

Georgetown author pens suspense novel

By CHARLOTTE KOVALCHUK

Telling stories has always been Richard Thielmann's passion.

As a kid, he was a storyteller "to the great delight of my family and friends." Then in high school, he remembers helping write the script for a showcase.

"Writing was always a part of me, and it still is," Mr. Thielmann said.

After working as an advertising writer and managing his own advertising agency, he said he decided to start writing for himself.

"I was getting old and fossilized," he said. "I decided I had postponed it long enough."

He published his first novel, *The Actress*, about a woman who overcomes obstacles to achieve her acting dream.

The author switched to the investigative suspense genre and wrote five standalone crime novels, adding his newest, *Justice Affirmed*, to the list this month. Four of his novels feature private investigator Butch Greiner. In *Justice Affirmed*, a woman tasks him with finding her husband's killers.

A dinner date with his wife in 2008 inspired Mr. Thielmann's latest novel. The couple were eating at a restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, next to a marina, where mega yachts were pulling out when Mr. Thielmann wondered, "Why do all the rich guys have these boats? From all I've read, they're rarely on them. I won-

der why that is.

"Having the devious mind I have, I started thinking about the dark side."

He created a story set on the Port of Galveston about a drug operation in which people transport large amounts of cash across the Atlantic and return with

drugs — a trip unhindered by law enforcement, perfect for a criminal undertaking.

Mr. Thielmann's hometown, Georgetown, is featured in the story when Mr. Greiner's cousin convinces him to move to the area.

The author never thought he would end up living in Texas, let alone Georgetown, until his son moved here after retiring from the military and convinced him to relocate from Ohio.

After renting Sun City houses here for 10 years, Mr. Thielmann decided to make the permanent move to Georgetown in 2013.

"We wish we'd have been here sooner. We love Georgetown," he said.

Mr. Thielmann enjoys the small town feel, even though "it won't be a small city for long," and the easy accessibility to Austin. Most of all, he loves the people.

Add green beans and toss until well-coated. Add almonds, 1/2 t. salt and the pepper and toss. Remove from heat and serve at once. Serves 6-8. — *Joanna Gaines.*

Along with the bruschetta, potatoes and beans, I made the Ranch Roast that I've run several times here, some homemade yeast rolls and a chocolate cream pie. Pretty tasty. Having all my children and grandchildren living in other states for a pretty long while has made having them all in Texas now all the sweeter. I hope your summertime plans are unfolding as you would wish, and that it is a slower, more relaxed time of year for you. Enjoy!

Murals, sculptures and grants — oh my!



BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

If you walk or drive past the intersection of Rock and Eighth streets this week, you will see a brilliantly colored new mural coming to life. That mural is representative of a busy, busy year for the city staff and board members responsible for arts and culture efforts in Georgetown.

The new mural at Rock and Eighth streets (on the side of Boomtown Escape Games), *Honoring the Past and Innovating the Future*, is the work of artist, designer and muralist Mila Sketch, whose proposal was favored by the City of Georgetown Arts and Culture Board this spring. All 21-by-15 feet of it will be completed before July 1. It will depict six existing buildings including the Georgetown Palace Theater, the M.B. Lockett building, and Southwestern University's Cullen Building, as well as imagined futuristic buildings and infrastructure. Mila's proposal notes that the clear blue sky in the background stands for a bright and joyful future for Georgetown, and the message of the mural is that Georgetown is a progressive and beautiful city honoring history and tradition as it looks to the future.

Another downtown muralist, Sarah Blankenship, started work in the library in March as new arts and culture coordinator for the City of Georgetown. She will assist Library Services Director Eric Lashley with the coordination, planning, organizing and execution of the city's arts and culture programming. Sarah is a visual artist herself and you have likely seen her work in the *Discover Georgetown* mural on the Square at Main and Seventh streets (on the side of Grape Creek Winery). Sarah designed the mural, which she and about 10 community volunteers painted in 2006.

In a bittersweet twist, Sarah is now part of an effort to re-home that very mural, or at least parts of it. The stucco wall on which the mural was painted has deteriorated and the repair required means that the entire mural cannot be pre-



Sarah Blankenship designed and worked with community volunteers to paint the mural, *Discover Georgetown*, on the Grape Creek Winery at Main and Seventh streets in 2006.

serve. City employees hope to preserve and honor the mural as a community effort by documenting it in high resolution digital images that can be considered for use in the future in a city building. The *Discover Georgetown* mural will be celebrated at 6 p.m. July 6 at First Friday, as will the new *Honoring the Past and Innovating the Future* mural at Rock and Eighth streets. Stop by both locations for refreshments, photos and conversation with the artists.

The Arts and Culture Board also advises city staff in the selection of pieces for the city's Sculpture Tour. The call is out for new outdoor sculptures to be installed in November, and the deadline is August 1. The Sculpture Tour has nine locations, and all nine pieces change out every year. The current locations are all on Main Street between Seventh and Eighth streets and outside the Ninth Street entrance to the Georgetown Public Library, and one or more new locations will be added for the coming year.

The city will soon issue a call for artwork to grace the 88-foot circumference of the rotunda of the new city hall, and another call for art to be placed in the new municipal court building. The entry to the municipal court will house two additional Sculpture Tour locations and a feature wall in city hall's lobby will be a new location for rotating work by local artists.

The city supports the arts in a myriad of ways — one is through grants. Nonprofit organizations, schools, informal arts and culture organizations,

Upcoming Library Events

- Exhibit: Texas Society of Sculptors 11th Annual Summer Show through Sept. 21
- June 30: Arts and culture grant proposals deadline
- Exhibit: Waterloo Watercolor Group: Gardener's Sketchbook July 2-27
- July 7, 6 p.m. First Friday Mural Celebrations at Main and Seventh streets and at Eighth and Rock streets
- July 8, 3-5 p.m. Artist reception for Waterloo Watercolor Group with Painting Demos
- July 11, 6 p.m. Adult Summer Reading Program Screening of Miss Sharon Jones
- July 15, 1 p.m. Reception and Awards Ceremony for Texas Society of Sculptors exhibit
- July 15, 2 p.m. Live Music at the Library: Kenny Williams and the Art Carvajal Trio
- Aug. 1 Sculpture Tour submission deadline
- Aug. 8, 6 p.m. Adult Summer Reading Program Music Trivia and Prize Drawing

Consult arts.georgetown.org or the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs such as kids' storytimes and regular teen and adult programs.

and individual artists creating public art or an event that is open to the public are invited to apply for Arts and Culture grants — but do so quickly. The deadline for grants to fund events occurring October 2018 through March 2019 is June 30.

For details and more information about the city's efforts in arts and culture, you can see calls for art, sign up for an email newsletter, check the calendar of events, and much more at arts.georgetown.org. The library is a place that often buzzes with activity, and we are often working away at surprising projects — including managing city efforts to grow

arts and culture opportunities in Georgetown. That function is part of what gained us our IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service in May, and we are proud of the varied work we do.

Finally: A valued member of our Friends of the Library group asked me last week, "What does the title of your column, 'BiblioFiles,' mean, anyway?" It made me think ... we did not mean to be cryptic, but it is a play on words. We started with bibliophile, or a collector or lover of books, and combined it with the word files, with these columns comprising the "files."

Recipes make for fun

Continued from 1B

- 3 small garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 2 1/2 T. dry sherry or sherry vinegar (I used sherry vinegar)
- 1 1/2 t. apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup sliced almonds, toasted in oven
- 1/2 t. black pepper

Bring large saucepan of generously salted water to a rolling boil. Add green beans and cook until al dente, 6 to 8 minutes (a little less for the tender haricots verts). Drain thoroughly and set aside.

Return saucepan to medium heat. Melt the butter, then add the garlic and sauce.

Whisk in brown sugar, sherry vinegar and cider vinegar.

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