Indiana Dunes National Park: One Year Later

by Connie Kuzydym

Miles of sandy beaches, dunes, savannah, prairie, marsh and bogs — beautiful treasures within Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. On Feb. 15, 2019, they officially became known as Indiana Dunes National Park, the nation’s 61st national park.

With a year under its belt, what impact has the name change had on the park? To the area?

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, IDNP Superintendent Paul Labovitz held three of four public meetings seeking community input on the park and its resources. He reiterated a similar statement at each meeting regarding the redesignation.

“We’re a national park site,” he said. “The name is perceived as important, but it didn’t change anything for us.”

The footprint of the park did not change. Employment figures of 100 permanent and more than 50 seasonal employees remain the same. With the new name, additional funds were not provided, nor did

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they receive more authority in governing this federal land. In reality, due to past staff reductions and a shrinking budget, Labovitz, with his calm demeanor, positive attitude and years of experience within the NPS, knows things eventually will get done.

The most profound change occurred in visitation. From 2018 to 2019, Indiana Dunes National Park saw a dramatic 100 percent increase in visitors at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center on Indiana 49. A sign-in kiosk provides staff with traveler's statistics and comments. Tourists from 49 out of 50 states and 19 countries have left their information.

Indiana Dunes is one of the most visited sites within the national-park system, with more than 3 million people annually. Visitation is calculated by directly counting those at the visitor center. Car counters are used at parking lots applying a formula, the figures offering a consistent count. Labovitz feels the numbers are actually higher, as Indiana Dunes is nestled in a large population of people. There are 10 million people within a couple hours of the park who are not part of the official count. Numerous individuals visit various parts, but don't necessarily stop at the visitor's center.

The name change also saw an uptick in media attention and subsequent national inquiries about what is happening here over the past year. Pointing to the NPS logo, Labovitz stated how it has global recognition, following NASA as the most popular federal agency.

Such regard draws those who find enjoyment in visiting the various sites of the national park system, and enjoy participating in the Passport program, a book purchased that resembles a passport. At the visitor's center, one can stamp his/her book with a free ink cancellation that shows the name of the park and date of the visit. The stamps look like those in a traveler's national passport.

This program established in 1947 by Eastern National, a nonprofit cooperating association and the parent company of America's National Parks, has built a legacy of support for the National Park.
Service. According to its website, 100 percent of the proceeds from the Passport program support important education and preservation efforts at national parks, ensuring future generations will enjoy our natural, historical and cultural treasures.

National park rangers developed the program to not only support the NPS, but also other public-trust partners.

Indiana Dunes staff understands the importance of partnerships to accomplish goals. For years, they have been working with a variety of groups in the private and public sector.

“It’s amazing to think about how intertwined economic development is with recreation, conservation and cultural resource preservation,” Labovitz said.

“Partners are everything here. We thrive on partnerships.”

The impact of this can be seen on many levels. Take, for instance, lands acquired through Shirley Heinze Land Trust, affording access points on the Calumet River. Consider as well the rise of tourism dollars. In Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties, IDNP is the No. 1 tourist destination. Tourism, Labovitz said, is a more than billion-dollar industry in this three-county area.

Labovitz and his team are open to working with those interested in entrepreneurship opportunities adjacent to the park. Opening the line of communications before starting any project is wise.

“Here’s how I characterize it,” Labovitz said. “Thanks for coming and talking to us about it because we don’t want you to build something ugly right outside the park. So, if you’re going to build something, involve us early in the discussion. We do know about park stuff. We might not know the business side of it, but we’d rather help you develop a proposal that we can support, rather than one that we will fight you about. Because if you come up with a bad idea, we will fight it. I’d rather not fight it.”

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An interesting concept is beginning to take shape with park-owned historic structures along the beach, a project in conjunction with Dunes National Park Association.

“We’re going to lease these structures to them,” Labovitz said. “They’re going to renovate them and make them available as short-term rentals so that people of all shapes and sizes can come and rent a beach house for a weekend. That’s something you can’t do right now.”

The most obvious visual of the name change is park signage. Currently, 30 out of 1,000 signs have been replaced. The project is approximately a year away from completion due to the name change occurring quicker than expected. Also, high lake levels and constant storms, accompanied by devastating wave action along the shoreline this past winter, caused significant beach erosion. To save infrastructures within the park’s boundaries, their time was allocated to sand bagging these areas.

Within the United States, few urbanized national parks exist, and with the name change, Indiana Dunes became one of them.

According to Labovitz, the rest of the NPS tries to reach diverse urban audiences: Those of lower income or lesser means can easily and affordably access the park. Indiana Dunes affords that opportunity. Plus, having South Shore and Amtrak stops in the area makes the park easily accessible to those in urbanized areas such as South Bend or Chicago.

Looking at the various communities just outside IDNP boundaries, they are urban and surrounded by a variety of industries. Heavy industry here not only is part of our fiber, but also part of our role in the nation becoming industrialized. At times unsightly, it is the reality of the hard living made by many. In contrast, we have so many areas available to relax and enjoy the outdoors. The park being at our doorstep can help us find that work-to-life balance.

“We want people to be active lifestyle people,” Labovitz said.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the main facilities and restrooms at IDNP were closed until recently. The numerous programs came to a screeching halt. Fortunately, most of the park was open for the public to enjoy.

Small group programs hopefully will return in the next month or two. Summer camps for children at Dunes Learning Center, sadly, were canceled.

Looking past the pandemic to the next five years, Labovitz said the goal is to steadily increase visitors while making sure the park is not negatively impacted. One way to do this is a mindset change. Currently, the park is viewed as a beach destination, which encompasses a three-month period. The goal is to encourage visitors to explore the park year-round.

IDNP not only encompasses the southern shores of Lake Michigan, stretching over 22 miles from its eastern boundary near Michigan City westward toward Gary, but it also extends southward to parts of Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Within its 15,000 acres are: Pinhook Bog, LaPorte; Dunes National Park Headquarters; Glenwood Dunes Trail, Chesterton; Chellberg Farm; Indiana Dunes National Park Observatory and Visitor’s Center; West Beach Access, Gary; Dunewood Campground, Beverly.
erly Shores; Cowles Bog Trailhead, Dunes Acres; Heron Rookery and Central Beach, Michigan City; Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion; and Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Chesterton.

Of the 419 national park sites, Indiana Dunes ranks fourth in biologically diversity. According to Labovitz, the park is one of the most ecologically diverse places in North America.

Amazing that within its small footprint, in comparison to parks that have millions of acres, such depth exists in flora and fauna. There also is a major bird migration route at the southern tip of Lake Michigan, where forest meets prairie.

Each season at IDNP brings a multitude of opportunities to experience something different. An awesome natural wonder that just so happens to be a national park within our midst.

“I have been here six years in May. I can’t believe I live here. It’s almost like vacation all the time, but it’s home,” Labovitz said. “In the National Park Service, our colleagues who’ve never been here don’t think that we’ve got it this good, and it’s because they’ve never been here. So, we feel pretty lucky to be here. As you know, it’s a great place.”

Brittany Mathis and Shelby Hoyert assist a family outside Indiana Dunes Visitors Center.
Rescheduled Hoosier Star Auditions

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra has rescheduled auditions for the 15th annual Hoosier Star for Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte.

Audition times only remain for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The competition is open to amateur singers of all musical styles and ages. Strict social distancing guidelines will be followed. Contestants receive instructions before entering the audition space. They are divided into two age groups: Youth — 17 and younger; and Adult — 18 and older (at the time of auditions). Ten finalists — five in each age group — will advance to the final event and the chance to win monetary prizes, along with the title of 2020 Hoosier Star winner.

Due to COVID-19, the event will be live-streamed on various media outlets to be announced. Online audience members, as well as a panel of judges, will choose the final two winners in each age division based on that night’s performances. Audience members can text their votes. First and second place in the Youth Division receive $1,000 and $500, respectively. First- and second-place winners in the Adult Division win $1,000 and $500, respectively.

Audition forms can be found at www.hoosierstar.com. Contestants are encouraged to pre-register for a guaranteed time slot. The registration fee for the audition is $20 per person or duet. If a competitor would like to audition as a soloist and a duet, the competitor must submit two separate forms, including separate fees. Applications must be received by July 5 to receive a guaranteed time slot. Walk-ins will not be allowed.

No group performances may enter, and both competitors in a duet must be from the same age division. For auditions, applicants may provide their own accompanist, use a CD with no lead vocals, supply a digital mp3-capable device or sing a capella. A contestant of any age must be an amateur vocalist and live in Indiana or Southwest Michigan.

Visit www.hoosierstar.com, email hoosierstar2018@gmail.com or call (219) 362-9020 for details. Applicants will be notified of their assigned time within a week prior to auditions.
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“Da 5 Bloods” is Spike Lee’s most entertaining and sorely relevant film in some time, more so than his Oscar-winning “BlacKkKlansman” (2018) because the filmmaker has all the tools at his disposal to craft a great story.

There is major moviemaking here: scenes of technical razzle-dazzle and real power, with a performance by Delroy Lindo that is all but assured an Oscar nomination.

Had the film been tighter, it might have been a masterpiece.

Now streaming on Netflix, “Da 5 Bloods” is an ode to “The Treasure of Sierra Madre” and “Apocalypse Now” and a blistering commentary on the way black war veterans have been treated.

Alternating between past and present, it introduces four black Vietnam veterans, Paul (Lindo), Otis (Clarke Peters), Eddie (Norm Lewis) and Melvin (Isiah Whitlock Jr.), who meet in Ho Chi Minh City, intent on revisiting ghosts of the past. Back during the war, as soldiers in the 1st Infantry Division, they happened upon a downed CIA plane loaded with bricks of gold. Led by Norman “Stormin’ Norman” Holloway (Chadwick Boseman), they agreed to bury the gold and return sometime later to retrieve it, to use as reparations for how the U.S. government treated blacks throughout history. Why return now, all these years later? News of a mudslide in which the remains of an aircraft are visible.

The group dubbed themselves the “Bloods,” hence the movie’s title, and it is through them that Lee and his co-writers, Danny Bilson, Paul DeMeo and Kevin Willmott, take aim at how black men died for their country over the centuries, yet never earned the same recognition as their white counterparts. Lee inserts historical footage and photo stills to make his point. The approach works. At first. Then, it exists more like sermonizing than storytelling.

Through Lindo, however, we see the devastating effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The actor over the years has achieved a solid resume that includes three other Lee films (“Malcolm X,” “Crooklyn” and “Clockers”), “Get Shorty,” “The Cider House Rules” and David Mamet’s “Heist.” This is a career best. A crowning achievement for an actor whose ferocious work here is a lock on a Best Actor Oscar nomination. A confrontation with a Vietnamese river merchant is the trigger that sends Paul on a downward spiral, the actor’s tenuous sense of control erupting into frenzied chaos. From there, Lindo uses every fiber of his being, particularly his eyes, to convey a man seesawing between moments of clarity and intense paranoia. It is overwhelming and heartbreaking.
Delroy Lindo is all but assured a Best Actor Oscar nomination.

Lee’s films typically explore small canvases, but with “Da 5 Bloods,” he’s working with a budget estimated between $35 and $45 million. Small change when compared to a summer Marvel blockbuster, but considerable in terms of affording Lee the scope required for his film. There are wide, breathtaking shots of the forested landscape, and several amazing tracking shots where Lee’s camera follows his cast along the most treacherous of terrain.

At 2 hours 34 minutes, though, the running time should have been closer to two hours. A few scenes go on too long, or should have been cut entirely, especially during the last act when Lee’s tale embraces its B-movie origins in which individuals pay the price for their greed. It should be noted as well that Lee’s longtime composer, Terence Blanchard, has conceived yet another score that does not fit: uncomfortably melodramatic to a fault.

These flaws, however, do not strip “Da 5 Bloods” of its power. Late in the film, in fact, a gesture of forgiveness is the most beautifully acted scene of the year to date.

This is precisely the kind of movie we need now. Bold, powerful, moving.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com
Shirley Heinze Land Trust unexpectedly surpassed monetary goals during its first Online Spring Benefit, which replaced this year’s traditional in-person gathering.

Held May 15-30, the fundraiser supported the trust’s mission to preserve and restore Northwest Indiana natural lands and waters, and engage people in nature and conservation.

Four video testimonials and a message from Executive Director Kristopher Krouse were shared with benefit participants through email, the organization’s website and social media channels. Board members Matt Vessely, Anne Walsh and Dale Nichols, and volunteer Jaimee Janiga, shared their insights about the trust, the importance of its mission and their own passion for nature protection. The videos can be viewed at https://heinzetrust.org/spring-benefit-landing-page.

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze Land Trust has preserved more than 2,600 acres of land in Lake, Porter, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties, including examples of Northwest Indiana’s rarest natural communities. Its nature preserves also offer outdoor recreation and education. Visit www.heinzetrust.org, call (219) 242-8558 or access its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more details.
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“Shirley” is not the first film to explore the link between madness and creative genius, but it may be the foremost example of turning a potent topic into a pretentious bore.

I wanted to like the movie. Seriously, I did. Shirley Jackson’s short story The Lottery, first published in The New Yorker in 1948, is a defining work in contemporary American horror. “The Haunting of Hill House” (1959), which reinvented the Gothic ghost story, still engages us today, the latest incarnation being Netflix’s intelligent 2018 reimagining by Mike Flanagan (“Doctor Sleep”).

But “Shirley,” directed by Josephine Decker, from a screenplay by Sarah Gubbins and based on Susan Scarf Merrell’s 2014 novel, is a case where a tiny independent film can go seriously wrong. Of course, Elisabeth Moss (“The Invisible Man”) is superb as the author. But the movie, itself, is too satisfied with being arty, with stylistic approaches that don’t work and feeble insight into its characters so the result is woefully unsatisfying.

The film’s world premiere, no less at the Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 25, saw Decker win a U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Auteur Filmmaking. It has received rapturous reviews and, because of COVID-19, is screening on Hulu.

Set in 1964, it introduces a fictional couple that serves as the audience’s tour guide through the tragic lives of Jackson and her controlling husband, college processor Stanley Edgar Hyman (Michael Stuhlbarg, “Call Me By Your Name”). Fred Nemeser (Logan Lerman) and his pregnant bride, Rose (Odessa Young), are on the verge of starting a new life together, he looking to teach at the collegiate level. They come to live with Stanley and Shirley, Stanley hoping Rose can keep the house in order.

We assume Shirley is depressed and agoraphobic because she rarely leaves her bedroom. The truth, however, was darker than that. By 1964, the author suffered from asthma, joint pain, dizziness, exhaustion, heart problems and colitis. A whole host of issues, the resulting anxiety leading to barbiturate and amphetamine abuse. I know that by doing a little research after the movie, not because the movie, itself, delves into such affairs. So, armed with no context for Shirley’s state of mind, she comes across as a haggard, cruel harpy. Stanley is no better, passing himself off as kind and protective, but in reality he’s patronizing and emotionally crippling.

Shirley and Rose develop an increasingly complicated relationship, one that descends into a lesbian tryst mirroring key characters in “The Haunting of

Author Shirley Jackson (Elisabeth Moss, left) seduces a young woman, Rose (Odessa Young), in “Shirley.”

★★
“Shirley”
Running time: 107 minutes. Rated R for sexual content, nudity, language and brief disturbing images

by Andrew Tallackson
Hill House.” Unfortunately, there is nothing sexy or liberating about how these seduction scenes are filmed. In fact, the movie frequently comes across as a photographed stage play, with the characters confined to one or two settings, the interiors drab and lifeless.

Fred, by the way, is dabbling in infidelity as well, but his character is the movie’s least defined: a cardboard cutout dolt with no emotional resonance.

Moss is exceptional, playing Shirley as a woman precariously clinging to the last trace of sanity within her. But what are we supposed to make of her, and Rose, for that fact? That Shirley’s creative genius is the architect for her reclusivity? That marriage is repressive, dominated by male wants, not female desires? That the mid-20th century offered little embrace of women as writers?

I’m not sure what the movie is trying to say, and Decker, as director, paces the drama with all the urgency of a tax audit. The movie fumbles about with little to no urgency, while Decker tosses in weird camera angles, strange noises and hallucinatory dream sequences that, I take it, are tributes to Jackson’s voice as an author, but come across as over-the-top pompous.

A movie like “Shirley” should leave you with some insight into its subject. Alas, this insanely talented writer remains an enigma by the end.

Way before then, though, by around the midpoint, we’ve stopped caring altogether.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Have a Story Idea?
Call (219) 879-0088/email drew@thebeacher.com
According to the official 2015-2016 Indiana University LaPorte Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment Report, there has been a need in LaPorte County for “greenways, walking trails, and other recreational areas that promote physical activity for both adults and children.”

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Dunebrook Receives COVID-19 Grant

United Way of LaPorte County recently granted $5,000 to Dunebrook’s Family Depot to buy household goods amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dunebrook Executive Director Jeanne Ann Cannon said the Family Depot is an incentive tool of Dunebrook’s Healthy Families home-visitation program that serves 140 families monthly. Parents earn points when completing goals, such as updating child immunizations, completing job applications or earning a diploma.

“Responsibilities like these easily become side-tracked when parents are struggling to support their families,” Cannon said in a press release.

Depot points can be redeemed for items such as diapers, safety gates and detergent.

The Depot distributes approximately $12,000 in merchandise, which is acquired through grants, area churches, service groups, businesses and families, according to Gabrielle Ginther, director of the Healthy Families program.

Visit www.dunebrook.org or call Dunebrook at (219) 874-0007 for more details.

Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, new hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The public is asked to wear masks and abide by social-distancing recommendations. Meeting-room spaces will remain closed for now.

All due dates of materials checked out before the library closed due to COVID-19 must be returned by June 14 so no charges are assessed.

There is no public seating, and programming is canceled as of now.

Access is limited to the computer lab: One session (up to one hour) per person per day is allowed. Due to social-distancing guidelines, only one person at a station at a time. Children are not allowed in the computer lab with parents/guardians.

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day.

Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations).

WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

The summer reading program, “Imagine Your Story,” runs through July 25. Everyone who reads at least 10 hours receives a book and entry into a raffle. Every additional 10 hours earns another raffle entry. A reading log can be downloaded from the library website or picked up at Youth Services.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.

Port-A-Pit Chicken Fundraiser

The LaPorte Jaycees will host a Port-A-Pit Chicken fundraiser at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, at Kabelin Ace Hardware, 512 Andrew Ave., LaPorte.

Pre-sale tickets, which save $1, are available at www.laportejaycees.org. Drive-up purchases can be made. All orders will be taken carside.

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Washington Park Zoo officially opened Monday, June 15, and The Beacher’s Paul Kemiel was there to capture all the excitement, including a 7-day-old tamarin.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in conjunction with state and local officials, the zoo is amid Phase I of its reopening plan, which entailed input from health officials, small businesses and other zoo facilities. It will adhere to spring hours, which are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with gates closing at 3 p.m.

Daily attendance is capped at 50 percent capacity to ensure social distancing, so advance reservations must be made. All visits must have a timed ticket entry for each guest. Zoo staff request all reservations be called into the zoo office at (219) 873-1510 the day before a visit to avoid lines and ensure availability. Tickets are good during half-hour
blocks between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., with each timed ticket limited to two hours. Anyone who arrives earlier will have to wait in his/her vehicle.

The water fountains, wheelchair rentals, stroller rentals, Safari Train, Observation Tower, Otter Tunnel and castle exhibits remain temporarily closed.

Visitors are encouraged to observe social distancing. Face coverings are strongly recommended. For those who choose to eat at the zoo, walk-up service will be available at the concession stands.

Reservations also apply to zoo members. Membership cards, photo IDs and timed ticket reservations will be checked on entry.

Email jhuss@emichigancity.com with questions. Visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com for more details.
Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

1. Don’t “top” your trees. Topping is the removal of large branches to reduce the height of the tree. This causes decay that leads to large branch failures in the future.

2. Don’t “spike” your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.

3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can’t heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.

4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.

5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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Box Factory Virtual Exhibit

Due to COVID-19 social-distancing guidelines, Series 2 artists Jacqueline Baerwald, Wesley DeVries and Joel Brussell will have a virtual exhibit through July 26 on the Box Factory for the Arts website.

Visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org or the Box Factory Facebook page to view the work, which is available for purchase online at galleries@boxfactoryforthearts.org.

Baerwald’s “The EmBRAce Project” features still-life portraits that capture a feminine self image. DeVries presents “In the Garden,” a series of works inspired by the artist’s garden. New Buffalo-area photographer Brussell has captured “Savage Sunsets.”

The Box Factory is located at 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

A photo by Joel Brussell included with the exhibit.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

For patrons with materials checked out before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, return them to the building drop boxes. Do not return them in bags. Do not return board games; those can be returned at a future date. Return eReaders into the Audio/Visual drop.

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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17th Year Anniversary Celebration

FREE PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMS

TUESDAY, JUNE 30th

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

April 28, 2020, marked Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists’ 17th year of service to the NW Indiana community. We were going to have a big celebration but COVID-19 had other plans.

Now that our state has re-opened, we have rescheduled our 17th Year Anniversary Celebration to Tuesday, June 30th. We also have modified how we’re celebrating to keep everyone safe.

It will be a One-on-One FREE Consultation Patient Appreciation All-Day Event.

It’s our way of saying thank you and giving back to all our current and former patients, our friends and neighbors, and the entire NW Indiana community for your support throughout the years.

The Free Exam is ideal for people suffering from:

- Lower Back Pain
- Arthritis
- Sciatica
- Neck Pain
- Headaches
- Balance issues, including fear of falling
- Vertigo and Dizziness
- Shoulder Pain and Rotator Cuff Issues
- Plantar Fasciitis and Foot Pain
- Hip and Knee Pain
- Problems Walking

In order for my staff to be fully ready for YOU, our patient and special guest, please CALL NOW to reserve your consultation spot.

- **LA PORTE:** (219) 380-0809.
- **VALPARAISO:** (219) 548-8770

We have 16 spots available at each location.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arlan Alburu, PT, DPT, MTC
CEO and Co-Founder
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. I would really love for you to join us as we celebrate our 17th year anniversary on Tuesday, June 30th. CALL NOW TO SAVE YOUR SPOT.

P.P.S. Free consultations, refreshments, giveaways and raffle prizes await you that day.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
Bert Sendak’s love of music and musicians lives on, thanks to what can only be described as a symphonic chain of events.

Allow me to explain. A few months ago, I received a call from my musical collaborator, Arthur Anderson. A board member with The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich., he had a harmonic proposition. Namely, “How would you like another clarinet?”

Anderson knew I have long craved adding another clarinet to my collection of one really fine, concert-class instrument. Sort of a backup, or whatever. Hence, his question.

The one he had in mind was free. Might need some work, but no charge, right?

Right.

Well, I was interested and asked Anderson to explain, which he did.

Seems Philip Bauman, orchestra manager for Northwest Indiana Symphony in Munster and the former LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra conductor, contacted SAM about donating the aforementioned clarinet and other instruments. They were owned by the late Bert Sendak, a Munster music teacher who operated a music shop from his basement.

“We’re not interested,” Anderson said, “but we thought you and the Southshore Concert Band might be.”

That’s right: the Southshore Concert Band (Benton Harbor, Mich.), with which I have performed in the third clarinet section since last September. I now have two concerts under my belt. My eyes and embouchure are working on the band’s next season, hopefully beginning with a fall concert Oct. 11.

I told Anderson I would ask our conductor, Dale Reuss, if he might be interested, and Dale said, “Definitely.” I told him the instruments were mostly student-grade and in need of repair. He was sure he could find a home for them with local school bands.

So, I contacted Bauman and we arranged to meet at a halfway point in Chesterton to effect the transfer of 17 student-grade instruments, including a Courtois piccolo silver cornet made in 1870 in Paris.

Of the mostly brass instruments, Bauman said, “Some of these instruments would be good, apprentice-level, repair candidates if there was such a thing in your area.”

I assured him that, indeed, there was. My only misgiving about the transfer of trombones, trumpets, cornets and clarinets to the back of my Honda...
to make more room. Thus, I had all the room we needed, and more, for the Sendak treasure trove.

Bauman and I bid adieu, and I headed back into Michigan, listening, of course, to classical music on the rental’s radio.

The next movement required schlepping those 17 encased instruments into our little house in Harbert, finding nooks and crannies in which to store them for a few days before the next band rehearsal in Benton Harbor, where Dale was to take delivery in his pickup truck.

Piece of cake, despite some freezing drizzle, and we went on with rehearsal in The Mendel Center.

Fast forward to this recent report from Dale: “The instruments were not in very good shape. I donated all but the old cornet to Nate Cook for use with his middle-school band in Benton Harbor. He said there were a couple trombones, cornets and the flugelhorn that might be put into playable use. Others could be for spare parts. There were some serious problems like cracks and damaged valves that rendered some unplayable.”

Dale added he “is hanging onto the antique cornet for protection and conservation. I’ve worked on it myself, and it looks pretty good. Plays decently, too. I’m going to try to restore the old case as a warm weather project. Don’t hold your breath on that, though.”

But we can all breathe easily now that Bert Sendak’s final symphony has resonated all the way from Munster to Benton Harbor.

Bravo, Maestro Sendak

Philip Bauman managed to get all 17 instruments in the trunk of his car. Civic was that it doesn’t have much cargo space. My wife, Natalie, and I noodled it out: We figured the only way we could get it to work was by putting the back seat down and stuffing the car literally to the gills.

Still, I was worried.

But then, I hit a deer on a dark winter’s night in Sawyer and had to turn over our car to a local body shop for front-end repairs. As fate would have it, our insurance company sent us to a Benton Harbor rental agency, and the only vehicle available was a van, with a Florida tag, no less. Still, I worried. Bauman, however, said not to worry: He planned to put all 17 instruments in the trunk of his Chevy Impala.

And so, on a sunny day early in the year 2020, we met at our pre-selected rendezvous spot and transferred the instruments from Bauman’s trunk to my spacious rental. Oh, I’d had the guy at the rental agency put the seats down

The Courtois piccolo silver cornet made in Paris in 1870.

The author at play with the Southshore Concert Band. Photo by Dyann Chenault.
**LBCC Women’s Golf Leagues**

**18-Hole League**

**June 9, 2020**

*Event: Low Net on Even Holes*

**“A” Flight**

First Place: Carol Excell  
Second Place: Cindy Levy, Peggy King  
Third Place: Melanie Davis

**“B” Flight**

First Place: Claudia Brennan, Donna Hennard  
Second Place: Janet Andreotti, Beth White  
Third Place: Paulette Harnach

**“C” Flight**

First Place: Nancy Reinert  
Second Place: Kathy Chlystun  
Third Place: Carol Sullivan

Peggy King  
Hole 17

**9-Hole League**

**June 11, 2020**

*Event: Low Net*

**Flight A**

First Place: Carol Excell, Peg King, Eunie Nondorf  
Low Putts: Donna Hennard

**Flight B**

First Place: Kathy Chlystun  
Second Place: Jean Guerin, Babs Ward, Paulette Harnach  
Low Putts: Susan Keeley

**Flight C**

First Place: Rima Binder, Sarah Blank  
Low Putts: Carol Sullivan

**BIRDIES**

Suzanne Sullivan  
Hole 16

**SUNKEN APPROACH**

Suzanne Sullivan  
Jeanne St Peter  
Hole 16  
Hole 17

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(Briar Leaf has received an “exceeds expectations” designation for COVID-19 safety from the LaPorte County Health Department.)
Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 25.**
  The one-mile flat accessible hike describes one of Lake Michigan’s shipwreck stories.
- **Night Hike at 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 26.**
  Join naturalists for an easy walk to try and call in owls.
- **Wetland Wander at 2 p.m. Monday, June 29.**
  Take a 45-minute hike into the dune wetlands to explore breeding birds and underwater critters.

**Weekend Naturalist - Roving Table Locations**

Look for interpretive naturalists who will share stories and props while discussing the park’s natural and cultural resources.

**Saturdays, June 27, July 4 and 11**
- 11 a.m. to noon – beach parking lot naturalist table.
- 2 to 3 p.m. – Mount Tom naturalist table.

**Sundays, June 28, July 5, 12 and 19**
- 11 a.m. to noon – Trail 9/10 intersection naturalist table.
- 2 to 3 p.m. – Nature Center naturalist table.

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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**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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

- LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, June 26.
- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, June 29.

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. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun new office hours

Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thank you for your patience during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. • (219) 879-0088 • beacher@thebeacher.com

Food Options Within NPS

Indiana Dunes National Park this summer features a wider variety of food and beverages, with vendors regularly operating at West Beach and Portage Lakefront and others popping up at various locations.

At West Beach, Kona’s Succession Concession operates out of the bath house from noon to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends. In addition to Kona Ice products, the menu features hot dogs, pretzels, nachos, peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches, soft drinks and beach merchandise.

At Portage Lakefront, the Dig the Dunes Trail Stop in the pavilion is open from 3 p.m. to sunset weekdays and 11 a.m. to sunset weekends. The menu includes pizza, hummus, pretzels, trail mix, tamales, ice cream, cookies, soft drinks and a rotating selection of local beers and wine.

Additional food and drink vendors will operate regularly, but may pop up depending on weather and visitation: Porter Beach’s North Lot, Kemil Beach, West Beach Parking Lot, Chellberg Farm and the Dunewood Campground. They are:

- Lonesome Pine Coffee, Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Menu: coffees, lattes, macchiato, mocha, iced coffees, hot chocolate and tea, lemonade, cookies and croissants.
- Popcorn World, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Menu: prepackaged popcorn and bottled soft drinks.
- Day Dreams & Ice Cream, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. intermittent days. Menu: ice cream and popsicles.

To help visitors avoid full parking lots and beaches where social distancing is difficult, call the Beach Parking Info Line at (219) 395-1003 to get recorded information on available parking. The service is updated regularly through Labor Day weekend.

Ship and Shore Festival

New Buffalo Business Association, in collaboration with Open Air Events, has canceled the annual Ship and Shore Festival slated for Aug. 6-9 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an eBlast, the NBBA stated, “It may not come as a surprise, as many of our neighboring communities have been canceling summer celebrations across the board. The health and safety of our residents, business owners and tourists are always going to be our number one priority.”
THE Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers will present an outdoor summer sing-along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 24, at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

Michigan COVID-19 guidelines now permit outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people, provided social distancing is maintained. The program focus is upbeat music. School of American Music guitar instructor Ron Spears will provide accompaniment, and other guitarists are invited to take their instruments and play along. HCS will observe social distancing, and face shields will be available. Sanitized seating will be provided, or attendees can take lawn chairs. Sheet music and lyrics will be provided, but the ability to read music is not required.

The rain date is the same time Thursday, June 25.

Chesterton Art Center

A closing reception for “Monochromatic View: The Works of Jason Gast” is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

Gast is a local artist and Chesterton Middle School teacher. The exhibit highlights his skill with portraiture, particularly the faces of celebrities and close personal connections. Many paintings reflect his love of music and the influences related to it.

Gast graduated from Ball State University in 2001 with a focus on visual arts education. In 2005, he received a master’s degree in ceramics. He has been an art teacher for 19 years (11 years in Griffith, eight at CMS), teaching all types of media in grades seven through 12.

During the reception, the CAC will follow Indiana guidelines for a public event. Masks and social distancing are requested.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

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Mobile STEAM Classroom

LaPorte County Public Library's Mobile STEAM Classroom has traveled here from Colorado and is preparing to go into service.

The mobile classroom will provide relevant hands-on lessons that prepare students for high-skill, high-demand careers. The technology applied exposes them to equipment used in LaPorte County manufacturing facilities.

The project is funded by donations made through the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County and Arconic Foundation grants.

The service is an extension of the Libraries 360 initiative to local school corporations. The home base is the Coolspring Branch, but it will move around the service district.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will lead a hike at the Three Oaks Township conservation area at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 27.

The event marks the first formal hike the group has conducted since COVID-19 shutdown rules for Michigan were eased earlier this month.

According to HCH President Pat Fisher, the Keling Nature Preserve and Three Oaks Township Conservation Area are home to a rich diversity of plants and wildlife, and are recognized as great fishing and bird-watching spots.

Fisher will lead the hike expected to last about two hours and cover 1.6 miles. Physical difficulty is rated as moderate. The conservation area is located at 8505 W. Forest Lawn Road in Three Oaks. The group will meet in the parking lot. Under current Michigan guidelines, outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people are permitted as long as social distancing is observed. The Centers for Disease Control recommends face masks.

HCH membership is encouraged; however, the public is invited. Children and teens are invited if accompanied by an adult.

Become a Patron!

For more than 35 years, The Beacher has existed as a free newspaper, and it will continue to do so. Amid the pandemic, however, small newspapers across the country are finding additional ways to financially support themselves. So, we’ve created a page where you can support us by becoming a Beacher patron. This week, we thank an anonymous $50 donor!

Visit patreon.com/thebeacher to make a contribution
Student Art Exhibit Goes Virtual

The Community Student Art Exhibition, a middle and high school event presented by Berrien Regional Education Service Agency, The Box Factory for the Arts and Krasl Art Center, appears online through Monday, Aug. 31.

The professional, juried art exhibit features hundreds of works by local students from Berrien and Cass counties.

A virtual reception was held Tuesday, June 23. Juried awards include first-, second- and third-place awards for: 2-D; 3-D; Video; and Collaborative. Sponsor awards include: the Sarah E. Cayo Memorial Art Award ($500 cash award); the Emerging Artist Award ($500 cash to graduating seniors); the Jan Stevens Memory Award ($75 awards in 2-D, 3-D and video categories for elementary); and Berrien RESA Scholarship Awards ($50 art scholarships for one student per school).

Visit https://communitystudentartexhibition.smugmug.com/ to view the artwork.

History Museum Virtual Tour

The History Museum’s first Riverview Cemetery virtual tour is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 25.

Conducted by Director of Education Travis Childs, individuals can “chat” and ask questions as he visits the graves of famous South Bend industrialists, lawyers and shop owners.

To participate, visit www.historymuseumSB.org and click on the Riverview Cemetery Tour icon, or go to https://historymuseumSB.org/riverview/

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.
On June 25, 1876, during Montana’s “Battle of the Little Big Horn,” Lt. Col. George Custer, along with his entire Seventh Cavalry, were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians.

On June 25, 1938, the “Fair Labor Standards Act” was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt.

On June 25, 1951, the first commercial color telexcast took place as CBS transmitted a one-hour special from New York to four other cities.


On June 25, 1993, Kim Campbell took the oath of office as Prime Minister of Canada, the first woman to ever hold the position.

On June 26, 1870, in Atlantic City, N.J., the first section of the famous Boardwalk opened to the public.

On June 26, 1894, the American Railway Union called a general strike in sympathy with striking Pullman workers.

On June 26, 1919, the first issue of the Illustrated Daily News was published in New York by Robert R. McCormick and Joseph Medill Patterson. It now goes under the name of the New York Daily News.


On June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy, in a speech in Berlin, made the statement “Ich bin ein Berliner.”

On June 27, 1838, Princess Victoria was crowned Queen of England.

On June 27, 1847, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

On June 27, 1893, prices collapsed on the New York Stock Exchange, setting off a world-wide depression.

On June 27, 1963, President John Kennedy spent his first full day in Ireland, home of his ancestors.

On June 27, 1984, the motion picture industry approved a PG-13 in its system of film ratings.

On June 28, 1778, at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth, N.J., the aid given the colonials by Mary Ludwig Hays, who became known as Molly Pitcher, made her a heroine in American history.

On June 28, 1894, Congress designated the first Monday in September as Labor Day. It was originally a holiday only for federal employees and the District of Columbia.
On June 28, 1904, blind-deaf student Helen Keller graduated with honors from Radcliffe College.

On June 28, 1996, The Citadel voted to admit women, ending a 153-year old men-only policy at the South Carolina military school.

On June 29, 1834, Congress created the Department of Indian Affairs.

On June 29, 1966, for the first time during the Vietnam War, the United States bombed North Vietnam’s capitol of Hanoi.

On June 29, 1967, Jerusalem was re-unified when Israel removed barricades separating the “Old City” from the Israeli sector.

On June 29, 1972, the Supreme Court ruled that the way the death penalty was usually enforced constituted “cruel and unusual punishment.”

On June 29, 1995, the shuttle Atlantis and the Russian-built space station Mir docked in orbit.

On June 30, 1859, 5,000 watched as French acrobat Emile Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

On June 30, 1870, Ada Kepley, Effingham, Ill., graduated from the Union College of Law in Chicago, the first woman in the United States to graduate from a law school.

On June 30, 1906, the United States “Pure Food and Drug Act” became law.


On June 30, 1966, the extended deadline for ratification of the “Equal Rights Amendment” expired, three short of the 38 needed for to be ratified.

On June 30, 1994, the U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the 1994 national championship and banned her from the organization for life for an attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

On July 1, 1804, France’s George Sand, the pen name of female novelist Aurore Lucie Dupin, was born in Paris. She gained sensational success with her novel Indiana, published in 1831, dealing with the sufferings of women.

On July 1, 1847, the U.S. Post Office issued the nation’s first adhesive postage stamps.

On July 1, 1859, Amherst beat Williams in what was reported to be the first intercollegiate baseball game.

On July 1, 1863, one of the world’s most decisive battles, the Civil War’s three day “Battle of Gettysburg,” began.

On July 1, 1899, Judge Richard Tithill presided at the opening of the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Ill., the world’s first court created exclusively for juveniles.

On July 1, 1910, 28,000 attended the official opening of Chicago’s Comiskey Park, seeing the White Sox lose 2-0 to the St. Louis Browns.
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Darling Rose Gold by Stephanie Wrobel ($26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 304 pages.)

“But some of us cannot forget and will never forgive. We keep our axes sharp, ready to grind. We hold pleas for mercy between our teeth like jawbreakers.

“They say a grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

“Good thing we’re extra strong.”

Which character in this book says that? Oh, you’ll find out — eventually — but the path to discovery is a long and winding road. Get ready for some “yes she did it, no she couldn’t do it” reading that will keep you furiously turning pages...

Patty Watts thinks Rose Watts isn’t enough of a name for her precious new baby, so she names her Rose Gold Watts.

Baby Watts isn’t the poster child for perfection. In fact, she starts having problems as an infant: failure to thrive, throwing up constantly, allergies, finally a food tube inserted. Her weakness leads to losing her hair and spending a lot of time in a wheelchair. Then, there is the nightmare that is her horrible teeth and a thin body that looks like photos from World War II death camps. Everything is blamed on “chromosomal defect.” How convenient...

All this makes the neighbors of Deadwick (apropos name) sympathetic to Patty and her poor daughter. They fix meals for them, raise money for the doctors and watch the poor girl try to live a normal life.

Patty has all the sympathy the town can give, that is, until 2012 when Rose Gold presses charges against her for child endangerment. It is a 180 degree turnaround. Imagine the town’s collective intake of breath when Rose Gold, now 18, brings charges against her mother. The paper takes Rose Gold’s side, of course, and headlines scream the horrors of “Poisonous Patty.” Patty is suddenly the town’s pariah, and there is a jury trial in which Patty is found guilty of child endangerment and sentenced to five years in prison. Yes, it is Rose Gold’s testimony, given in a voice and demeanor that would melt your heart, that persuades the jury there is no other verdict than guilty, guilty, guilty.

Now it’s 2017, and Patty is being released and guess who’s picking her up? Rose Gold. Is all forgiven? She even says her mother can stay with her until she gets on her feet again. Of course, there is Patty’s shock when the home Rose Gold takes her to is the one she grew up in, holding very bad memories for her. Patty’s father was abusive, and her brother hung himself in the basement. All in all, it was not a happy household. Stepping in the front door is like entering your worst nightmare. But Rose Gold is all innocence, telling her mother it is time to put the past behind her. After all, she forgave her mother for what she put her through. Right? No more hard feelings. Right?

As for Patty, well, she figures she will soon be in charge again and put Rose Gold right.

I almost forgot — Rose Gold has a baby. She and the father — she won’t name him — have split. He never wanted children. It’s a little boy named Adam. Patty is delighted. Someone new to mold and teach according to her own ideas? Or merely a weapon to use against her daughter? Hard to tell...

Then, to add insult to injury, a man shows up and says he is Rose Gold’s father, the one Patty told her died of a drug overdose. Billy Gillespie may soon regret making that first step toward meeting his daughter. Sometimes, people are harder to shake than a summer cold...

Rose Gold has her own quirks. For instance, she is very superstitious: find a calculator in the street — bad day; see four white cars while driving, bad omen; step on a crack getting out of the car, another bad omen.

What a deliciously, delightfully diabolical look at a mother-daughter relationship straight out of hell.

As a child, Rose Gold was under her mother’s control, but as she entered her teen years, the dynamics of the relationship took a turn to a dark side. Now, on common ground, the pair might find out who’s really in charge of this relationship.

Let’s recap: a mother who thinks she’s in charge and a daughter who wants to prove her ability to outthink her. In the past five years, Rose Gold has seen that public opinion is bendable. Will she get the upper hand, or will Patty prevail in the end? Who would you bet on?

If you were expecting a warm, fuzzy story, well, you might as well move along, there’s nothing for you to see here!

“Mothers never forget. Daughters never forgive.”

So who’s zooming who?! The ending is pure Hitchcock.

Till next time, happy reading!
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Long Beach Trivia

Call, e-mail or DM us with your answer for a chance to win an exclusive Long Beach poster!
The answer will be revealed in the next issue.
Week 4: What date was Long Beach incorporated as a town?

Week 3 Answer: Town Hall

Lisa Moore
Jenn Bauer
Trish Brum
Zach Coulter
Darlene Jesh

Chip Jones
Nancy Morgan
June Livinghouse
Sandy Rubenstein
Douglass Waters

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