

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

BOOKWORMS

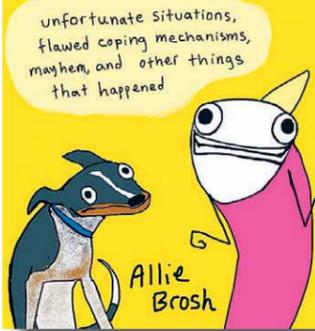
Comedian Groucho Marx had to quit school at 12 but was a voracious reader. He had a few things to say about books. "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read," he quipped, along with "I find television to be very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go in the other room and read a book.' We think Groucho would like most of these suggestions and we hope you do too.

— Tahree Lane
BLADE STAFF WRITER

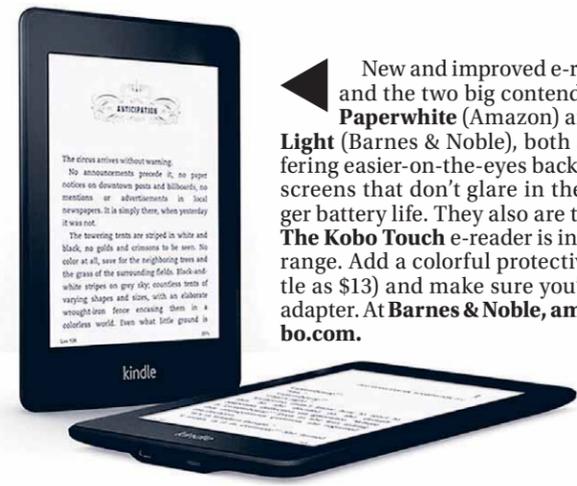
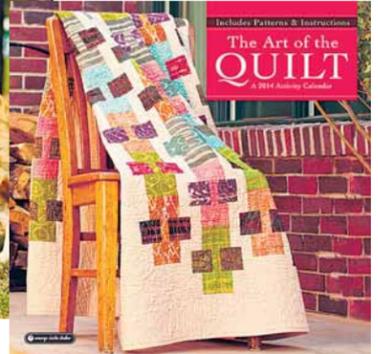
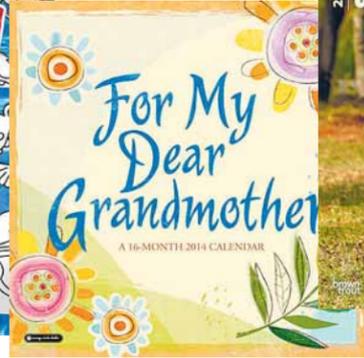
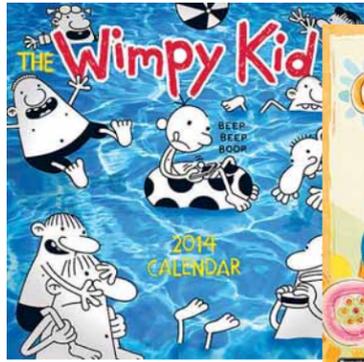
Remember when **calendars** were free from a local hardware store or funeral parlor? Now the size of art prints and priced \$10 to \$20, they're devoted to everything from outhouses to tree-houses, sports teams and blue jeans, cats (napping, naughty, fat, yoga), dogs (sleepy puppies, underwater, labs, golden, poodles) posters of the WPA, the Beatles, war, and more. We observe that most are printed in China or South Korea. Find them at the **Go Calendar** kiosk at **Franklin Park** near the food court, **Target**, **Kohl's**, and other stores.



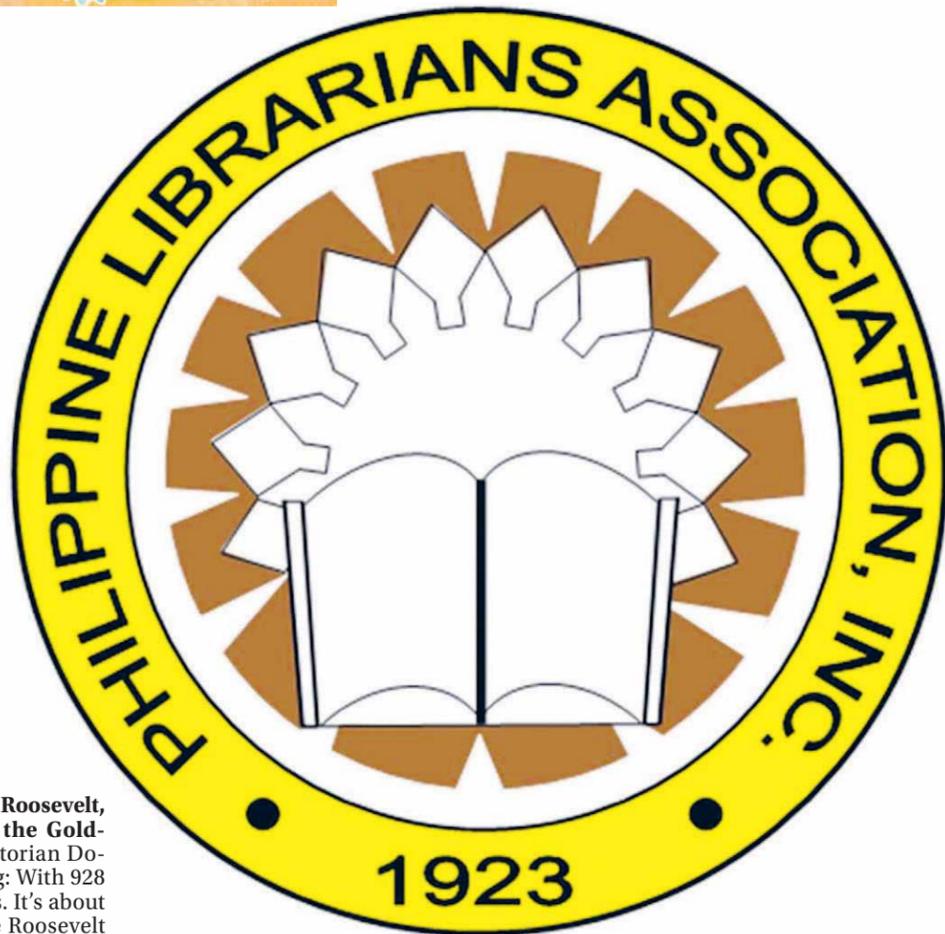
HYPERBOLE and a HALF



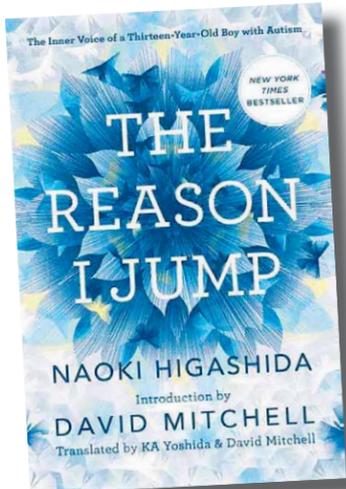
Hyperbole and a Half: Unfortunate Situations, Flawed Coping Mechanisms, Mayhem, and Other Things That Happened, by 28-year-old Allie Brosh, who wrote and drew a cartoony blog with crude bug-eyed characters for a couple years that eventually grew to have a huge following, mostly among the under-40s. Topics range from whether her dog is retarded, fun things to do with a brick, and to the topic that skyrocketed her popularity: her unflinching portrayal of numbing depression. Paperback, about \$11; **Books-A-Million**, **Barnes & Noble**, **Walmart**.



New and improved e-readers are here and the two big contenders are **Kindle Paperwhite** (Amazon) and **Nook GlowLight** (Barnes & Noble), both at \$119 and offering easier-on-the-eyes backlighting, matte screens that don't glare in the sun, and longer battery life. They also are thinner/lighter. The **Kobo Touch** e-reader is in the same price range. Add a colorful protective cover (as little as \$13) and make sure you've got a power adapter. At **Barnes & Noble**, **amazon.com**, **kobo.com**.

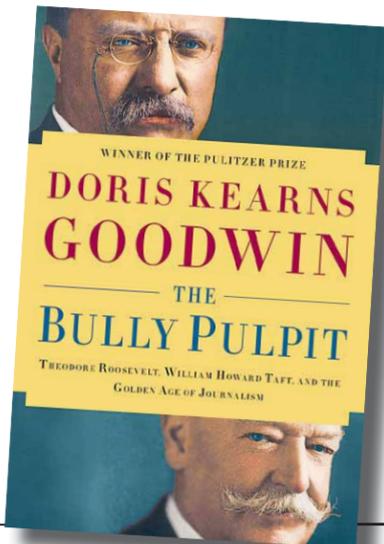


Libraries, schools, and untold numbers of books were destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last month; more than 5,000 people died and millions have lost their homes. Get your book club to ante up or make a donation in the name of your book lover to the **American Library Association's International Relations Office**. Download a donation form for **Philippine Library Relief** on the office's site, **ala.org/offices/iro**. You can also donate online. Donations will be sent to the **Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.** Information: Michael Dowling at 800-545-2433 ext. 3200.

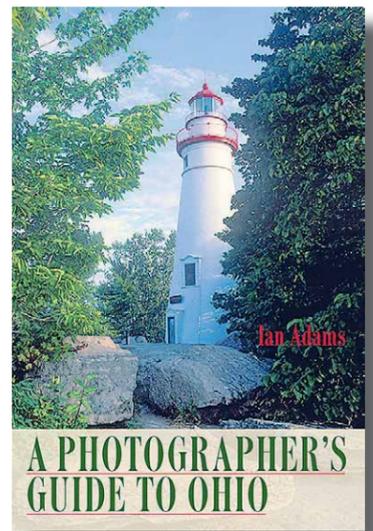


The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism by Naoki Higashida, translated by David Mitchell (father of an autistic child). Smart and self-aware, Naoki answered 58 questions using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts he can't speak out loud. Said the Chicago Tribune: "This is an intimate book, one that brings readers right into an autistic mind — what it's like without boundaries of time, why cues and prompts are necessary, and why it's so impossible to hold someone else's hand ... by listening to this voice, we can understand its echoes." From \$13.50 to \$17 at **Books-A-Million**, **Barnes & Noble**, **target.com** (Target).

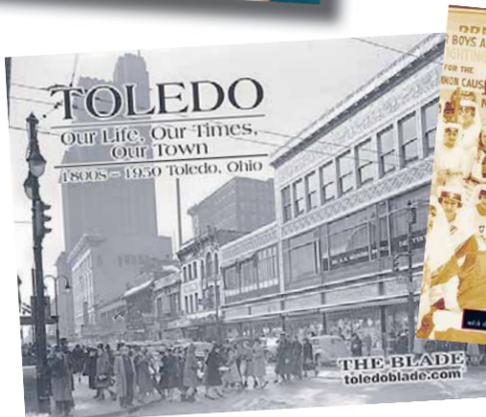
The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism, by historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. Warning: With 928 pages, it weighs three pounds. It's about the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt and his successor, William Howard Taft — one-time friends who became sworn foes. Goodwin also chronicles the birth of an activist press, which occurred when some terrific journalists converged at McClure's magazine; their work helped usher in the Progressive era. **Amazon: \$24; \$13.99 Kindle; \$24.41 MP3 CD**. About \$25 at **Books-A-Million**, **Barnes & Noble**, **target.com** (Target), **walmart.com** (Walmart).



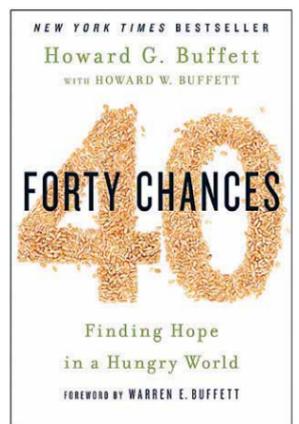
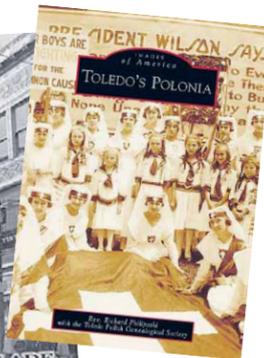
A Photographer's Guide to Ohio by Ian Adams, one of Ohio's leading landscape photographers, with 158 photogenic spots in Ohio — covered bridges, exquisite gardens, state parks, and nature preserves. Each image is accompanied by directions, related Web sites, and historical facts, and Adams offers tips for capturing the best image. Also check out his glorious **Trees: A Photographic Celebration**. Through February you can catch his exhibit at Secor Metropark in the National Center for Wildlife Photography. About \$23 to \$26 at **Barnes & Noble**, **Books-A-Million**, and **ianadamsphotography.com**.



November's Fury: The Deadly Great Lakes Hurricane of 1913, by Michael Schumacher, an expert on Great Lakes shipwrecks and lighthouses. Twelve ships sunk, 31 were grounded on rocks or beaches, and 250 men lost their lives in this freak hurricane that lasted three days and whipped up waves of 40 feet. It's well-written, with accounts of daring rescues, amazing survivals, and plenty of photos. About \$19 at **Books-A-Million**, **Barnes & Noble**.



A dozen local history books are at the **Libbey Glass Outlet** adjacent to the Toledo Farmers' Market (still open on Saturday mornings). Books on Toledo's railroads, architecture, baseball, hockey, Polish community, glass-making, and Ohio's wineries, are there along with **Toledo: Our Life, Our Times, Our Town** (photobooks, Vol. II and III still available, \$14.99), and **You'll Do Better in Toledo** (early postcards of the city, \$14.99). The latter two, published by The Blade, can be bought at **The Blade** building downtown, 541 N. Superior St. Most of the others are paperbacks priced at less than \$30, and are also available at bookstores.



40 Chances, by Howard G. Buffett who has the extraordinary happenstance to be son of one of the world's richest men. Dad Warren gave his kids buckets of money and told them to go forth and make the world a better place. As a farmer, Howard decided to fight starvation. Forty essays about his successes and failures are illustrated by his photographs. About \$17 at **Books-A-Million**, **target.com** (Target), **walmart.com** (Walmart), **Barnes & Noble**.

* Prices and availability subject to change