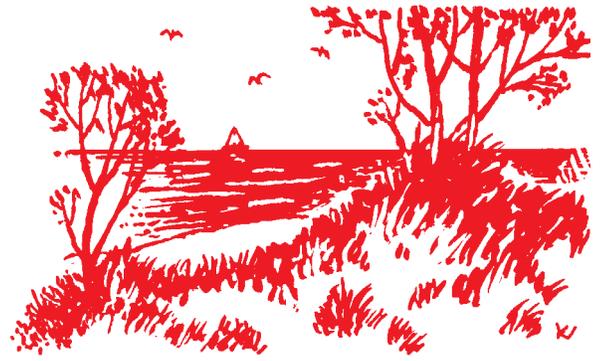


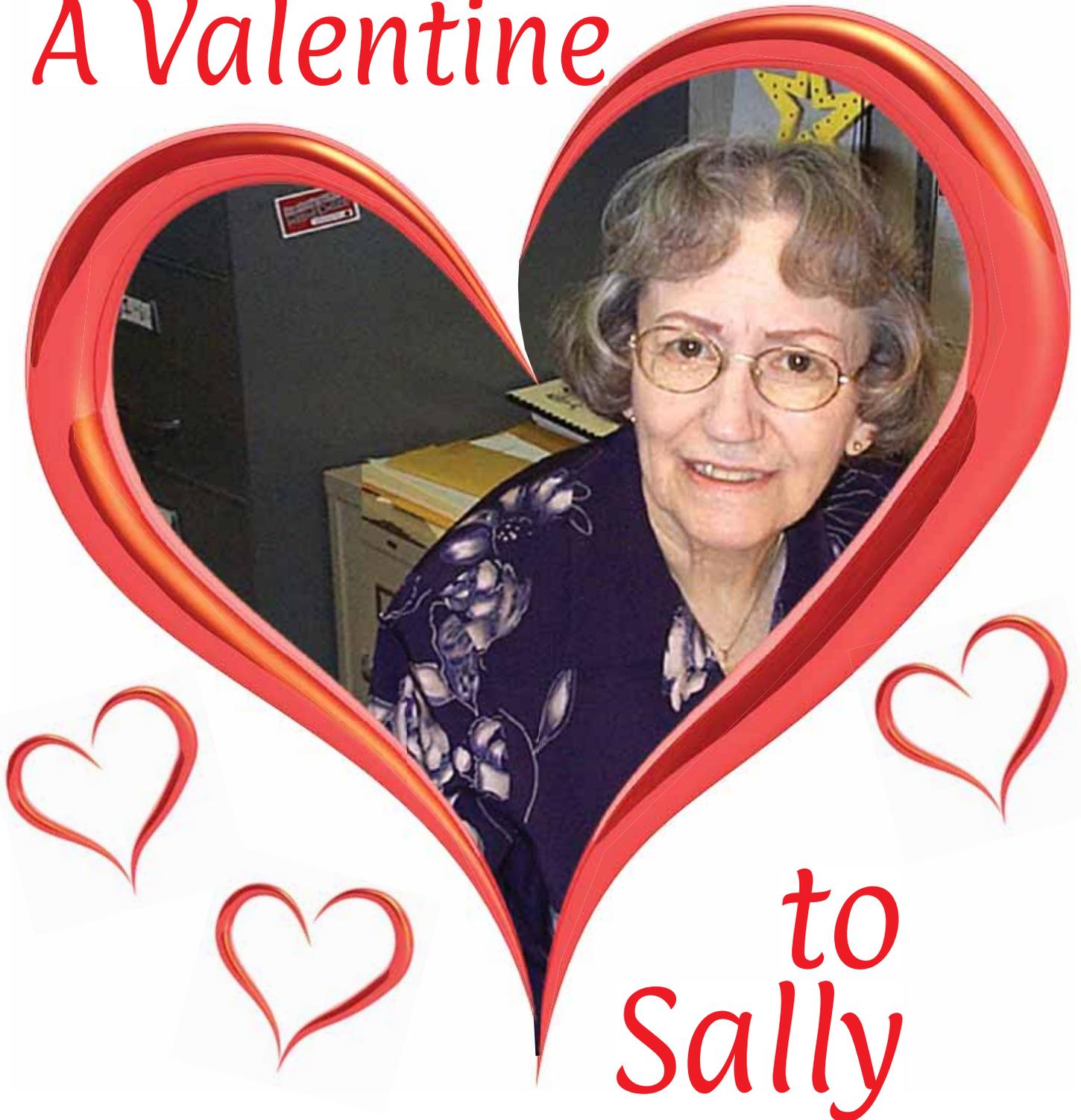
THE
*Beacher*TM
Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 46360



Volume 35, Number 6 Thursday, February 14, 2019

A Valentine



to
Sally

THE
Beacher

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Remembering Sally

by Andrew Tallackson

Winter has made its sulky presence known, this bitterly cold morning. Errant flakes of snow drift by, like traces of cotton plucked and discarded.

There is life, however, a warm glow of lights, within the walls of 911 Franklin St. Home to *The*

Beacher Weekly Newspaper and The Beacher Business Printers. Its employees sit before computers, working in quiet diligence. Conversations emerge, discussions framed around the tasks at hand. Other times, laughter erupts, stories of family, friends, Facebook posts driving the dialogue.

The office — the decor, the furniture — appears unremarkable at first, but look closer. The walls tell a different story. They are rich in history, loving reminders of the newspaper's past. Its legacy. Framed prints of former *Beacher* covers. Shelves lined with bound volumes of past editions. A photo collage of former President Bill Clinton's August 1996 visit to Michigan City.

And, most tellingly, an oil on canvas, a gift to one of *The Beacher's* former owners. Sally Montgomery. In it, 15 ballet dancers — male, female, adorned in white — leap and sway to the music. The details of their faces

are curiously obscured, but the care in the design of their bodies conveys the joy of expressing themselves through movement.

Not a day goes by that the spirit of Sally Montgomery does not guide the enduring presence of *The Beacher*. That her sons, Don and Tom, oversee it is but one facet of the family legacy. Another is that the newspaper's tone — a good-news publication — has not shifted.

Equally as extraordinary is that, before Sally and her husband, Jerry, saw their first edition hit the streets, before family became her world entire, her days were propelled by a passion for dance.

This is that story.



Sally Montgomery dances with Bill Sturgis during a performance of "Coppelia" in 1954 at Michiana Summer Theater.

Sally was born Sally L. Biehl on Dec. 3, 1922, in St. Louis to Charles and Aunita Biehl. Dance entered her life as a child: lessons that included tap and ballet. *Especially* ballet. That fluid, elegant form of expression where body, movement and music become one.



Sally (right) with her parents, Aunita and Charles Biehl.

What drew her to ballet? One explanation arrives from Judy Joseph, herself a magnificent dancer and Sally's earliest protégé. Sally was many things to Judy. Teacher. Mentor. Mother. Friend. Cheerleader. A profound source of inspiration for Judy, who makes it her mission that Sally's legacy endures.

"Sally danced because she was born with that creative fire," Judy says. "We don't choose dance as a profession. It chooses us."

"Dance never stopped being her profession. Anything else she did grew around and out of that."

How would Judy describe Sally as a dancer?

"She had so much magnetism," Judy said, a smile spreading across her face. "She connected with the audience so directly, her ability to show the emotion of what she was dancing. There was never any doubt if this was a dance of joy or pain. She just had a lovely way of using her face."

In the 1940s, Sally studied with Edna McRae, a Chicago native and New York Joffrey Ballet School veteran who honed her craft in Paris and London before opening her Chicago ballet school in 1925. McRae, in fact, helped develop the original training programs of New York's Joffrey Ballet.

So at around the same time Sally studied with Edna, she was hired with the Dorothy Hild Dancers at Edgewater Beach Hotel, whose star-studded

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Remembering Sally Continued from Page 3

guests over the years included: celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Bette Davis, Lena Horne and Nat King Cole; U.S. presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Franklin D. Roosevelt; and Big Band leaders like Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller.

The Lake Michigan resort in Chicago's far north Edgewater neighborhood included a 19-story, 600-room tower. Also part of the package — a private beach, complete with seaplane service to Chicago.

Dorothy Hild was the famed entertainment director and choreographer of the hotel's Marine Dining Room. Her dancers performed much like the Rockettes — Tiller lines, eye-high kicks — entertaining visitors in a nightclub setting. Far removed, indeed, from the refined elegance of ballet, but as Judy indicates, Sally enjoyed it.

"The Edgewater," Judy says, "was *the* place to be."

Indeed. Into the hotel one night arrived a Navy lieutenant, the commander of a naval ship, no less.

"He went to a show, Sally thought he was cute... and the rest is history," Judy says with a laugh.

That man was Jerry Montgomery. He swept her off her feet. They married on Aug. 9, 1947.

"Sally did have fond memories (of Edgewater Beach Hotel)," Judy says. "She loved it, but she loved him more."

Jerry brought Sally to Michigan City as commander of the Naval Armory on Trail Creek. When his service with the Navy ended, he found work at Blocksom & Co., which manufactures and distributes natural fiber products.

The move, however, did not dim Sally's hunger for dance. The next stage of her life was about to begin.

The Montgomerys arrived in Michigan City in the late 1940s, settling in a cozy home on Ninth Street. Jerry busied himself with work. Sally yearned to dance. Jerry not only supported his wife, but also encouraged her to teach, a notion she readily pursued, establishing the Montgomery School of Dance in the city's North End, at a location known as the Elston Building at Fourth and Pine streets. In 1952, the couple moved into a home at 211 W. 10th St., restructuring it so portions of the space could be adapted into a studio, dressing room and reception area.

Judy Joseph studied with Sally for a year in the Elston Building, and again when lessons switched to the 10th Street studio.

"I wanted to dance," she said, "to *really* dance. With a Capital D."

Judy was 12 when Sally entered her life. The studio was located on the second floor of the Elston Building. In an article Judy wrote for *The Beacher* in 2010, two weeks after Sally's passing, she shared recollections of that space.



Judith Joseph always knew she wanted to dance.

"I remember black velvet drapes covering one wall, mirrors on the other and this beautiful, tiny woman in dance clothes welcoming me to my first ballet class," she wrote.

Sally knew potential when witnessing it, and she took Judy under her wing. Over the course of the next seven to eight years, the relationship between mentor and protégé deepened. Forged out of respect, guidance and love, Sally was everything to Judy.

How would Judy describe Sally's style as an instructor. Exact, precise, never one for "softening the edges." If she detected unacceptable behavior, say, a dressing room tiff, it was time for a lecture.

"She'd be sitting on her stool, and you'd sit on the floor, and she'd say that this wasn't very kind, what was going on, that everyone needed to be nicer," Judy recalled.

Indeed, when lectures were necessary, the value of kindness served as the focal point.

"She always said, you have to be human first and a dancer second. Otherwise, it's not going to work," Judy said. "You have to relate to people, to relate to life before you can put anything into your art."

Along with opening her 10th Street studio, 1952 was a pivotal year in Sally's life for two other reasons. Dunes Arts Foundation, of which she would play a key role, and which gave rise to Dunes Summer Theatre, was incorporated.

It was also the year that Sally, now 30, was "discovered." Laurent Novikoff was a famed Russian ballet dancer — his dancing partner was Russian prima ballerina Anna Pavlovna (1881-1931) — who graduated from Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet School. Before becoming a U.S. citizen in 1939, he was Chicago Lyric Opera's ballet master from 1929 to

1933. He also danced at the Metropolitan Opera in New York from 1941-1945. But by 1952, Novikoff was experiencing health issues. Heart troubles, to be precise. Doctors warned him that unless he slowed down, he could die. Novikoff's wife, Elizabeth, strong-willed and persuasive, suggested they move full time to their vacation home in New Buffalo, Mich. Novikoff relented, but did not sit idly.



Laurent Novikoff with Anna Pavlovna in London in 1912.

"He was getting antsy," Judy said. "He started to nose around the area to see if there was any dance activity, a school where he could teach."

It just so happened, Sally was dancing in a ballet production of "The Wizard of Oz." She was Glinda. Judy was The Tin Man. Novikoff was seated in the audience, impressed by Sally's performance. He approached her afterward, striking up a deal. He would offer her private classes and training. Novikoff then schooled Sally in the Russian Vagonova style of ballet. In his eyes, a real ballerina was emerging. He also chose 10 of her students to instruct on Satur-

day afternoons. Judy was among those pupils.

"He was kind and generous, and he was a gentleman, but he had standards," Judy said of Novikoff. "If he saw you weren't reaching (for those standards), then he could be harsh. But no matter how difficult a class was, there was this feeling of love there."

Those 10 young dancers, Judy says, referred to themselves as "Sally's

Ballet." When Sally caught wind of it — lecture time. A stern discussion on how they were Novikoff's dancers, too. The moniker, however, stuck, even with Sally, who one Christmas had bracelets designed for the 10 dancers with an enameled "SB" charm. That bracelet still hangs in Judy's dance studio.

Keep in mind, that as Sally and her students forged an artistic bond with Novikoff, Dunes Arts Foundation was forming an alliance with him as well. In 1953, Michiana Summer Theater agreed to build a dance porch for ballet classes. In exchange, Novikoff would produce ballet performances, form-

Continued on Page 6

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Remembering Sally Continued from Page 5

ing a company that used Chicago dancers and Sally in the lead. Sally's younger dancers performed in incidental roles.

That first season, Novikoff and his troupe presented "Queen of Hearts," "Tin Soldier & The Paper Ballerina" and "Tchaikovsky Serenade."

The artistic relationship between Novikoff

and DAF flourished over the next two years, productions ranging from "Coppelia" to "Sleeping Beauty."

In 1956, the spring production was "Swan Lake." As Novikoff's health declined, Sally turned over the role of The Swan Queen to Sandra Kintzele so she could assume directing duties. Novikoff died at home June 18, 1956, three weeks after the ballet's premiere. He was buried at New Buffalo Cemetery.

Sally took over the summer Dance Porch season, but the ballet season ultimately was canceled. Afterward, DAF contracted with Frances Allis of Chicago's Goodman Theater to teach Modern Dance. Sally continued to teach ballet at her studio...right as her next great adventure was about to begin.

Motherhood.

By 1960, Sally and Jerry had two sons, Don and Tom. After Don was born, they settled into a home on Oriole Trail in Long Beach. She taught dance for another year after Tom was born, then came to peace with the fact that family was top priority. She loved her husband, her children. So, Nadine Thornton, who had a ballet school in Elkhart, took over the studio, keeping it going for a few years.

Then, the dance studio sat empty.

Now, let's return to Judy. From 1959 to 1969, she embarked on her own career in dance, one



Sally Montgomery is photographed in 1955, warming up before a performance at Michiana Summer Theater.

that made Sally exceptionally proud. In 1969, she was part of a touring company of "Damn Yankees" when she reconnected with dancer Ken Brelsfoard. They'd met as students at Butler University, subsequently lost contact, then rediscovered each other in New York.

When "Damn Yankees" made a stop in Chicago, Judy wanted to introduce Ken to her former dance instructor. They made the trip to Michigan City. The three got along famously. As they sat around a table in Sally's Long Beach home, she tossed the keys to her former studio over to Ken.

"Why don't you take a look," she said. Ken and Judy walked through the 10th Street structure before sitting on the floor of the basement studio. A plan was under way. The two had talked about wanting their own studio, to impart what they'd learned through their own experiences on others. And, Ken bonded with Sally. Quickly, Judy adds. Eventually, they took over the Montgomery School of Dance, which re-emerged as Studio of Dance Arts and, later, Dance Arts Unlimited.

Ken and Judy wholeheartedly embraced this new venture while also continuing their professional careers. By then, Michiana Summer Theater had become Dunes Summer Theater, and the couple became involved in many productions there. They also would forge their own troupe, Acting Theatre of Michigan City, which specialized in original productions blending dance, music, comedy and drama. Today, it exists as Metamorphis Traveling Theatre, entertaining audiences at varying locations.

Sally, Ken and Judy saw their paths cross with welcome regularity over the years. Sally joined Ken's "Brelsfoard Dance Theatre Company of Chi-

Continued on Page 8



Sally (center) relaxes with many of her students, her son, Don, seated on her lap.



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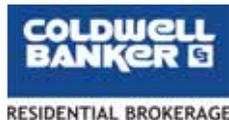
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Remembering Sally Continued from Page 6



Sally appears as Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with the Brelsfoard Dance Theatre Company in the early 1980s.

cago," which allowed Judy to perform again alongside Sally. She did demi-character dance roles for four years in shows such as "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue," "Midsummer Night's Dream" (the ballet) and "The Queens." In 1981, she became the Dunes Summer Theatre artistic director, a post she held until retiring in 1985. The same year, it turns out, that she and Jerry unveiled a new family venture, one that included Don and Tom.

A publication known as *The Beacher Weekly Newspaper*.



Sally appears with Ken Brelsfoard in "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue."



Sally (top) appears with Judy Joseph in a publicity picture.

A community newspaper, one that eschews the "hard news" of daily publications, was not new. Back in the 1920s, *The Long Beach Billows* kept beach-area residents informed on social events. The publication later resurfaced through Harriet Paterson as *The Long Beacher*, its distribution ultimately expanding through the beach area. The last issue arrived in 1979.

Then, in 1984, Jerry Montgomery proposed reviving a weekly newspaper. The first issue was printed in the basement of the Montgomerys' Lake Shore Drive home on a used press. Family members folded each edition on the dining-room table, then delivered them — true to life in a lake-effect community — during a raging snowstorm. The headline of that first edition, dated Jan. 24, 1985, was "The Beacher Returns." The mission statement, penned by Jerry, was: "*We cherish the hope that our efforts will assist the residents to know each other better, to know their town and neighborhoods better,*" creating "friendlier and more cohesive communities."



The Montgomery family's press is delivered to 911 Franklin St.

Within the next few years, big changes for the family: the formation of The Beacher Business Printers; a move to the current Franklin Street location; the family's decision to buy a nearby home on Washington Street.

Judy Joseph believes Sally's entrance into journalism was another creative outlet.

"Journalism is as much an art as ballet, and it was Jerry's dream. She could support him in this and enjoy her profession as a dancer through Ken and me all at once," Judy said.

"Dance never stopped being her profession. Anything else she did grew around and out of that. A dancer is an observer, a reteller of life. A dance teacher needs great skill in nurturing, 'mothering.' The highly charged emotions of the art demand this. To me, her slipping into journalism, and her role as an encourager to the community, was seamless."

Along for the ride, practically from the start, was Sally Carpenter, who began delivering the newspa-

per in 1986 before taking on part-time clerical work. She became full time in 1989 and remained in the position until 1993, when she briefly worked for the U.S. Postal Service. She remained with *The Beacher* part time, helping Sally, as editor, put each edition together. She became assistant editor in 2004, then editor in 2010 after Sally's passing.



Sally Carpenter.

Today, Sally Carpenter lives in Fond du Lac, Wis., where she savors being close to family. She still writes weekly book reviews, beloved by many a reader. In a recent interview, she expressed her admiration for how *The Beacher* came to be.

"I have always been deeply impressed by the Montgomery family and how it functions as a well-oiled machine," she said. "How many families wake up one morning and say, 'Hey, how about we start a publishing company?'"

"Each member of this family has a specific talent, and they made that diversity work into a business that has thrived over the years. Consider how many partnerships don't last one year."

The heart of the newspaper, Sally says, was her cherished mentor.

"She (Sally) decided the look of the paper and the articles to be put in it," Sally Carpenter said. "The 'good news paper,' she always called it."

May 2010. Sally Montgomery was 86, engaged in what she loved. Dance. She had just finished a grande battement in one of Brelsoford's ballet classes when she collapsed. That evening, she lost consciousness. She passed away a few weeks later, on June 13, 2010, at Franciscan St. Anthony Health. A large gathering of family and friends attended a "time of



Sally and Judy are photographed during a Mother's Day program of "The Ballet Lady" at International Friendship Gardens.

remembrance" at Root Funeral Home.

The Beacher, in its June 24, 2010, edition, devoted four pages of lovingly crafted tributes by past-and-present staff: Bill Keefe, Maggie Beyer, Laurie Farrell, Carolyn McConnell, Charles McKelvy, Barbara Stodola, Rick Richards, Laurie Wink, Paula McHugh and Jan Van Ausdal.

Today, Judy Joseph is surrounded by reminders of her beloved mentor. She's lived in the Montgomerys' home at 211 W. 10th St. for nearly 40 years. She also is involved in a play called "Lake Michigan Swan" that honors Sally, a premiere date set for May 1. The dance studio is, and has been, Judy's means of not only preserving Sally's legacy, but also ensuring her love of dance flourishes through future generations. Carrying the torch first lit by Sally, Judy says.

"She was my idol. Absolutely," Joseph said. "Anyone could not have asked for a better idol."

The same holds true for Sally Carpenter.

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Remembering Sally Continued from Page 8



Sally and Tom Montgomery visit my family at the hospital the day after my son, William, was born. Seated is my father, Stephen, holding Will.

“Her legacy to me are three life lessons that I have never forgotten,” the former *Beacher* editor said of Sally. “Always be kind to everyone you meet, allow everyone a second chance and always be honest in all your dealings. Wise words from a wise woman.”

I first met Sally Montgomery in fall 2004. It was my first stab at directing a musical, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” Her son, Tom, was the technical director. Our savior, in many respects. Few funds existed for that first venture as the Young People’s Theatre Co., and Tom’s gorgeous lighting lent the production a sophisticated feel.

The night of the first performance, Sally approached me afterward, in the Mainstreet Theatre lobby. She gingerly cupped both sides of my face with her hands, looked directly into my eyes and smiled.

“Wonderful,” she whispered. “Just wonderful.”

From that moment on, it became my mission to know this woman. She attended rehearsals for every subsequent YPTC production of which Tom and I embarked. She would sit in the back of Elston’s spacious auditorium, hands clasped out of joy as young people gave each show their all.

In 2006, when my son, William, was born, she and Tom were there, at St. Anthony, eager to meet him.

The news of her passing in 2010, for everyone, was devastating. Secretly, I’d always wanted to work for her and *The Beacher*.

By May 2013, I’d been out of work for more than a year, Crohn’s disease disrupting my world to where, in 2012, hospitalization was required 8-10 times. I was convinced I’d never work again. But by spring 2013, things took a turn for the better. I was freelancing for *The Beacher*, working directly with Sally Carpenter, when I received a characteristically cryptic phone call from Tom.

“Can you come in today, we’d like to speak to you.”

No explanation. No elaboration. My brain raced. Had anything written by me caused any troubles?

I arrived at *The Beacher*, bracing for impact. That’s when Don and Tom dropped one heck of a bomb. Sally Carpenter was retiring. Would I be interested in the editor position?

It was a Friday. Don and Tom requested a decision be made by Monday. I left the office dazed. Outside, I unlocked the door to my car, sat in the driver’s seat...and wept. I was convinced every step of my life had been carefully orchestrated to this moment. It was as if Sally Montgomery, through her sons, had dropped a gift into my lap.

Later that summer, Sally Carpenter lavished on me the most comprehensive training I’d received for any position. She knew the newspaper inside and out. Sally Montgomery had trained her, and she was protective of that legacy. She would frequently remind me, amid training, of *The Beacher*’s philosophy: “No police, no crime, no politics, no religion. We are a good news newspaper.”



Sally and Jerry Montgomery.

Looking back on that first week of “flying solo,” Sally Carpenter officially retired, I smile. It was a Thursday. After Labor Day. The front door to the office was open, yielding a gentle lake breeze. Police sirens squawked, headed north on Franklin Street. My body tensed, conditioned by 20 years in the news business. Then, my posture relaxed, muscles no longer taut. An epiphany. Those days of hard news, of reporting difficult, unpleasant news. Those days were over.

I was right where I was supposed to be.

Gazing at that oil on canvas, of dancers decked in white, locked in striking ballet poses, I smiled, thinking of Sally Montgomery. Then, it was back to work. Time to keep the legacy begun by the Montgomerys alive. For the great work to continue.

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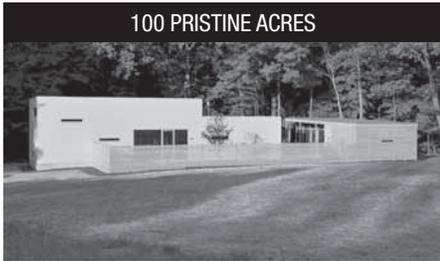


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As president and co-founder of Midwest Big Band, Chesterton's Steve Beigle has made it his mission to ensure this halcyon era is not forgotten.

For the past three years, the 18-piece big band has performed across Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland. Musicians include semi-professionals, such as

those who toured professionally with Ray Charles, played freelance in Los Angeles or taught music at the high school and college levels. LaPorte's Mary

Kay Steele lends her vocals, along with Jim Bulanda, who is known for his "Tribute to Frank Sinatra Show."

The band not only performs at weddings, corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, supper clubs and outdoor music festivals, but on April 3, it will appear in the Valparaiso University Jazz Festival on April 3.

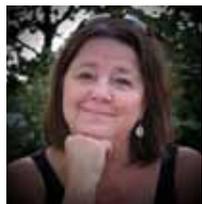
University Jazz Festival on April 3.

"We're not only keeping classic jazz alive, but we're generating a newfound love with some new appreciators of our music who follow the band at every performance," Beigle says.

Visit www.MidwestBigBand.com for details.



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Hoosier Star Auditions

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra is seeking contestants for the 14th annual Hoosier Star, the "American Idol"-like fundraiser where audience votes decide the winner.

Auditions are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 16, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St.



Pictured are Jacob Griffin (left), the 2018 Youth Winner, and Mike Green, the 2018 Adult Winner.

Hoosier Star is open to amateur singers of all styles and age groups. Competitors in youth and adult divisions can compete individually or as duets. Contestants are divided into two age groups: youth (17 and younger) and adult (18 and older). Ten finalists — five in each age group — advance to the final event, which includes performing with LCSO and monetary prizes. Duets are considered as one finalist per each duet.

South Bend Symphony Orchestra Music Director Alastair Willis is the conductor at Hoosier Star, which is Saturday, Sept. 7, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. 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. First and second place in the Youth Division receive \$500 and \$250, respectively. First and second place in the Adult Division win \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Registration forms are at www.hoosierstar.com. Contestants are encouraged to pre-register for a guaranteed time slot. The audition fee is \$20 per person or duet. If competitors would like to audition as a soloist *and* a duet, they must submit two separate audition forms, including separate fees. Applications are due by Saturday, March 9, to receive a guaranteed time slot. Walk-ins are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

No group performances may enter, and both competitors in a duet must be from the same age division. For auditions, applicants may provide an 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 a resident of Indiana or Southwest Michigan.

Email hoosierstar2018@gmail.com or call (219) 362-9020.

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Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursdays in February.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

- **Valentine's Day Craft for Kids at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in Youth Services.**

Children 4 and older accompanied by an adult will receive craft supplies for the project.

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14.**

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

- **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, 21 and 28.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

- **Pokemon Go Community Day from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, in Youth Services.**

The library Pokestop will have a lure placed on it, while Pokemon-themed giveaways — while supplies last — are planned. The day will feature Swinub. Call Jonathan at (219) 873-3045 for details.



- **Films on DVD Series: "Operation Finale" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17.**

The film, Rated PG-13, reveals how Israeli secret agents arrested SS officer Adolf Eichmann, the man who masterminded the "Final Solution."

- **Learning Center Volunteers Needed**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.



Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

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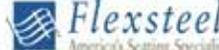
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Oscar Watch: The Head-Scratchers

by Andrew Tallackson

In any Oscar race, without fail, there are the nominees that contradict logic.

The two “Roma” actresses — Yalitza Arapici and Marina de Tavira — a surprise, yes, but an agreeable one. When performances don’t *feel* like performances, when they breathe with the truth of life, that is commendable.

No, I’m talking about the “huh?” nominees.



“At Eternity’s Gate”

Running time: 111 minutes.
Rated PG-13 for some thematic content

Willem Dafoe has quietly carved an admirable career that spans blockbusters (“Spider-Man”) and eccentric indies (“The Boondock Saints”). He should have won Best Supporting Actor Oscars for “Platoon” and “Shadow of the Vampire.”

Now, Dafoe scores his first Best Actor nod for “At Eternity’s Gate” (available Feb. 12 on DVD and blu-ray), and I suspect the nomination is for the craft behind the performance. Directed by painter/filmmaker Julian Schnabel (“Before Night Falls”), the film centers on the last few years of Vincent van Gogh’s life as he paints in the south of France.



Willem Dafoe as Vincent van Gogh.

At the time of filming, Dafoe was 62, 25 years *older* than when van Gogh died. The actor learned to paint and immersed himself in the artist’s world, particularly by reading actual letters. You admire the prep, especially the way Dafoe’s hand lovingly casts paint on a blank canvas.

But the film itself is self-satisfied art house pretentiousness. Schnabel doesn’t draw you into van Gogh. You feel no connection to him. The director appears more interested in distracting visuals, specifically blurring the bottom half of the images to convey the artist’s descent into madness. This also may be the first movie that makes lushly beautiful southern France appear dull and drab. The colors should pop, symbolizing nature’s hold over van Gogh. Instead, it’s like Schnabel chose to shoot the film after an unwelcome frost.

By the end, you feel nothing. *That* is Schnabel’s most egregious offense. An individual as complex as van Gogh should not arrive on film curiously muted.



“First Reformed”

Running time: 113 minutes. Rated R
for some disturbing violent images

Like Dafoe, Ethan Hawke has flirted with mainstream success (“Dead Poets Society,” “Training Day”), but thrived within the independent scene, especially through Richard Linklater projects such as “Boyhood” and, my favorite, the “Before” trilogy.

In “First Reformed” (available on DVD and blu-ray/streaming on Amazon Prime), Hawke achieves his most ferocious work: a controlled study of faith scrambled by despair and disillusionment. He should have scored Dafoe’s Best Actor nomination. Instead, the film earned a Best Original Screenplay nod for writer-director Paul Schrader, a move that feels earned, *at first*, before collapsing at the end.



Ethan Hawke stars as a troubled pastor in “First Reformed.”

Hawke stars as the Rev. Ernst Toller, who presides over a 250-year-old Dutch Reformed church in New York, and as the picture opens, he’s unraveling at the seams. His marriage has ended due to the loss of a child. Counseling a radical environmentalist, who espouses facts on climate change and overpopulation, he sinks deeper into despair.

Schrader’s script is literate in tone, allowing Ernst’s thoughts to spill fourth through a journal he pens daily. And Hawke, looking worn and weary, allows his eyes to blaze with a slippery grip on sanity.

Turns out, sadly, that more than 40 years after Schrader wrote “Taxi Driver” for Martin Scorsese, he’s still peddling Travis Bickle to audiences. Any thoughtfulness the film displays toward Ernst is shucked by transforming him into a crazed lunatic. Worse, the final shot feels sloppy, tacked on to provide sufficient resolution.

That finale of “First Reformed,” simply put, is not good writing. A shame, really. Had Schrader kept his wits, his screenplay would have warranted the nomination.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

And the Nominees Are...

PICTURE

- "Black Panther"
- "BlacKkKlansman"
- "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- "The Favourite"
- "Green Book"
- "Roma"
- "A Star is Born"
- "Vice"

DIRECTOR

- "BlacKkKlansman,"
Spike Lee
- "Cold War,"
Pawel Pawlikowski
- "The Favourite,"
Yorgos Lanthimos
- "Roma," Alfonso Cuaron
- "Vice," Adam McKay

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- "The Favourite"
- "First Reformed"
- "Green Book"
- "Roma"
- "Vice"

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

- "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"
- "BlacKkKlansman"
- "Can You Ever Forgive Me"
- "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- "A Star is Born"

ACTOR

- Christian Bale, "Vice"
- Bradley Cooper, "A Star is Born"
- Willem DaFoe, "At Eternity's Gate"
- Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Viggo Mortensen, "Green Book"

ACTRESS

- Yalitza Arapicio, "Roma"
- Glenn Close, "The Wife"
- Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"
- Lady Gaga, "A Star is Born"
- Melissa McCarthy,
"Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"
- Adam Driver, "BlackKlansman"
- Sam Elliot, "A Star is Born"
- Richard E. Grant, "Can You Ever
Forgive Me"
- Sam Rockwell, "Vice"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Amy Adams, "Vice"
- Marina de Tavira, "Roma"
- Regina King, "If Beale String Could Talk"
- Emma Stone, "The Favourite"
- Rachel Weisz, "The Favourite"

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Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by fax to (219) 879-8070 or email to drew@thebeacher.com. The deadline is noon Monday, Feb. 18. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the Feb. 21 edition, before the Feb. 24 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. First place receives a \$25 Fiddlehead gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass. If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 7 edition.

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- **La Porte:** Tuesday, **Feb. 26**, from 1-5 PM (1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B)
- **Valparaiso:** Monday, **Feb. 25**, from 1-5 PM (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8)
- **Highland:** Tuesday, **Feb. 26**, from 1-5 PM (2144 45th St.)
- **Crown Point:** Wednesday, **Feb. 27** from 1-5 PM (11055 Broadway Suite E)

FREE consultation spots are 20 minutes long.

We have 12 spots available at each location. Here is how you sign up...

- **La Porte:** Call Laura at **(219) 380-0809.**
- **Valparaiso:** Call Meghan or Michelle at **(219) 548-8770.**
- **Highland:** Call Shane at **(219) 301-7961.**
- **Crown Point:** Call Kristine at **(219) 310-8278.**

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Brown Bag Gardening Series

“Attracting Wildlife” is the topic of the next Brown Bag Gardening Series, presented by LaPorte County Master Gardeners from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Donna Pouzar will discuss Wildlife Habitat Certification, a National Wildlife Federation program that defines the needs of wildlife and helps individuals earn certification to attract wildlife to his/her yard. Laura Henderson will speak on cultivating native plant species to better welcome wildlife to yards, and making it easier to grow sustainable yards and landscapes. Both are Purdue-trained, experienced Master Gardeners.

The \$5 cost includes informational handouts. Registration is not required. Participants take a lunch. Call (219) 324-9407 or visit www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte for more details.

Ensuing programs are:

- Wednesday, March 6, noon to 1 p.m., “Gardening Through Handicaps,” Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.
- Wednesday, April 10, 6 to 7 p.m., “Gardening with Kids,” LaPorte Public Library Meeting Room, 904 Indiana Ave.

Student Exchange Hosts

The non-profit International Student Exchange seeks volunteer families to host international high school students in the coming academic year.

The students, who are between ages 15 and 18, come from countries such as Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Thailand, Brazil, Italy and Norway.

The deadline to match students with families is Aug. 31. Families can select an international student based on shared interests, hobbies and gender. The screening process includes a background check, in-home interview and verification of personal references. The students are English-speaking and have their own spending money. Americans provide a caring environment, room and daily meals.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are planned:

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 16.**

Projects focus on preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail. All equipment and protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, will be provided. Meet at The Park Connection volunteer office, which is adjacent to the main Chellberg Farm parking lot.

• **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.

• **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Art in the National Lakeshore from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through May 11 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to take photos, paint, draw or write. Programs may be inside or outside.

• **Movie Screenings at the Paul H. Douglas Center from 2-3 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 24.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 24 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

□

Due to the partial federal government shutdown, IDNL has extended its application deadline to Feb. 28 for one food-service vendor at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion's concessions this summer.

Required operations are at least Memorial Day through Labor Day: Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but the vendor may choose to extend hours and days available.

Federal regulations require any individuals or groups selling food or other items in a national park to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization permit

specifically issued for the pavilion for the 2019 calendar year. Completed applications must include a \$100 payment to cover the processing costs, and a brief business plan that includes a list of menu items with prices.

The selected vendor is required to pay 3 percent of gross receipts minus the \$100 application fee at the end of the season. Also, vendors selling food must comply with county and Federal health regulations, and will have responsibilities in guest-generated garbage cleanup.

Park staff will select a vendor based on: the ability to meet operational requirements; the applicant's business track record; and the applicant's business plan, which should include a variety of menu offerings. Call Amber Siewin at (219) 395-1859 or email amber_siewin@nps.gov for details.

□

"Geology and a Moving 'Mountain,'" a workshop for fourth- through 12th-grade educators, is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Teachers will try activities they can use to teach about geology in Northwest Indiana and the Great Lakes Region. They will receive resources to use in their classrooms, and learn about research projects that yielded information about Mount Baldy.

Zoran Kilibarda of Indiana University-Northwest will share his findings on the movement of Mount Baldy, and guide teachers through a process to identify rocks from the Lake Michigan shore. Park rangers will guide participants on a field trip to Baldy's summit, exploring geology along the way. Educators also will discover what Erin Argyilan and Todd Thompson, of IUN and the Indiana Geological Survey, respectively, have learned in their investigations of the dune and the "holes" found there.



Kilibarda

The cost is \$10. Visit the public-events calendar at www.duneslearningcenter.org or call (219) 395-9555 to register.

The workshop is co-sponsored by IDNL, Great Lakes Research and Education Center, Dunes Learning Center and IUN. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative provided funding.

□

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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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 14, 21 and 28, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 14, at Hageman Library and 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• **Valentine Tea at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at Hageman Library.**

The free hour-long program, presented by Purdue University Extension's Linda Bayman, will include information about the health benefits and history of tea, various tea ceremonies and facts. A sampling of teas, infusions and healthy snacks is planned. Seating is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **Bits & Bytes series, Five Things You Can Do To Be More Secure, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at Westchester Township Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

• **Saturday Crafternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Hageman Library.**

Children ages 2-5 can make a seasonal craft with Miss Ronnie.

• **Toddler Prom from 10 to 11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The event is for toddlers ages 1-4 and their caregivers. Refreshments will be served. A free ticket required for admittance can be picked up in the Thomas Branch Children's Department or at Hageman Library.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.



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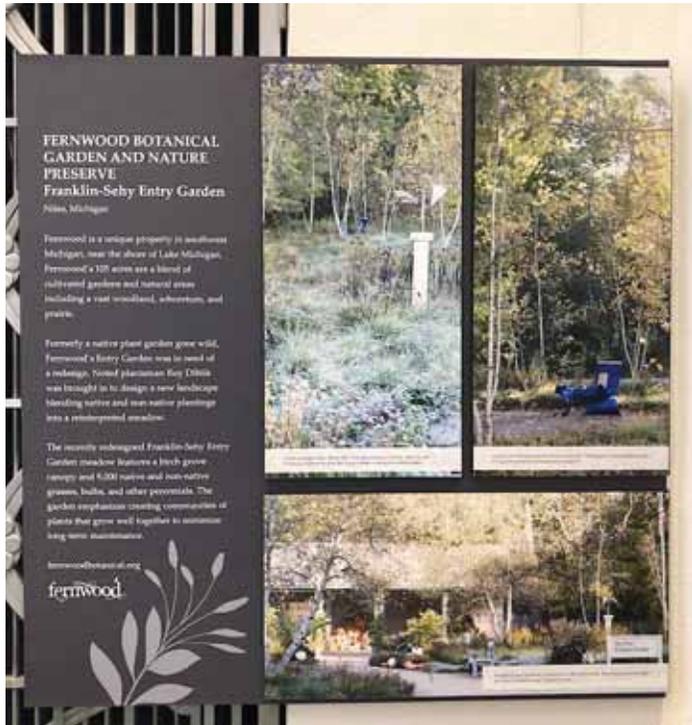
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Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve is featured in U.S. Botanic Garden's new exhibit, "Celebrating New American Gardens," which runs through Oct. 15 in Washington, D.C.



The panel highlighting Fernwood Botanical Garden.

A panel featuring Fernwood's Entry Garden is part of the exhibit, which is located at The U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. More information is available at www.USBG.gov

Fernwood is located at 13988 Range Line Road in Niles, Mich. Visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **FUR-tastic Show N' Tell from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16.**

Stop by the Nature Center for a look at some mammals of the dunes and their fur adaptations.

- **Dunes Creek Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 17.**

Meet a naturalist at the campground shelter next to campsite 113 for a program on the creek that flows through the dunes.

- **Winter Tracks & Scat from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17.**

The interactive program meets at the Nature Center.



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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Chamber Music Concert

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present "Something Borrowed, Something Blue," a free oboe recital featuring Jennet Ingle, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Ingle has built a career around performing, teaching, making reeds for, and writing about, the oboe. She has been South Bend Symphony Orchestra's principal oboist since 2006, and holds that position with Northwest Indiana Symphony. She teaches at Valparaiso University and privately. With the South Bend Symphony Wind Quintet, she presents frequent concerts and educational presentations throughout the community.



Her performance will include works by Thea Musgrave, Claude Debussy, Benjamin Britten, Jeffrey Agrell, Karl Pliss and J.S. Bach. She will be assisted by Mariah Boucher on piano.

Visit www.mccmf.org for details.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers has rescheduled its "nature detective lessons" program for 1 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 17, at Jens Jensen Preserve in Sawyer, Mich.

Casey Struecker, Chikaming Open Lands' education and outreach coordinator, will lead a 1.5-mile easy wilderness forensic hike. Participants learn how to spot animal signs that offer clues left behind by wildlife in the area's woods, fields and wetlands.

The preserve is located at 6851 Parkway Drive, which is just north of Sawyer Highlands Church on Red Arrow Highway. It is a high-quality hardwood forest that features towering oak, maple, beech and tulip, along with seasonal wetlands. Boots are recommended.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

Scrapbook Event

Scrapbookers and crafters are invited to the "4-H Clover Crop," sponsored by the LaPorte County 4-H Council, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The \$25 fee for adults (\$30 after Feb. 15) and \$15 for students includes table space, breakfast, lunch, contests, prizes and goodie bags. Also planned are classes, make 'n takes, a silent auction and home-based businesses.

All proceeds benefit the 4-H Council.

Call Mindy Rose at the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 or email msrose@purdue.edu for details.



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Age of Excellence Awards

Real Services will host the 2019 Age of Excellence Awards Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST Tuesday, April 23, at The Century Center in downtown South Bend.

The evening celebrates individuals in the agency's six-county area of Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph counties. Nominees are spouses, sons, daughters, family members, neighbors, friends, businesses, programs and professionals who care for the elderly and low-income individuals.

Doors open at 11 a.m. EST with live music. The cost is \$50, and parking in The Century Center lot is free. The keynote speaker is Coach Lou Holtz.



Holtz

Each nominee receives a free reservation for the event and a discounted ticket for one guest. He/she also will be recognized with a certificate acknowledging his/her kind acts to those in need.

The nomination deadline is 4 p.m. EST Friday, March 8. The reservation deadline is Wednesday, April 10. Visit the REAL Services' website at www.realservices.org or contact Pam Harris at (574) 284-7104 for details.

Eighth-Grader Named a Top Volunteer

Adrian Huizar, a Queen of All Saints School eighth-grader, is among the top two youth volunteers of 2019 through The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Huizar, 14, will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., when he will be recognized during a national ceremony.

Huizar started a tutoring program at school that recruits National Junior Honor Society members. His program hosts tutoring sessions for children in first through sixth grade for 45 minutes, four days a week. After getting the program approved, he created forms for parents to give permission for their students to stay after school. He also is responsible for all scheduling, and keeping track of attendance.



Adrian

Since the program started in late 2017, 62 students, tutors and supervisors have been involved in the program.

Huizar is the middle-level state honoree and was nominated by his school. The high school honoree is Tatum Parker of North Central High School.

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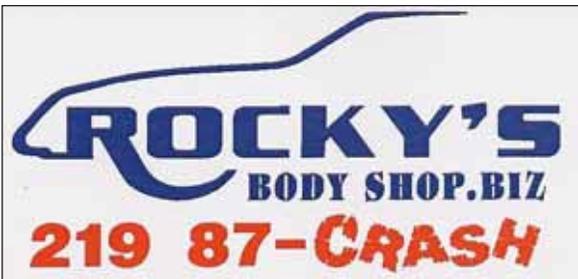
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World Creativity/Innovation Week

The theme for this year's Northwest Indiana World Creativity and Innovation Week, scheduled for April 15-21, is "Celebrating Creativity in our Community."

The local catalyst is The Center for Creative Solutions. A number of events will celebrate creativity and innovation throughout April. Most are free and open to the public. Any local business or organization is invited to host an event.

The center also will award area students and their organizations for innovative projects or products. Winners receive community recognition and a monetary prize. Students of any age can enter.

Anyone, including students, may submit an application. The project/product may be in any area, such as in technology or the arts.

In conjunction with Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta and the B.R. Foundation of Michigan City, the center will present Tej Ram Gupta scholarships to three A.K. Smith Career Center students.

Contact the non-profit Center for Creative Solutions at creativity52@comcast.net or (219) 861-0955 for more details. An application to nominate a student is at www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com

State Capitol Trip

Leadership LaPorte County is teaming up with Unity Foundation so LaPorte County residents can visit the state capitol in Indianapolis on Tuesday, March 26.

The trip, of which Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce also is a partner, is ideal for those who have business with state officials, are aspiring to run for office or have never visited the state legislature.

The trip is part of the 35th Leadership LaPorte County class. A few seats are available for community residents on a first-come, first-served basis. High school students are invited.

The bus leaves LaPorte at 6 a.m. and returns around 6 p.m. Attendees will tour the capitol building, visit committees and view the House and Senate, which are expected to be in session. A box lunch with local legislators is included.

The \$30 cost includes bus transportation and lunch. Contact Leadership LaPorte County at (219) 325-8223 or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for reservations or more information.



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Festival Headliner Announced



Los Lobos will headline the 2019 Prairie Magic Music Festival, the annual event this August at Sunset Hill Farm County Park, 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso.

Presented through Porter County Parks and Recreation, the festival celebrates rock, blues and Americana music.

Originally from Los Angeles, Los Lobos' music is a rock and Tex-Mex blend. Creating music for more than 40 years, it gained international fame in 1987 with a cover of Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba." The three-time Grammy-winning group has received a Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2015.

This year's festival is from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17. Tickets are on sale now for \$30. Food vendors and a beer garden will be on site. Visit www.portercountyparks.org/prairie for more details.

Shelf Ice Brew Fest

Four big tents with 40 local and regional breweries comprise the Shelf Ice Brew Fest from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

The event, a major fundraiser for the non-profit Michigan City Mainstreet Association, also includes fire pits, ice sculptures and food trucks.

Visit www.theuptownartsdistrict.com for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY

Feb. 14 — Valentine Tea, 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. Reservations: (219) 926-9080.

Feb. 14 — Music at the Museum, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 14 — The Sweetest Love Affair (Heartstrings Ventriloquist Beth Sutton Cummings & Friends), 6:30 p.m., P.A.R.C., 1713 Franklin St. Admission: \$10. Info: parc1713@gmail.com

Feb. 15 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 16 — Shelf Ice Brew Fest, 1-5 p.m., Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. Info: www.theuptownartsdistrict.com

Feb. 16 — Snowshoe hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 16 — FUR-tastic Show N'Tell, 2-4 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 16 — Pokemon Go Community Day, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Feb. 17 — Dunes Creek Hike, 10-11 a.m., campground shelter next to campsite 113 @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 17 — Films on DVD Series: "Operation Finale," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Feb. 17 — Bride Blu show, noon-3 p.m., Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa. Info: www.bluechipcasino.com

Feb. 17 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival oboe recital, "Something Borrowed, Something Blue," 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Info: www.mccmf.org

Feb. 18 — PRESIDENT'S DAY.

In the Region

Feb. 16 — Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Feb. 17 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, Jens Jensen Preserve, 6851 Parkway Drive, Sawyer, Mich. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Feb. 19 — February Open Mic Night, host Aiden Schnell, 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Signup: 6:30 p.m. EST. Performers/free, audience/\$5 (\$1/kids 12 & younger). Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through Feb. 28 — Multi-media exhibit, Michael Klaus Schmidt, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Info: (219) 465-1591.

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 Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 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.

Household Hazardous Waste

Solid Waste District of LaPorte County has set its 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Calendar, when residents can have such items disposed of for free.

Items must be in containers no greater than 5 gallons. A full list of acceptable items is available at www.solidwastedistrict.com

The schedule is:

- May 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2. The 5-in-1 event accepts tires, appliances, electronics, shredding and HHW (batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps/syringes, medications).
- June 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at LaPorte County Fairgrounds. The event is HHW items only.
- July 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Marquette Mall west parking lot. The event is HHW items only.
- Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Kankakee Valley REMC in Wanatah. The event is HHW items only.
- Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at LaPorte County Fairgrounds. This is a 5-in-1 event.
- Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Marquette Mall west parking lot. The event is HHW items only.

Tires are priced as follows. Each vehicle is allowed four passenger car/truck tires for free. Each additional passenger car/truck tire is \$1 each. Semi/tractor tires are \$5 each. Tires measuring 54 inches or larger (tread to tread) are \$75 each.

Medications must be in a clear Ziplock-type bag. All types can be mixed together and brought in the same bag. Sharps/syringes should be placed in a hard-sided container, such as a plastic laundry detergent bottle. Additional empty detergent bottles are available at the SWD office. Call (219) 326-0014 for more details.

NEWSLETTERS



the **Beacher Business Printers**

911 Franklin Street • Michigan City
(219) 879 0088 • Fax (219) 879 8070
email: beacher@thebeacher.com • <http://www.thebeacher.com>

CLASSIFIED**CLASSIFIED RATES - (For First 2 Lines.)**

1-3 ads - \$8.00 ea. • 4 or more ads - \$6.50 ea. (Additional lines- \$1.00 ea.)

PH: 219/879-0088 - FAX 219/879-8070.**Email: classads@thebeacher.com****CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
10 a.m. FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF PUBLICATION****PERSONAL SERVICES****ENTERTAINMENT:** Parties/dinners, voice and instrument lessons for all ages. Ron Nagle Music. **Call (219) 872-1217.****THE LAUNDRY DROP.** A wash-dry-fold service for your busy lifestyle. Dry cleaning accepted. Located at 16170 Red Arrow Highway, Suite C5, Union Pier, Mich. **Call (269) 231-5469.****BUSINESS SERVICES****ART SUPPLY GIFT SETS FOR BUDDING ARTISTS – FIRME'S**
(2 Stores) 11th & Franklin streets, Michigan City – (219) 874-3455
U.S. 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light – (219) 874-4003.8-10-12-15 & 20 yard dumpster rentals
Lakeshore Rolloff and Demolition • (269) 426-3868**HOME HEALTH – CAREGIVERS****COMFORT KEEPERS****Providing Comforting Solutions For In-Home Care**

Homemakers, attendants, companions

From 2 to 24 hours a day (including live-ins)

Personal emergency response systems

*All of our compassionate caregivers are screened,
bonded, insured, and supervised.***Call us at (877) 711-9800****Or visit www.comfortkeepers.com****JUST LIKE HOME**

We provide assisted living in our home.

We are a private home w/4 residents to a home.

Live-in care is \$2,100/month.

This includes room/board, assisted care, all meals. **Call Sue (219) 874-4891.****CLEANING - HOUSEKEEPING****PERSONAL TOUCH CLEANING – Homes - Condos - Offices.****Day and afternoons available. Call Darla at (219) 878-3347.****CLEANING SOLUTIONS.** Home & office cleaning services,21 yrs. exp. Insured, free estimates. **Call (219) 210-0580****FINISHING TOUCH:** Residential/Commercial/Specialty Cleaning Service

Professional - Insured - Bonded – Uniformed

#1 in Customer Satisfaction. Phone (219) 872-8817.**D&D CLEANING**Specializing in residential, vacation homes, rentals and new construction/remodeling cleanup. Flexible schedule/regular cleaning crew. References available. **Call (219) 877-9502****OLD FASHIONED WINDOW CLEANING • (219) 945-9520**

Full-time professional window & gutter cleaning. FREE screen & sill cleaning! Affordable. Check out my 5-Star Ratings & awards online or ask your neighbors!

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• Electrical • Plumbing • Flooring • Ceramic Tile • Drywall/Painting

• Power Washing. **Jeffery Human, owner – (219) 861-1990.****HP Electric LLC****(219) 363-9069**

Licensed/Bonded/Insured

Residential • Light Commercial • Whole House Rewires • New

Construction

Small Jobs — Big Jobs

Free Quotes

VISA/MC/AMEX**HANDYMEN AT YOUR SERVICE.** We can do most anything. Serving Northern Indiana since 1989. **Call Finishing Touch, Inc. (219) 872-8817.****STANDRING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION.** Full roof projects only,

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Fully insured. (630) 726-6466. Ask for Terry. 40 yrs. experience.**A-PLUS, INC.**

Call now for all of your remodeling needs!

We specialize in all aspects of Interior/Exterior Remodeling,

Painting & Roofing! Cleaning & Staining Decks!

No job is too small or too large. Please call our expert staff for a free quote.

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Gutter guards • Power washing • Raking • All home repairs

Guaranteed work. 30 years experience. Locally owned.

Fully Insured • (219) 229-9387**Call or stop by Duneland Home & Pro Hardware and let us help you** by connecting you with a PRO-fessional contractor. We can help you with kitchen & bathroom remodeling, wood & ceramic installation, roofing, siding, window replacement, room additions, painting and more...**Handyman Services • Free Estimates • (219) 878-1720****PAINTING-DRYWALL-WALLPAPER****JEFFERY J. HUMAN INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING & STAINING**

Custom Decorating - Custom Woodwork -

Hang/Finish Drywall - Wallpaper Removal

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20% off labor for interior painting Nov.-March.

Call (219) 778-4145 • (219) 363-9003**WAYNE'S PAINTING.** All labor per square foot 35 cents, for two coats 50 cents. Interior/Exterior painting and staining. Power washing decks, siding and more. **Call (219) 363-7877.****ALL BRIGHT PAINTING.** Interior/Exterior. Fully insured.Free estimates. Proudly serving the area for over 20 yrs. **(219) 861-7339.****CAPPY PAINTING.** Interior/exterior painting. 20-years experience.Professional, quality work at reasonable prices. **Call (219) 221-7909.****C. MAJKOWSKI:** Plastering & Drywall • Eifs • Stucco • Stone.

Commercial/residential. Chimney restoration. Licensed/bonded.

Call (219) 229-2352.**JOSEPH PAINTING.** Interior/Exterior. Power Washing. Drywall Repairs.

Wallpaper Removal. Insured/Bonded. Free estimate.

(219) 879-1121/(219) 448-0733.**LANDSCAPE-Lawns-Clean Up, Etc.****HEALY'S LANDSCAPING****(219) 879-5150 • dhealy5150@gmail.com**

218 Indiana 212, Michigan City, IN

Visit Healy's Landscaping & Materials on Facebook**RENT-A-MAN MAINTENANCE INC.**

Power Washing (decks, houses, concrete) – gutters –

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Serving your community since 2003.

Free estimates – insured, bonded, licensed

Call us at (219) 229-4474**Lawn maintenance, yard work, mulching, weeding, odd jobs!****Call ABE at (219) 210-0064. [Facebook.com/abeslawncare](https://www.facebook.com/abeslawncare)****CONSCIENTIOUS HOME & GARDEN CO.**

A Personal Task Service for Homeowners Who Seek Help

in Sustaining the Beauty of Their Outdoor Design

RESTORE • MAINTAIN • MANAGE**FOR INQUIRIES AND APPOINTMENTS / (219) 229-4542****MOTA'S LAWN CARE LLC.** Weeding, Clean-ups, Mowing, Mulch,Planting. Tree service. Insured. **(219) 871-9413.****MAINSTREET LANDSCAPE SERVICE**

Home/business. Snow shoveling, winter watch, mulch, mow, trim, hedg-

ing. Haul away debris. Free estimates. Insured.

(219) 336-4569, mainstreetlandscapeservice@gmail.com**EUSEBIO'S LANDSCAPING:** Mowing, planting, mulch, weeding, tree

trimming/removal, leaf removal, gutter cleaning, flower beds, any yard-

work. Free estimates. Insured. **(219) 229-2767****EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES****Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applica-**
tions for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.**GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.**

CHAD & NANCY ADDIE • MENDED HEARTS COLLECTIBLES
Thoughtful estate liquidation. We're glad to offer perspective, ideas on process. Call us at (219) 393-4609

MELODY'S WHOLE HOUSE ESTATE SALE
\$4M LAKEFRONT HOME DEMOLITION
Sat. & Sun., Feb. 16-17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST (Garage at 9:30 a.m. EST)
14548 Meadow Lane (off Red Arrow @ Lakeside), Lakeside, MI
Cabinets, doors, appliances, antiques, furniture, tools, plus MORE!
Bring help to remove!
Melodyestatesale.com

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

I BUY JEWELRY • STERLING, GOLD, COSTUME
Will come to your home. Call Lorelei @ (219) 872-5000

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL – RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

Large office space (897 sq. ft) available within a commercial building located on Johnson Road, centrally located between LaPorte and Michigan City. Office has a front work/shop area, with an attached office with private bathroom and 12-foot overhead door. Central air, central heat, water heater and outside alarm system included in rent. \$600/mo. Security deposit required. Call (219) 226-5055.

FOR RENT: MICHIGAN CITY OFFICE SPACE
3 large offices & large reception area, \$960/mo. Not including utilities. Will consider renting offices individually. With utilities \$435/mo. Also, 850 square feet retail or office, Michigan City, 8th & Franklin St., \$800/mo.
Call (219) 214-8044

RENTALS INDIANA

*****LONG-TERM RENTALS******
\$1,500/mo + utilities | Stop 20 | Furnished 3 BR 2 BA
2-Car Garage Overlooking Moon Valley

******CARI ADAMS, PROPERTY MANAGER @ (219) 898-5412******

Furnished 2BR/1BA rental September-May in Sheridan Beach. Newly rehabbed. \$1,050. Call (574) 514-3224.

House for rent weekly. Stop 37. Sleeps 12+, AC, WiFi. 300 ft to beach. jmebeachhouse@yahoo.com

Beautiful new gorgeously decorated 4BR/4BA house in Shorewood Hills. 5 minutes walk to lake. 400 square foot screened-in porch. Rent: \$2,500+utilities. 1-year lease available. Call (847) 769-7800 or email liskorinternational@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Condo for sale. 3BR/2BA • 40 Marine Drive, Michigan City
50-foot boat slip comes with the condo. Pool and tennis courts.
\$278,000. Call (574) 514-1125.

New DAF Board Members

Dunes Arts Foundation has elected four new board members and new officers.

New board members include: Clarence Hulse, Economic Development Corp. of Michigan City executive director; Kathleen Dolio-Thorson, KDT Designs founder and president; Elise Kermani, artistic director of MiShinnah Productions, a New York City based non-profit; and Dale Maher, an active community volunteer and area Realtor.

The new members join current members Amy Black, DAF president; Esteban Vargas, DAF vice president/treasurer; Jeffrey Baumgartner, secretary/producing artistic director; and Samantha Purze, DAF educational coordinator.

Dunes Arts Foundation oversees Dunes Summer Theatre in Michiana Shores.

LONG BEACH
WOMEN'S BOWLING



Feb. 5, 2019

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Queen Pins	16.5	3.5
2. Blind Side	15	5
3. Gutter Busters	13.5	6.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Linda Neulieb	173
1. Lenore Hadaway	173
2. Polly Fletcher	169
3. Ann Bogart	168
4. Margie Midkiff	164
5. Debbie Novak	156
6. Tammy Nelmar	155
7. Sue Labovitz	152
8. Pat Collado (series)	409
9. Carolyn Wiggins (series)	406

SPLITS

Pat Collado	3-10
Lenore Hadaway	4-5-7

FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW

Polly Fletcher

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.



American Red Cross

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

- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19.

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.

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center's Indoor Flea Market is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 16.

Admission is free. Antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, toys and locally made or grown items are available. Salty Nag's shepherd pie and a peach dessert are available for lunch.

Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, 13372 California Road, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy. A map is available on the Facebook page NewTroyFleaMarket. Contact Donald at (773) 803-9773 for details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Scrublands by Chris Hammer (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 368 pages.)

“A shiver defies the oppressive heat, running up his spine. There is something wrong with this town, as if the heat has turned it, like milk curdled by the sun.”

A small town. One year ago. A local priest kills five men outside the church where services were to begin. Constable then kills the priest. It's an open-and-shut case. Maybe, maybe not.

It seems like a relatively easy job for Martin Scarsden, big city newspaper reporter. He is to go to the town and see how residents are coping on the one-year anniversary of the horrific murders. No doubt it was murder. There were too many witnesses. Scarsden will talk to a few people, take some photos, write a nice little piece and head back to the big city. But we all know about best laid plans...

The setting for this tale of secrets is called Riversend in New South Wales, Australia. It's high summer, it hasn't rained in, well, such a long time that the river dried up and everyone seeks shelter from the unrelenting sun. The poor town's few shops are open only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except for the Shell gas station.

Martin parks his rental car and walks around town. He stops by a bookstore also advertising itself as a coffee shop. He meets Mandy Blonde and her infant son, Liam. She's 29 to Martin's 40, but he's immediately taken by her beauty and intellect. She's also not impressed he's a reporter. Strike 1, Martin!

At the general store, he meets Fran Landers, widow of one of last year's victims. She has a teenage son, Jamie. Not too eager to talk to him, either, although she defends the priest as being a kind man. Strange...but Strike 2. Keep going, Martin!

The hotel is closed, but there is a nearby motel. No Wi-Fi or cell service. There's also the Oasis where drinks are available, where the bartender is a little more forthcoming with information, but not much.

Martin's redeeming moment is that he has a pre-arranged meeting with the local police — Constable Robbie Haus-Jones. He's the one who shot and killed the priest, Byron Swift, on the steps of the church. Although he ultimately was the one who killed Swift, Robbie had nothing but good to say about him.

Byron Swift. Yes, there's a conflicting portrait of a man. A priest who was compassionate, friendly,

good-hearted. He's also the man alleged by two boys of sexual abuse, a crack shot with a rifle and who liked to go out into the scrublands and shoot birds. And, of course, there was Swift the murderous priest.

On Swift's cemetery headstone, Martin finds an inscription typically used for a deceased soldier. So, who was Byron Swift? If that was really his name...

Martin soon learns hardly anything in Riversend is as it seems.

Martin knows something doesn't add up. Newspapers have their deadline, however, and he would be the first on the scene to write an article, which he does quickly and beats out the other papers sending reporters to Riversend.

The more he digs, the more Martin discovers the small town has long buried secrets that he, as a reporter, must uncover. This town could be the resurrection of a dying career and make Martin an honored journalist. Not quite so fast, Martin...

In his haste to provide his paper with that first story, he jumps to conclusions and accepts information because it sounds right...it isn't. In fact, it makes him the laughing stock of fellow reporters and disgraced by his boss.

At this point, it's only halfway through the story. Martin knows there is so much more people aren't telling him.

Well-defined characters abound. There's too many to mention here, but all have a story they don't want to tell...ever.

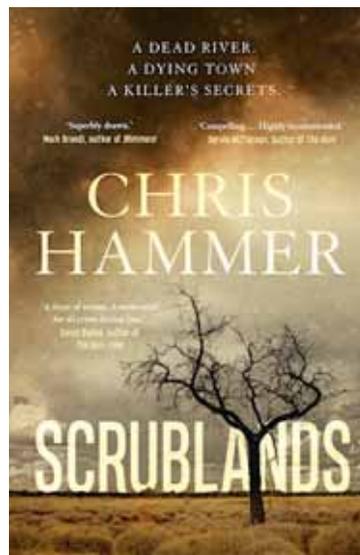
Like The Dry by Jane Harper, Scrublands shows us how the land, weather and people make a strange triangulation, where all angles flow out to each other: lightning bolts of energy both bad and good, still keeping the town united against the outside world. Riversend, what secrets are you hiding?

The killing of the five men is merely the catalyst for a multi-layered story that is the perfect mid-winter read, one that will keep your interest on every turn of the page. Secrets are revealed slowly, one by one, leaving the reader with more questions.

I was mesmerized by the sequence of events, and the evolving of a twisted story with jaw-dropping revelations along the way, not to mention a brush fire and suicide.

Hammer lives in Canberra, Australia, and was a journalist for more than 30 years. His first book, The River, is a nonfiction piece that won the ACT Book of the Year Award. This is his first novel.

Till next time, happy reading!





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