



Volume 35, Number 3 Thursday, January 24, 2019

Seeds of a Dream

by Edmund Lawler



Ralph Kipniss is photographed by The Beacher's Paul Kemiell, surrounded by marionettes.

Where can you find Cher, Michael Jackson, Elvis and Abe Lincoln all in the same room?

Try renowned puppeteer Ralph Kipniss' basement. Dangling from strings in an eerie state of suspended animation are hundreds of marionettes occupying nearly every inch of his basement in Michigan City's Elston Grove neighborhood.

And that's only a fraction of the collection of some 4,000 marionettes, glove puppets and rod puppets he's created over a 50-year career. Some of the inventory is in a garage, some in a storage locker.

Thousands more of the marionettes are in Chicago, where Kipniss spent most of his career. His collection is said to be one of the largest in the United States.

The 78-year-old master puppeteer would like to resurrect his menagerie of whimsical human and animal characters so they can enjoy a wider audience. His marionettes would not have to go far. Kipniss wants them to play starring roles in a proposed puppet theater in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District.

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The theater would include a small café, and a gift shop stocked with puppets.

“It would be a wonderful thing for Michigan City,” Kipniss says. “We would also teach classes in puppetry at the center.”

The theater would be a tourist magnet, he says, enchanting children in the heart of the UAD.

To make that dream come to life, Kipniss says he is forming a non-profit organization called The National Association for The Arts. Establishing the nonprofit in Indiana, like the one he had in Illinois, is a critical first step in being considered for funding by the Michigan City Community Enrichment Corp. It administers \$750,000 from Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa, given annually to non-profit charitable and philanthropic organizations in the community. Each year, for example, \$100,000 of that total is set aside for Washington Park Zoo.



Ron Meer

Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer told *The Beacher* Kipniss has spoken to him and his staff several times in the past year and a half about the proposed project.

“In concept, bringing another attraction downtown for the kids and the adults sounds good. Obviously, we support him that way,” Meer says. “We would support anyone who is trying to support the quality of

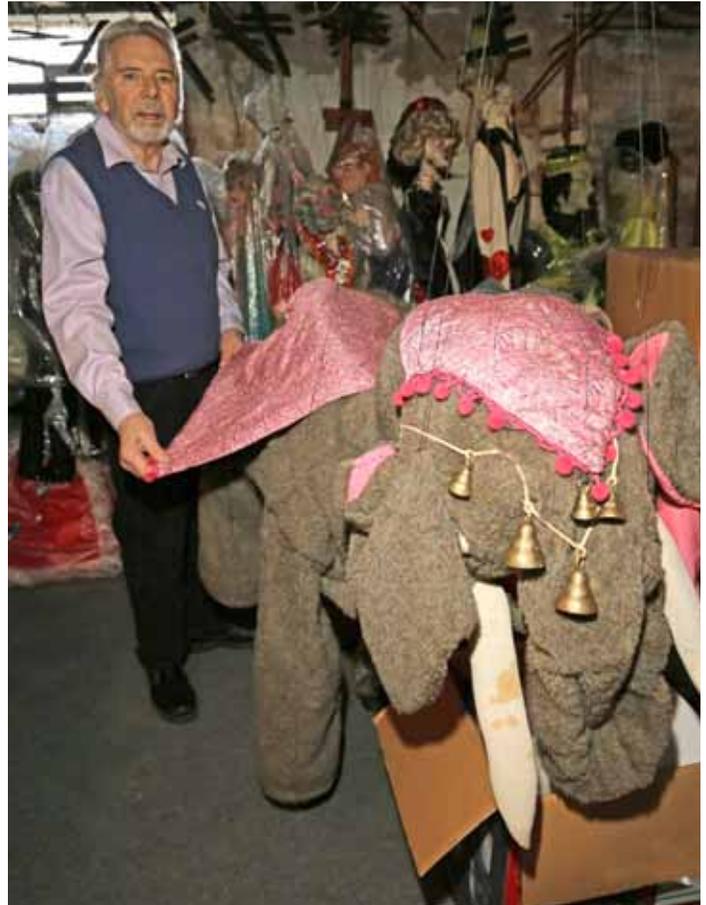
life for Michigan City.

“But quite honestly,” Meer continued, “he’s looking for a lot of financing for a storefront, money to get started and marketing support, and that is not something the city could do at this point.”

However, if Kipniss successfully establishes his 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Meer says, he is eligible to apply for enrichment corporation money. The challenge there, however, is that the enrichment corporation annually fields several million dollars worth of requests from qualified local nonprofits for funding, Meer points out.

But Kipniss says the show must go on.

If his vision, and his financing or substantial donations fall into place, the puppet theater will be his



An intricate elephant marionette.

second in Michigan City. After moving to Michigan City from Chicago in 2007, he operated the Puppet Parlor Theatre at Marquette Mall for 3 1/2 years. But Kipniss says the roof there leaked, the marionettes got wet and the curtain came down on the enterprise.

Kipniss’ productions on 12-foot-wide stages in Chicago and later in Michigan City were elaborate, sometimes featuring up to 50 marionettes. He put on shows such as “The Wizard of Oz,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “Hansel and Gretel,” “The Ziegfeld Follies,” as well as operas, cabarets, even country-and-western revues. Designing and building a single marionette could take a month, and its costume could take several more days.

Marillyn Giedraitis, Kipniss’ companion and assistant, explains that Kipniss’ marionettes are designed in the European tradition, which is more lifelike and realistic.

“In the United States, the style is more caricature,” she says.

The French word “marionette” is believed to have evolved from “Little Mary,” as puppets were often featured in religious ceremonies during medieval times.

On stage, Kipniss’ marionettes came to life by walking, sitting, singing, dancing or making gestures. They’d be voiced by professional actors in recording studios. A musical score also would be recorded. The vivid stage scenes would be hand-painted and intricately lit — all with the goal of creating a lavish illusion for children in the audience.

From his base at his National Marionette Company in Chicago, Kipniss and his partner, Lou Ennis, put on shows across the country, in the Wisconsin Dells and on cruise lines. Their characters appeared in national TV commercials, on a Comedy Central program featuring violent, football-playing puppets and on TV shows like WGN’s “Bozo’s Circus.”



Ralph and Marillyn Giedraitis, Kipniss’ companion and assistant, are photographed with an elaborately designed marionette.

He became close friends with TV puppeteer Burr Tillstrom of “Kukla, Fran and Ollie” fame, and Frazier Thomas, host of WGN’s popular “Garfield Goose and Friends” children’s puppet and cartoons program.

“People from all over the world would come to see our shows at the Puppet Parlor on Chicago’s North Side,” says Kipniss, a former professional ballet dancer who turned to puppetry after suffering a career-ending leg injury. The injury was a silver lining as it allowed him to reconnect with puppetry, one of his childhood passions while growing up in Chicago.

“When I was 10 years old, I would put on puppet shows in our garage at our house on the North Side,” he recalls wistfully.

The graceful movements he perfected as a ballet dancer influenced the way he artfully manipulated marionettes with strings from the “bridge” over small stages during his productions, Giedraitis notes.

Continued on Page 4

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A Benjamin Franklin marionette.

Things did not end well for Kipniss in Chicago, however. Ennis suffered a fatal stroke, and an electrical fire extensively damaged their 75-seat theater and many of the marionettes. The surviving marionettes went into storage in Chicago.

Kipniss and some of his famous puppets found a new home in Michigan City, which made his creative spirit feel right at home because of its long-standing support for community and summer theater.

It's in his adopted hometown of Michigan City where he hopes to introduce yet another generation of children to the magic of puppetry. And he's eager to train several younger local assistants in the art of puppetry.



Ralph Kipniss demonstrates how he moves his marionettes amid a performance.

Kipniss, a warm, avuncular man who's proud of the joy his art form has brought to countless numbers of kids, is not convinced the only way to capture a youngster's imagination today is through video games and their hard-breathing special effects.

"Puppetry is far from a dying art," he says. "It can still captivate young audiences with lavish illusions. The only thing puppetry needs is more exposure."

(Anyone interested in Ralph Kipniss' puppet theater project can contact him at 219-814-4502.)

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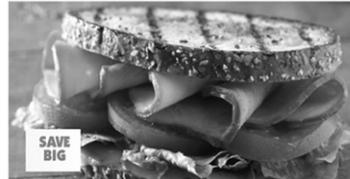
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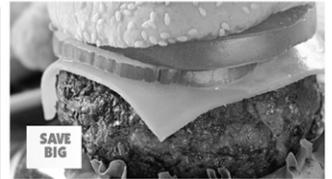
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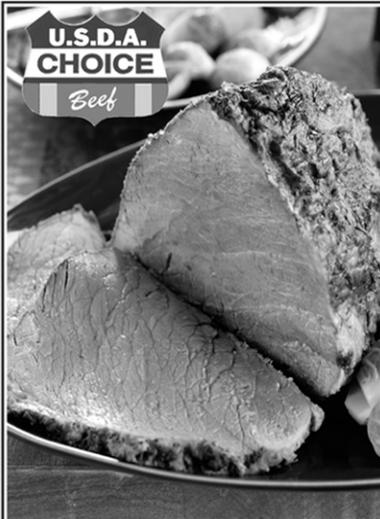
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Annual WinterFest Returns With Slate of Events

The annual WinterFest, organized by LaPorte Park and Recreation Department, returns Jan. 25-27, complete with returning events and a few twists.

The weekend kicks off with ice sculpture demonstrations, sponsored by local businesses and organizations, at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at the Rotary Garden Gazebo, 250 Pine Lake Ave. Afterward, stop by Cummings Lodge from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Family Game Night. Take dinner and a favorite game (Monopoly, Sorry, cards), and the park department will prepare a fire inside the lodge. Popcorn and punch will be available as a snack.

Family Ceramics runs from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26, in the lower level of LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Participants can paint seasonal gifts such as snowmen, Valentine's Day boxes and figurines, or Easter eggs. The \$6 cost includes paints and brushes, but not the bisque item for decorating. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

The "Snowball Softball" adult-coed tournament returns to Lions Field at 9 a.m. Saturday. The double-elimination tournament includes team awards for first, second and third place, and individual awards for first place.

Breakfast with the Birds, sponsored by LaPorte County Parks, is from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. No pre-registration is required. The program is open to all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

A free Barre Class led by certified instructor Becca Masters is from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday in LaPorte Civic Auditorium's lower level. Donations will be accepted to support the park department's Youth



Free horse-drawn wagon rides remain a popular aspect of WinterFest.

Scholarship Program.

A wheel throwing pottery demonstration by local artist Alayna Bublitz is from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday in the LaPorte Civic Auditorium Ceramics Room. The event includes time for individuals to sit at a wheel and get their hands dirty.

A community snow angel event, designed to see how many people in one place can make snow angels simultaneously, is at 1 p.m. Saturday behind Cummings Lodge.

The cornhole tournament, presented by American Legion Post 83, is Saturday in the LaPorte Civic Auditorium gymnasium. Find a partner and register, with prizes awarded to the top three pairs (participants must be at least 21).

Free horse-drawn wagon rides are from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, in Soldiers Memorial Park. Afterward, hot chocolate is served by the fire-place at Cummings Lodge.

Call (219) 326-9600 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for details, or follow the LaPorte Park and Recreation Department on FaceBook and Instagram.



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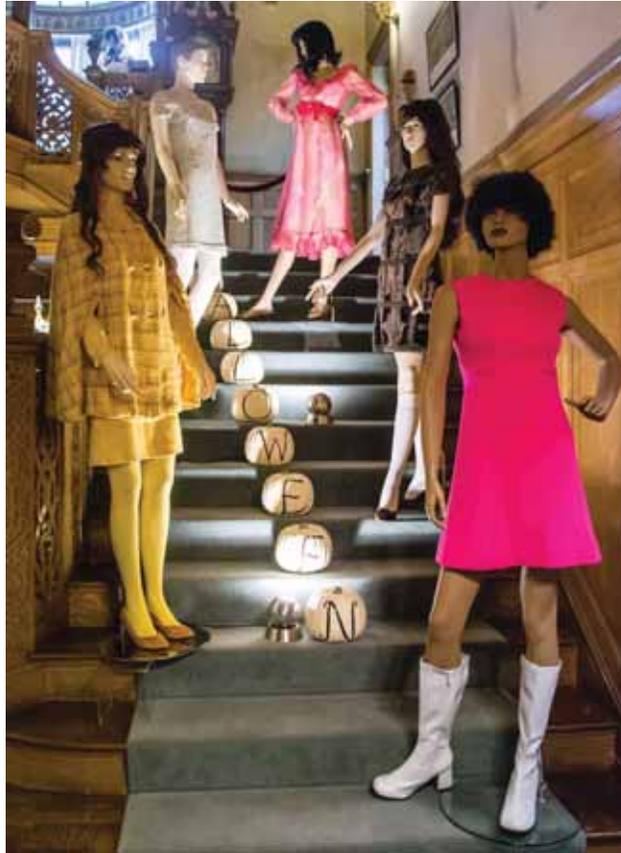
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New Exhibit on 1960s Fashions Extended

“Mod Mystique: 1960s Fashions” has been extended through May 26 at The History Museum’s Oliver Mansion, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

More than 20 pieces of clothing — all from the museum’s collection — are highlighted, emphasizing trends such as miniskirts and pillbox hats, and designers such as Givenchy and Oscar de la Renta.

One gown is a Givenchy two-piece evening dress ensemble from 1968. Made of white crepe, it features a layer of blue and white silk mousseline on top. Reflecting the changing hemlines is a minidress made by Saks Fifth Avenue. The sleeveless pink dress is made of wool and features two faux front pockets and a full, pink, silk lining.



The couture of the 1960s is reflected in a cocktail dress of turquoise brocade cloth. Made circa 1965 in Hong Kong, the silver-embroidered design is accented with a collar and cuffs decorated with rows of silver thread and gold sequins.

On guided tours of the mansion, visitors can view the gowns, as well as the furnishings, which are all original to the home.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. EST Sunday. House tours are available at 11 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m. EST Monday through Saturday and 1 and 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors, \$6 for youth 6-17 and free for members. Call (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for details.



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New Buffalo Winterfest

The Fourth Annual New Buffalo Winterfest, which features an afternoon pub crawl, is Saturday Jan. 26.

The schedule is (all times Eastern):

- 1 p.m. — Dooley’s Lake House Pub.
- 2:15 p.m. — Bentwood Tavern at Marina Grand.
- 3:15 p.m. — New Buffalo Yacht Club.
- 4:15 p.m. — Terrace Room at Harbor Grand.
- 5:15 p.m. — Stray Dog Bar & Grill.
- 6:15 p.m.— Crawl to Casey’s.

General admission is free; participants pay for food and beverages as they go. Cash is required at the yacht club. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Email NewBuffalo.Bull@gmail.com for more details.

Scouts Craft Show

Applications are being accepted for crafters and vendors to appear in the Scouts’ fourth annual craft show, which is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Queen of All Saints gymnasium, 606 Woodland Ave.

The cost is \$25 for a 10x10 display space, and an extra \$5 for the church to provide a table.

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Two Times the Talent

by Linda Weigel

A husband-and-wife artistic team is not terribly unusual. Several live in LaPorte County right now. The advantages often can outweigh any disadvantages, especially when both partners have a single vision, combined with a solid knowledge of trends and discerning tastes.

Thaddeus C. Gallery, located in historic downtown LaPorte, stands as an example of such an artistic vision realized.

LaPorte native Thaddeus Cutler began his college education at Ball State University before transferring, and then graduating from, Indiana University South Bend in 1999, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts and majoring in painting/drawing. His wife, Laura Cutler, attended Otis College of Art & Design in Los Angeles, graduating in 1996 with a BFA and majoring in ceramic sculpture.

After college, they headed separately for New York, where they eventually met during post-graduate studies at New York Academy of Art, known for its intensive technical training in the fine arts. Both studied figurative/anatomical-based painting, drawing and sculpture. Laura returned to the New York Academy of Art in 2012 to complete her studies, receiving her Master of Fine Arts in 2013, majoring in painting and completing the "Anatomy Track Certification for both Human and Equine Anatomy."

While in NYC, Thaddeus started working for S. E. Feinman gallery, located in the Lower Manhattan area of SoHo, an area well-known for its high-end art galleries, designer boutiques and atmospheric neighborhoods.

"I started out as a custom framer and then worked up to managing the gallery," he says. "I became very comfortable with all day-to-day operations, allowing the owner to leave the country every year for months at a time."

Cutler subsequently developed a close relation-



Laura and Thaddeus Cutler.

ship with the Feinman family, a relationship that continues to this day.

As a training ground for how to run a successful art gallery, Thaddeus couldn't have been more fortunate. Later, as he and Laura considered pursuing their dream to open their own gallery, they looked at numerous locations, settling on LaPorte as the "geographical heart of this area, centered in a wonderful location with tons of potential."

Thaddeus C. Gallery was established in 2004, at a second-floor location on Michigan Avenue in LaPorte. Within three years, they outgrew their initial site and purchased the former Droege Men's Clothing

building. Interestingly, they are only the third owners of the 1890 structure. The first tenant was a dry goods store, which lasted for seven years. Then, Droege's moved in, remaining there for 89 years.

Upon acquiring the building, the couple had considerable renovation ahead, including walls, ceil-



Thaddeus C. Gallery in downtown LaPorte.



Drawings by Gregg Hertzlieb, glass by Janet Zug.

ings and floors, before officially reopening in 2007.

Today, the gallery's interior is striking with a restored tin ceiling, large front window, wonderful flooring and great lighting. It is one of the finest art galleries in Northwest Indiana, reminding me of many others I visited a few years ago in NYC, or more recently in Chicago's art district. Every piece of quality artwork is professionally and thoughtfully arranged, with ample room between pieces, pro-



Laura Cutler's "The Belgian."

viding maximum viewing. The art, itself, represents regional, national and international new and established artists. Familiar area artists might include Gregg Hertzlieb, Laurel Izard, Valerie Taglieri, Alan Larkin, Andrew Avara or Melissa Washburn. The gallery sponsors two to three major art openings per year, the first for 2019 arriving Saturday, May 11.

As an art couple, Thaddeus and Laura are savvy, talented and discerning when it comes to selecting and exhibiting works in their gallery, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, glass, ceramics and jewelry. To exhibit in their gallery, Thaddeus said, the art must meet certain requirements:

- Is the presentation good, professional?



Thaddeus Cutler's "Last Night in the Ring."

- Does the art currently work in the space?
- Is the art unique, different and individualistic in design?

When special events arise and new exhibits debut, Thaddeus and Laura strive to create a welcoming atmosphere. During the Dec. 8 Cookie Walk, as well as the "Blue Christmas" holiday exhibit, they offered visitors cookies and many a hearty toast to the season.

The gallery is located at 822 Lincolnway. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Call (219) 326-8626 or email thaddeus@thaddeusc.com. Be sure, too, to check out their Facebook page for additional photos and updates.

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Theatre at the Center Celebrates 30th Anniversary of "Love Letters"

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Broadway debut of A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters," Theatre at the Center will showcase one performance at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3.

Directed by TATC Artistic Director Linda Fortunato, the production stars Phil Potempa, newspaper columnist for *The Post Tribune*, and Crista Zivanovic, features editor of *The Times of Northwest Indiana*. Proceeds benefit TATC.

"Love Letters" tells of the overlapping lives and love of the rebellious Melissa Gardner and buttoned-up Andrew Makepeace Ladd III, spanning exchanged notes, cards and letters during 50 years as they are read with the interplay of the two featured stars. The timeline starts with second grade and details summer vacations, college life and marriages, including children, hap-

piness and heartache.

The simple production has the performers comfortably seated on stage, reading directly from the letters. The play opened off-Broadway in March 1989, starring Kathleen Turner and John Rubinstein. When it transferred to Broadway in October of that year, it starred Lynn Redgrave, John Clark and others. Touring productions have included: Robert Wagner and his actress-wife, Jill St. John; Brian Dennehy and Mia Farrow; Carol Burnett and Alan Alda; and Anjelica Huston and Martin Sheen.

Tickets are \$25. Adding the Sunday Champagne Brunch costs \$24 plus tax. Call the

box office at (219) 836-3255 or visit www.Theatre-AtTheCenter.com for reservations. TATC is located at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.



Phil Potempa and Crista Zivanovic star in "Love Letters."

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CAYA Bowl-a-thon

Family Advocates will present "Totally Awesome," its '80s-themed CAYA Bowl-a-thon, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., LaPorte.

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. Participants can wear '80s-style clothing if they wish. Proceeds support the Court Appointed Youth Advocate program, which provides mentors to at-risk youth involved in delinquent acts or status offenses.

The individual and team that raise the most in donations win a prize. Each bowler is asked to raise or pay a minimum \$30 donation to participate. That covers an event T-shirt, two games of bowling, shoes and a raffle ticket.

Call Family Advocates, 1005 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, at (219) 324-3385 for more details.

Friday Night @ Footlight

Friday Night @ Footlight, an open-mic venue for musicians, comedians and singers, is at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Admission is free, with a \$2 cost for performers. Dan Moser is the guest artist. Sign up at www.footlightplayers.org. Call (219) 874-4035 for details.

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JROTC Competes in Cyber Patriot

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps participated in the third round of Cyber Patriot, the national cybersecurity competition where students act as security managers for an organization's information system.

This was the state qualifying round to determine advancement to the regional and national rounds. The national championship, completely funded by the Marine Corps, is in March in Baltimore.



Ralph Gee (second from right) is photographed with Lance Cpl. Charles Reeves (from left), 1st Sgt. Stefen Glade and Staff Sgt. Julia Ringstad.

The team is advised by Ralph Gee, MCHS engineering technology instructor and robotics coach.

"The team did very well in this round," he said in a press release. "I am impressed to see how much they have learned about dealing with cyber security issues from when we first started in September."

In other JROTC news, the drill team was to compete at East Aurora (Ill.) High School on Jan. 19, followed by a meet at Wheeling (Ill.) High School on Feb. 2. They then will focus on preparing for the National MCJROTC Drill Championship on April 13 in Washington, D.C. That trip also will be funded by the Marine Corps.

"Thin Ice" Warnings

Indiana conservation officers are advising citizens of the potential hazards of being on frozen lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

Recent temperature drops have brought about sheets of ice across some bodies of water. Conservation officers ask residents to keep a watchful eye on neighborhood retention ponds, lakes and other waterways, specifically for people who may venture out and find themselves in trouble.

Tips to remember when considering standing on, or walking on, a frozen lake or pond include:

- No ice is safe ice.
- Test the thickness of the ice with an ice auger. At least 4 inches of ice are recommended for ice fishing, 5 inches for snowmobiling.
- If you don't know....don't go.
- Wear life jackets or flotation coats.
- Carry ice hooks and rope gear.
- When on the ice, leave a note with a friend or family member of your whereabouts.
- Don't test the thickness of the ice while alone.

Wearing a life jacket is especially important, if falling through, to keep your head above water until help arrives.

The coating of snow can make for treacherous conditions. Snow can insulate ice, causing it to freeze at a slower rate. When snow and rain freeze into ice, it is never as strong as solid, clear ice.

If seeing a pet or other animal in distress on the ice, do not go after it. Contact a local emergency response personnel equipped to make the rescue.

Flowing water, such as rivers and streams, should be avoided when covered by a layer of ice. Water that is surrounded by sand may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness of the ice.

Underground springs, wind, waterfowl and other animals also can keep areas of ice thin.



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The Road to Oscar: “Green Book” and “On the Basis of Sex”

by Andrew Tallackson



Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali are the driving forces behind “Green Book.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Green Book”

Running time: 130 minutes. Rated PG-13 for thematic content, language including racial epithets, smoking, some violence and suggestive material

A race-reversed “Driving Miss Daisy,” helmed by the man whose claim to fame was getting Ben Still-er’s family jewels caught in his zipper.

In theory, “Green Book” should not work. Nor, in these politically and racially charged times, do we need another film that explores the Civil Rights movement through the eyes of a white protagonist.

But here’s the thing: Viggo Mortensen and Ma-hershala Ali invigorate the story, creating two men whose friendship not only feels real, but legitimate. The result is alternately hilarious and moving.

The title refers to an ugly reality of its time: “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” which alerted black travelers to which restaurants and motels accepted them in the Deep South.

Mortensen plays New York City bouncer Frank “Tony Lip” Vallelonga, who in the early 1960s seeks brief work after his mob-infested nightclub closes for renovations. He’s tipped off to news of a personal driver requested for a local “doctor.” He assumes it’s a physician. Instead, it is black pianist “Doc” Don Shirley (Ali), who is about to embark on an eight-week tour of the Deep South, right before Christmas.

What kind of man is Frank? Early on, we see his reaction to his wife (a brief, but affecting Linda Cardellini) allowing black handymen to drink from glasses in their kitchen. He tosses the glasses in the

trash. She retrieves them.

We’ve seen enough race-oriented buddy pictures to anticipate the trajectory of “Green Book.” Casually racist Frank will experience Deep South intolerance firsthand through Doc, helping change his attitude about blacks. And to some extent, the film does not stray from formula.

What we don’t foresee is how “Green Book” becomes a deeper, richer experience thanks to Mortensen and Ali, and a largely unsentimental script co-written by Frank’s own son, Nick.

What’s interesting about Mortensen (the “Lord



Mahershala Ali depicts “Doc” Don Shirley as a man who struggles to find his place amid white and black crowds.

of the Rings” trilogy, “A History of Violence”), who packed on serious weight for the role, is that he treats Frank as a pig. A sweet pig, mind you, a family man, but a pig nonetheless. An overgrown ape who eats as if every meal is his last, who appears genuinely perplexed as to why his hatespeak is offensive. He is, not, however, stupid. Amid scenes of blatant, condescending racism hurled Doc’s way within the Deep South is a powerful moment in which Doc is caught by police in a gay encounter with a white man at a YMCA. Frank saves the day, but not in a way Doc approves. Frank, to our surprise, does not finger wag at Doc’s homosexuality, instead admitting that life is “complicated.” In Mortensen’s eyes, we see that brains *do* exist beneath Frank’s brawn.

Ali’s take on Doc is exceedingly complicated. A slender, towering man, refined to the point of snobbery, he does not fit in, nor is he accepted by, any world he enters. Much of the film’s humor derives from Doc’s deer-in-the-headlights reactions to Frank’s boorish *carpe diem* mantra, and director

Peter Farrelly (“There’s Something About Mary,” “Dumb and Dumber”) deftly balances those lighter moments with the heftier ones on the horizon. When Doc finally explodes at Frank, all the bile from his life spewing forth, Ali is ferociously heart-breaking: mesmerizing work that may just secure his second Oscar.

Farrelly, thankfully, knows not to push the emotional moments, but permit them to quietly breathe. The image of black sharecroppers, stunned by the sight of a white man driving a black man, is incredibly moving. Is Doc, tears streaked across his face, mortified by what he sees, or is he an outcast among his own people? There seems to be no acceptable bridge between him and individuals of *any* race.

The coda of “Green Book” delivers the appropriate payoff, but the emotional weight of the scene is delivered by Cardellini: a single line that establishes her as the soul of the picture.

“Green Book” caught me off guard. I was prepared to dismiss it. Now, I can’t forget it.

Back in 1998, Mimi Leder directed one of my favorite movies. “Deep Impact.” In many ways, it was boilerplate disaster movie fare: a comet hurtles toward Earth, its populace scrambling for solutions. But Leder, an established TV director, was dabbling in a genre exclusive to men, most notably the testosterone-fueled Michael Bay, whose similarly themed “Armageddon” arrived in theaters soon after.

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“On the Basis of Sex”

Running time: 120 minutes. Rated PG-13 for some language and suggestive content

What Leder achieved with “Deep Impact” was atypical: requisite special effects, but on a human scale. An aging woman, aware of her pending mor-

tality, dresses in her finest, a glass of wine by her side. A reporter, realizing her female superior — a mother, no less — is doomed by the comet’s wrath, makes a life-changing decision...in the office day

Continued on Page 18



Felicity Jones is joined by Armie Hammer (right) as her husband, and Justin Theroux (left) as the ACLU’s Mel Wulf.

The Road to Oscar Continued from Page 17

Director Mimi Leder finds subtle imagery to convey Ruth Bader Ginsburg's uphill battles.

care center. A husband and wife, locked in an embrace, the husband caressing his wife's cheek as the tsunami created by the comet approaches. These are subtle touches the Ritalin-deprived Bay could never comprehend. In fact, the notoriously boorish director publicly mocked Leder for her efforts.

I share this because Leder is the perfect director to helm a biopic about the early days of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She gets her, appreciates the uphill battle the future U.S. Supreme Court justice fought, and *continues* to fight. Her film, "On the Basis of Sex," is imperfect, structured like a well-meaning HBO project. But the core of the movie, Felicity Jones' portrait of Ginsburg, is pitch perfect: frequently moving, often inspiring.

"On the Basis of Sex" opens in the mid-1950s, during Ginsburg's first year of Harvard Law School. Leder finds an intriguing way to convey her struggle with no dialogue: the swarming masses of students heading to class, men dressed primarily in black, the camera at low angles to capture the heeled shoes of the group's sparse female candidates. An ensuing scene, where Harvard Law School Dean Erwin Griswold (Sam Waterston) curtly dismisses each female student, is invigorating in the way Ginsburg turns the tables on him with a hilariously passive-aggressive reply.

That moment sets the tone for the wonderful performance by Jones ("The Theory of Everything," "Rogue One"). Ginsburg faced insane challenges, not just through her own classes, but in doubling her course load, attending classes of her husband, Martin (Armie Hammer), as he's undergoes treatment for testicular cancer. Jones paints Ginsburg as a woman who savors *being* a woman. She likes being a wife and mother, but she also wants a career. But being a woman, an attorney and a Jew saw door after door slammed in her face.

The most riveting moments, in fact, involve Leder delving into the explosive dynamic between mother and child, specifically as Ruth's daughter Jane (a fierce Cailee Spaeny), swept up by the feminist wave of the era, challenges her mother to not sit idly.

Ginsburg is delivered her big chance by her tax-attorney husband: a tricky case where a bachelor caring for his ailing mother is denied filing for a tax deduction when hiring a nurse to help. The law states the deduction is allowed for "a woman, a widower or divorcee, or a husband whose wife is incapacitated or institutionalized."

The case introduces two dynamite character actors: Oscar-winner Kathy Bates as activist attorney Dorothy Kenyon, and Justin Theroux, who worked with Leder on HBO's "The Leftovers," as the ACLU's Mel Wulf. But it is here the screenplay, by Ginsburg's nephew, Daniel Stiepleman, runs into trouble. The case involves plenty of legalese, and the dialogue feels overly written. Preachy. Soapbox talk. Erwin Griswold and Stephen Root ("Office Space") as Professor Brown, once intriguing foes, are reduced to cartoon bullies.

But Jones remains front and center. Ginsburg had to discover her voice, to establish a demeanor that didn't place men on the defensive. When that moment of truth arrives, when Ginsburg states her case before high court justices, the clock ticking, Jones is understated perfection: humor, heart and passion, without emotion dictating her presence.

"On the Basis of Sex" arrived in limited release at the end of 2018, the same year as CNN's documentary "RBG." The two are essential companion pieces. The final scene of "On the Basis of Sex" delivers the woman herself, her own words carrying her forward into court. We are moved. Deeply. Together, these films do this remarkable woman justice.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Arts & Crafts Show Vendors

Vendors are being accepted for Swanson Activity Center for Older Adults' annual Arts & Crafts Show.

The event, which moves to the Community Building at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 4.

The show, now in its sixth year, is a fundraiser for the center open to seniors in LaPorte and nearby communities. More than 50 artists and crafters from Indiana and Michigan will be featured. Those interested can call (219) 393-4093 or email ddev48@hotmail.com

SAM Winter Student Recital

The School of American Music has rescheduled its annual winter recital for 3 to 5 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 27, at Three Oaks (Mich.) Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

The free recital, open to the public, features performances by SAM students and instructors. An intermission with light refreshments is planned.

The recitals, held twice a year, give students live performance experience in addition to the musical training they receive in the classroom.

Visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com for more details.

Reins of Life Gala

Reins of Life will host its 21st Annual Kelsey Marie Meekhof Memorial Dinner & Auction at 5:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 9, at The Armory, 727 S. Eddy St., South Bend.



The event is in memory of rider Kelsey Marie Meekhof. The theme, "The Greatest Evening," features table-side magic, a caricature artist, circus photo booth, live music and a silent and live auction. A cocktail hour kicks off the evening.

The event supports the ROL mission to offer therapeutic horseback riding and equine-assisted activities.

Visit reinsofflife.org/events or call (574) 232-0853 for details.

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Executive Journey Fellowship

Two LaPorte County professionals, Brandi Lewis and Brenda Stellema, have been selected to join 28 others from youth-serving organizations across Indiana to the 2019 Executive Journey Fellowship.

Created in 2002 and funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., the fellowship addresses ongoing professional and personal renewal in the field of youth work.

Lewis, who holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Purdue University, began as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City three years ago. She has worked in the LaPorte County non-profit field specializing in youth development since 2001.

Stellema, director of the Court Appointed Youth Advocate program, Family Advocates Inc. in LaPorte, has more than five years in her position. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Indiana University and served on the Harmony House/CAYA board before the opportunity arose to develop a program for at-risk youth in the community.

Each fellowship participant will attend a series of residential retreats designed to create new ways of thinking about and practicing youth work within existing systems and youth programs. Fellows are awarded personal renewal scholarships.

So far, the fellowship has served more than 1,000 prospective and current youth workers (2003-2018) through the retreat-based format.



Lewis



Stellema

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

These events were scheduled at press time. In light of the government shutdown, call for updates:

- **Outdoor Adventures Series: Mount Baldy Winter Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26.**

Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of Mount Baldy. No reservation is required. The hike is planned regardless of weather conditions.

- **Science in the National Lakeshore from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local experts and scientists conducting research in the national park, followed by a short hike.

- **Movie Screenings at the Douglas Center from 2 to 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.



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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Winter Bird Banding Demonstrations from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26.**

Indiana Audubon Society members will assist in catching birds visiting the Nature Center's feeders, bringing them inside for visitors to see as they study and record their measurements, place a research band on their ankles and release them back outside.

- **Snowshoe Shuffle from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 27.**

The free naturalist-led snowshoe exercise hike, which meets at the Nature Center, offers a chance to learn the history and techniques of snowshoeing. Free snowshoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. A winter hike is planned if there isn't enough snow.



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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Michigan City Office Max/Office Depot Manager Scott Voss (kneeling, front row) stopped by Lake Hills Elementary School on Jan. 16 to present Principal Connie Bachmann and teachers with a cartload of supplies. The items were donated by customers and employees, and by the store as employees cleared out inventory.

New Buffalo Public Library

The following programs are at New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. (all times Eastern):

Thursday, Jan. 24

- Teen STEAM: January Art, 4:30 p.m. (ages 11-18 with signup).

Friday, Jan. 25

- Yoga canceled.
- Story Time, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27

- Fifth Annual Afternoon Tea (with ticket), 2 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 28

- Read with Newdle the therapy dog, 11 a.m.
- Lego Club, 3-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

- Lego Club, 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

- Stitches, Needles, Threads & More, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Email nbtlcreate@gmail.com for details.

Free Conversational French Class

An informal meeting about a free conversational French class is at 1 p.m. EST Tuesday, Feb. 5, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Anyone interested in attending the class, but who can't attend the meeting, should call (269) 469-2933 or email nbtlcreate@gmail.com

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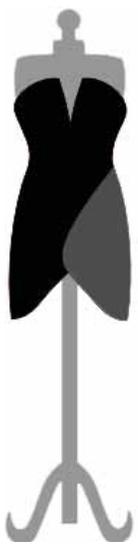


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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Winter Craft for Kids at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24.**
 Children 3-9 accompanied by an adult can make a craft, materials for which are provided. The child must be present to receive supplies.
- **Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24.**
 The focus this month is Spider-Man. The group is aimed at teens 13-18. Stop by Youth Services for more information.
- **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 24 and 31.**

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.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

- **Make It @ MCPL: Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the Makerspace.**

Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 10-18, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.

- **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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Multi-Media Artist Exhibit

A new exhibit featuring multi-media artist Michael Klaus Schmidt runs through Feb. 28 at Valparaiso's The Village Gallery.

Schmidt will give a gallery talk during a meet-the-artist reception at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27.

An award-winning artist and illustrator, Schmidt is from Germany, but was raised in the Chicago area. His work has appeared in shows in Chicago, San Francisco, London, Toronto and New Orleans. An Elmhurst Artists' Guild member, he has taught art in kindergarten through eighth grades.



Michael Klaus Schmidt is photographed with his work, "Tidal Fracture."

Schmidt currently works as a freelance artist and illustrator. A major influence is the Islamic art of illumination found in ancient manuscripts of the Quran. He uses a layering technique of acrylic paint, glue, India ink, pencils and oils. He also believes video games, and the technology surrounding them, have great potential as interactive art pieces. His program "Anomalies," for instance, allows the user to randomly or manually generate, adjust and interact with three-dimensional forms that are visual and auditory in nature.

The Village Gallery, located in Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call (219) 465-1591 for details.

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Welcoming Wolfie



Michigan City High School unveiled its new Wolfie mascot during the Jan. 11 boys basketball game against Valparaiso. The official unveiling was during halftime. Wolfie is played by MCHS freshman Lyric Johnson. Katie Eaton, a Michigan City High School alumna and Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce president, spearheaded a fundraising effort for the new costume. Valpo defeated Michigan City, 51-45.

Monday Musicale

The public is invited to a program of modern music with classical roots when Monday Musicale meets at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The program, conceived by Lee Meyer and hosted by Joe Stewart, features a string quartet with members Connie Hendricks, Sara Miller, Judith Sawyer and Elaine Shumway. Vocalists Deborah Beien, Ange Benz, Frank Casorio, Anthony Holt (also on piano), Tom LaDonne and Stewart will perform, accompanied by Meyer.

The string quartet will play selections by Russian composer Alexander Borodin (1833-1887), later adapted by Robert Wright and George Forrest for the 1953 musical "Kismet." Vocal selections from the musical include "And This Is My Beloved" and "Baubles, Bangles and Beads." Casorio will sing "Stranger in Paradise," with music borrowed from the Borodin opera "Prince Igor."

Holt will present "Strange Music" from the Wright-Forrest operetta "Song of Norway" (1944), as well as Edvard Grieg's "Wedding Day at Troldhaugen" (1896), on which it was based. Other musical adaptations are to include compositions by Chopin, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

George Maslankowski's hosting committee will preside over social hour, with refreshments in the church lounge following the program. While there is no fee for guests to attend, donations to the club's scholarship fund are appreciated. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

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Date Night Trivia Night

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host "Date Night Trivia Night," hosted by Mark Kline, on Friday, Feb. 1.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with trivia starting at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. There is a 12-team maximum, with 10 people per team. Tickets are available for food and beverages (beer, wine, water, soda), and 50-50 chances

Reserve team space by contacting the church at (219) 879-9415. Profits aid supplies to reorganize storage spaces.



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Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament

The 33rd Annual Flyin' Irish Invitational Tournament, hosted by Detachment 225 of the Notre Dame Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Core, is Friday through Sunday, Feb. 1-3.

One of the largest ROTC sporting events in the country, the tournament includes men and women competing from three military branches.

The competition began in 1985 as a small event to allow cadets and midshipmen to meet and compete. Now, the University of Notre Dame regularly hosts more than 500 players from more than 50 schools across the nation. Last year, more than 800 cadets from 56 different teams participated in tournament weekend.

This year's tournament begins Friday, Feb. 1, at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center on Notre Dame's campus. The finals are held there Sunday, and both a men's and women's championship team are crowned. Sunday's schedule will include both final games, as well as a three-point competition. Last year, the event was live-streamed on Facebook for the first time, and the expectation is that it will happen again this year.

Last year's winners were Ohio State Air Force in the men's division, with Marquette Army the women's champions. Runner's up for the men's honors were Iowa State Army, with Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets in second place for the women. Other previous tournament winners have included Texas A&M Tri-Military and the Marquette Golden Eagles Army ROTC. Notre Dame will have multiple teams participating from three military ROTC branches. Detachment 225 includes students from seven Indiana schools, including the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College, Indiana University South Bend, Bethel College, Trine University and Valparaiso University.

The public is invited. Admission is free, and commemorative T-shirts will be sold. Contact Cadet Andrew Brannon at flyinirishbball@gmail.com for more details.



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

- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27.
- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., Michigan City, 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 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.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 24 — Winter Craft for Kids, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 24 — Teen STEAM: January Art, 4:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: nbtlcreate@gmail.com

Jan. 24 — Graphic Novel Book Club for Teens, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 25 — **WinterFest**: ice sculpture demonstrations, 4 p.m., Rotary Garden Gazebo, 250 Pine Lake Ave. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 25 — Friday Night @ Footlight, 7 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: free. Performer cost: \$2. Info: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Jan. 26 — **WinterFest**: Family Ceramics, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: \$6. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 26 — **WinterFest**: Breakfast with the Birds, 9:30-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Jan. 26 — Winter Bird Banding Demonstrations, 10 a.m.-noon, Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 26 — **WinterFest**: Wheel throwing pottery demonstration, 1 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium Ceramics Room, 1001 Ridge St. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 26 — Outdoor Adventures Series: Mount Baldy Winter Hike, 1-3 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 26 — CAYA Bowl-a-thon, 2-4:30 p.m., Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax Ave., LaPorte. Registration: 1:30 p.m. Info: (219) 324-3385.

Jan. 26 — Science in the National Lakeshore, 2-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 26 — Free film screening, "Venom," 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 26 — Captain Ambivalent's Every Kind of Talent Show (open mic), 7 p.m., The Nest, 803 Franklin St. Info: (219) 262-5200.

Jan. 27 — **WinterFest**: Free horse-drawn wagon rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Soldiers Memorial Park, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10-11:30 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 27 — Fifth Annual Afternoon Tea, 2 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Tickets: nbtlcreate@gmail.com

Jan. 27 — The School of American Music annual winter recital, 3-5 p.m. EST, Three Oaks (Mich.) Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St. Free. Info:

www.schoolofamericanmusic.com

Jan. 28 — Ralph Wrecks the Library, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. Registration: (219) 926-9080.

Jan. 29 — Make It @ MCPL: Tinkercad, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 29 — Free documentary screening, “No Small Matter,” 6:30-8:30 p.m., Purdue University Northwest, LSF Building Room 002. Info: (219) 785-5485, hadmoore@pnw.edu

Jan. 29 — Nintendo Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through January — Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.com

In the Region

Jan. 25 — 4th Friday @ The VIC, The Netherlands, 7 p.m., The Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway. Free. Info: (219) 464-1122, www.valpovic.org

Jan. 25 — Unwrapped at the Box, The Jared Rabin Band, 8:30 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org, (269) 983-3688.

Jan. 26 — Deirdre Lovejoy’s “Bird Elephant China,” 7:30 p.m. EST, Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: elkhartcivictheatre.org, (574) 848-4116.

Jan. 27 — Coastline Children’s Film Festival, “Jeannette: The Childhood of Joan of Arc,” 3 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Fridays — Steve Kowalczyk’s “Music From Around the World,” 6-8 p.m., Lucrezia Café, 428 S. Calumet Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 873-0838.

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 St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer’s/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

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Dunes Bus Tour

“Art and Literature of the Dunes Bus Tour,” which visits places that inspired local artists, is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 Indiana 49, Chesterton.

Highlighted artists include Frank Dudley, Edwin Way Teale and the Century of Progress architects. The tour also includes short hikes, with a box lunch provided. The cost is \$35. Visit Eventbrite.com to register.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, in partnership with Dunes Learning Center and the Great Lakes Research and Education Center, are the tour's hosts.

Free Documentary Screening

Purdue University Northwest's School of Education and Counseling will host the first Northwest Indiana screening of “No Small Matter,” a documentary exploring high quality early learning as a key to economic development.

The free screening, which includes co-director Greg Jacobs, who in the past has collaborated with Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh, is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, in Room 002 of the Library-Student-Faculty Building.



Jacobs

Through stories and humor, the film presents evidence for the importance of learning during the first five years. It reveals how our failure to act on that evidence has resulted in an everyday crisis for American families, according to a press release.

PNW is partnering with Early Learning Connections, Lake Area United Way, United Way of Porter County and LaPorte County United Way for the screening. Contact Hadassah Moore at hadmoore@pnw.edu or (219) 785-5485 for details.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



Jan. 15, 2019

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	WON	LOST
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2. Queen Pins	5	2
2. Wine-ettes	5	2
2. Diagonal Divas	5	2
2. Blind Side	5	2

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Lenore Hadaway	205
2. Sue Labovitz	183
2. Nancy Kubath	183
3. Dottie Brinckman	172
4. Margie Midkiff	171
5. June Salmon	167
6. Tammy Nelmar	159
7. Ann Bogart	155
8. Pat Collado (series)	409
9. Barb Macudzinski (series)	406
10. Sarah Blank (series)	404

SPLITS

Susan Kieffer	2-7
Tammy Nelmar	5-10
Ellie Parkerson	4-5
Barb Macudzinski	5-6

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Nancy Kubath



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



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Holy Ghost by John Sandford (hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 373 pages)

Are you looking for a fast-read, winter-curl-up-by-the-fire story, with kick-ass characters and a plot that starts with a religious apparition and morphs into a shooting spree in a small Minnesota town? Oh yeah, and a few Nazis thrown in for good measure? Then stick around, because I've got a doozy for you this week...

Wheatfield, Minn., is a small community (650 population, give or take) that has been going steadily downhill for some years now. The mayor, Wardell Holland, is an Army vet who lost a leg in Afghanistan. He spends his time shooting flies in his double wide trailer. Yeah, not a lot to govern in this small community. His redeeming feature is he refuses a salary because he gets disability from the government, and he goes around town in the summer mowing grass in the park and public places... not a bad guy.

His buddy is 17-year-old John Jacob Skinner, a high school senior (more or less) who actually has a head for numbers and business. Always scheming, that boy...

There are only two churches in town. One day, at the Catholic church, an apparition of St. Mary appears. The sighting is confirmed by cell phone videos and social media. Soon, Wheatfield becomes the go-to destination for pilgrims and the nosy.

Holland and Skinner soon realize all these people will need things, so the two open Skinner & Holland, Eats and Souvenirs — a very prosperous undertaking.

Unfortunately, one day a man crossing the street to the church is shot in the leg by a long-range rifle. Soon after, a woman also crossing to the church is shot in the hip. Is the shooter's aim getting better? Fortunately, neither die from their wounds. But who would want to kill pilgrims visiting a church?

Enter Virgil Flowers, an agent for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. He is sent to investigate the shootings and track down the guilty. How hard can that be in such a small community? He is about to find out...

Walking around downtown taking measure-

ments, talking to people about what they saw or heard sounds rather stiff and boring, but in the pen of a pro like Sandford...well, I soon found I was inserting myself into the investigation; you know, dispensing advice in my head as I read along, soon finding myself as frustrated as Flowers.

Strange thing is, no one heard a gun shot. How can that be? Both were shot with the same high-power weapon. In a small town where everyone presumably knows everyone else's business, a suspect or two should surface rather quickly. However, the appearance of St. Mary is proving to be a boon to Wheatfield, so it seems highly unlikely a local person is the shooter. Maybe the shooter is just a nutcase from out of town? Someone looking for notoriety? Or maybe one of the oldest reasons — money. Money would bring back a local into the suspect pool...questions and possibilities just keep piling up and answers keep blowing away, like dust in the wind.

Flowers' frustration is palpable. Then...another shooting, only this time, the victim dies. It's the murder of an elderly woman — Margery Osborne, rock solid citizen and Catholic church committee member. Who in the world would want to see her dead? And she's not the last of the victims...victims who seem to have nothing in common.

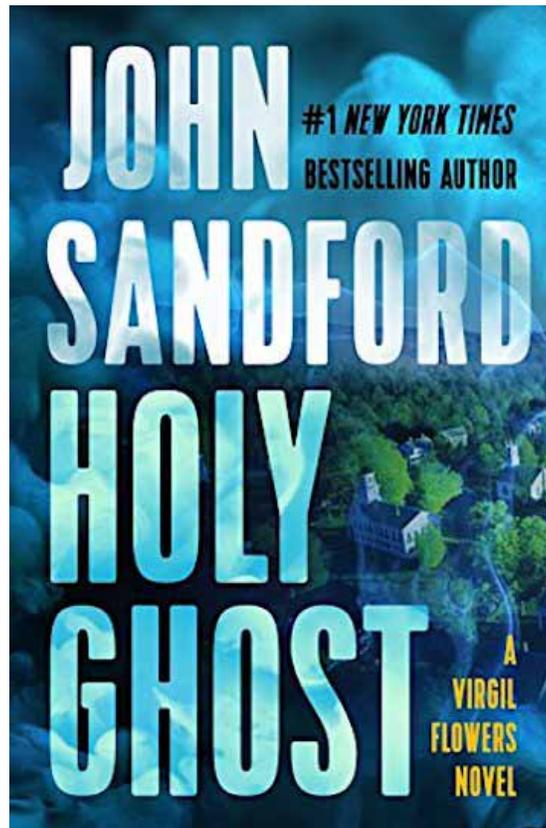
A night-time stakeout almost works, but the person or persons get away. Flowers even sets himself up as a target by

advertising the fact that a spent bullet casing contained a single fingerprint. That stunt almost costs Flowers his life and brings him no closer to a perpetrator.

The characters in *Holy Ghost* are larger than life: some funny, some sad, some sick! A group living just out of town calls themselves Nazis, and while Flowers thinks they might have something to do with the shootings, they actually provide more comic relief than anything else.

It's no wonder Sandford's latest book makes it onto the *New York Times* bestseller list. Virgil Flowers is a character with staying power. This is Sandford's 11th book about the Minnesota state police agent. I'm betting on there being a 12th, too.

Till next time, happy reading!





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**2715 DUFFY LANE
HIDDEN SHORES
\$548,000**

Beautiful 3 bd 2.5 ba ranch brick home sits in desirable Hidden Shores. Walking distance to Long Beach Country Club and the beach.



**3307 CALUMET TRAIL
DUNELAND BEACH
\$429,000**

Wonderful 4 bd 2.5 ba home in Duneland Beach—Perfect for a year round family or as a summer retreat—all within an easy walk of Lake Michigan.



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*Licensed in Michigan and Indiana

**Licensed in Illinois and Indiana

