.

Some animal shelters use well-loved stuffed animals to comfort puppies. Call the local shelter for more information.

BOOKS

With e-readers gaining popularity, many bookworms are pruning their personal physical libraries down to a few dog-eared favorites. A list of suggested sites to sell books is at the bottom of the story.

To donate books, contact a local church, day-care center, library, homeless shelter or other nonprofit agency. The Goodwill and Salvation Army also accept books in good condition. Unique donation opportunities are listed at the end of this story.

CLOTHING

Plato's Closet is a chain of resale shops that trade brand-name clothing items for cash. The closest of these secondhand stores is located in Mishawaka on Grape Road.

Goodwill also accepts clothing donations. Irreparable clothing scraps are recycled into cleaning cloths for industrial buyers.

CELL PHONES

There are many manufacturers, retailers and charities that collect cell phones. Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowe's, Office Depot, Staples and some Ace Hardware stores have recycling programs. Go to www.earth911.org to find the nearest drop-off center.

But before donating a phone, be sure to erase all personal information, including phone numbers, text messages and call history! To find out how, visit the phone manufacturer's website.

CDs

Sell old music on eBay, Craigslist or a similar site. At Swap.com, trade CDs, DVDs or books for 50 cents or a dollar apiece plus shipping. As a last resort, recycle CDs at Best Buy.

Spring fashions brighten up wardrobes and moods after months of winter

Jenny Szymkowski
Staff Writer

Sick of wearing all of those dark clothes from the winter? Well finally, colorful, fun fashion is back! With spring approaching, the new style is bold, bright colors. These happy colors and accessories are sure to brighten up any wardrobe and mood!

According to People Magazine, the number one spring must-have is brightly-colored clothing. Other must-haves include thick heels, colorful stripes, envelope bags, sleeveless jackets, animal prints, bright gold jewelry and flirty florals.

It's the time of the year to start taking out those spring clothes from the storage room. Put the winter boots away, and bring out the fun, colorful sandals.

"I like to wear capris with cute tank tops, and I love getting my sandals back out to wear again," said sophomore Brittany Zarazee.

According to firstscience.com, January is the most depressing month of the year. These last couple of months have been extremely cold, and the rising temperatures will soon be appearing. The thought of spring approaching is exciting.

One way to spice up some of your outfits is to add acces-



Photos by Lauren Dipert
(Left) Kristen Lang and (Right) Brittany Zarazee show off their fashion sense. The two are looking forward to spring.

sories. Wearing a pair of gold earrings or a chunky necklace is a fun way to do so. A good way to touch up an outfit is adding a wide belt to add interest to anyone's look. Another way to add to one's look is wearing a cute purse that complements an outfit by adding a splash of unexpected color.

"Springtime is about starting to bring out the friendship bracelets and lots of colorful headbands and cute spring up-dos," said junior Nicky Mazur.

The new styles are all about the 70s. The retro-cool look is back. Try the trend with high waisted flared jeans, a silky top and chunky platforms.

"Yes! The 1970s had a lot of really awesome fashions. I am especially a fan of high waisted shorts and pants, as well as floral prints. Also, I have been saying to my friends a lot lately how much I would love for bell bottoms on men to come back in style. I love that look!" said junior Kristen Lang.

Is the world coming to an end?

Jorge Medina
Staff Writer

There are a number of December 21, 2012 prediction circulating about the end of the world as we know it.

"Nothing is going to happen. I heard that the date changed to May 21 of this year. "Those people are crazy. In 2012, we're still going to be here," said senior Erika Torres.

Some say that on the ancient Mayan calendar, 2012 points to the end of the world. They picked December 21, 2012, as the exact day because that's when the calendar mysteriously ends.

"I think that December 21, 2012, is just a normal date and no such thing as the apocalypse is going to happen," said sophomore Christian Mitchell.

Many people believe that the world is coming to an end because of all the recent catastrophes that have occurred in the past decade, but many were just natural events caused by shifts in global climate change.

"No, I don't believe the end of the world will be in 2012. I think that's a lot of movie hype, and we'll only know when God decides. I can't explain the natural catastrophes that have been happening, but nature has always thrown us for a loop and probably always will," said study hall teacher Mrs. Lidgard.

The movie, *2012* is based on what might happen and how the world is going to end. Many people are drawing false conclusions from these types of films. They forget that the productions are just science-fiction movies to keep us entertained, nothing else.

"People think that the world is going to end in 2012 because of all the things that have been said on TV, but nothing is really going to happen," said senior Charles Mercado.

Don't freak out—the world isn't going to end yet. 2012 will come, but none of those things that are said are going to occur. The earth will come to an end whenever the sun burns out, but that's not for billions of years.

Bubonic plague found in boy who slept with pets

Kharson Nurnberg
Staff Writer

The transfer of diseases is most commonly known by sneezing, coughing and touching another person, but your furry companion may be another reason why students get sick. While sleeping with a pet may be a daily occurrence, animals come in contact with a lot of bacteria and viruses when simply going outside to play and then pass them onto their keeper.

Some of these bacteria and viruses are the black plague and cat-scratch disease. Both being passed by plainly giving kisses and sleeping next to its companion.

"I sleep with my dog all the time," said junior Austin Butcher. "I haven't gotten sick from them."

While it may not be as common as things like the cold and flu, awareness is key. In Arizona, a nine-year-old child contracted the bubonic plague from the fleas on his dog while he slept. A 48-year-old man and his wife both repeatedly contracted antibiotic resistant MRSA from the love shared with their feline friend.

A study done by the California Health Department shows that 56 percent of dog owners sleep with their dog and 62 percent of cat owners sleep with their cats. Only a couple cases of actual sickness has derived from these findings, but Professor Chromel, the one who conducted this study, says to keep these incidents on a low level, common sense must be present within an individual. Meaning washing ones hands after playing with a pet is necessary along with regular mandatory vet visits.

"I don't think that pets carry that many things, not anything that we can't handle anyways," said Butcher

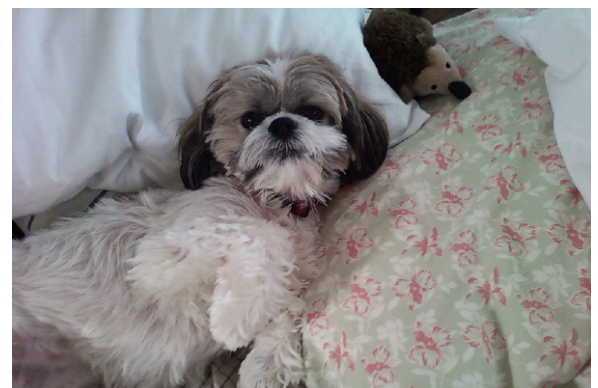


Photo by Samantha Holifield
A dog lounges on pillows in bed. Some pets carry diseases that their human owns can contract.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>BOOKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cash4Books.net -BlueRocketBooks.com -Half.com, an eBay company -Craigslist.org -BookScouter.com -ReadingTree.org -BooksForSoldiers.com -BooksForAfrica.org -BooksForAmerica.org | <p>STUFFED ANIMALS</p> <p>www.beaniesforbaghdad.com</p> <p>Before throwing junk out, look around for ads in the newspapers and on the radio. One person's junk could be another person's treasure!</p> |
|--|--|

McFall's Channel Café
Fish Lake
Carry out or Dine in
Catering for all occasions

FRIDAY FISH FRY
SATURADAY PRIME RIB
SUNDAY FRIED CHICKEN
ask about our daily specials!
219-369-1300

**Come a customer...
leave a friend**

Banking Made Easy...

FREE Checking
VISA Debit Card or ATM Card
Online Banking Services 24/7
Overdraft Protection Available
Convenient Shared Branches
And Much More choices....

You deserve a financial institution you can trust to get expert advice. We offer personal one-on-one help anytime for you to succeed when it comes to your future finances.

Open Your Account Today!

Grand Heritage FCU
201 Koomler Dr.,
LaPorte, IN 46350
(219) 324-5220
www.ghfcu.com

NCUA
55 Years of Local Service in LaPorte