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INSIDE THE MUSIC

by Edmund Lawler



Donna Mitchell (right) and Garth Taylor entertain local students during a school assembly. Photo provided by Donna Mitchell

When he was a 20-year-old college student, Garth Taylor entertained the notion of becoming a professional musician. Growing up in Minneapolis, he cut his teeth on the trumpet, and when the Beatles came along — the guitar.

Despite his passion for music, he thought

the better of it and chose to work with a different set of notes — statistics. It was an outgrowth of his fascination with the numbers and percentages on the back of the bubble-gum-scented baseball cards in his voluminous collection.

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Taylor did well with data. He taught the subject at the University of Wisconsin and University of Chicago, where he earned a doctorate in sociology. From academia, he went on to become the founder and executive director of a nonprofit, Chicago-based public-opinion polling company, a position he held for 20 years.

But the music played on in Taylor's heart. His alter ego of a musician began to seriously resurface well into middle age when he and his wife bought a second home in Harbor Country. He began teaching

markets and art show openings with a repertoire of about 30 songs.

Along the way, it occurred to Taylor that Harbor Country was ripe for a music school, a more modest, more affordable version of the Old Town School of Folk, where students could take lessons and perform. His idea became the seed for what was to become The School of American Music in Three Oaks.

But his dream would have to wait. Taylor had a nonprofit organization on the other side of the Big Lake to run. As he approached retirement, however, Taylor conducted what he described as a "vision quest. I thought of everything I didn't want to do in



Violinists join forces to perform during SAM's spring recital.

guitar, improbably enough, at a custom woodshop.

"They cleared a table for me at the Center of the World, where I taught about a dozen students," Taylor said with his playful sense of humor. "That was my studio."

Building on his rekindled love of music, he enlisted some musicians from Chicago's legendary Old Town School of Folk Music, where he took lessons and occasionally performed, to form local jug bands or blues bands, entertaining at local farmers

the years ahead."

Consulting is a familiar flight path for executives winding down their careers. But that option didn't survive Taylor's vision quest.

"What was left was a music school, where I could be a teacher but also a manager," he said. "I knew how to start a nonprofit organization. I knew how grant funding worked, and I knew how to create a successful team of people."

He also knew, for his school to sustain itself, it

would need major foundation support. He crafted a mission statement for the fledgling music school and brought it to the Pokagon Fund, which bought into his plan and became a major financial supporter.

With that vote of confidence, Taylor turned into the Pied Piper, recruiting volunteers, teachers, staff and additional donors to animate his dream. The School of American Music, a.k.a. SAM, launched humbly in 2012 with a single student and two board members. Seven years later, the school boasts an enrollment of more than 100 students taking individual or group lessons, a dozen dedicated instructors and an engaged 10-member board.

Its growth comes at a time when some local schools are reducing or eliminating their music programs, Taylor noted.

SAM now has two sites: the second floor of Three



Some of the school's vocal talents perform together.
Photo provided by Donna Mitchell

Oaks Township Public Library and its own Arts and Education Center, the former Three Oaks village hall acquired in 2015 and completely refurbished. It houses a large recital room that doubles as a recording studio. There's a smaller, separate state-of-the-art recording studio, as well as an attached outdoor Spring Creek Stage that faces Dewey Canon Park. It was donated by local philanthropist Al Turner.

"The school has been very, very successful," said Taylor, sounding like a proud father. Today, SAM offers lessons in guitar, mountain dulcimer, violin, piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, ukulele and voice. Students range in age from 8 to 75.

"If there's a weak spot, it's in the middle," Taylor said. "It's people still in the workforce who have a guitar in the closet. They either need to sell it, or they are welcome to donate it to SAM," he said with a burst of laughter.

Now president, Taylor still finds time to give lessons and perform — his truest passion.

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INSIDE THE MUSIC

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Savvy with stats, Taylor studied the local market, determined the medium income and established an affordable pricing formula for the cost of individual and group lessons at SAM.

“We have kept our pricing for an individual lesson to about half of what you would pay for a group lesson at Old Town,” he said. Instructors, however, are paid the market rate to attract and retain the best talent, he added.

Programming is aimed at year-round residents “because we need a steady, stable base of people who will be here,” Taylor said. “Summer people are welcome, of course.”

Central to SAM’s teaching philosophy is Taylor’s belief “that you don’t really know the music you are playing until you have lived it through until the final stage when you per-

nist Aglaja Petrova or violinist Beth Oeseburg have been featured at free concerts for the community at The Acorn Theater.

Thanks to a recently awarded \$10,000 Pokagon Fund grant, SAM is launching free, classically oriented Sunday afternoon family concerts at venues such as Harbor Country churches. In addition, the grant will help defray the cost of a free Festival of American Music. Mitchell explained that American music includes such homegrown genres as blues, jazz, gospel, bluegrass, country and folk.

The festival is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 20, on SAM’s Spring Creek Stage.

“Every hour, there will be a new set of performers,” Mitchell said. “SAM performers will provide the musical bridge between acts.”

The Pokagon grant also allows SAM to expand a children’s music program that features a series of song-focused assemblies



Violet Bettig smiles, at ease during her violin performance at the spring recital.



Karina Hamann is beside herself with joy while seated at the piano



Eli Todd is all smiles during his turn at the piano.

form it for an audience. You have to conquer the adrenaline surge, and if you do that you can get ‘inside’ the music. That lets you free up the space to execute the music.”

SAM students and instructors have a growing number of opportunities to perform, said Donna Mitchell, SAM’s executive director. Twice a year, students perform at recitals. Gifted SAM instructors such as pia-



Sophie Gold performs on guitar, joined during the piece by Garth Taylor, SAM’s president, founder and music instructor.

in Chikaming Elementary School.

When she’s not running the show at SAM, Mitchell teaches voice and a world music drumming class for elementary school children. A retired classroom teacher and choral director, Mitchell said she still enjoys the interaction between student and teacher.

“I love seeing the lights go off in their heads. And I love to see the progress students make from week to week,”

she said. "So much of the work, in voice especially, has to be done at home on their own. An then I get to see them at the end of the semester performing their recital pieces."

Lauren Eggleston, an eighth-grader at St. Joseph Grade School in South Bend, said she always looks forward to her weekly voice lesson.

"Mrs. Mitchell is like a friend," she said. "She really gets to know her students and brings out the best in everyone."

Lauren's mother, Sharon, said she couldn't be more delighted with SAM.

"I Googled music schools in the area and learned about SAM," she said. "What a great find for us."

Lauren has been taking voice lessons for two years, she said, and may continue once high school starts in the fall.

Mitchell added, "It's rewarding to see that a school of this size can grow and flourish in a small town. There's no end to the possibilities of what we can do here."

She is especially heartened to see Three Oaks



Donna Mitchell (center) leads a world drumming circle class. Photo provided by Donna Mitchell

and surrounding communities on both sides of the state line embrace SAM.

"We've become so active in the local schools," she said, "that parents and students have become very comfortable with us."

(Visit schoolofamericanmusic.com for details.)

(All SAM recital photos by Bob Wellinski.)



Pictured upper left, Fruit & Cheese Tray; upper right, Fried Chicken; lower left, Graduation Cake and lower right, Shrimp Deluxe Tray.

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“Aladdin” is Better Than Expected, But No Match for Original

by Andrew Tallackson

“Aladdin,” the 1992 film, is pure Disney perfection. Alan Menken’s hummable tunes. Witty animation. Robin Williams, a chatterbox marvel as the voice of the genie.

As the old saying goes, if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. Disney, however, shows no hesitation at raiding its vaults, regurgitating what worked before as over-produced CG-driven spectacles.

What’s reassuring about Guy Ritchie’s expensive, live-action paraphrase is that it does not feel pointless. Ritchie, the merry prankster behind Robert Downey Jr.’s “Sherlock,” and gritty crime comedies like “Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels,” reinterprets the story as a Bollywood extravaganza — a perfect vehicle for Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Naomi Scott as Jasmine. These two are personality plus. If this movie doesn’t make them stars, then something has gone seriously wrong.

Cowriting the script with Tim Burton regular John August (“Big Fish,” “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”), Ritchie stays true to the structure of the 1992 film. “Street rat” Aladdin fends off the nefarious Jafar while courting feisty Princess Jasmine, largely due to a shape-shifting genie who’s like a magical Cyrano de Bergerac.

Give Ritchie credit, though, for trying like heck to redefine the material on its own terms. Take, for example, the music. The original score by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice was rooted in classic musical theater, with tender ballads and raise-the-roof showstoppers. This time, when Aladdin barrels through Agrabah, the song “One Jump Ahead” has a harder, Bollywood edge...and the approach works. It feels fresh. Contemporary. The same holds true for “Prince Ali,” which contains enough splashy costumes and choreography to give the average Bollywood musical a run for its money.

It helps, too, that Massoud and Scott, as Aladdin and Jasmine, are filled with so much good cheer, with powerful voices to boot, they instantly win you over. Jasmine also gets a powerful new song, “Speechless,” that effectively reinvents the role in

greater feminist detail than the original.

But then, we have Will Smith as the genie. Let me start by saying, I like the actor. In films like “Independence Day” and “Men in Black,” he is comic gold. Here, Ritchie wisely gives him breathing room to make the character his own...but Smith had to know going into this *any* actor would draw inevitable comparisons to Williams. In the original, Disney basically told the actor, “Go for it, and we’ll keep up.” Keep up, Disney did. Finally, a format existed that could match the actor’s Tasmanian-devil energy. The performance was, and is, a sight to behold.

Smith isn’t terrible here. He gives the genie his best shot. He tries awfully hard, but it comes across as trying *too* hard. It doesn’t move fast enough, and the jokes are DOA. To be honest, I can’t recall one funny line belonging to Smith.

The actor’s decision to play the genie as fashion-conscious effeminate is a curious move as well. He is not alone, though, in making wrong choices. Marwan Kenzari is total dead weight as Jafar. If Jonathan Freeman deliciously voiced the character like it was a joy to

be bad, then Kenzari is his sour counterpart. His Jafar is muted. It’s like watching a sullen business executive, pouting he didn’t get the corner office. There is no life to the performance.

Thank heavens, then, for Massoud and Scott. Their considerable talents keep us invested, and they give “A Whole New World” the soaring appeal it deserves. We also appreciate “Saturday Night Live” alumna Nasim Pedrad, hilariously deadpan in the new role of Jasmine’s handmaiden. She is the movie’s secret weapon when it comes to laughter.

“Aladdin” has everything money can buy. The sets, costumes, special effects — *love* that flying carpet — are top of the food chain. But because the spirit of Robin Williams lingers over so much of the picture, it always feels one beat behind where it should be.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Mena Massoud (right) and Naomi Scott star in “Aladdin.”

★ ★ 1/2

“Aladdin”

Running time: 128 minutes. Rated PG for some action/peril



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Jammin with Save the Dunes Returns to Washington Park

Four bands, along with local food, breweries and wineries, are on tap for Jammin with Save the Dunes 2019 from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at Washington Park's Guy Foreman Amphitheater.

The groups slated to perform include Waco Brothers, The Blisters, Steal the Farm and River Kittens, along with Robert Rolfe Feddersen at the beer tent. A number of food trucks are planned, along with area craft beers and wines, a vendor area and Save the Dunes table where visitors can become members. The Kids Zone is from 4 to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 online and \$25 at the door. All beer is \$5 each and includes a recyclable plastic cup.

Children 12 and younger are free. Concertgoers can take lawn chairs. No dogs are allowed. Call (219) 879-3564, Ext. 121, email events@savedunes.org or visit www.savedunes.org for details.



Waco Brothers is among the bands lined up for the 2019 Jammin With Save the Dunes.



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Visitors to the free event can stroll down Main Street to sample more than 40 artisan, vintage and food vendors.

Jimmy's Grub & Pub will sponsor a beer tent, a portion of the proceeds from which will be donated to the non-profit Caitlyn's Cause, a childhood cancer organization. It was formed in honor of Caitlyn Fennell, a Westville High School graduate who passed away in March 2017 after her second battle with leukemia. It now awards scholarships each year to Westville High School students, as well as donations to the Ronald McDonald House and other charitable events/organizations.



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“A Grand Night for Singing”

“A Grand Night for Singing” will feature local performers singing popular show tunes at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Lee and Laura Meyer compiled and directed the program, selecting from the more than 75 musicals Footlight has presented. Bobby Komendera and Laura Meyer will serve as guides through the music, while Lee Meyer is the accompanist.

Selections hail from shows such as “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Guys & Dolls,” “Oklahoma” and lesser-known works like “Milk and Honey” and “I Love You You’re Perfect Now Change!”

The cast includes Candace Archer, Debbie Bar-

tholomew, Alexander Bonner, Howard Brenneman, Frank Casorio, Kathy Chase, Grant Fitch, Alayna Lauritsen, Tom LeDonne, Paulette Lisek, Kenzie Losinski, Kathy Lute, Marsha Markle, Val Pudlo, Emmie Reigel and Jan Rice



“A Grand Night for Singing” includes Howard Brenneman (standing, from left), Tom LeDonne and Laura Meyer. Seated is Lee Meyer.

Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Seasonal gift cards cannot be used. Pay for tickets at the box office on the show date by cash or check; no credit cards will be accepted. Tickets must be picked up no later than 15 minutes before curtain. Reservations can be made by calling the box office at (219) 874-4035 and leaving a message,

or visit www.footlightplayers.org and click on the “Reservations” box.

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Garden Club Kicks Off 86 Years of Service to Beach Community

Submitted by Rima Binder

“Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.”

Lindley Karstens

For almost 86 years, the green-thumbed members of Beach Garden Club have been beautifying the beach community.



The original slogan of Beach Garden Club.

It all began when in 1933 Mrs. George Holt invited ladies in the beach community to form a service club. The first meeting was held at her home in July 1933. It was decided the club should provide an opportunity to discuss plant culture, landscaping of homes and beautifica-

tion of the beach area. Its mission was “to endeavor to preserve the native wildlife of the area and the integrity of the environment.”

Mrs. Holt came up with the slogan “Long Beach Beautiful! Let’s Keep It So.” Signs were printed and posted throughout Long Beach. The members met each month in each other’s homes. They elected a board and created bylaws, indicating membership be by invitation following the tradition of many service clubs at the time.

The club’s origins in 1933 offer a peek at women’s history, first in our area, then in America. A review of club membership booklets reveals an interesting look into the life of women from 1933 to the present. Member names always appeared with the husband’s first name, if the member was a married woman. If single, her first name appears. For example, attending that first meeting were Mrs. George Holt, Miss Ruth Wilkins, Mrs. Frank Nieburger, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Mrs. I Purcell, Mrs. Mathew Woll, Mrs. Fredrick Fake and Mrs. H. Elwood. Not until 1991 were the first names of members indicated with the husband’s name following in parenthesis.

In America, 1933 was a year of celebration for women because Frances Perkins was named the first woman to the U.S. Cabinet as secretary of labor. During the 1940s, women entered the workforce while their husbands and sons fought in World War II, even though women were paid considerably less than men who held the same jobs. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act was passed, but do women receive equal pay for equal work/positions as men do today? Until 1974 and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, women were unable to apply and get credit under



Samples of Beach Garden Club membership booklets over the years.

their own name. A single working woman with a good reputation could receive a credit card, but a married woman could not unless either her father or husband signed the application. The card was issued in the husband’s name, but the wife could sign the card and use it.

If any Beach Garden Club members were employed as secretaries, teachers or nurses in the late ’50s, it was mandatory a girdle, stockings, slip and bra be worn. Traditional dress can be seen in photographs of members in earlier times. While we do not have records of the early members or their occupations, we do have records that some became stars. Twins Lee and Lynn Wilde (The Wilde Twins) became Hollywood movie stars. They starred with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in several movies in the ’40s. Lynn (Lyn) married a local boy, James “Jimmy” Cathcart, and later Dwight Oberlink. She was the stage director of Miss Indiana Pageant, charm school director and model. Lynn died in 2016. Her obituary mentioned her Beach Garden Club membership.

Current members either are still employed or retired as former teachers, directors of libraries, bankers, attorneys, professors and board members of community organizations such as the PPO, Master Gardeners of LaPorte County and Friendship

Botanic Gardens. By the late '80s and into the present, we have had the first woman as a Supreme Court judge, the first attorney general, first secretary of state and the first female African American secretary of state. How times have changed!

During the past 85 years, club membership has grown and declined. The founding board wrote bylaws that remain in existence, with revisions throughout the years. Original members selected the park in the center of Long Beach as its focus.

In 1945, the Memorial Garden was established to honor area residents who served in World War II. Trees were planted, a sundial placed. Each year, new annuals were planted and watered by hand-carrying buckets of water since no water system was yet present. They brought environmentalist to speak at their meetings, and invited guests to learn about the beach community.

Members continued to meet in homes until recently. Now, meetings are held at Long Beach Community Center on the fourth Thursday from April through September. Annually, the vice president organizes and schedules monthly educational speakers and programs. Speakers have included: Maggi Spartz, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County; Debra Steele-Semla, historian; Laura Bolton-Kalk, Beachside Gardens & Gifts; Kris Krouse, Shirley Heinze Land Trust; Jim Mulsial, Sand Castle Shelter; Marcy Dailey, master gardener and owner of Fawn Run Farms Primitives; and Todd Zeige, Indiana Landmarks Northern Regional Office director.

Field trips further education for members. Several are master gardeners, having completed the Purdue Master Gardener program, and can help inform membership in selecting and planting environmentally friendly native plants.

Each year, members celebrate Founder's Day with a luncheon, completing the year with a Christmas luncheon. At both events, a local service organization is named to receive donations.

The 85th year was one of celebration, as well as grief with the unexpected death of President Beverly Bruesch. A beloved club member, she was creative, kind, a fabulous baker, former Michiana Village board member and friend to many.

Grief turned to celebration at the 85th Spring Luncheon organized by Tina Sonderby and Beverly Johnson, who invited Zeiger of Indiana Landmarks

to speak about the Century of Progress homes in Beverly Shores. These homes were brought there after the 1933 Century of Progress World's Fair. How appropriate, since the club was formed in 1933. Members learned about homes built as exhibits of new and modern ways of living. Could founding members have lived in such homes? Could it be some of the architecture in Long Beach exemplifies similarities to those Century of Progress homes?

The club was honored as the Fourth of July parade marshal in 2014. And during the years, members have expanded areas cared for to the Long Beach entrance at Moore Road, planters at the community center, town hall and garden just outside the tennis courts, Michiana Humane Society and the former pumping station at Stop 24 (now demolished). They also volunteer at Friendship Botanic Gardens. Lately, they have been active participants attending village board and



Beach Garden Club members enjoy the spotlight as parade marshals of the 2014 Long Beach 4th of July parade.

park board meetings, and, most recently with Park Board help in allocating funds, the installation of a watering system. No more buckets or hoses for the ladies to carry!

"We have a worthwhile mission," club president Beverly Johnson says of continuing what founding members started, "to endeavor to preserve the native wildlife of the area and the integrity of the environment."

The club's history is a testament of a shared goal to improve the community, crediting those who came before us in their vision by creating a wonderful organization. As the club begins its 86th year, that original mission is just as important today as it was when first written back in 1933.

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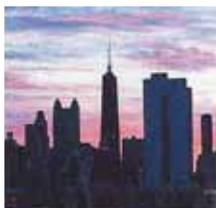
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Acorn Concert Series



Echoes of Pompeii in performance.

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest kicks off its Acorn Concert Series with Echoes of Pompeii, a 10-piece band that recreates a Pink Floyd concert, at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 2.

From laser lights and psychedelic visuals to synthesizers and horn arrangements, the sets touch on all Pink Floyd eras, from "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn" to "The Division Bell."

Food, beer and wine will be sold, and guests are encouraged to take lawn chairs.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the week of the concert, while children 12 and younger are free. They can be purchased at pnw.edu/gabis-concerts or at the gate.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.

Lunch & Learn

"Lunch & Learn: Education Programs for Caregivers of Older Adults" continues with a program from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The topic is, "You've Received a Diagnosis, Now What."

Make a reservation by calling REAL Services at (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132. A free lunch is provided to caregivers who call for a reservation.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with "Henry Moore: A Life in Sculpture" at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 30, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The National Gallery of Art film looks at major contributions by the British artist to 20th century art. Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

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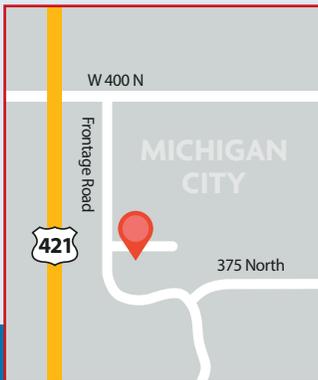
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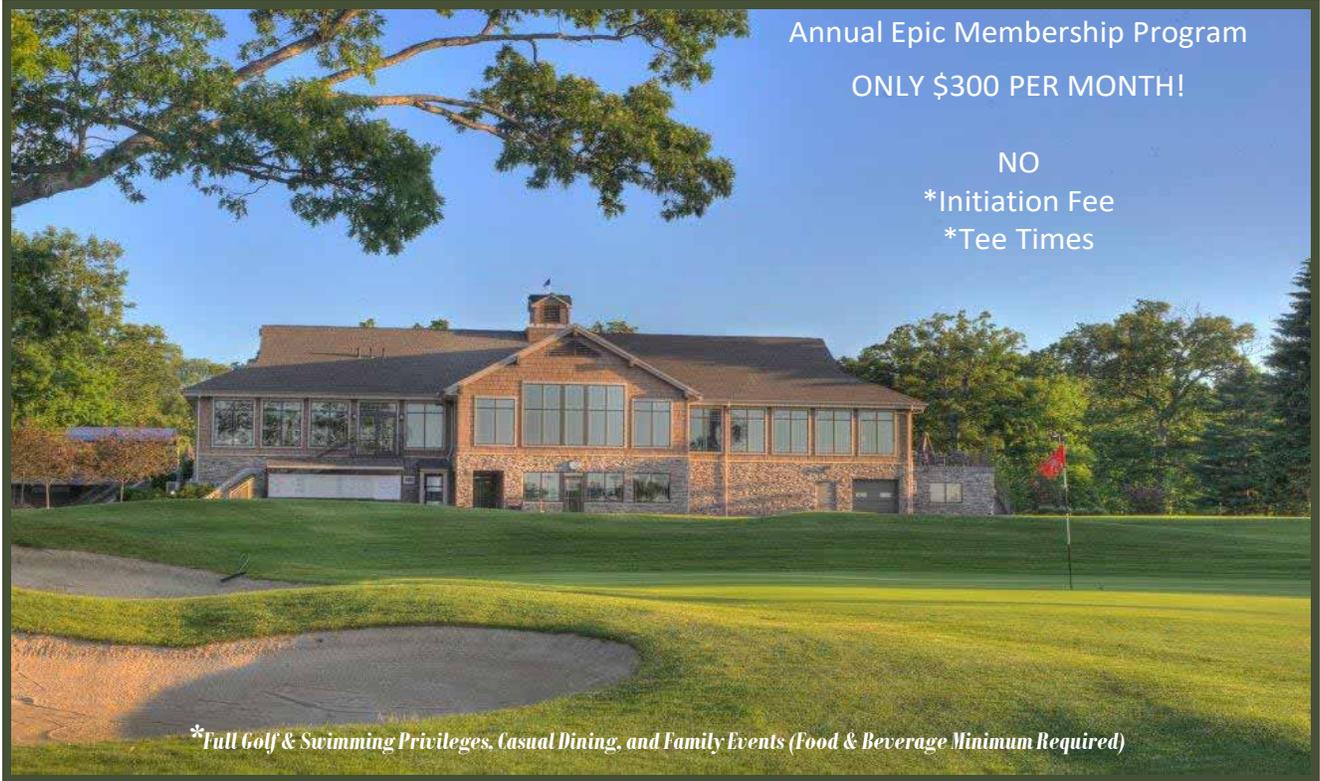
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\$799,900

Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 3.5
2,922 sq. ft. perched on a Dune

Remodel/Updates: 2018
Year Built: 1974

30 W. Buffalo New Buffalo, MI 49117

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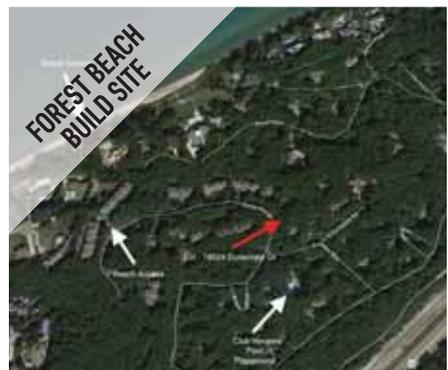
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“All my friends laughed when I told them that I got rid of my shoulder pain without going to the doctor, getting an injection or taking medication...”



Read on to learn the simple truth about how to completely eliminate your shoulder pain for good while avoiding the expense, side effects, and recovery time of medications, injections, and surgery.



Dear Friend:

Hearing the quote on the front from our happy patients is so common in our clinics.

Now it's your turn... lets start your summer out right by fixing your shoulder pain so you can get back to doing the things you love to do.

The first step to getting rid of your shoulder pain is you getting a proper diagnosis... Without that, it's hard to make progress.

Unfortunately, this is the #1 mistake people with shoulder pain make... They don't seek help immediately from a specialist who can tell them exactly what is causing their shoulder pain.

Here is what usually happens... shoulder pain sufferers “Google it” or even worse, go to WebMD where, if you keep clicking, a search for “causes of shoulder pain” can lead you down the path to certain death! This method can plant all kinds of worry and anxiety in your head.

Here is what you need to know to get rid of your shoulder pain.... If any of these pieces of the puzzle are missed, then there is a good chance your shoulder pain will never go away!

The shoulder needs all of the following to be in tip top condition to work without pain...

- A properly working rotator cuff (muscles that control the upper arm bone)
- A shoulder blade that easily rotates upwardly
- A first rib that is in good position and has normal movement
- Nerves starting in your neck and ending in your fingers that glide smoothly
- A collarbone that rotates back properly
- A labrum (padding in the joint) that is intact

So, how do you know which of these structures is not working properly? I'm glad you asked.... You need an orthopedic specialist to help you.

Good news, this month, I am offering you an appointment with a shoulder pain specialist for FREE. Keep reading to learn how to take advantage of this offer.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer,

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

PS: Not having any shoulder pain? Give this card to a friend or family member. They will thank you later :)

“It was a very positive experience working with Dr. Arlan and his staff. When I started therapy I had very limited movement in my shoulder. I now have more flexibility in my injured shoulder than good shoulder! Thanks for a job well done.”
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C & A Arborists Inc. Employee Gains Certified Treecare Safety Professional Status

Michael Dombrowski recently completed the Certified Treecare Safety Professional (CTSP) program offered by the Tree Care Industry Association. The CTSP program allows key employees at a given company to become certified tree care safety experts, thereby empowering and encouraging a culture of safety within that organization.

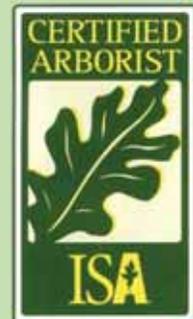
Maintaining a Certified Treecare Safety Professional on staff means that organizations are committed to safe practices in arboricultural operations. CTSP's are kept abreast of the latest technological advances and safety practices. They must commit to ongoing education in the safety field in order to maintain their certification.

CTSP's must complete a study guide, attend a two-day training workshop, and pass a rigorous exam. Once certified, CTSP's must complete at least 30 hours of training others, or receiving education themselves, every three years.

Consumers can have greater peace of mind with the knowledge that hiring a tree care company with a CTSP on staff helps to ensure safe and professional arboricultural work on their property.

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On Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard Michigan City station held an open house Saturday, May 18, offering visitors a glimpse into its many roles and duties. Located at 10 On the Lake, the unit responds to about 125 search-and-rescue cases each year. Other responsibilities include law enforcement, Homeland Security and marine environmental protection. The open house also included members of the Coast Guard auxiliary, two of which, Steven McCarty and Arthur Craig Jr., were photographed by *The Beacher's* Paul Kemiell with a 1966 Cherokee 235B Pathfinder.





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Reptile Romp

Reptile Romp, an afternoon of reptile and amphibian activities, is from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.



The free program uses hands-on science activities to shed light on the roles these creatures play in ecosystems. Expect two to three live reptiles from South Bend's Potawatomi Zoo.

Visit friendshipgardens.org, call (219) 878-9885 or email info@friendshipgardens.org for details.



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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. Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

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.

• **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable clothing.

• **Beginning Spanish at 10:20 a.m. Saturdays, June 8, 15, 22 and 29.**

The hour-long eight-week class for beginners covers topics such as greetings, things around and in the house, shopping and traveling. There is no charge; however, a \$5 textbook is needed and will be available the first day of class.

• **Slam Camp on Monday through Friday, June 17-21.**

Registration is open for the eighth annual camp for middle-schoolers. Purdue University Northwest collaborates with the library on programming and activities, including writing and performance. Visit the SlamCamp NWI facebook page or call (219) 873-3049 for details.

• **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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

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

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, June 3, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Elizabeth Berg's "The Story of Arthur TruLuv."

JROTC Awards Ceremony

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps honored cadets during an awards ceremony May 16 at the school.

Representatives from numerous organizations presented awards for accomplishments on Military Drill, Shooting and Cyber Patriot teams. Cadets also were cited who excelled scholastically, athletically, in other MCHS extracurricular activities and for participating in community service, parades and ceremonies.

Award recipients were:

- Cpl. Josh Wilhelm, Marine Corps League Award as the Most Improved Drill Team Cadet.
- Staff Sgt. Julia Ringstad, Veterans of Foreign Wars Award for Superior Dedication.
- Sgt. Bohdan Walker, Military Officers Association of America Award as best junior on the Armed Exhibition Platoon.
- 1st Sgt. Thomas Mizer, Sons of the American Revolution Award as best male junior on the Drill Team.
- Lance Cpl. Hanna Lucas, Daughters of the American Revolution Award as the best first-year cadet on the drill team.
- Lance Cpl. Breanna Johnson, Women Marines Association Award as the best first year on the Unarmed Exhibition Platoon.
- Staff Sgt. Jessica Wilhelm, American Legion Military Excellence Award for superior leadership by example.
- Lance Cpl. Declan Rice, American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award for earning the highest grade-point average.
- Sgt. Destiny Gonzalez, best junior on the Unarmed Exhibition Platoon.



Sgt. Destiny Gonzalez receives the Scottish Rite Award as best junior on the Unarmed Exhibition Platoon by Jim Dove of the Scottish Rite.

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Great Lakes Grand Prix Sports New Partnership

A new partnership between Powerboat P1 and OPA Racing has created the American Power Boat Association Offshore Championship, with Michigan City's Great Lakes Grand Prix set to host the penultimate round.

The aim is an expanded, cohesive championship equally split between northern and southern states.

The Great Lakes Grand Prix, staged over the weekend of Aug. 1-4, celebrates its 11th anniversary. A report released by Visit Michigan City LaPorte shows an all-time high attendance last year of more than 190,000 people for the three-day event.

For the race weekend in Michigan City, P1 will offer a double bill of powerboat and personal watercraft AquaX racing. The AquaX USA Pro Series attracts riders from across the United States and Canada, as well as South America and Europe. The series will head to Indiana for the third round of the six-venue championship.

The first Great Lakes Grand Prix Golf Outing is July 31 at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course. The Geico team and others will be involved, with all proceeds donated to Reins of Life, which provides therapeutic horse-assisted riding lessons for children and adults with disabilities.

The event schedule is still being finalized; however, a ribbon cutting and VIP event showcasing race boats is Thursday at Sunset Grille in Washington Park, with a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. and a VIP event from 6 to 8 p.m. Free live entertainment by Smarty Pants is from 6 to 10 p.m. on the boardwalk.

On Friday, Race City will open at noon with food and merchandise vendors, then from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is an on-the-water poker run. Point'n Fingers will present free music from 6 to 10 p.m. on the boardwalk.

The VIP race viewing at the boardwalk tents be-



gins Saturday. At noon, registration begins for the bean bag tournament, with play starting at 1 p.m. Pablo's Revenge will offer more free entertainment from 7 to 11 p.m. at the boardwalk from

A catered VIP brunch is Sunday, followed that evening with the racer's trophy event at 5 p.m. at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa.

A food and beer garden will be open starting at 11 a.m. Friday, and beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Many events, and race entrance, are free.

The Taste of Michigan City, for example, is from 4 to 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, on Franklin Street between Seventh and Fourth streets, with a free shuttle loop running from Washington Park and Taste of Michigan City, with a pickup point at Sixth and Pine streets. A continuous free shuttle service will run from Washington Park and Aims Field on Saturday and Sunday. The event is sponsored by sponsored by Michigan City Mainstreet Association.

A vintage car show in Washington Park, presented by Four A's Car Club, is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, with the EVP Volleyball Tournament planned the same day.

The Boat Parade and Block Party starts at 6 p.m. Saturday in downtown Michigan City, heading north on Franklin Street from Ninth to Fourth streets.

A charity silent auction begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, with all proceeds aiding the Michigan City Emergency Management volunteers.

Racing is planned Saturday and Sunday. Also, Purdue Boilermaker Special will be on display from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Race Village

Samantha Shank, Miss Duneland 2019, has agreed to be Miss Great Lakes Grand Prix.

Visit www.greatlakesgrandprix.com or call the tourism bureau at (219) 872-5055 for more details.



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Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale wraps up its 2018-2019 season with a program focusing on motherhood at 7 p.m. Monday, June 3, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The public is invited. The program, chaired by Lee Meyer, includes: vocalists Frank Casorio, Gene Hwang and Kathi Jones, accompanied by Meyer; violinists John Crayton and Stan Shepard; Sheila Pollock (piano and voice); and Carol Garrett (piano and organ).

“Ave Maria” has been set to music by numerous composers. Performers will compare and contrast various settings, including those by Franz Schubert and Charles Gounod. Other selections include Charles Aznavour’s “For Mama,” the Polish folk song “Mother Dear,” “Danny Boy,” “Bring Him Home” from Les Miserables” and Paul McCartney’s “Let It Be.”

Two finalists from Monday Musicale’s Student Awards Competition, held April 14, will perform their qualifying selections. Soprano Victoria Horne, winner of the Dr. LaTourette Stockwell Memorial Scholarship, will sing Schubert’s “Lied der Mignon.” Pianist Aglaja Petrova, who won the Monday Musicale Award, will play the third movement of Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata.”

The evening concludes with social hour and refreshments served by Kathy Chase’s hosting committee. There is no charge to attend; however, donations to the scholarship fund are appreciated.

Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

Insights in History

Kristie Erickson will chronicle 1960s fashion during “Insights in History” at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 5, at South Bend’s The History Museum.

Erickson, the museum’s deputy executive director, will explore trends, designers and events that helped launch the decade. A tour of the exhibit “Mod Mystique: 1960s Fashion” will be offered in the museum’s Oliver Mansion.

Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by June 3. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Call (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for details.

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Leadership LaPorte County Adult Class Graduation, Outstanding Alumni Award



Members of the 35th adult class of Leadership LaPorte County.

Leadership LaPorte County honored its adult class at a recent luncheon, attended by 75 community members, at Blue Chip Casino.

For the 35th year, a group of LaPorte County citizens spent the past nine months engaged in leadership skill building, gaining information about LaPorte County and networking with local leaders.

The class completed a capstone project in which a Nelson's Port-a-Pit fundraiser raised \$5,000 for LaPorte County Parks.

"The donation from the 35th class couldn't have come at a better time for the Park Department," park superintendent Jeremy Sobecki said in a press release. "We are in the middle of a large grant at Luhr County Park to construct new trails, parking lots and a picnic shelter, among other things.

"This \$5,000 instantly turned into \$10,000 because the DNR Land & Water Conservation Fund essentially doubles the local money put toward this project. This \$5,000 helps us get closer to reaching

our total local match of \$200,000."

Class members also participated in several day-of service projects to clean up beaches and work on park renovations. The class named this initiative "Leaders Loving Community."

The luncheon also featured the Outstanding Leadership Alumni Award. Each year, the board chooses a past program graduate to receive the Robert J. Hiler Jr. Outstanding Alumni Award for demonstrating ongoing commitment to his/her profession and to the community.

The award went to Ed Merrion, a member of the 17th class in 2001. He has facilitated the Self-Sufficiency Workshop for those vulnerable to homelessness, organized and facilitated the Interfaith Emergency Men's Overnight Shelter for dozens of years, and is helping to secure and develop a new permanent overnight shelter on Eighth Street in Michigan City. Recently, he has been instrumental in helping organize the new Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Food Rescue Initiative. He also has served on countless boards, including: Michigan City Housing Development Inc., Homeward Bound Inc., LaPorte County Park Foundation, Peace and Justice Committee and Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City.

The luncheon concluded with formal recognition of the 35th class for completing the program, which included monthly sessions on a variety of community leadership topics, a county bus tour, a trip to the state legislature and team projects.

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Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers and the Chikaming Township Park Board will present a beach appreciation walk at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 1, between Townline Line and Cherry Beaches.

The four-mile hike begins at Townline Beach, heading north while observing features and changes to the local township's beachfront. Leading the trek are Park Board Chairwoman Deborah Hall-Kayler and Harbor Country Hikers Secretary Evie Rowley. Chikaming Township Fire Chief Mike Davidson will join the group at Berrien Beach, where he will discuss beach and water safety, including the township's numbering system for location identification during an emergency.

Hikers then continue walking along the waterline and over the boulders at Pier Street, ending at Cherry Street, where the Cherry Beach Committee will give an update on grassroots efforts to purchase an additional 400 feet of lakeshore and the critical dune included in the 2.6-acre Reed Beidler Trust property.

Townline Beach is at the end of Townline/Union Pier Road in Union Pier, and Cherry Beach is at the end of Cherry Beach Road, which is just south of Youngren Road on Red Arrow Highway. Limited parking is available at the top of both beaches, so hikers should check for details at www.harborcountryhikers.com before the day of the hike.

HCH events are open to everyone, including children if accompanied by an adult. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families.

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 18th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series begins Wednesday, June 5, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Organists are expected from the LaPorte County area, the Midwest and Poland. Any donations aid maintenance and tuning of the 1891 Roosevelt Opus 506 tracker organ.

Also of note, the organ is in need of a new home. Call Ann Dobie at (219) 608-5358 for details.

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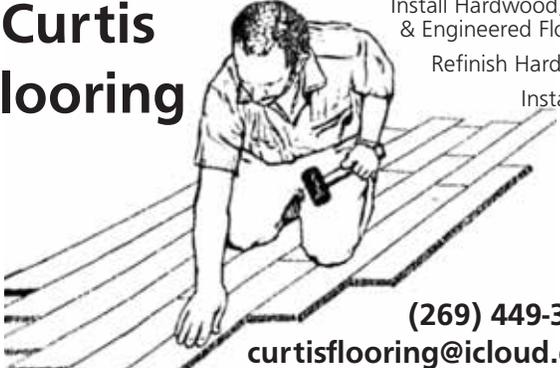
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Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5.**

Artists can take a piece at any stage, from conception to the final version, with all ability levels and styles invited.

Guests may simply listen; however, participation is encouraged. While being a safe environment, it is a critique involving advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

• **Jennifer Martin will host a Sand & Seagulls edition of Cookies and Canvas on Friday, June 7.**

Children 3-7 attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and ages 8 and older from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The evening includes an 8x10 beach-themed, stretched-canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice.

The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. Register and pay no later than Thursday, June 6.

• **Kristy Horb will teach a Kids Clay Camp starting July 8.**

Camp runs from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Children ages 6-12 will create three air-dry clay projects, including an animal face, a small bowl and a set of various-sized beads. On the last day of class, students will make a clay stamp printing project on paper finished with watercolors. All clay projects will be painted upon completion, and a small gift box for bead set will be included.

The cost is \$80, with members receiving a \$20 discount. The maximum number of students is 20.

Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

St. Luke Chicken Dinner

A chicken dinner is from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave.

The cost is \$10 per person. The menu includes fried chicken, seasoned noodles, buttered carrots, applesauce, cornbread muffins, lemonade, water, coffee and desserts (at an additional price).

Takeouts are available. Call (219) 879-9415 for more information or to buy tickets.



Beverly Shores Garden & Art Walk

June 1, 11 am-3 pm. Seven Bartlett Home gardens with plein-air artists. Ticket includes raffle for original watercolor or \$100 garden basket.

\$10/advance; \$15 at the door. absr.org or (708) 794-6474.

Solo Show at the Dunes



LaPorte abstract/action painter Ginny Scott is exhibiting a solo show in June at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. She has exhibited throughout New York, Chicago, Michigan and Indiana. She also has won honorable mentions and first prizes.

**Aunt Kitty's Spring Yard Sale
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The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La-Porte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, June 3.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.

Give through June 10 and get a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.



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Field Trip Grants

Educators interested in taking K-12 students on field trips to Indiana Dunes State Park or a state-managed lake during the 2019-2020 school year can receive financial help through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation.

Grants from the Discover the Outdoors Fund are available for public, private, parochial or home-school educators.

Since the program's inception in 2013, 135 grants have been awarded, with more than 10,000 students visiting state parks at less cost to the schools and students. The maximum grant award is \$250 per application. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30. Notifications will be made by Sept. 1.

The grant application is at IN.gov/inr/educate.html. A video explaining the program is at [youtube/uC4QjhsBLO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uC4QjhsBLO8)

The INRF is accepting donations to the fund from individuals, businesses or anyone who supports the idea of getting children outdoors. The fund was established in memory of Tom Huck, a longtime DNR employee who was an ardent supporter of outdoor experiences for children.

Email discoveroutdoorsgrants@dnr.IN.gov for more details.

Briar Leaf Golf Club

The following offerings are through Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, LaPorte:

• **Summer Junior Golf Camps start in June.**

The camps, offered four times during the summer, feature professional swing instruction from PGA Professional Jay Williams and PGA Associate Cody Ward and their staff, as well as through course play. Beginning juniors can register for the First Swing Program, while experienced golfers may participate in the Players Club.

Registration forms are available at briarleaf.com. Early registration is encouraged.

• **Registration is under way for the LaPorte Junior Golf Tour.**

Designed for juniors with on-course playing experience, the tour visits Briar Leaf, Beechwood, Legacy Hills and Michigan City Municipal in a seven-tournament schedule. Boys and girls compete in age groups ranging from eight to 17. The cost is \$45 for the season.

Registration forms are available at Briar Leaf or on the LaPorte Junior Golf Tour Facebook page.



Call Jay Williams or Cody Ward at Briar Leaf at (219) 326-1992 for details.

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Environmental Steward Award

Daisy Lee, a Krueger Middle School environmental science teacher, is the recipient of the 2019 Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award.

As director of the Krueger Environmental Learning Center, Lee has helped students gain hands-on experience with planting trees, preparing walking trails and collecting soil samples from nearby streams. KELC also has helped the school reduce waste from an average of 11 bags per day to two through a compost/recycling program.



Daisy Lee, during a field day experience.

Lee has established an Environmental Science Recycling Program that allows the community to help Krueger raise money from recycled materials, from markers to shoes.

Jan Nona was a senior citizen inspired to act on behalf of her neighbors. Discovering in the early 2000s that the local shallow aquifer — the source of drinking water for the Town of Pines — had been poisoned by coal combustion waste, she worked relentlessly to inspire neighbors to join her and demand accountability by local, state and federal officials. The result was voluntary funding by “potentially responsible parties” to provide most homeowners with municipal water from Michigan City.

Life Care Center Bingo

Free Seniors Bingo is from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, at Life Care Center of Michigan City, 802 E. U.S. 20.

If Michigan City Senior Center closes that day due to bad weather, then Bingo is subsequently canceled at Life Care Center. Call (219) 872-7251 and ask for Terri, Loretta, Jill or Melissa for additional information.

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May 31-June 5 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Stockholm." Rated R. Times: 6:15 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 7 p.m. Wed. Also: "Amazing Grace." Rated G. Times: 3:30 & 9 p.m. Sat./3:30 p.m. Sun. Also: "The Brainwashing of My Dad." Not Rated. Time: 7 p.m. Tues. Free, with discussion. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

May 31-June 16 — "Smoke & Mirrors," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20, seniors/students/\$18. Reservations: www.dunesartsfoundation.org, (219) 879-7509.

June 1 — Kids Fishing Fun Day, 9-11 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

June 1 — Westville Chamber of Commerce Market on Main, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

June 1 — Beverly Shores Garden & Art Walk, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets: \$10/advance, \$15/door. Info/registration: absr.org, (708) 794-6474.

June 1 — Chicken dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Cost: \$10. Info: (219) 879-9415.

June 1 — Jammin with Save the Dunes 2019, 4-10 p.m., Washington Park's Guy Foreman Amphitheater. Tickets: \$20/online, \$25/door. Info: (219) 879-3564, Ext. 121, www.savedunes.org

June 1 — "A Grand Night for Singing," 7:30 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$15, \$10/12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

June 1 — Ann Hampton Callaway: Jazz Goes to the Movies, 8:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45, \$100/VIP experience @ 6:30 p.m. EDT. Reservations: acornlive.org

June 2 — Reptile Romp, 2-4 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Free. Info: friendshipgardens.org

June 3 — Popular Books, Elizabeth Berg's "The Story of Arthur TruLuv," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

June 5 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. Free, donations accepted. Info: (219) 608-5358.

June 5-6 — Arts in the Park, 7 p.m., Dennis Smith Amphitheater @ Fox Park, LaPorte. Schedule: Wed./LaPorte City Band, Thur./Junior & The Igniters. Pre-concert: The Singing Co.

Saturdays through October — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets.

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(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

ers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

In the Region

June 1 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, between Townline Line & Cherry Beaches. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

June 1 — Riversong Music Society, "Songs of the Sixties," 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org

June 2 — Acorn Concert Series, Echoes of Pompeii, 7 p.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/week, free/children 12 & younger. Reservations: pnw.edu/gabis-concerts

June 5 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Reservation deadline: June 3. Info: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

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.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.




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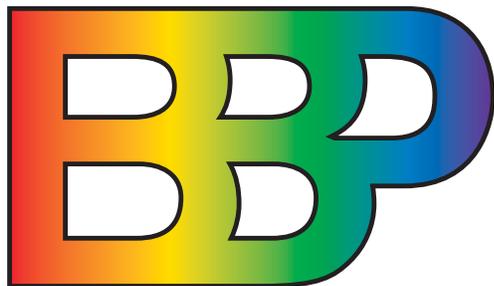
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On May 30, 1868, Memorial Day, set aside in memory of those who died in the Civil War, was first observed.

On May 30, 1901, the Baseball Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown, N.Y.

On May 30, 1922, Washington's Lincoln Memorial was officially dedicated.

On May 30, 1935, Babe Ruth played his final major league game, finishing his baseball career in a Boston Braves uniform.

On May 31, 1907, a fleet of "taximeter cabs" arrived in New York from Paris, the first taxis to be operated in an American city.

On May 31, 1977, the trans-Alaska oil pipeline was completed after three years of work.

On May 31, 1983, boxing legend Jack Dempsey, the "Manassa Mauler," died at 87.

On May 31, 1993, Arthur Gay, who lived with a donated heart for 20 years and 4 months (the longest on record), died of cancer of the esophagus at 56.

On May 31, 2002, the World Cup soccer tournament opened in Asia for the first time with a match held in South Korea, which co-hosted the event with Japan.

On June 1, 1937, actor Morgan Freeman was born in Memphis, Tenn.

On June 1, 1944, the British Broadcasting Corp. aired a coded message intended to warn the French resistance that the D-Day invasion was imminent.

On June 1, 1967, the Beatles released their landmark album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

On June 1, 1980, Cable News Network made its debut as the first all-news television service.

On June 2, 1851, Maine became the first state to prohibit manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages.

On June 2, 1864, the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad merged with the Chicago & North Western companies to form the Chicago & North Western Railway Co.

On June 2, 1883, in Fort Wayne, 2,000 spectators attended the first baseball game played at night.

On June 2, 1885, the P. T. Barnum circus began its first tour of the United States.

On June 2, 1886, in a White House ceremony, President Grover Cleveland married Frances Fol-

som. He remains the only president to marry in the Executive Mansion while in office.

On June 2, 1897, responding to rumors that he had died, 61 year-old Mark Twain was quoted from London by the New York Journal as saying that “the report of my death was greatly exaggerated.”

On June 2, 1941, New York Yankee baseball star Lou Gehrig died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (now known as the Lou Gehrig disease) at 37.

On June 2, 1966, after making America’s first soft landing on the moon, the unmanned Surveyor 1 spacecraft relayed pictures from the lunar surface.

On June 3, 1621, the Dutch East India Company received a charter for the city of Nieuw Amsterdam, known today as New York.

On June 3, 1888, the poem “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer was first published in *The San Francisco Examiner*.

On June 3, 1965, Edward White (during the flight of Gemini Four) became the first American to walk in space.

On June 3, 2001, Mel Brooks’ musical comedy “The Producers” won a record 12 Tonys; Chicago’s Victory Gardens Theatre received a special regional theater Tony.

On June 3, 2003, Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa was ejected in the first inning of a game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays after umpires found cork in his shattered bat. He later was suspended for seven games.

On June 4, 1805, the United States concluded a peace treaty with Tripoli. At the time, the city was the headquarters of the fierce “Barbary Pirates.”

On June 4, 1896, Henry Ford moved his first car from a brick shed at 58 Bagley Ave. and took it on a test run in a nighttime drive through the dark streets of Detroit.

On June 4, 1940, following the Allies’ military evacuation at Dunkirk, Prime Minister Winston Churchill told Parliament: “... We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

On June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway (a naval encounter that would give the United States its first important victory over Japan in World War II) began. Japan’s devastating losses ended any chance that they ever had of winning the war in the Pacific.

On June 5, 1783, Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier first demonstrated their hot air balloon over the French city of Annonay.

On June 5, 1855, the “Know Nothing Party,” also known as the “American Party,” held its first national convention in Philadelphia.

On June 5, 2002, Elizabeth Smart, 14, disappeared from her Salt Lake City home. She was found safe the following March.

ENVELOPES



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Night Window by Dean Koontz (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 427 pages.)

“Creating a neural (brain) lace is the thing that really matters for humanity to achieve symbiosis with machines.” — Elon Musk

I’m going to say something about this book I have never said before in a review, and will probably never say again: hot damn!

When Koontz came out with his first novel about ex-FBI agent Jane Hawk, I thought it would be good for maybe one or two books, maybe a trilogy, since they seem to be popular these days. But for the past five novels, he has given us a strong, and I mean *steel* strong, female character involved in kick-ass stories that keep you reading late into the night. Once again, Koontz is the premier 21st century writer of action/thriller/sci-fi books. As the James Bond “The Spy Who Loved Me” theme song says, “Nobody does it better.”

Am I enthused? You betcha. Once in a while, a character or storyline come along that make you wish it would not end. Koontz has given us all we can expect in a novel and more. It’s like the gift that keeps on giving.

Jane Hawk, the heroine of these books, is very special. She is not only intelligent, but intuitive and can think on her feet: the personification of the modern take-charge woman... plus a lot more.

Quite simply put, starting with The Silent Corner, Koontz has given the reader a reason to read. The man knows words. He uses them, not sparingly, but crammed on the page in a way that holds you mesmerized. Like the man watching the cobra rise out of the basket — you can’t move. You are compelled to keep reading to the final conflict, no matter the outcome.

The story is pure sci-fi genius that makes you stop and wonder — could this really happen? I found myself wishing I was wrong, but, yes, I think it could.

The background is this: Jane was happily married to a military hero and father to their 5-year-old son, Travis. One day, her husband commits suicide. No way. Not possible. And yet it happened.

Being an analytical person, Jane researched suicides and found the rate was rising, and most were people who had every reason to live, not die. There had to be an answer. Of course, there was one. Mind control. Not hypnotism, but an insidious method of

intravenous injections that scramble your brain...

A scientist, Bertold Shenneck, developed nanoweb implants that invaded the brain and produced “adjusted people” — people who went about seemingly normal, until they were given a phrase that made them do whatever they were told to do — up to and including murder or suicide.

He needed good little servants doing his every bidding, a neat and orderly world run by him and his cohorts. To that end, he developed a Hamlet’s List of people who were, simply, too good to live. They got in the way of his grand plan for making the country to his order. So, he had those on the list injected, then given the order to commit suicide, and, voilà, interlopers are eliminated and no investigation is held into their deaths.

He also had implants that wiped clean a person’s identity — brain-scrubbed — an army of robots in human form, no previous memory. Their only job is to kill.

Shenneck called them “rayshaws” after Raymond Shaw from “The Manchurian Candidate.” He called his inner circle Techno Arcadians.

Jane has, so far, been the only person to infiltrate them, and now she is being relentlessly hunted, so far keeping one step ahead of them.

It’s a difficult thing for Jane to do since the Arcadians have managed to implant people in government, news media, NSA, FBI, Homeland Security and other law-enforcement agencies; he has legions at his beck and call. Jane doesn’t know who she can trust.

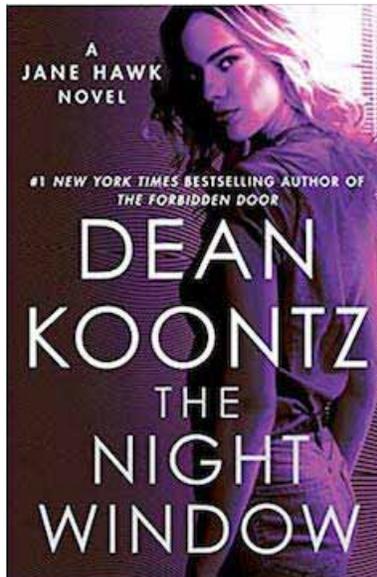
The Techno Arcadians have made sure Jane makes the news as the murderer of her husband and others. She is now No. 1 on the FBI’s Most Wanted list.

Then, there is her son, Travis. He has been spirited around the southwest, kept safe by Jane’s friends. But he has been spotted, not by Techno Arcadians, but a common thief who figures the boy to be worth a few million to someone...it proves to be a nail-biting segment.

This story is scary reading, both from the action perspective (which is intense) and the fact that we live in a time when advances in technology and medicine make this scenario a possibility as much as any science-fiction.

There are a lot of good authors out there today, but Koontz? Pure genius.

Till next time, happy reading!



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