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BRIAN'S BRAIN

by Connie Kuzydym

Since Brian Cooley was old enough to pick up a pen, he doodled. Eventually, the doodles turned into works of art. He was always drawing, even when working. He was constantly being told to stop drawing...until the day arrived that changed the course of his life.

Brian is a cartoon artist who is severely autistic, but through the love and support of those closest to him has become high functioning. The journey

for this New Buffalo resident to become an artist arrived a few years after he met Dave Smykal in 1997 at Gateway Inc., a non-profit center in Benton Harbor, Mich., that helps individuals with disabilities learn employment skills. Dave was a job coach/skills developer there.

While at Gateway, Brian learned soft job skills such as standing, sitting and working for three

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Brian Cooley is photographed by The Beacher's Bob Wellinski, immersed in the world of creating art.

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hours before taking a 15-minute break. In his spare moments, he drew. He eventually learned recycling. Every chance he got, even while on the work recycling line, he would stop, take a piece of paper or a cardboard box and draw.

"It was like 'I Love Lucy' on a conveyor belt," Dave said.

This constant need to be drawing at work was a light bulb moment for everyone involved. Brian was showing everyone what he really wanted to do. Fortunately, Michigan started an initiative that supports people with disabilities and talents, allowing them to work in a microenterprise to promote such skills.

Brian quit his recycling job, but continued with Gateway. In 2001, Gateway, Dave, Brian and Margaret Cooley, his mother, created a business plan that launched Brian's Brain. His business name is apropos, as it provides a glimpse into how Brian sees things.

When he draws, there is no sketching of an idea onto paper. He sits down and begins drawing, using an India ink marker. He then uses oil-based Sharpies to add color.

His artwork is reflective of him: happy and expressive. The fun, colorful style draws you to his creations. Perusing the pieces, his attention to detail leads your eye to catch something a bit different each time. Like eye candy for the soul.

Brian's drawings are one of a kind. Even though a few pieces have been drawn numerous times, each one is unique. One such piece is "Dog Wash." The main theme is the same individual dogs in their own bathtubs. Every time it is drawn, the style of bathtub, types of dogs and other details vary.

Watching him draw leaves you in awe. Due to poor fine motor skills, he holds his marker in a fist-type manner. For most, that would not allow enough control for fine detail, but for Brian, it not only allows him to draw with precision, but also to do extremely small lettering.

Brian has incredible spatial awareness. Without making any lines on his paper, he begins his drawing in the upper left corner. By the time he reaches the bottom right corner, his drawing fits perfectly on the page.

"He visually sees it before it happens...It's Brian's brain," Margaret said. "He's always been able to draw like that...Spatially his brain works differently. Autistic children's brains work differently."

That technical aspect to his work does not alter the fact that his artisanship is imaginative, warm, focused, and leaves you smiling.

One customer after purchasing a piece was so drawn to it during the drive home, she kept stopping to view it. Another person who purchased three pieces told Margaret, "If I'm having a bad day, it makes me laugh. It makes me happy." A high-end gal-

lery owner sought his work, telling his mother there is no one else doing anything like this.

"An artist named it happy art," Margaret said. "It's silly. It's fun."

As a nurse, Margaret knew there was something special with her youngest child.

"The first time he said the alphabet, he said it backwards," she recalled. "He can read backward and upside down, as fast as you can read forward."

It was when his older brother went for a kindergarten physical that, upon entering the room, the doctor saw Brian hide under a table. He asked Margaret what was wrong. She said doctors up to this



Dave Smykal has been a guiding force with Brian for many years.



Margaret Cooley looks over images Brian created with his fingers on an iPad.

point could not provide a conclusive diagnosis. Their thought was, maybe he would grow out of it. Keep in mind, Brian is 48, and this was about 45 years ago.

So, this astute doctor sent a county nurse to visit the family in their home. After spending the day watching Brian, she immediately understood the family needed help. They were referred to a nearby mental health clinic in Michigan.

Because his diagnosis was so rare, about 1 in every 2,000 people was diagnosed with his condition, and because no legal classification existed in Michigan, they were not allowed to say autism. They could only use the term "autistic-like tendencies."

Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates autism's prevalence as 1 in 59 children in the United States. This includes 1 in 37 boys and 1 in 151 girls. Autism or autism spectrum disorder, according to the Autism Speaks website, refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as

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The many faces that make up Brian's magnets.



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by unique strengths and differences. Many forms of autism exist, caused by different combinations of genetic and environmental influences. The term “spectrum” reflects the wide variation in challenges and strengths possessed by each person.

It was not until Brian was 8 that the word autism was used in his diagnosis. He was put in a program with other children with disabilities. Even though he was an early reader, he did not comprehend what he read. So, they started from the beginning, working with him to understand the meaning of words and phrases he verbalized.

By the time he was 12, he was reading at a college level, which is a savant-like trait.

“He’s not a savant, but has savant-like traits because he could read so early and do so many things. But he couldn’t tie his shoelaces. Still has trouble tying shoelaces,” Margaret said. “There’s some things



Brian holds his marker in a fist-type manner, which allows him to draw with precision.

he’s at the level of, I would say, and he will never get past, between 8 and 12 years of age...The things he excels at, he’s just brilliant at, like the reading and doing the artwork.”

Margaret has learned from doctors that the mind can’t work in the abstract *and* the normal. The more he was made to become part of our world — toilet training, manners — the more he lost some of those gifts.

For the family, there are continual concerns for a child who needs 24-hour care. Brian can stay on his own for 15-minute stretches. For most parents, the toughest issue is what happens to their child when they are gone. Who will take care of them? It’s a tough question, a tough concern.

But there are also blessings. Brian, for example, still gets excited for Christmas. He looks forward to baking cookies, watching Christmas movies, listening to Christmas music. When speaking with him

for this article, he was celebrating Christmas in July and had a daily Christmas joke.

For Margaret, the concerns, the trials and tribulations, the blessings, they are all part of who Brian is, and all she has known about him.

This is their normal.

“He’s such a sweet, wonderful person,” Margaret lovingly said. “He’s so organized. He keeps his room tidy. He’s just a pleasure to be with...”

In his room are thousands of “books” he has written through the years. These are personal to him, as they tell a story of his thoughts on daily occurrences or special occasions. As a youngster, he precisely hand tore the square pieces of paper for the pages. Now, he has learned to use scissors for the task, cutting precise squares instead.

“That’s how we started (drawing),” Margaret said. “It’s a whole story.”

Brian has come a long way. And Brian’s Brain has opened up a new world for him. His career as an artist began at Chartreuse, an artist-owned co-



operative gallery in downtown St. Joseph, Mich. To become a part of it, Brian had to do a presentation, be interviewed and voted in by all the artists. Eventually, Brian and Dave moved to Aveline Gallery, an artist-consigned shop where he works with Dave, who continues to serve as his job coach, and as a mentor, advocate, fellow artist and friend. Not only is Brian a contributing artist, but he also works in the gallery two days a week.

Having been with Brian for numerous years, Dave believes what has made the biggest difference in Brian’s life is the ability to make decisions for himself.

“He comes to meetings here, he gets to say what’s on his mind,” Dave said. “He’s all a part of us here. At home, he doesn’t get to say that as they do things as a family. But here, he’s kind of just himself.”

Dave has taught Brian a variety of soft skills, such as money counting, going to the coffee shop

near the gallery to buy a cappuccino, ordering/picking up his lunch across the street. Dave treats him like an adult and encourages him to do things on his own, providing him with a sense of independence.

Dave is the driving force behind the shows in which Brian participates. Collectively, they work on forming ideas for what he should draw. Sometimes, the ideas come from Dave. Other times, they come from Brian's inspiration. What is his inspiration?

"My inspiration mind," Brian said.

Recently, David had him replicate a series of masterpieces. From afar, his drawings were recognizable as Picasso's "The Starry Night" and Seurat's "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte." A closer look revealed his touches. It was an intriguing look into how Brian sees the masters' work.

Brian's art, indeed, has transformed his life.

Dave's presence in his life has allowed him to step into the world of social art occasions, to be a successful adult artist.

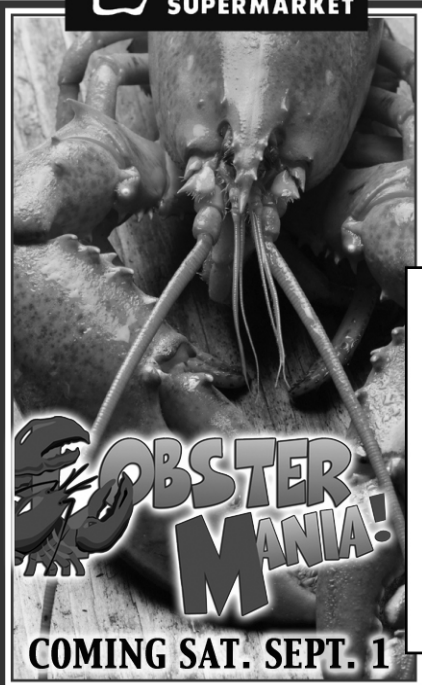
"When people see Brian, they see him as an artist. You don't feel sorry for him," Dave said. "They admire his work. People don't know autism like this. He's not a shrinking violet. He's big in art."

"People who have bought his stuff come back quite a bit. Whatever it's about him, they get him," David said. "He's learned how to make something

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Brian displays his work alongside his longtime friend, mentor, advocate and artist Dave Smykal.



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As the interview process continued, Brian found himself increasingly at ease with The Beacher's Connie Kuzdym.

that's marketable. Everything he's tried has been pretty successful."

Although Brian prefers drawing on paper, Dave is guiding him into a new medium: polymer clay. The magnets he is making are expressive faces that capture your attention, making you smile.

His art, which tells stories, reflects the happy person Brian is.

"That's to me where I see the joy of his artwork. It's entertainment," Dave said. "You can hear him laughing at himself. He amuses himself. That's not easy to do."

In the process, Brian is an inspiration to those whose lives he touches. His commissioned artwork hangs in two autistic centers — one in Michigan, the other in Illinois — to inspire other individuals with autism. He gives hope to families with autistic children.

The German word autism means self. True to its meaning, Brian will always have difficulty with socialization and interacting with others. Living in his own world, he sees things differently than the rest of us. And yet, by using his natural ability, he is making his mark in this world.

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“Crazy Rich Asians” Has Wit, Laughs and Heart to Spare

by Andrew Tallackson

Here is a rare case where the movie is better than the book.

I was not a fan of Kevin Kwan’s 2013 debut, to be frank. The Singapore native laid the groundwork for a radical culture clash between an American-born Chinese woman and the jet-set elite of her boyfriend’s Singapore inner circle. Then, the book collapsed into the literary equivalent of couture porn. Endless, obsessive detail about clothing, designers, jewelry, interior design, the only discernible point being that Singapore women are just as vapid as America’s Kardashians.

In a movie, however, a character’s wealth is succinctly conveyed through a single shot: the clothes, the opulence. So, by trimming all the “fashion fat” from Kwan’s book, what remains on film is extremely faithful to the *best* aspects of his tale.

Now, here’s the pleasant surprise. Director Jon M. Chu (“Now You See Me 2”) and his writers, Adele Lim and Peter Chiarelli, one up their source. Their adaptation, cast to perfection, is what this story on paper often was not: fun, witty, moving.

Like the book, “Crazy Rich Asians” opens with a scene that wickedly illustrates the insane wealth of its characters. In 1995, Eleanor Young (Michelle Yeoh) arrives with family, tired and drenched from rain, at a posh London hotel that denies her a room because of her race. Undeterred, Eleanor calls up her husband, who purchases the hotel, guaranteeing shelter for the night.

Flash forward to the present, and Eleanor’s son Nick (Henry Golding), now living in New York, brings economics professor girlfriend Rachel (Constance Wu) to Singapore for the week. The occasion? His best friend’s nuptials, dubbed the country’s wedding of the century. Rachel also gets to meet Nick’s family and friends, just about all of whom flaunt their extravagances. Eleanor, already on the defensive, is prepared to dismiss Rachel as an unsuitable match.

What grounds “Crazy Rich Asians” amid the chaos

is the spark — apparent from the get-go — between Wu and Golding. They clearly belong together. They exist as the movie’s anchor, the viewer’s tour guide, if you will, into a world of mind-boggling wealth.

Yes, we bear witness to extravagant lifestyles, but Chu and his writers make smart choices in how they navigate through them. They wisely beef up the character of Peik Lin, Rachel’s best friend from college, transforming it into a star-making turn by



Constance Wu leads a dynamite cast in “Crazy Rich Asians.”

American comic Awkwafina (real name Nora Lum). With her husky voice, confused wardrobe and off-the-cuff quips, the actress gives the role a hilariously loopy appeal. Ditto Nick Santos as Nick’s flamboyant cousin, Oliver. In the book, his dialogue felt overly written. Here, it’s outrageously funny, case in point his description of a rainbow-colored dress as the fashion equivalent of a “clown’s tampon.” Throw into the mix Gemma Chan, who brings a touch of old-school Hollywood sheen to Nick’s cousin Astrid, and you have a dream supporting cast.

Both the book and film establish Eleanor as the heavy, but Yeoh (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”), thanks to the sharp script, has the freedom to explore the character in far more subtle detail. We understand her better. In a beautifully etched scene, one that does not

appear in the book, Rachel and Eleanor confront each other over a game of mahjong, with Rachel’s mother close by. The exchange is exceptionally written, impeccably performed. I found myself moved on two levels, one by how wise it is and, two, how the film — the first Hollywood release to feature an all-Asian cast since “The Joy Luck Club” 25 years ago — has treated its actresses to material with real meat on its bones.

If you haven’t read Kwan’s novel, don’t bother. See the film instead. It’s the real deal.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Fast-Paced “Wait Until Dark” is Thrilling, Suspenseful

by Linda Weigel

My first reaction when “Wait Until Dark” ended was that of being stunned by how quickly the time passed. The play grasps your attention and holds it firmly. It’s billed as a thriller by playwright Frederick Knott, who was responsible for the equally fine “Dial M for Murder.” His quote, “Fear – jealousy – money – revenge – and protecting someone you love,” concisely summarizes the trajectory of this story.

Dunes Summer Theatre’s production is captivating, gifting the audience with a nuanced view of the progressive, creeping terror that engulfs the main character. Directed by Leigh Selting, it achieves a heightened level of suspense mixed with anxiety and surprise.

The action unfolds in a basement apartment that is sparsely furnished, with a grouping of photographic equipment in one corner belonging to Sam Hendrix, the photographer husband. Sam is a veteran and Susy is his blind wife. The plot revolves around three con men trying to recover a doll they believe Sam possesses, one they know contains a fortune in drugs. When Sam leaves the apartment for his studio, Susy is left alone to cope with the con men, and their attempts to mentally seduce, then scare her into revealing the doll’s location.

Also propelling the action are the conflict, then cooperation between Susy and her 14-year-old upstairs neighbor, Gloria. She is a key component to Susy’s eventual dawning recognition of deceit on

the part of the conspirators.

As Susy, Kalika Rose embodies a believable heroine: smart, vulnerable, yet willing to risk it all for love. Andy Ricci as Sam appears briefly, providing the balance to Susy’s heightened state of awareness. Patrick Regner as Mike Talman smoothly inhabits his role as the bad guy with a conscience, making him one of the more interesting characters.

Mac Westcott as Sgt. Carlino is loud, brash and impatient, a man one suspects not given to sentimentality. Derek Brummet as Harry Roat Jr. is a well-played, menacing figure, a total liar and sociopath. As Gloria, Emma Gordon stands out as the angry, uncooperative youth who eventually becomes Susy’s ally and best chance to survive.

I do caution against comparing the play with the popular film starring Audrey Hepburn and Alan Arkin. It’s apples and oranges. The very nature of film, with the ability to utilize closeups and other cinematic lighting tones, makes for an entirely different approach.

I would not recommend the play for children under 12, as there are some graphic scenes in Act II that could be disturbing.

For adults, see “Wait Until Dark” before it closes. It’s another fine, professional production from Dunes Summer Theatre this season.

(See *Activities on Page 50* for show times, dates and ticket prices.)



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A Taste for Adventure



The staff at LaPorte County Public Library's Coolspring Branch celebrated the end of its annual summer reading program by setting up a 24-foot climbing wall Tuesday Aug. 7.

The librarians invited all young people with a taste for adventure to test their skills against the vertical challenge.

Each year, the library sponsors reading programs for students in kinder-

garten through 12th grade. Prizes could be won for the number of books read.

In fact, a Read and Bead Program proved popular. Beads were earned for each book read, and all summer students could show off beautiful beaded necklaces celebrating their accomplishments.

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Zoo-B-Que

The annual Zoo-B-Que is from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at Washington Park Zoo.

Guests can experience attractions normally off limits, such as the big cat cages, fallow deer exhibit, animal care clinic and dietary needs kitchen. Keepers also will bring animals out of their enclosures, including the baby gator and armadillo, with special species on display courtesy of Silly Safari.

This year's focus is funding an expansion to the Big Cat exhibit. The plan would extend the Bengal Tiger's livable area by about 25 feet, while doubling the size of the lion's den. In addition, the cats would get a glass observation area in place of bars, allowing the animals more relaxation, with less noise from visiting guests.

The family-oriented event offers a catered dinner that includes fried chicken and hot dogs. Advance tickets are required. The cost is \$15 for adults (12 and older), \$10 for children 3-11 and free for 2 and younger. Visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com for reservations or more information.

Genealogical Society

LaPorte County Genealogical Society will present its 2018 Residency Awards at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11, at LaPorte City Parks Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

For many years, the society has presented awards for First Family, honoring the heritage of people who settled in LaPorte County before Dec. 31, 1840. Recognition expanded recently to include settler families, pioneer families and Civil War families.

Guests are welcome. More information is available on the group's Facebook page and blog, lpcgs.blogspot.com/

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Meet Us in South Haven

When we want to break bread with Mary and Randy Lober, friends from Otsego, Mich., invariably, we say, "Meet us in South Haven."

As in a long, leisurely luncheon at Clementine's, 500 Phoenix St., then a stroll around town with a long reading break at Black River Books, 330 Kalamazoo St. We even brave Clementine's in the good-ole' summertime, so long as we seek seating during the lull between lunch and dinner at, oh, say 2 p.m. EDT.

We learned the hard way not to hit Clementine's at noon or 6, even off-season. They do not take reservations, but you're welcome to call them at (269) 637-4755 to see if we've been hogging your favorite corner booth by the window.

Anyway, we've been finding our escape in South Haven with Mary and Randy almost from the moment we launched our Dunery Press back in 1988. Mary found us at a book signing in Saugatuck in, oh, say, 1989, so she and Randy have been friends ever since.

We have gone to see them in Otsego, which they assure us is "not a suburb of Kalamazoo," and they are coming to see us



A postcard image of South Haven.

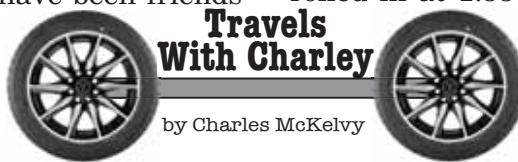
in Harbert in September for Mary's birthday and a long, leisurely luncheon at The Stray Dog Bar & Grill in New Buffalo. However, it is in South Haven where we really come together for our best visits.

We get to drive up the beautiful Blue Star Highway. They take any number of scenic drives west from Otsego. Whomever gets to Clementine's first books the corner booth for four.

That's how it went down the other week when we rolled in at 1:55 p.m. and began looking for Mary and Randy in the crowd outside the popular restaurant. We were so busy looking, we walked right past Mary who, of course, had her nose in a book, but we

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Life is good when you have lunch with Mary and Randy Lober at Clementine's in South Haven.

walked right past her."

So I went out and retrieved Mary. In no time flat, we were seated at our corner booth ordering "13 inches of onion rings," despite the fact that they are served stacked on a 12-inch pole. Randy reckoned we'd need that extra inch for all the walking we'd be doing after lunch. Our server was totally on board with it.

Then, we ordered our favorites — Natalie is known at Clementine's as "the potato lady" for her "two baked potatoes with salsa on the side" — and got down to some serious catching-up.

Now that we are all certified seniors, we regale one another with our various aches and ailments. But for our recent reunion, we were upright and taking nourishment from each other's warm company. Delicious food, fellowship and friendly service — what's not to like?

We were all nimble enough after our repast



There be books by familiar Michigan authors at Black River Books.

couldn't miss Randy in his blue shirt and broad smile at a tabletop inside.

"Already booked the booth," he said, "and Mary's outside. You must have

to walk a few blocks to Black River Books (269-637-7374), where we were pleased to see that the Dunery Press was well-represented in the "Michigan authors" section, thanks to Mary. As she has been

telling us for years, "You guys deserve more readers."

Maybe we do, but we are not marketing mavens, so we are most grateful for the ministrations of Mary Lober.

We then settled in various corners of this cozy bookstore that specializes in "used, rare, firsts, collectible and signed books" (yes, we signed ours). I for one was awash in my favorite subject, the Civil War, and the other three, well, I was too busy refighting the Battle of Gettysburg to give them a second thought.

I know we made the owners — Dick and Pam Haferman — in their absence happy with our purchases. Then, we made our way back to our cars, discussing plans for our next gathering.



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We couldn't find a yacht to our liking, so we drove home to Harbert.

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Three-Day Tour de LaPorte Benefits Cancer Patients



Since its inception in 2002, Tour De LaPorte has raised more than \$655,000 to benefit local cancer patients.

More than 1,500 community members are expected to participate in the 17th annual event Aug. 24-26, starting at Cummings Lodge in LaPorte.

Presented by Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, the fundraiser features cycling, running and walking categories. Early packet pickup and the Trail Run is Friday, Aug. 24. Saturday, Aug. 25, includes the Half Marathon Run, 10K Run, 5K Run/Walk and Mini TDL Fun Run for 4- to 8-year-olds. Sunday, Aug. 26, marks the cycling routes, which are 5, 15, 25, 40, 60 and 100 miles.

Adult registration ranges from \$25-45 depending on the event. Registration for students 12-17 is half the adult amount, while children 11 and younger are free. Fees increase \$5 per event for those who choose on-site registration. There is a discount for registering for multiple events (\$15 off the second event and \$10 off the third event), and participants who take the three-day challenge and sign up for an event each day receive a special award.

Visit tourdelaporte.org to see a full schedule or register. The website also provides maps of the run-

ning and cycling routes, and a link to Ride with GPS, a free interactive website and app that participants can use to download the routes or follow GPS turn-by-turn directions.

For those who would like to support the event in a volunteer capacity, there are a wide range of roles needed. Visit tourdelaporte.org/volunteers to see the openings and sign up.

The Run Sign Up Store at bbpnet.com/x33a can be used to purchase the 2018 cycling jersey and TdL T-shirts. A free shirt is included for volunteers, pre-registrants and on-site registrants as supplies last. There also are tickets available for the Rotary Club Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night, and guest meal tickets for community members attending, but not participating in, the events on Saturday or Sunday.

Email connect@tourdelaporte.org or call (219) 326-2471 with questions.

The 2017 TdL attracted nearly 1,200 participants from 11 different states. Subsequently, HFL provided 130 community members with \$89,964.09 in financial assistance in 2017. So far in 2018, the Cancer Patient Fund has supported 97 community members with \$54,078.47 of financial assistance related to their treatment.

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LET'S CONNECT!   YouTube

Historic Writing Tools Program

Avid fountain-pen collector Trevis Young will present a program on historic writing instruments at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Young will trace the history of four major U.S. pen manufacturers during the 20th century. Those attending are invited to take fountain pens, and Young will try to provide insight on them.

Young is the organist and choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, LaPorte, and the choir director at Bethany Lutheran Church, LaPorte. He has been collecting fountain pens for five years.

The program is in the meeting room. Call (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for details.



Young

Festival in the Park

The 2018 Festival in the Park, which features live music, food, craft beer and wine, is from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at Kratz Field in Ogden Dunes.

The adults only event, presented by Ogden Dunes Women's Club, costs \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Chi Town Soul will perform, with Michigan City's Zorn Brew Works and Shoreline Brewery among the brewers present. Food trucks include South Shore Ovenworks and The Mobile Cookout on Wheels.

Held rain or shine, those attending the Ravinia-style picnic are encouraged to take chairs, picnic blankets or tables.

Tickets are available at festivalinthepark.eventbrite.com. Proceeds benefit several groups, including The Boys & Girls Club, Portage Food Pantry, Humane Society and The Caring Place.

Mill Pond Festival

The 32nd Annual Mill Pond Festival is Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 25-26, at Mill Pond Park in Union Mills.

The event includes live entertainment, a beer garden, food, crafts, canoe rides, skeet shoot, car show and kids games. Fireworks are at dusk on Saturday.



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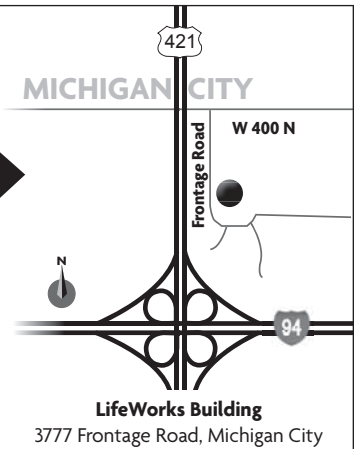
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For more information visit: www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Ant Lion Safari from 3 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for the short discovery walk.

• **Park Plays, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.**

Park Plays features local theater groups presenting shows and excerpts from classic Shakespeare, to contemporary musicals, to improv. Take a blanket or beach chair to the west side of the pavilion.

• **Sunset Yoga from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel. The program is located near the beach pavilion.

• **Snakes Alive!, 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24.**

Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.

• **Hike to the Governor's Cottage from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 25.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a moderate hike to explore the remains of Gov. Jackson's cottage near the lakeshore.

• **Full Moon Hike from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Satur-**

day, Aug. 25.

Meet at the Nature Center for a short presentation about the moon, followed by a hike to Lake Michigan and back.

• **Critter Dinner from 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 26.**

See reptiles and amphibians eat live meals at the Nature Center.

• **Shipwreck Stories from 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26.**

Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for the interactive program.

• **Bird Window Bingo from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 27.**

Prizes will be awarded during a bird-theme version of the game.

• **Scatology 101 from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27.**

Meet at the Nature Center where a game offers, according to a press release, "the scoop on poop."

• **Beach Yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.**

The class for all levels is taught by Duneland YMCA instructors. The cost per class is \$10, which is paid to the instructor. A \$40 five-class pass is available. Classes cancel in case of inclement weather. Take a yoga mat or towel.

• **Wild Edibles Walk from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a 60-minute walk exploring dune delicacies.

• **Slimey Salamanders from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28.**

Meet at the Nature Center to view native salamanders, then make slime.

• **Photo Scavenger Hunt from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.**

Take a camera or phone to the Nature Center for the game that includes a list and prizes.

• **Beaver Tales from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.**

Meet at the nature center for facts on beaver adaptations.



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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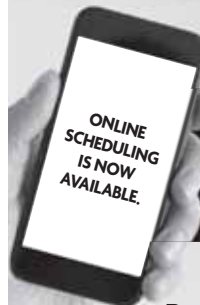
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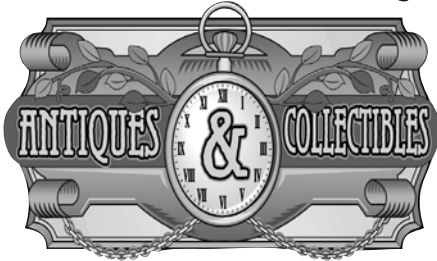
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Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Curious Coyotes: Endangered Species from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 25.**

Children 6-10 learn about threatened and endangered species. Dress for walking the trails. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

• **Art Stations: Fibonacci Patterns from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Aug. 26**

The event is free with paid Fernwood admission.

• **Summer Yoga from 12:15 to 1:30 and 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 29.**

All levels can participate in the outdoor class that incorporates yang (energetic movement) and yin (restorative). The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

• **In the Curator's Gallery.**

"Native American Basketry" runs through Sunday, Sept. 9.

• **In Trillium Hall.**

Works by David Allen continue through Sunday, Sept. 9.

• **In the Clark Art Gallery.**

The June Cary "Retrospective" runs through Sunday, Sept. 30.



Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

Stepping Stone Fundraiser

Anytime Fitness, 4112 Franklin St., will host "Step Up for Stepping Stone," a fundraiser for Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.

The goal is to raise \$5,000 for the shelter. Open to members and friends, participants must commit to a 30-minute step workout. The donation is a \$20 minimum, or \$10 and a donation item.

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The “Bear” Necessities

by Bob Wellinski



Michiana Shores residents and Park Board members who helped get the project done include (from left) Brenda Hickman, Joan Lewis, Daina Dumbrys, Mick Wulff, Dolly Millick and Bill Baker. Unavailable for the photo were Jeanne Paxton and Pam Dubie.



Bill Baker could be considered the Michelangelo of sculpted tree trunks.

Better yet, the Michiana Shores community will be able to enjoy his latest masterpiece for years to come.

The Michiana Shores Park Board hired Baker,

of Top Notch Chainsaw Carvings, Naperville, Ill., to transform a 14-foot red oak into three bears climbing a tree. The red oak, located in the 400 block of El Portal Drive, was roughly 100 feet tall, and with a canopy of nearly 100 feet. About 160 to 170 years old, it was

deemed unsafe by NIPSCO and an arborist. Because of the potential hazard to people and power lines, NIPSCO took down much of the tree, saving the community nearly \$10,000. The tree was reduced to 14 feet, with a 3-foot diameter blank canvas for Baker to dis-

play his talents with chain saws and grinders.

Baker, who has been in the business for nearly 20 years, said he will do 45 carvings this year.

Special thanks to Mario Jobbe for sending us photos of when Baker first began work on the tree.



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La Porte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more details.

Joyful Movement, "Shake, Rattle and Move"

The 45-minute, low-impact mindfulness program starts at 7:45 a.m. and meets at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Dates are Aug. 27 and 29.

The free program is self-paced and ideal for all ages. Participants can sit or stand. The emphasis is stretching, meditation, heart pumping and balance.

Call one week in advance of each date.

Northern Indiana Walk for PKD – 2-Mile Walk

The annual event is Saturday, Sept. 8, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

Check-in is at 10 a.m., with the walk at 11:10 a.m. Those interested can walk, form a team, help with the committee or volunteer. Email northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org to register or for more details, or visit www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 27, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 (wear a Halloween costume and bring treats to share), Nov. 19 and 26, and Dec. 10 and 17 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- Sept. 12 — Putting Your Garden to Rest for the Season with Sacha Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the annual enrollment period, John Williams, State Health Insurance Assistance Program medicare specialist.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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Is that pain in your heel or bottom of your foot due to **PLANTAR FASCIITIS?**

Here's an easy 20 seconds self-test to find out

Does your heel or bottom of your foot hurt:

- with the first few steps out of bed in the morning?
- worse as the day progresses?
- when walking after prolonged sitting?
- when climbing stairs or standing on your toes?
- after standing for long periods?



Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Heel and foot pain is no joke. It can be debilitating...

You begin to dread getting out of bed in the morning...not a great way to start your day.

You get embarrassed with the way you walk after sitting for a while...you get curious glances from people.

You get frustrated...disappointed, sometimes even angry at yourself for not being able to do the things you love to do...like shopping, leisure walking, or just simply keeping up with your kids or grandkids.

What is plantar fasciitis?

Plantar fasciitis (say "PLAN-ter fash-ee-EYE-tus") is the most common cause of heel pain.

The plantar fascia is the flat band of tissue (ligament) that connects your heel bone to your toes. It supports the arch of your foot.

If you strain your plantar fascia, it gets weak, swollen and irritated (inflamed). Then, your heel or the bottom of your foot hurts when you stand or walk.

Repeated strain can cause tiny tears in the ligament. These can lead to pain and swelling. This is more likely to happen if:

- Your feet roll inward too much when you walk.
- You have high arches or flat feet.
- You walk, stand or run for long periods of time, especially on hard surfaces.
- You are overweight.
- You wear shoes that don't fit well or are worn out.

Here's the test...

Sit down on a comfortable chair. Cross the leg of the involved foot over the opposite knee.

With either thumb, press firmly on the bottom of the involved heel, towards the arch of the foot.

If you find that this spot is tender and painful to you pressing on it, then most likely you have plantar fasciitis.

Now...using the hand on your affected side, take hold of your affected foot and pull your toes back towards the shin. This creates tension/stretch in the arch of the foot/plantar fascia.

Repeat on the other side for comparison.

If this step feels so much tighter on the affected side, then you most likely have plantar fasciitis.

Now you may be asking...can plantar fasciitis heal and pain subside without medications, injections or surgery?

In most cases, yes...but it depends on, but not limited to the following factors:

- Length of time you've been suffering.
- Things you're doing that are making the condition worse without you knowing it.
- Degree of swelling and tightness of the plantar fascia.

**FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop
Tuesday, September 11, and Thursday, September 13**

To help our fellow NW Indiana residents dealing with heel and foot pain, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on the following dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, September 11, LaPorte office at 6:00 PM:** 1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B (next to All Star Auto, same building as Hair Fitness)
- **Thursday, September 13, Valparaiso office at 6:30 PM:** 3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8 (next to the Valpo YMCA)

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- The top 2 most common causes of heel and foot pain
- Single biggest #1 mistake heel and foot pain sufferers make resulting in a condition that necessitates surgery
- How you can heal naturally without medications, injections, or surgery
- Do-it-yourself techniques that will make you feeling better immediately after the workshop

This event is limited to 20 attendees only due to the interactive nature of this workshop. **To hold your spot, please call:**

- **219-380-0809 in LAPORTE**
- **219-202-2500 in VALPO**

See you at the workshop.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call NOW to hold your spot for the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on Tuesday September 11 in La Porte, and Thursday September 13 in Valpo.

Fore the Love of Golf



Long Beach Country Club's 18-Hole Ladies Golf League held its 2018 Guest Day, with the theme being, "Fore the Love of Golf."

Members and guests attended a pre-event cocktail party that included a "bags" competition and golf-themed food. The weather cooperated for a great day of golf that started with the "Mega Putt" contest, followed by a two-best ball tournament and concluding with lunch and awards.

Those recognized were:

Flight 1



Pictured are Guest Day organizers/ chairs and pros Peggy King (from left), Brian Godfrey, Carol Excell and Justin Stevens.

- First Place – Toni Bonee, Tracey McCorkel, Mary Beres and Pat Glenday.
- Second Place – Melanie Davis, Claudia Brennan, Janet Andreotti and Ellen Roche.

Flight 2

- First Place – Connie Sullivan, Aimee Sullivan, Barb Hall and Alison Kolb.
- Second Place — Susan Kelley, Laura Richardson, Carol Nick and Janet Barry.
- Closest to the pin No. 5 – Susan Kogan.
- Closest to the pin No. 16 – Pat Glenday.
- Longest Drive No. 1 – Roxanne Warble.
- Mega Putt — Sue Finn.





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The following programs are available:

- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sundays.**

The Mount Baldy parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed for general public use, so the ranger-led hike offers a chance to experience the dune as much as is possible. No reservations are required. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12.

- **Campground Program from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at Dunewood Campground Amphitheater.**

Join a ranger for a program showcasing IDNL's diversity and recreational opportunities. The campground is at Broadway and U.S. 12 in Beverly Shores.

- **Beginning Birding from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays through Sept. 1 at the Great Marsh Trail.**

A ranger leads the hike. Meet at the parking lot on Broadway north of the Beverly Shores train station.

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 8.**

Talk a self-guided tour of the bog and talk to rangers along the trail for a better understanding of the site filled with carnivorous plants and orchids. Arrive by 2 p.m. to allow about one hour to walk the trail and tour the bog. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.

- **Volunteer at Miller Woods from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.**

Join staff and fellow volunteers to help restore the Miller Woods oak savanna. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail.

- **Beach Fun Saturdays from 1 p.m. to about 30 minutes past sunset every Saturday through Sept. 1 at West Beach.**

Try a kayak or paddleboard starting at 1 p.m. All equipment is provided for free. A one-hour sunset hike on the Dune Succession Trail starts at 7 p.m. from the Ranger Contact Station in the north end of the parking lot. A beach campfire, complete with marshmallow toasting, starts shortly before sunset. Meet at the West Beach parking lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. A \$6 per car parking fee is charged until 7 p.m. Take a picnic dinner and warmer clothing for the evening sunset and beach campfire.

- **Rings of Supersonic Steel from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Learn how the IDNL headquarters once served as a former NIKE Missile Base, C-32.

Proposed in 1945 at the start of the Cold War, Project NIKE was a U.S. Army project to develop a line-of-sight anti-aircraft missile system. It became operational in 1957 with Hercules missiles. The program was deactivated in 1974. In 1976, the National Park Service began negotiating with the Army to acquire part of the base as the new IDNL headquarters. The NPS moved in in 1979.

- **Miller Woods Full Moon Hike from 8 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25.**

Join a ranger for a moonlit hike through oak savannas and sand dunes to Lake Michigan. Meet at the Paul H. Douglas Center.

- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26.**

Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

- **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4 to 5 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 28.**

The farm's current residents include cows, pigs and chickens. The animals are at the farm through a partnership with Dunes Learning Center, Friends of Indiana Dunes, 4-H Club of Porter County and the FFA of Westville. Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.

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.



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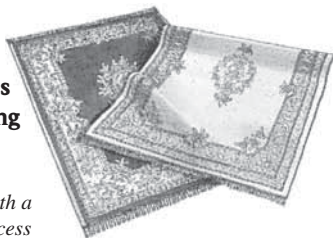
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In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the family of Dr. Rade Pejic, New Orleans and Michigan City, announces his passing at the University of Chicago Medical Center on Aug. 6, 2018, due to complications following a recent heart attack. He was 78.

Dr. Pejic was born as an American citizen on Feb. 3, 1940, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (now Serbia) to Dr. Slavko Pejic (1896-1976) and Savka (Musulin) Pejic (1904-1984). After surviving the German occupation of Yugoslavia during World War II, he arrived at New York Harbor in 1951 with his mother and sister to escape Communist rule. In America, he struggled through a painful childhood and adolescence being separated from his parents and living with step-relatives. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry and from the University of Pittsburgh-School of Medicine in 1966.

He served as a surgeon and lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps from 1968 to 1974, to include: residencies at the Presbyterian University Hospital (Pittsburgh) and Portsmouth (Va.) Naval Hospital; two tours on the USS Repose and the USS Sanctuary hospital ships during the Vietnam War, where he performed trauma surgery on and saved the lives of many young sailors and Marines wounded in battle; and being assistant chief of surgery at Naval Hospital Boston (Chelsea, Mass.).

After being honorably discharged from the military, Dr. Pejic became the attending surgeon at Cooper Medical Center (Camden, N.J.) in 1974, then a cardiovascular fellow at St. John Hospital (Detroit) in 1977. In 1978, he settled in Michigan City for a near 30-year unparalleled career at The Medical Group of Michigan City, where he performed general, vascular, thoracic, angioplasty and trauma surgery on thousands of patients at St. Anthony Hospital, LaPorte Hospital and the former Memorial Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Leslie Kramer Pejic, whom he married in 1973, after serving with her father, Capt. Scott Gregory Kramer, who was a surgeon and commanding officer at the Naval Hospital Boston. They enjoyed 45 cherished years of marriage and raising a family together. He also is survived by their five children: Lazar Scott (Jennifer) Pejic, JD, Valparaiso; Rade Nicholas (April) Pejic, MD; Nicholas Gregory (Laura) Pejic, MD,

both of New Orleans; Chelsea Alexandra Pejic, JD, of Chicago; and Gregory Halsted Pejic, MPP, of Washington, D.C.

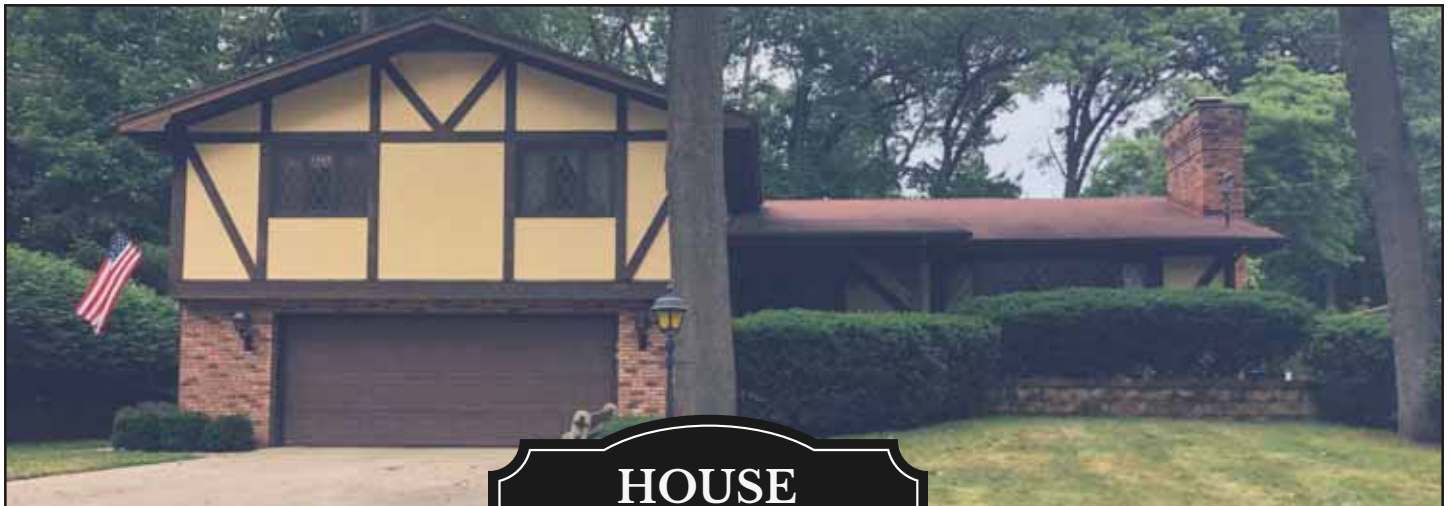
Dr. Pejic is survived by seven grandchildren: Scott; Jonathan; William; Grace; O'Hara; and twins Sofija and Isabela Savka Pejic. He also was awaiting his soon-to-be eighth grandchild, Elizabeth Leslie Pejic. He is survived by his sister, Smiljana Pejic, and niece, Kristina Pejic, both of Collingswood, N.J., and his cousin, Branko (Valeria) Pejic, MD, Cocoa, Fla. He was preceded in death by his father and mother-in-law, Scott Gregory Kramer, MD (1923-1998), and Margaret Jean Kramer (1924-2012).

Dr. Pejic valued hard work and family above all else. He loved performing surgery and felt most at home in the operating room. He knew that good surgical judgment and extreme attention to detail led to the best outcomes for his patients. He enjoyed mentoring others, from high school students to colleagues, and was a consistent role model for doing your job well. He believed family should stick together and care for each other through thick and thin.

He considered his pets as family too — most recently his beloved Buster, who misses him dearly. He believed in putting America first and was a fierce defender of the United States, especially our values of liberty and freedom, which he saw the Communists decimate in Yugoslavia after World War II. For fun, Dr. Pejic enjoyed rooting for Pitt, the Steelers and the Saints. He had a spirited sense of humor and enjoyed classic movies, smoking a good cigar with friends and talking with his family on the porch. We will miss him greatly. He was one of a kind and irreplaceable.

An evening celebration of his life and dinner is at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave. Family, friends and anyone who would like to honor his memory are invited. Further details for RSVP will be forthcoming on social media. A funeral service is not planned at this time; interment of the ashes will be in Arlington National Cemetery (Va.) at a later date. Friends and acquaintances may send condolence cards to his family at 2606 Oak St., Michigan City, IN 46360. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given in Dr. Pejic's honor to Michiana Humane Society, 722 Indiana 212, Michigan City, IN 46360 (michianahumanesociety.org/in-memory).





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This established Long Beach, Indiana English Tudor, built by Dick Mignery, is for sale by owner.

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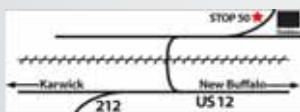
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Art League Fall Schedule

Michigan City Art League has unveiled its fall class schedule.

Classes are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in the school building at Faith City Assembly of God Church, 1314 W. Woodland Ave.

The lineup is:

- Sept. 4 — “Testing the Waters” with Betty Thomas. Refine knowledge of watercolor materials while experimenting with free samples.
- Sept. 11 — “Blue, Blue, My Favorite Color of Blue” with Thomas. Learn about the many shades of blue watercolor paint.
- Sept. 18 and 25 — “Classic Portraiture Techniques” with Wendy Wilcox Kerman. The class begins with drawing the basic structure of a human head, working from a plaster cast, then applying skills learned. The second class involves a finished portrait using pastels or drawing medium.
- Oct. 2 and 9 — “Life Drawing by Susan Rosso.” The instructor will emphasize how to draw the human figure from life using pencil or charcoal. A live (clothed) model will be available.
- Oct. 16 and 23 — “Explore the Abstract” with Sam Stroud, who will share tips and techniques.
- Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 — “Adventures in Acrylics: Painting Inside and Outside of the Line” with Madeleine Schooley. She is a past League member who is returning as an advisor.
- Nov. 13 and 20 — “Explore Painting on Canvas with Watercolor” with Julia Holmaas. The instructor will demonstrate how she applies watercolor to canvas prepared for water media. Ample time is planned to explore watercolor painting.

The semester class fee is \$35 for 12 weeks. Annual membership dues are \$25. Membership and class fees may be mailed to the Art League, P.O. Box 9720, Michigan City IN 46360, or paid the day of class. Arrive by 6:15 p.m. because spots fill up quickly. Contact Bunny Dimke at (219) 879-2198, (219) 877-8177 or bpdimke@comcast.net for details.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **“Local Life in the New Century: 1911-1920”** from 2 to 3 p.m. **Saturday, Aug. 25, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Rita Newman and Nancy Hokanson will discuss what it was like to live in the area, who the movers and shakers were, what big events occurred, what businesses and factories were here, fashions worn and other facts.

• **Boy Band Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Teams of 1-4 can vie for a prize. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and remain open until space is filled. Refreshments will be served.



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Children's Art Classes

Jennifer Martin will start the 2018-2019 children's art classes Monday, Aug. 27, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. Classes meet weekly and are open to all ages and skill levels. Several mediums will be used, including drawing, painting, papier mache, mosaic, sculpture and collage.

Each month, a different artist is featured. August and September classes focus on David Hockney and his contributions to the pop art movement.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 4- to 5-year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (beginner), 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 4-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2:30 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (advanced), 8- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:15-6:45 p.m., after school (advanced painting), 10- to 16-year-olds.

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). Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or more details.

Polonica Bus Trip

Monday, Sept. 17, is the reservation deadline for the Polonica Bus Trip hosted by the Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

The luxury coach departs at 8 a.m. from Nativity of Our Savior Catholic Church in Portage, then from All Saints Catholic Church in Hammond at 8:30 a.m. Return times are approximately 5 p.m. to Hammond and 5:30 p.m. to Portage.

The visit will feature the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Ill., lunch at the Jolly Inn Restaurant (Polish-American buffet) in Chicago, and shopping at Rich's Food & Liquors, Oak Mill Bakery and Dom itp. If time permits, there may be a stop at Alexandra's Pierogi on the way home.

The cost is \$70 per person. Call in reservations, prior to sending payment, to Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369.

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Run to the Center of the World

Early registration is encouraged for the seventh annual Run to the Center of the World 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run, which is Saturday, Sept. 15.

The race, hosted by Friends of New Troy, features fast, flat routes through the village of New Troy, Mich., and its rural surroundings. For the first time, all finishers receive a hand-crafted, carved wooden medal. Also, the registration fee for participants 12 or younger has been reduced.

Names and finish times of overall winners in all three events will be engraved on bricks and permanently installed in the New Troy Community Center garden. Winners also receive certificates. Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume, Longest Distance Traveled and Largest Team.

Everyone who registers before Sept. 1 is guaranteed a free T-shirt. On-site registration and packet pickup begin at 8 a.m. EDT race day, with races starting at 9 a.m. EDT. The awards ceremony begins at 10:15 a.m. EDT. A free breakfast buffet is planned.

Race proceeds benefit the community center, which receives no government funding and is supported entirely through memberships, donations and fundraisers.

The cost is \$25 for 13 and older and \$10 for 12 and younger through race day.

Maps, information and a link to register online are available at facebook.com/RunToTheCenter. Registration forms also can be picked up at the community center, 13372 California Road, or the New Troy Post Office. Contact Terry Hanover (269) 369-1897 or FriendsOfNewTroy@yahoo.com for details.



American Red Cross

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

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.
- Vision Financial Services/CareEnroll, 1900 W. Severs Road, LaPorte, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23.
- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30.

All presenting donors receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email. 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.

"The Point of the Dream"

"The Point of the Dream," original dot paintings by Peter Steeves, runs through Sept. 20 at The Village Gallery in Valparaiso's Pines Village Retirement Communities.

Steeves, who lives in Valparaiso and works in Naperville, Ill., is a self-taught artist with a career that has spanned more than 25 years exhibiting throughout the Chicagoland area. Locally, his work has been featured at The Free Artisans Gallery and Southern Shore Art Association in Michigan City.



Peter Steeves' "The Long Way."

His work includes elements of surrealism, primitive symbolic and postmodern realism focusing on the emotion of images and pointillistic, dot patterns. His pointillistic style, he says, is more akin to Australian Aboriginal art.

Pines Village Retirement Communities is located off Calumet Avenue north of Cumberland Crossing. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for details.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will learn the differences between ecosystems, and why diversity is important, during a hike through Chikaming Township Park and Preserve at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 25.

The preserve is located on Warren Woods Road, between Red Arrow Highway and Three Oaks Road. It is noted for diverse natural features, including woods and ravines, the Galien River floodplain, a planted tallgrass prairie, small lake and reforestation project.

HCH President Pat Fisher and Vice President Stacey LaRocco will lead the discussion during the 2.5-mile hike of moderate difficulty. Drinking water, head covering and bug repellent are advised.

Also on the schedule is a viewing of the documentary "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability" at New Buffalo Township Library, followed by a hike through Cowles Bog Trail in Porter, Ind., on Saturday, Sept. 15.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for more details.



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Founding Documents Program

New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will host a four-week course offering a deeper look into documents that shaped America.

John "Pat" O'Leary will lead the program that explores documents ranging from the Declaration of Independence and U.S. constitution to the Federalist papers and Gettysburg Address.

O'Leary is an active member of the State Bar of Michigan, past president of the Detroit Bar Association and adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School.

Course dates are 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Class size is limited. Sign up in person or by calling (269) 469-2933.

Friday Night at Footlight

The open-mic venue Friday Night at Footlight is at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Invited are solo and group singers, keyboardists, guitarists, poets, dancers and the like.

Admission is free. The performer fee is \$2. Sign up at www.footlightplayers.org. Call (219) 874-4035 for more details.

A Reminder to Our Readers

Please don't place copies of the latest *Beacher* in mailboxes, as it creates problems for U.S. Postal Service letter carriers.



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JROTC Lends School, Area Support

Amid the last days of summer break, Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps was busy supporting civic and school district activities.

Cadets assisted with traffic control for the Great Lakes Grand Prix at Washington Park beach Aug. 4-5. They also provided a color guard for opening ceremonies at the Drum Corps International competition Aug. 6-7 at Ames Field, then helped support the event.



Cadets establish a water point for musicians competing in the Drum Corps International championship.

Cadets were a key presence at Michigan City Area Schools' Back-to-School Rally — before, during and after — where more than 1,000 students receive free school supplies and important information from groups ranging from the Michigan City police and fire departments to health care.

The August community service is a prelude to many community service projects after school starts. Among them is the veterans jamboree at Fox Park in LaPorte and all home football games.

Cadets will begin practice for various extracurricular activities that includes their military drill team. Last year, MCJROTC qualified for the National MCJROTC Championship. This year, their goal is not only to qualify, but win. The first event is a physical-fitness competition Oct. 20 at Hobart High School.



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Curator's Report

Susie Richter, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum curator, released her July report.

Visitors came from 12 counties, 22 states and Germany. The Galien Woods Historical Society visited July 26. The current "Summer of Love" display, which features fashion and news of the 1960s, continues until the end of August. A 1960s fashion show was held July 7.

The 11th Annual Old Car Show was held July 21, with a program presented by the Studebaker Museum. Trophies were presented.



Donations were:

- Williams Smarty Pinball Machine from Harmony Bar in Michigan City, 1945, M. Yagelski.
- Blueprints of the KOP Administration Building, 1941, Midwest Warehousing.
- Framed photo of Leila Rippey using a slicing machine, manufactured in LaPorte and used at the old high school, Leila Rippey.
- Complete Michigan City Municipal Band uniform, circa the 1980s, Cindy Ault.
- Archival information, LaPorte County Public Library, Marilyn Burrows, Helen Schaible.
- Copy of PEP book for Fern Eddy Schultz Research Library, People Engaged in Preservation.
- Items for the sale table, Solitaire Miles, Marilyn Burrows and Jean Bauer.

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Lilly Community Scholarship

Sept. 7 is the deadline to submit the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application, which is available on Unity Foundation of LaPorte County's website at www.uffc.net

Through support from Lilly and Independent Colleges of Indiana, Unity is offering two four-year college scholarships. They provide full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and equipment. That covers four years of undergraduate study leading to a baccalaureate degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be a LaPorte County resident.
- Have graduated from an accredited high school that serves LaPorte County by June 30, 2019.
- Intend to pursue full-time baccalaureate studies beginning in fall 2019 at an accredited Indiana college or university.
- Submit a complete online application at www.uffc.net by 11:59 p.m. Sept. 7.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, demonstrated service, leadership, commitment and motivation to succeed in academics, employment history and financial need. A personal interview will assist in determining scholarship nominees. Nontraditional students — those who have been out of high school for any period of time and have not previously enrolled in college — are encouraged to call Unity at (219) 879-0327 to see if they meet eligibility requirements.



South Shore Supports Responders

To show its appreciation, the South Shore Line invites all active-duty first responders to ride the train for free Sunday through Saturday, Sept. 9-15, on all off-peak weekday and weekend trains.

First responders must present ticket collectors with valid active-duty identification. This includes police officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers and emergency medical technicians.

In the near future, the train will offer a week of free transportation to military, including active-duty, reserves and veterans, in honor of Veterans Day.

Visit www.mysouthshoreline.com or download the SSL app (available for iPhone and Android) for more details.

Vendors Sought for Museum Sale

Vendors are needed for an antiques and rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1, at Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park.

Anyone interested should contact Patricia Conrad at (219) 872-6133.

"Swing for the Kids"

The Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City's fourth annual "Swing for the Kids" golf outing is from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, 4000 E. Michigan Blvd.



The event is one of the non-profit agency's major fundraisers, with all proceeds directly benefitting the club.

The entry fee is \$100 per person or \$400 per four-some, which includes the green fee, golf cart and lunch. Further Par, Eagle, Birdie and Title sponsorships, ranging from \$100 to \$3,000, are available for individuals or businesses.

Call (219) 873-2298, visit bgclubmc.org/event/golf2018 or "The Boys and Girls Club of Michigan City" on Facebook for more details.

Cat Society Calendar Entries

The staff at Independent Cat Society are accepting entries for the 2019 calendar.

Options include:

- Monthly pictures at \$50 each (includes one free daily picture).
- Daily pictures are \$10 each (buy four, get one free).
- Business ads are \$35 each (includes one free daily picture).

Those interested can send pictures of pets such as cats, dogs, birds, ferrets and the like. Sept. 1 is the deadline. Check out Independent Cat Society on facebook for more details and the order form.

The no-kill cat shelter is located at 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville. Call (219) 785-4936 or email shelter@catsociety.org for more information.

Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club will discuss Celeste Ng's "Little Fires Everywhere" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 30, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The September selection is "Educated by Tara Westover." Meetings are open to the public.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Aug. 22-23 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Aug. 22: Chronic Flannel ('90s music)/Aug. 23: Aftermath (arena rock). Pre-show music/6:15 p.m., concerts/7 p.m. Info: www.artsintheparklaporte.com

Aug. 24 — Open-mic venue: Friday Night at Footlight, 7 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: free/performer fee: \$2. Registration: www.footlightplayers.org

Aug. 24 — Robbie Fulks with opener Laura Joy, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

Aug. 24-29 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Three Identical Strangers." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 7 p.m. Tues.-Wed. *Also Showing:* "Eighth Grade." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Aug. 24-26, Aug. 31-Sept. 2 — "Wait Until Dark," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/seniors & students, \$18/general admission. Info/reservations: (219) 879-7509, dunesartsfoundation.org

Aug. 25 — Hike to the Governor's Cottage, 10-11:15 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 25 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Chikaming Township Park and Preserve, Warren Woods Road, between Red Arrow Highway & Three Oaks Road. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Aug. 25 — Fox Park Music Fest 10, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., LaPorte's Fox Park. Info: guardianridersin.org

Aug. 25 — Rings of Supersonic Steel, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 25 — "Local Life in the New Century: 1911-1920," 2-3 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Aug. 25 — Zoo-B-Que, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Washington Park Zoo. Tickets: \$15/adults (12 & older), \$10/children 3-11, free/2 & younger. Reservations/info: www.washingtonparkzoo.com

Aug. 25-26 — 32nd Annual Mill Pond Festival, Mill Pond Park, Union Mills.

Aug. 28 — Boy Band Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Aug. 29 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Carol Garrett, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Through Oct. 13 — "Warhol: Icon & Influence," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — St. Stanislaus of Michigan City farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 27, parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets. Through October.

Saturdays — La Porte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket

In the Region

Aug. 24 — Lake Effect Jazz Big Band, 7-9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Aug. 25 — Curious Coyotes: Endangered Species, 2-4 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$12, \$10/members. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Aug. 25 — 2018 Festival in the Park, 6-11 p.m., at Ogden Dunes Kratz Field. Cost: \$15/advance, \$20/door. Reservations: festivalinthepark.eventbrite.com

Aug. 25 — Unwrapped at the Box Concert Series, Jack Adams, 7-9 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Aug. 26 — Jazz on a Summer's Day & Beggar's Banquet, 3-10 p.m. EDT, Blueberry Fields, 14312 Log Cabin Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$80/pig roast & music. Music only/\$40. Reservations: www.hothouse.net

Saturdays — Beach Fun Saturdays, 1 p.m.-30 minutes past sunset, West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.

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 St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 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.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Gods of Howl Mountain by Taylor Brown
(hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online;
also available as an eBook)

It's the 1950s in the mountains of North Carolina. A beautiful, wild area that belied the poor, desperate people who lived in the foothills and on the ridges of the highest peak — Howl Mountain.

"The land rose before them, growing more broken and steep, the mountains hovering over the horizon like smoke. Howl Mountain was the tallest of those that neighbored it, the fiercest. It rose stout-shouldered and jagged, like the broken canine of some giant beast...It was said that gravity was suspended at the mountain's peak, and in the falling season the dead leaves would float upward from the ground of their own accord, purring through the woods, as if to reach again those limbs they'd left."

On the side of this mountain is the shack that housed Granny May Docherty and her grandson, Rory.

Granny May is the mountain's healer. She knows all the roots and herbs that can cure or kill — century-old recipes only a few are knowledgeable about. As a young woman living in a whorehouse, her "patients" were mostly men, but now it is women driving up the mountain. *"They wanted the old cures the town-doctors couldn't give them...She knew they suspected her cures were something not quite Christian, even witchcraft, for faith in the old ways was slipping. Still they came..."*

Grandson Rory is a Korean War veteran who lost his left leg below the knee in combat. He drove a '40 Ford Coupe he christened Maybelline. *"He was short but squarely built, his jaw wide and underbit like a bulldog's. The kind of jaw that once it got hold of something, it didn't let up."*

Rory has a night job: picking up moonshine from Eustace Uptree and delivering to the small town at the bottom of the mountain. He could stay clear of the sheriff, but the government "revenueurs" are another matter, this new one being a particularly nasty one. Then, Rory meets Christine, daughter of a snake-handling preacher...

Uptree's nephew, Eli, is Rory's best friend. *"He had a long beard, bushy as a squirrel's tail, which might or might not have something living in it."*

Every week, Granny May and Rory make the trip off the mountain to Dix Hill state insane asylum to visit Rory's mother, Bonni. Back in 1930, she had the misfortune of falling in love with Connor Gas-

ton, a mill boss' son, not a match for the daughter of a whore. One night, three men caught the pair, and what happened caused Bonni to stop talking, especially after one of the men's eyes was found in her pocket. She hasn't spoken a word since. Rory was born in the asylum.

Rory's enemy in all this is Cooley Muldoon, another bootlegger who hates Rory with a passion. *"All his power was up in his face, his smirking mouth, like a spring tree with the sap running."*

Brown paints his characters with an eye and feeling for a specific time and place. Bootleggers had a thriving industry, albeit a chancy and dangerous one. By the 1950s, the timber had been shaved from the mountains, so the jobs shifted to the textile mills or coal-mining industries: all jobs where you finished your shift coughing the white powder from the textiles, or the black lung-sucking dust from the coal mines.

Life was a day-to-day struggle, with little or no hope for advancement or a better life.

Car racing on a dirt track was a chance for the young bucks to gain some pride and notoriety, as well as a snoot full of whiskey and a willing female companion. The inevitable race

between Rory and Cooley made me feel the sting of dust in my eyes and the roar of engines and squeal of tires in my ears.

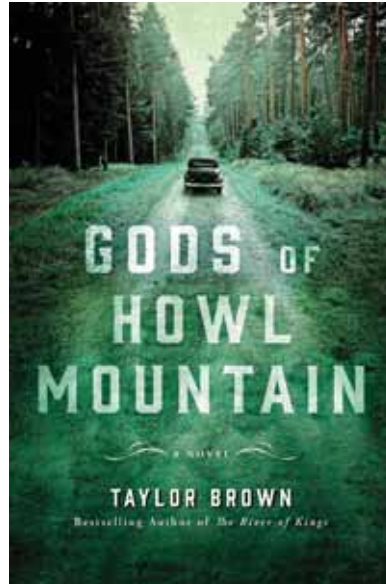
The passing of the seasons on Howl Mountain is not ignored; indeed, it seems to mirror the lives of the people who live there. By the time you reach the climax, you will have made up your mind about Rory, Cooley and the rest, touched by the heart-wrenching scene of misplaced revenge born of filial love and devotion.

Quite simply, Brown does more than tell a story. He paints a picture on every page, with broad colorful strokes that scrape away the superfluous and get down to what motivates us to make decisions — good and bad.

It's a pretty place, and an ugly place. It's all how you look at it. Brown has written true literature, not just fiction. The depth and beauty of his writing give us much more than just a story — he gives us a moving literary experience.

Brown grew up on the Georgia coast. He is the recipient of the Montana Prize in Fiction and was a finalist for the 2017 Southern Book Prize. His other novels include Fallen Land and The River of Kings. He lives in Wilmington, N.C.

Till next time, happy reading!




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