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In the Belly of the Beast

by Drew Holt

Stepping into the bright August sun, the sight that greeted me sent shivers down my spine.

Five vintage warbirds. Gleaming. A small crowd taking pictures, chatting about the planes, exploring what they were allowed to explore, peaking into aircraft windows when they couldn't.

Among the aircraft: the B-24 Liberator.

Last year, I shared my experiences with two classic wartime-era aircraft: the B-17 bomber and OTW-160 biplane. This was an even bigger treat.

The B-24 Liberator was the workhorse of the World War II allied air forces. It didn't look as attractive or imposing as the sleek B-17, the heavily armed craft resembling a large flying bathtub. Out of the 18,500 B-24s built by Consolidated Aircraft Corp., only a handful remain today, and only two fly. Out of those two, one was built in a cargo configuration, and the other, which goes by the name Witchcraft today, was a combat veteran. An extremely rare trait in historical wartime aircraft, as most veteran planes either were destroyed in combat or scrapped after the war.

Upon learning the B-24 Witchcraft would fly into Purdue University's airport in West Lafayette, with a planned stop in Valparaiso, I *had* to be on that plane.

Witchcraft is owned and operated by Collings Foundation, an organization similar to the Erickson Aircraft Collection that owns the Madras Maiden. Its mission is to support and preserve "living history," like its collection of vintage warplanes known as the "freedom flight," of which Witchcraft is featured.

Arriving in West Lafayette to meet my stylish ride home, I made my way through the airport terminal and onto the tarmac. Among the aircraft on display was a tawny-painted B-17, which prompted flashbacks from last year of the roar of the Cyclone-9 engines on the chrome Maiden. Parked close to the terminal were two of the war's most well-known planes: A TF-51D, a training version of the famed "Mustang" fighter, and a P-40B "Tomahawk," the plane that flew to the defense of Pearl Harbor. Standing opposite the B-17 was a glass-nosed B-25 "Mitchell" bomber, smaller



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The B-24 Liberator. The paint on the side was done by the same man who painted the original "Witchcraft" during World War II.

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than the B-24 and B-17, but also equipped with two of the same engines that powered the B-17.

At the end of the tarmac sat B-24 Witchcraft, gleaming in the heat.

The plane wouldn't win any beauty contests. Her armored carapace was host to numerous gun emplacements, including a turret on the nose and tail. She gave the impression of a great basking beast, which explains her crew's loving nickname for her: "The Flying Hippo." Regardless of its functional appearance, it was clear the plane was designed for dealing a ton of punishment, and designed well at that. Her twin, oval-shaped vertical stabilizers set her apart from other, more common warbirds, and her cockpit viewscreen was curved, unlike the sharp angles of the B-17. Also in contrast to the B-17's Wright-built Cyclone-9 engines, the B-24's four engines were smaller — but no less powerful — 1,200 horsepower Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasps. Whereas the B-17 exuded grace and elegance, this plane gave off a strong vibe of unrelenting power and unstoppable force.

Peeling myself away, I went to speak with some of the crew.

Eric Whyte, the captain, was more than happy to give me an abbreviated version of this plane's long history. Consolidated built it in 1944, the craft beginning life as a submarine hunter in the Pacific for the British Royal Air Force before being transferred for combat in what would become the Middle East. After that, the plane made its way to the Chinese theatre via British India, flying over the Himalayas in the process. After the war, the plane, which to Collings Foundation's knowledge never had a formal name, was left in mothballs at an Indian aircraft boneyard, where it stayed until 1948, when the newly-liberated Indian Air Force successfully restored her and 35 other B-24s to operational status as a coastal patrol craft to protect the fledgling country's borders. She was still in military service when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon.

“From a historical perspective, it's a fascinating airplane,” Whyte said. “We always say if airplanes could talk, this is the one you'd want to sit down and have a beer with.”

“The B-24 holds a special place in the hearts of those who see her, and indeed has had reunions with those whose paths crossed with her storied past.”

“We had a little old lady that came up to it,” Whyte said. “She was 100 years old if she was a day, and she



The view of the cockpit from the radio operator's seat.

asks, 'Where was that aircraft built?' I said, 'Fort Worth, Texas.' She said, 'I can prove it!,' and she crawled up into the bomb bay, hung there like a monkey and said, 'See this rivet there? That's my initials, I built this plane! You boys better take care of it!'

"To meet a Rosie the Riveter that built this exact airplane, people always ask, 'Why do you give up your time off to fly this airplane?' It's for stories like that."



A P-40B "Tomahawk," so close, we could see the passenger.

To be in the presence of such a storied plane is awe inspiring. I touched her side, almost feeling years of history flowing from her. That I was about to experience a real part of history brought tears to my eyes. It was real, and in front of me, and I could touch it. This plane actually saved lives, and if I thought hard enough, I could feel those 75 years of human history pulsing beneath the metal skin.



Simulated bombs within the Liberator.

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Before our final preparations for takeoff, I met with Angel Estrada, Witchcraft's flight engineer. Estrada, a veteran, came to work for Collings Foundation after his four years in the Navy as an airframer, fire First Responder and aircraft mechanic. To Estrada, working on Witchcraft is little different from working on modern craft.

"There's a saying we have in aviation," Estrada said. "An airplane is an airplane is an airplane.' The only difference is the way it's designed. It's just memorizing where the same components are."

Even so, the B-24 is special to Estrada, providing a service for other veterans.

"Being that I'm a vet," he explained, "I get to take care of my older brother's and sister's aircraft. These guys fought, and bled, and cried, and did everything together in these aircraft, so when I get to see these guys back, I'm an F-18 guy, that's what I started off at. I'm gunna be those guys, when I'm that age, but now it's their turn. I see their faces, they'll laugh, they'll cry, they'll jump back in as if they're 19, but they're 97."

Estrada isn't just here to help veterans connect with their past. He's also helping the families of those lost.

"I had one guy — his father went MIA (in a B-24)," he said. "So he sat in the radio position and just

cried for 20 minutes. Even then, I was there to help him get to that point, so he could have a final moment with his father."

Not long after speaking with Estrada, it was time to depart. After a short safety briefing, one other passenger and I were ushered into the rear of the aircraft, and with a shudder and a roar, the old warbird came to life much as it had in 1944 when it rolled off the assembly line. Taking off was a har-



A view from my seat in the plane, with the .50-caliber guns and tail gun visible on the sides.

rowing experience. Two feet beneath my feet was an open-air gap between the fuselage and the aircraft's lone ball turret, just big enough to drop something into and lose forever to the ground below.

We lazily climbed into the air until reaching a cruising altitude at around 4,500 feet, headed north towards Valparaiso: toward home. Not long after we departed, we were joined by the Tomahawk, which flew in close formation the entire 30-minute flight north. The view was breathtaking: A clear blue sky framed the plane as it flew close enough that we could see the people in the cockpit.

Unlike the B-17, no portion of the B-24 was off-limits. I spent some time in the nose and tail turret positions. Cramped as they were, it gave me a small amount of perspective into what these young men experienced flying those inhospitable skies. As we rocketed over the Hoosier countryside, I had to indulge myself while standing at one of the large, open gunner positions on the



An outside view of one of the .50-caliber guns.

side. I stuck my head out of the plane moving at almost 200 miles an hour. Before long, we had traversed a distance it had taken me 2 1/2 hours to travel by car and prepared to land at Porter County Regional Airport, where we rendezvoused with the other four planes and an added sixth: an ultra-fast Grumman F6F "Hellcat" Naval fighter.

Greeting us at the tarmac was a crowd of locals ready to experience the planes and their history for themselves. Soon, people young and old were experiencing what Witchcraft and its compatriots had to offer: Real, moving history, and a concrete connection to the past.

(All photos by Drew Holt.)



Written on the side are the aircraft's donors and crew.



Pilot Eric Whyte.




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“Doublewide, Texas” Up Next at Footlight Theatre

“Doublewide, Texas,” a comedy by the team behind hits such as “Dearly Beloved” and “Christmas Belles,” runs Sept. 6-8 and 12-15 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Set in a small Texas town, the play introduces a parade of eccentric characters. Big Ethel Satterwhite (Diana Hirsch) is the town’s Licensed Vocational Nurse who doesn’t see eye to eye with the mayor of nearby Tugaloo. The Crumpler family consists of Norwayne “Baby” Crumpler (Andrew Vendl), who just became the town’s licensed septician, his mother, Caprice (Laura Meyer), who envisions herself as the next Hollywood sensation, and the slightly more normal daughter, Joveeta (Emma Blanchard), who wants to start a new life as a cruise director.

There’s also:

- Georgia Dean Rudd (Dee Piotrowski), the head waitress at Bronco Betty’s Buffeteria who befriends a down-on-her-luck stranger from Oregon, Lark Barken (Di Younce).
- Heywood Sloggett (David Mikolajczyk), who is trying to annex his neighbor’s land.
- “Ladies man” Lomax Tanner (Jay Swindell).
- The mayor’s shrewish wife, Starla Pudney (Danielle Bilderback).

The play is by the team Jones, Hope and Wooten. Robert Komendera is the director, joined by Debbie Bartholomew (assistant director), Joe Blanchard (production manager), Floyd Colosky (set designer), Joy Davidson (prop mistress and stage dresser), Sharon Kienitz (costume designer), Chris West (lighting designer), Declan Rice (sound designer) and David Wilkes (hair and makeup).

Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 or younger. Lap babies are discouraged. Credit cards are not accepted. Make



Appearing in “Doublewide, Texas” are Dee Piotrowski (standing, left), Diana Hirsch and Laura Meyer (seated).

reservations by calling (219) 874-4035, then leave a message, or visit FootlightPlayers.org

Auditions

Director Tony Thomas will hold auditions for Neil Simon’s “Last of the Red Hot Lovers” from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Sept. 8 and 9, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Auditions will consist of cold script readings.

Thomas, joined by Assistant David Mikolajczyk and Production Manager Bobbi Ann Lauritsen, seek one middle-aged male actor and three women ranging from 20-ish to middle age.

The remainder of the crew includes Floyd Colosky (set designer), Chris Whybrew (scenic artist), Lara West (stage dresser), Laura Meyer (costumes), Anthony Holt (light designer), Declan Rice (sound designer) and Veronica Thomas (hair and makeup).

Performances are Nov. 1-3 and 7-10. Call (219) 874-4035 for more details.



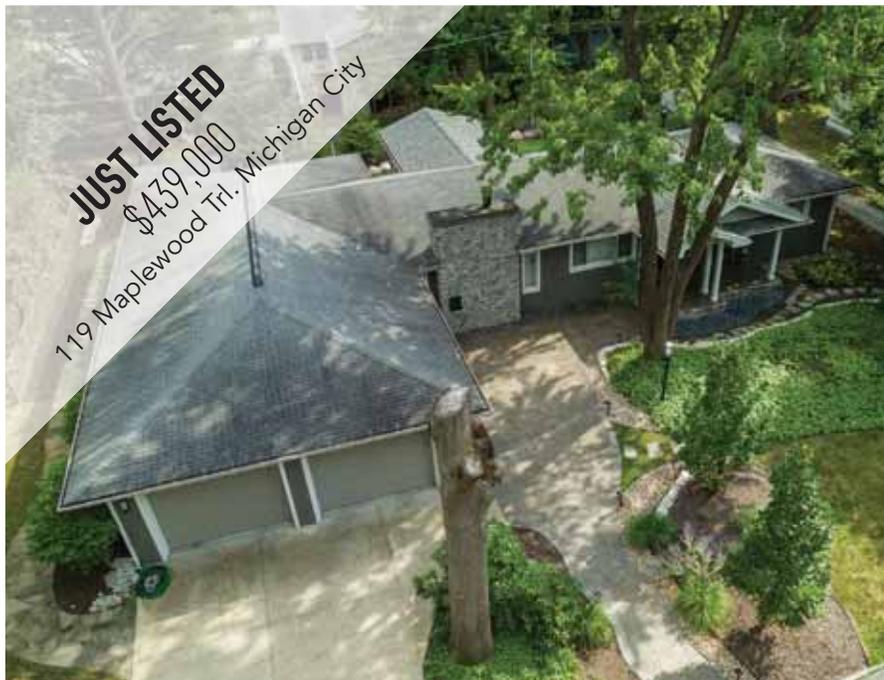
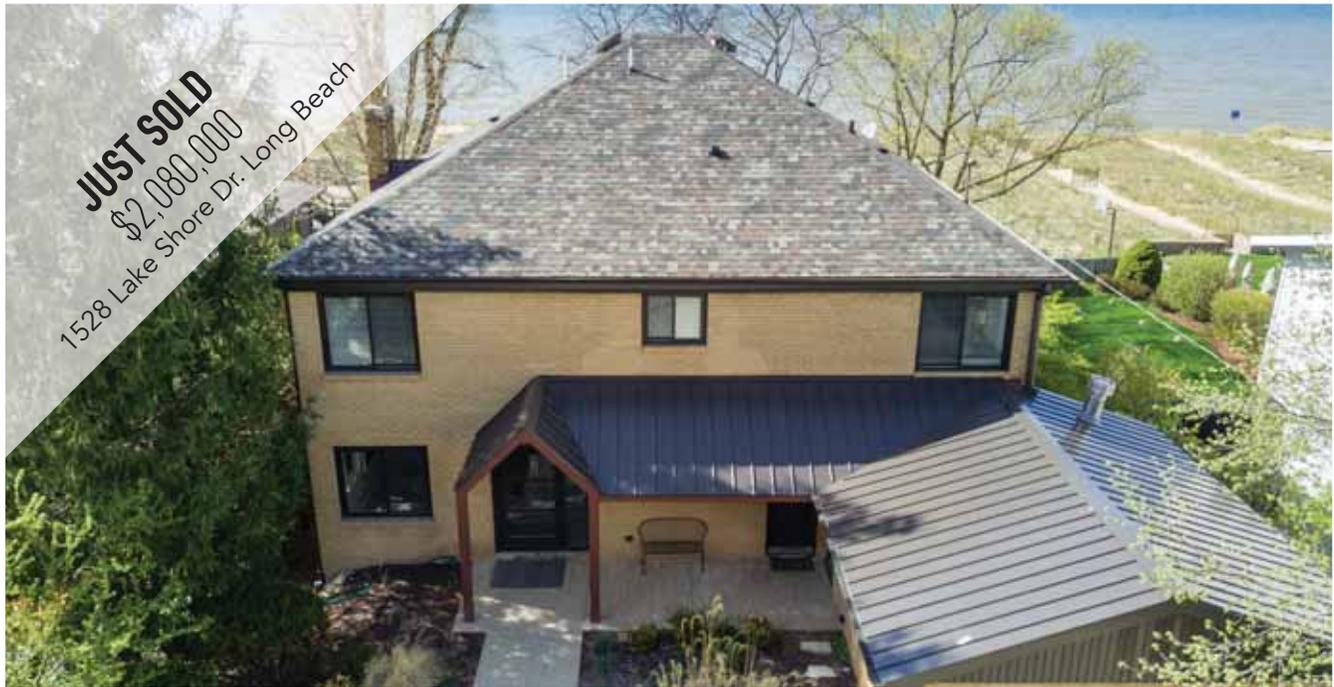
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Stepping Up His Game

by Kim Nowatzke

Jake Elliot Miller's business has turned out to be a gem of an idea.

In more ways than one.

The barely 20-year-old is into his fourth year of customizing and cleaning shoes through a hobby-turned business aptly named JEM (based on his initials) Custom Shoes.

"Jake took a very early interest in art. As soon as he could pick up a pencil, his art talent shined through," Jamie Miller, Jake's mother, said. "As a toddler, he gravitated toward sculpture and loved music. When he was 4, I set up a dresser with various craft items in it. As soon as Jake's feet hit the floor in the morning, he wanted to create. He even made food out of clay and packaged it using recycled items for his play grocery store."

Jake's favorite class at Coolspring Elementary School was with art teacher Rita Cochran.

"She wanted us to take our time and not rush through the art process," Jake recalled.

Cochran, in turn, enjoying having him in class.

"Having a student with a creative spirit like Jake is so fun," she said. "It pushes you as an educator to step up your game."

A substitute art teacher who happened to be a Lubeznik Center for the Arts board member also noticed his talent.



Twenty-year-old Jake Miller is photographed by Kim Nowatzke with shoes he's customized in his business, JEM Custom Shoes. In his right hand is one based on the design of 9-year-old Wyatt from the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City. He plans to donate proceeds of the shoe's first sale to the club.

"She offered Jake a scholarship for classes," Jamie said, "and he blossomed with the many choices offered there."

Jake fondly remembers the drawing, painting, watercolor and multi-media classes he took there. And, he registered for as many art classes at Michigan City High School as he could.

The influence of his late grandfather, Gene Racine, was undeniable as well.

"He was very talented in painting, drawing and creating art," Jamie said. "It's obvious that Jake received his art talent from 'Pops'."

Jake agrees, described his grandfather as a good artist from whom he learned a great deal. He still proudly displays murals his grandfather painted on his bedroom walls.

"He was a really good painter," he said. "He was super creative and fun."

In December 2015, at the same time customizing footwear was becoming more common, a friend asked Jake to paint a popular design on a shoe. After studying YouTube videos, Jake ordered the necessary materials, experimented with different methods and fulfilled the order.

"I posted it on Facebook and got a lot of likes," Jake said. "A lot of people started recognizing me for that, and I started doing more."

Jake also was fascinated with Jordan brand shoes.

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Jake Miller customizes a shoe with a design by 9-year-old Wyatt from the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City.

“I would research them all the time online. finding out the history, the colorway of them and more. I was really into them,” he said. “I wanted to have all the shoes – like every other kid.

“Now, I get to work with all the shoes that I dreamed about. I get to handle them and see the quality and the craftsmanship. It’s taught me to know what quality is. Every time I go to the mall, I have to go to the shoe stores, see what’s new and be inspired by the designs. And, I’ve learned the anatomy of a shoe.”

Although the majority of shoes Jake customizes are Adidas, Nike and Jordan brands, he can work on almost any material, including leather, canvas, suede, rubber and nubuck. He customizes athletic shoes, dress shoes, boots, heels, Crocs and more. He doesn’t tackle cleats, however, due to a lack of the proper tools and durability issues.

“It’s not just slapping paint on a shoe,” he said. “There’s a lot more to it.”

The Michigan City resident even has expanded his customizing business to designs on leather and denim clothing and accessories.

Jake also cleans all types of shoes with all-natural solutions and special brushes, with the ability to add waterproofing. He also can “un-yellow” translucent soles that have aged over time.

“People can reuse them then and get the full life out of them,” he said.

Jake recently found a way to give back to the community through his business. He began working for the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City two years ago. As an assistant program director during summer camp this year, he spent time helping kids with art projects. One day, he talked to them about how he turned his hobby into a business, presenting a slide show about JEM Custom Shoes. The kids even created designs of their own for Jake. He decided to use 9-year-old Wyatt’s idea, and already has a customer lined up to purchase the customization. All proceeds from the job will benefit the Boys & Girls Club, and he plans to donate a percentage of any future orders for the design as well.

“I want to be able to give back,” Jake said.

He attended his first event as an exhibitor at the South Shore Mini Maker Faire on June 22 and looks forward to participating in similar future opportunities. That month, he also unveiled his business logo: a diamond in red for his birthstone, tattooed on his forearm.

Jake is a business-management major at Valparaiso University and has worked on plans for JEM Custom Shoes in his classes. He has a Facebook page, “JEM Custom Shoes,” and has plans for launching a website.

“It’s come a long way,” he said, “and still growing.”



Jake Miller is using this shoe design, created by 9-year-old Wyatt, as a way to give back to the community. Photo provided

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Library to Host 35th Writing Out Loud Season at The Nest

With Michigan City Public Library amid the second phase of its remodeling project, the 35th season of Writing Out Loud will be held at The Nest, 803 Franklin St.

Each program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is followed by a Friends of the Library reception. More information is available by calling (219) 873-3049.

The lineup is:

• **Viola Shipman (pen name Wade Rouse), Sept. 14.**

Rouse is the international best-selling author of nine books, which have been translated into nearly 20 languages. Rouse chose his grandmother's name, Viola Shipman, as a pen name to honor the woman whose heirlooms and family stories inspire his fiction. His novels include: The Charm Bracelet, a 2017 Michigan Notable Book of the Year; The Hope Chest; and The Recipe Box. His latest is The Summer Cottage. The Heirloom Garden will be published in April 2020.

Rouse recently signed a three-book deal with HarperCollins.

• **Mary Ruth Clarke, Sept. 28.**

Mary Ruth Clarke is a playwright and screenwriter who co-wrote and starred in "Meet the Parents" with Robert De Niro. Her play, "Bonhoeffer's Cost," has had runs in Austin, Texas, Philadelphia and Chicago. Her farce, "Suffer The Long Night," has been produced in Los Angeles and Austin. Her play, "Address Unknown," was produced in Chicago. Her solo performance, "I Could Kill Him for Dying," also ran in Chicago.

Clarke is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists. She also is a screenplay consultant for clients in L.A. and Chicago. She's a regular guest lecturer at the Chicago Screenwriter's Network



monthly meetup and recently ran workshops for the Off Campus Writer's Group, Chicago Independent Film Project and Renaissance Theaterworks Milwaukee. She is a member of the Writer's Guide of America East and the Dramatists Guild.

• **Michael Poore, Oct. 12.**

Poore's short fiction has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *Southern Review*, *Agni*, *Fiction* and *Asimov's*. His story, The Street of the House of the Sun, was selected for The Year's Best Nonrequired Reading 2012. His first novel, Up Jumps the Devil, was hailed by *The New York Review of Books* as "an elegiac masterpiece." His second novel was Reincarnation Blues. He also has written a middle-grade level book due out this month: Two Girls, A Clock and a Crooked House.



• **Adrian Matejka, Nov. 2.**

Matejka is the poet laureate of Indiana (2017-2019). Born in Nuremberg, Germany, he grew up in Indianapolis. He graduated from Indiana University and the Master of Fine Arts program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is the author of The Devil's Garden, which won the New York/New England Award, and Mixology, a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. Mixology also was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature. His third collection, The Big Smoke, focuses on Jack Johnson, the world's first African-American heavyweight champion. The Big Smoke received the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, 2014 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and 2014 Pulitzer Prize in poetry. His recent book, Map to the Stars, was published in 2017.



Among Matejka's honors are the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, the Julia Peterkin Award, a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Bellagio Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, Lannan Foundation and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He teaches at Indiana University-Bloomington.

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Summer Was a Moving Experience

If I had to describe this past season, besides the obvious — it's been a hot one (July 2019 was the hottest on record) — I'd proclaim the summer of 2019 as moving. Moving in the literal sense, as in packing up stuff into crates and boxes, then transferring all of it to another location.

Over the course of the last three months, either solo or with another family member, I've greeted five moving trucks and crews.

Around Easter, two of my daughters announced their plans to move. In May, my middle daughter and her husband planned to close on their first house. In New Jersey. Thirty days later, my youngest child scheduled an apartment shuffle. In D.C. As each girl unveiled her plan to swap households, their body language was identical: leaning in over the table to drop the news, a sheepish grin, then a nervous chuckle. Those nonverbal cues compel a parent to query: Do you need help?

Never one to mince on a healthy dose of honesty, my husband declared, "Your mother can come if she likes. The day I officially moved you off a college campus, I retired from schlepping pillows, dirty clothes, hangers and bathroom products." Through guffaws, the girls assured him, "We don't really need you, Dad. Just Mom." Amen. I scheduled my flights.

For three days in May, I unpacked and washed kitchen dishes and glassware. In turn, my daughter educated me on the fine art of ordering in yummy meals via cellphone app. Called into an unavoidable work meeting, I stepped into my son-in-law's shoes. I hung drapes, broke down boxes, chased down the cable installer roaming the cul-de-sac, and managed to coral the cats from exiting through open doors.

Unloading boxes, my daughter and I unearthed forgotten mementos, old photos and silly knick-knacks that sent us into fits of giggles. When I returned to the Midwest, I sported a battered manicure, random scrapes and bruises, and a sense of satisfaction. I'd been helpful. I'd been included in a landmark event: setting up my daughter's first home. Having my daughter to myself for a few days was an added bonus.

The June apartment shuffle with the other daughter was a slight twist on the first move. In and out of D.C. in two days, I was summoned for moral support, for my knack of hanging artwork precisely and securely, and for the Target credit card at the front of my wallet. Predictably, the purchase of fresh linens, towels and toiletries was high on the agenda. (Kudos to my husband. He spared himself carting those necessities and stuffing them into a ride share.) Like her older sister, this daughter fetched us great lunches. She also booked fabulous dinners at local eateries she'd been dying to try, but couldn't afford. Similar to the previous month's move, I shared silly moments and precious chats. We also pressed through tough moments, like when the elevators

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

went out a half hour before the movers arrived.

Returning home from D.C., I didn't display the same assaults to my earthly vessel as with move No. 1. Instead, the biggest casualty was to my credit card. Just as before, my presence served a purpose, but this move was more than that. I got to know my daughter better, view her in her surroundings. She was no longer the youngest child toted around to her older siblings' events. Instead, I saw a young professional, a woman who managed her affairs, adept at problem-solving.

In contrast, moves Three and Four challenged only me. Tasked with clearing out two investment properties, I booked service elevators, commandeered luggage carts and overloaded an already jammed SUV. Solo for most of these efforts, I made due with fast food options. I also got my big toe in the way of a substantial service room door. I'm not sure which was worse: the throbbing bruised appendage or the embarrassment of a full elevator watching me impale myself. Here's the takeaway. If one must move household goods, it's advisable to commandeer an able sidekick, someone with whom you can share a laugh or a problem, and who can assist with doors and meal planning.

As summer stretches into its final weeks, so does the last chapter in my summer moving chronicles. Still on the calendar is a kitchen and bathroom renovation at a family getaway. Like the initial summer moves, travel, purging, packing and storing await. I am certain to sustain bodily dings and scrapes, to curse snarled packing tape and stubborn boxes, and discover forgotten treasures and mementos. Hauling pillows, comforters and household products is a given. However, the tips I gleaned from moves One through Four are top of mind. For the summer's final moving experience, my son has freed up his calendar. Grateful to have his help, I have clear expectations. While the two of us prepare the house for its renovation, there will be glitches and surprises. We will create memories. Reminiscing is a certainty. So is getting reacquainted. And we will eat well.

For some folks, the benefits of moving involve downsizing, eliminating financial strain, the desire for a change of location or the need for adventure. For this veteran of small moves, it has meant fellowship and discovery. Regarding future family relocations, I am considering my husband's stance: your stuff, your problem. It's easier on the body and the checkbook. While getting to know my adult children better has been one benefit of the summer moves, a nice vacation is more appealing.

Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.



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This Long Beach home has it all! Refinished and restyled with care by the current owners. 4 bedrooms, and 4 baths with master suite offer plenty of room for family and guests. The inviting entryway connects the dining room, kitchen, living room and family room. New hardwood floors, refinished kitchen, and a double sided fireplace create an amazing space for you to entertain. The sunroom has been beautifully finished to bring outdoor enjoyment with comfort. The basement features a newly rehabbed bathroom, large refinished bonus room, and entry to the 2-car garage. The siding, windows, roof have all been replaced. **\$479,000**

12 POWHATAN, MICHIANA SHORES



Live near Lake Michigan in this ranch cottage in Michiana Shores. Totally renovated to an open floor plan, with newer roof (2016) and exterior paint (2017). EZ access to Stop 37-38 beaches. Enjoy evening breezes in your private back yard and screened porch addition. The wood burning fireplace centers the living room, open to the kitchen and dining areas for easy entertaining and communication. Deep two car garage for bikes and beach stuff. You'll be central to boating, beaches, dining, golf and entertainment, near Long Beach, New Buffalo and all that Harbor Country has to offer. **\$367,500**

Door Village Harvest Festival

The 27th Door Village Harvest Festival is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7-8, at Scipio Township Park, 3501 W. Joliet Road.

There is no admission charge; however, there is a \$3 parking fee. All proceeds improve and maintain the park.

On Saturday morning, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will present an opening flag-raising ceremony to recognize all military branches. The Michiana Antique Auto Club's Antique Automobile, Truck and Tractor Show and Parade also is Saturday.

Grandma's Parlor will feature demonstrations of handmade crafts, while Grandpa's Woodshed will demonstrate wood carving and wood working. Grandpa's Barnyard will include farm animals and llamas, and children can have their faces painted.

The Collector's Corner will show memorabilia, from military to agriculture, while many craft vendors are scheduled.

"Horse and Wagon Tours of History," narrated by Bruce Johnson and driven by Tammy Heinen, are Saturday and Sunday. The tours include facts on

Door Village, including the early settlers, the 1832 Fort of the Blackhawk War, Parkinson's LaPorte/Valparaiso Stage Coach, the New York/Chicago Electric Air Line Railroad and many local homes and businesses.



Saturday morning will feature the annual pancake breakfast and Sunday the pork chop dinner. A food court, Country Bake Shop, old-fashioned baked beans and ham, and chicken and noodles are scheduled.

Sunday at 1:30 p.m. features the annual Living Cemetery Tour, when actors portray people buried in the 1834 Door Village Cemetery. At their grave-stones, citizens from the past will share their stories researched and written by La Porte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz.

The Pioneer Village encampment of 1832 and Civil War Camp feature re-enactors dressed in clothes of the era, sharing and demonstrating artifacts commonly used at that time in history.

Entertainers include Phil and Dustin Anderson, Homemade Jamm, the Good Timing Barbershop Quartet, Folk Grass and The Time Travelers.



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Hoosier Star

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra is gearing up for its 14th annual Hoosier Star competition at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., LaPorte.

The event is a fundraiser for the symphony. Returning as conductor is Alastair Willis, South Bend Symphony Orchestra music director. Previous conducting positions for the Grammy nominee include Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Florida Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and Cincinnati Symphony. In demand as a guest conductor, he has appeared with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony.

The 10 finalists are:

YOUTH DIVISION

- Jamileh Cornejo — LaPorte.
- Joseph Giuliani — LaPorte.
- Rebecca Lane — Portage.
- Ella Moon — Crown Point.
- Raul Palma — LaPorte.

ADULT DIVISION

- Laura Carns — Hebron.
- Billy Cox — Hobart.
- Clara Hooton — New Carlisle.
- Tim Hester — Wheatfield.
- Joseph Stewart — Michigan City.

The adult winner receives \$1,000 and the youth winner \$500. Each finalist will sing a song of their choice with LCSO, directed by Alastair Willis.

Tickets are available at www.hoosierstar.com or at:

- Roxy Music Shop, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte.
- LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1010 Ridge St.
- Visit Michigan City LaPorte, 4072 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Tickets are \$15, or \$5 for 12 and younger. Indiana Deli, Ivy Tech, Little's Chocolates and a cash bar will be available. Doors open at 6 p.m.

First Fridays at Barker Mansion

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will host First Fridays Art Walk events from 5-8 p.m. Sept. 6.

Guests can explore the first floor and gardens for free. Refreshments will be served, and a short film on the Barker family history will be shown.

Works by local artist Ron Fraser will be on display in the mansion drawing room. He is a former architectural draftsman and storyboard illustrator who paints Lake Michigan and local scenes in acrylic or watercolor. During First Friday, he will highlight several pieces that depict Michigan City scenes, including Trail Creek. Postcards with reproductions of his work will be on sale.

Visit www.barkermansion.com or call (219) 873-1520 for details.

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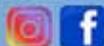
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AN UNABASHED AD FOR BUCHANAN MICHIGAN HALLOWEEN SCARECROWS

As many of you know, my wife and I have been living this summer on Batchelor Island in the middle of the St. Joseph River just north of Wheatberry's Restaurant on Red Bud Trail in Buchanan. We sold our house in Michiana and are attempting to construct a new house in Michiana Shores. Living on an island is an idyllic experience when I do not have to start my travel to work on our pontoon in a hard rain. Then, it is a wet challenge.

But what I want to promote is the unique presentation of over **200 scarecrows** attached to almost every pole throughout Buchanan. The scarecrows just went up, and they will be there until Halloween. You have plenty of time to get there and laugh at the "characters" each scarecrow has created. They are all sponsored by local merchants and town persons. Any proceeds go to the town of Buchanan. The volunteers have been working to create the scarecrows since March: a fun experience for all ages!

Let me continue my unabashed promotion of Buchanan by recommending three of my favorite places to eat and hang out.

First, there is [Union Coffee House](#) at the corner of Front and Main. Wonderful coffee concoctions, good breakfast and lunch, and live music on Sunday afternoons. Second is [Lehman Farms](#) that has lunch and dinner with a tasty array of local brews, including great hard ciders. Lehman's is located in the old Clark Equipment Research Building on Red Bud Trail just north of Front Street. And if you are hankering for even more brew selections, excellent smoked fare and cornbread with every meal, visit [Wheatberry's](#) north of town on Red Bud Trail.

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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 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursdays.**

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

• **Friends of the Library Book Sale from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.**

The sale, part of First Friday festivities, moves indoors if the weather is poor. Donations are welcome. Call (219) 873-3049 to arrange book pickup.

• **Readings in Elementary Spanish 1 at 10 a.m. Saturdays, Sept. 7, 14 and 28.**

The prerequisite is a previous study of beginning Spanish. The aim is to increase vocabulary and improve reading. The class is free, but a \$6 textbook is available at the first session.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 10, 17 and 24, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 11, 18 and 25.**

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

• **Angels Among Us at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11.**

Ange Benz leads the program. Call her at (219) 874-3754 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.

Sunday hours resume from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 8. Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

Dinner With The League

The League of Women Voters LaPorte County will host Barb Schilling at Dinner With The League at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

Schilling is first vice president on the League of Women Voters Indiana State Board. She will provide an update on LWV activities around the state, along with planning for the 100th anniversary.

The public is invited, and reservations are not required. A donation is requested from non-members. Attendees should arrive at 5:30 p.m. to purchase dinner from the menu.

Visit www.lwvlaporte.org or follow the group on Facebook for details.



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Lyric Opera in the Gardens

Friendship Botanic Gardens again served as the idea backdrop for a stirring preview of the new Lyric Opera season during "Lyric Opera in the Gardens" on Sunday, Aug. 25. The program included arias from Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" and Broadway favorites "Porgy and Bess," "42nd Street," "Showboat" and "Hamilton!"

All photos by Paul Kemiell



“Twelfth Night”

Actors From The London Stage, the acclaimed five-member British touring group, will present William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” on Sept. 11-13 at Notre Dame’s Washington Hall.



With mistaken identities, disguises and love triangles, Shakespeare blended comic and dramatic devices, all amid deeper currents of love, desire, grief and transformation. With each actor portraying multiple roles, the production takes on a fast-paced tone.

Founded by Homer “Murph” Swander, Sir Patrick Stewart and Royal Shakespeare Co. members in 1975, AFTLS has been visiting universities for week-long residencies ever since.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. EDT. Tickets are \$23, \$13 for students and free for 18 and younger with a regular ticket purchase (limit five). Visit shakespeare.nd.edu or call (574) 631-2800 for details.

NB Library Community Forum

“A Nightmare on Elm Street – The JFK Assassination” is the topic of the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 9, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Speaker Tim Smith will emphasize Lee Harvey Oswald and his alleged role in the assassination, along with data surrounding President John Kennedy’s assassination. He also will examine the sequence of shots, and what forces may have been behind the assassination.

Smith teaches philosophy, logic and world religion at Lake Michigan College.

Upcoming programs include: a private tour of the Chicago Imagists exhibit at Lubeznik Center for the Arts on Tuesday, Sept. 17; “The First Woman President” on Monday, Sept. 23; and “Climate Change and Fishing in Lake Michigan” on Monday, Oct. 7.

Email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com or follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org for more details.

Pride Stride

Purdue University Northwest, as part of its fall festivities, will host the annual “Pride Stride” 5K fun run/walk Thursday, Sept. 12, on the Westville campus.

Check-in begins at 4:30 p.m. and the race at 6 p.m. Runners are blasted with color throughout a scenic cross country trail course.

Open to everyone, the entry fee is \$5. Food and refreshments will be served. Visit pnw.edu/pride-stride for more details.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **Beachside with a Ranger from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays through Sept. 6 at the West Beach parking lot.**

Learn about the park's preservation story, including challenges the region faced and the largest threats today. The parking lot is located at 376 N. County Line Road.

- **Drop-in Volunteering at West Beach from 2 to 3 p.m. Fridays through Sept. 6.**

Join staff and fellow volunteers in helping care for the site. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided.

- **Biking & Birding from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Take a bike, with the park providing binoculars, to explore areas in Miller to see birds and learn basic birding techniques.

- **Pinhook Bog Open House from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through Sept. 7.**

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

- **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

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

- **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 9 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Learn how to paint the dunes. A canvas and paint are provided for the free class. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 20 adult painters. Be prepared to park in auxiliary sites during the summer due to parking congestion. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information and to register.

- **Science in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local experts and scientists conducting research, followed by a short hike. Dress for the weather.

- **Mount Baldy Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 8.**

Explore the issues and science surrounding the dune. The parking lot is located off U.S. 12.

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

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

- **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays.**

The farm includes cows, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **History Comes Alive Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7-8.**

Visit www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm for more details.

- **History of the 1917 Dunes Pageant from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.**

As part of the History Comes Alive Weekend, Westchester Township History Museum Curator Serena Ard will shed light on the earliest efforts to save the Indiana Dunes from industrial expansion and destruction. Meet at the Nature Center.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chester-ton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

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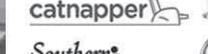
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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Bits & Bytes series, Intro to Computers/Windows 10, from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, at Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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



"Rocketman."

- **WPL Movies in September: "Rocketman" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave.**

The movie is Rated R. Free popcorn is available.

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- **Chesterton Cemetery tours on Sunday, Sept. 8.**

Westchester Township History Museum staff and Duneland Historical Society volunteers will conduct a tour of the cemetery, 300 E. Porter Ave., highlighting local families. Attendees also learn cemetery history, and today's efforts to restore and preserve headstones.

Tours, which include uneven ground, start every 15 minutes beginning at 2 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. The last tour starts at 3:30 p.m. Attendees should begin at the welcome tent near the southwest corner. Parking is within the cemetery. The tour moves to Oct. 13 if the weather is poor.

- **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Celeste Ng's "Little Fires Everywhere."

- **Alzheimer's Association Presents "Dementia Conversations" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Thomas Branch.**

The program, presented by the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana, helps people talk with their family, including the person with signs of dementia, about topics related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

- **Tinker, Create, Invent and Have Fun! from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Classes revolve around science, design, engineering and art through project-based work. Space is limited to 12 children, and registration is required by visiting the library or calling (219) 926-9080.

- **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Attendees should take lists they recommend for like-minded readers. Light refreshments will be served.

- **What the Fork: Teen Cooking Club from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Thomas Branch Young Adult Room.**

Open to teens in grades 6-12, the focus this month is how to make veggie pizza bites. The group also will play the game Apples to Apples: Big Picture.



LaPorte County Public Library

The following programs are at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• **Maker Mondays from 3-5 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 28.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. September focuses on video production and October 3-D modeling and printing.

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Oct. 31.**

Students in third grade and older move up through levels, earning a certificate for each completed. They work independently and chart their progress as they complete hands-on projects that include web literacy, fixer skills, circuitry, game design and coding.

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

• **Are You a Savvy Recycler? from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.**

Learn what can be recycled, where it goes and how to reduce land waste with Sacha Burns, LaPorte County Solid Waste District public outreach coordinator.

• **Caregiver University from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

The schedule is: Sept. 10 — Introduction to Aging Parents and Caregiver Stress; Sept. 24 — Medicare and Medicaid; Oct. 8 — Caring for Aging Parents at Home; Oct. 22 — Alzheimer’s and Dementia; Nov. 5 — Aging and the Law: Living Wills, Guardianships and More; and Nov. 19 — End of Life Care and Planning.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Neighborhood Celebration

The Salvation Army of Michigan City, 1201 Franklin St., will mark the end of summer with its Neighborhood Celebration, formerly known as a Block Party, from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8.

Maj. Dale Simmons, corps officer of The Salvation Army, said in a press release the biggest change this year is simply moving festivities indoors to take advantage of the chapel and fellowship hall.

Those attending will receive food and can play several games. Matt Kalita will present a magic show. Call (219) 874-6885 for details.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

The Salvation Army of Michigan City, The Guardian Riders and Michigan City Fire Department will present a memorial program honoring those who died during terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

A 9/11 Remembrance Program and Stair Climb is at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Michigan City Elston YMCA, 1202 Spring St.



Simmons

The keynote speaker is Maj. Becky Simmons of The Salvation Army of Michigan City, who will share her story of visiting Ground Zero in New York City after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

The fire department and students in the A.K. Smith Career Center fire-science class will conduct a stair-climb tribute throughout the event. This includes climbing 110 flights of stairs in the YMCA gymnasium, equaling about 2,200 steps, in honor of fallen firefighters on Sept. 11.

The Guardian Riders, which helps active-duty military personnel and veterans, was key in developing the program. Other groups and individuals who will participate include: the Michigan City High School JROTC, which will present colors; American Legion Post 37, providing a 21-gun salute; Leigh Morris, who will sing The National Anthem; and Pipe Maj. Craig Brooks of the Celtic Guard Academy, who will close the ceremony.

This event is free and open to the public. Call (219) 874-6885 or email guardianridersIN@gmail.com for details.

Dragon Boat Races

Dragon boat racing returns to LaPorte's Stone Lake when Dunebrook hosts its sixth annual races at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

Teams and sponsors can register by email at pam@dunebrook.org, or visit dunebrook.org, then click the "events" tag, followed by "fundraising events," then "Dragon Boat Races."

Teams race in three heats in 41' canoe-like vessels that have an ornate dragon head and tail on the bow and stern. The course is 300 meters – long enough to be competitive, yet conquerable.

A team consists of 16-20 paddlers (13 and older), and a drummer. Dunebrook provides the boat, a steersman (to keep the boat on course), paddles, life preserver, drum and team bandana.

Child-friendly activities and food vendors are available for spectators. Admission is free.

Contact Pam at Dunebrook at (800) 897-0007 or email pam@dunebrook.org for more details.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues



9-Hole League

Aug. 22, 2019

Event: 3 Club Tourney

"B" Flight

Event: Vicky Hill
Low Net: Vicky Hill
Low Putts: Vicky Hill

"C" Flight

Event: Mary Weithers
Low Net: Mary Weithers
Low Putts: Adele O'Donnell

"D" Flight

Event: Sally Allen
Low Net: Sally Allen
Low Putts: Alison Kolb

18-Hole League

Aug. 27, 2019

Event: Low Net

"A" Flight

First Place: Carol Excell

"B" Flight

First Place: Melanie Davis
Second Place: Linda Wilson
Third Place: Pat Kelley

"C" Flight

First Place: Rima Binder
Second Place: Gloria McMahon
Third Place: Jayne Krol

Birdies

Cindy Levy Hole 17
 Melanie Davis Hole 5
 Pat Kelley Hole 10

Back-to-School Celebration

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host its first Back-to-School Celebration, a family oriented addition to First Friday, from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 6.



The lineup includes a dance party with music by DJ Alfonta Lee of Lee's Beats. Guests can view the summer exhibit, "The Chicago Imagists: Before and After." The NIPSCO Art Education Studios will feature artmaking activities, including collaborative hoola hoop weaving and free-form sculptures.

Free light refreshments are available, with kid-friendly selections on the menu. LCA's cash bar features alcoholic and non-alcoholic selections.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for details.

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Women in Leadership

Speaker Nancy Owsianowski will present “Navigating and Achieving Harmony” at the next Women in Leadership of LaPorte County meeting.

The program is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, at Patrick’s Grill, 4125 Franklin St.



Owsianowski

Owsianowski is the founder and president of Roundtable Consulting and co-founder of IndEALA Academy. She has more than 12-years experience in facilitating, training and coaching. She serves on the Women Business Owners of Michiana board, is a certified mentor with the Michiana chapter of SCORE and serves in various capacities with the Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative at Saint Mary’s College

The September WILL meeting is sponsored by

Rene Ray, president and CEO of R Squared Strategies. Meetings are open to guests. Reservations can be made on the WILL Facebook page.

Avant-Garde(n) Party

Krasl Art Center will celebrate its successful fundraiser to create a new front yard during its free Avant-Garde(n) Party from 2 to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 8.

Community support helped raise \$1.8 million for grounds redevelopment. The party includes acrobatics on the oval lawn and tumbling tricks, mocktails celebrating summer flavors and the chance to contribute to a community art project inspired by the “Inhaling the Universe” exhibit. A performance by the Deep Fried Pickle Project is at 2:15 p.m. EDT, and guests can make instruments out of household objects at 3:30 p.m. EDT.

Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit krasl.org for details.

Bolt for the Heart Family 5K

Franciscan Health Michigan City is the sponsor of Bolt for the Heart Family 5K Run/Walk, which is at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, in Washington Park.

The event benefits LaPorte County by placing life-saving Automated External Defibrillators in law-enforcement vehicles to help save people who experience sudden cardiac arrest.

The Bolt for the Heart organization has placed nearly 2,000 AEDs in Indiana, with the goal of placing an additional 150 in the LaPorte County area.

Individual entries are \$30 each. Veterans, children 5 and younger and seniors 75 and older are free. Visit www.boltfortheheart.com to register.

Chesterton Art Center

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



A soft pastel work by Mary Ann Trzyna.

• **A soft pastel workshop for beginning and intermediate adult students with Mary Ann Trzyna from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16.**

Students learn while painting a simple still life. The workshop includes a discussion of soft pastel brands and types, and pastel paper/board options, with some samples available for students to try. A limited amount of pastels and papers will be available for beginning students who would prefer to try pastels before buying a set. If participants take their own, a supply list will be provided. Also planned is a demonstration of preliminary studies and under-painting techniques.

A 30-minute lunch break is planned. Participants can take a lunch, or head out to buy it. The cost is \$70 for members and \$90 for non-members.

• **Caroline Hatch will teach a Beginning Stringing Class from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18.**

Each participant will have a basic understanding of the techniques required to make fashion jewelry. They will complete a necklace and bracelet to take home. Kits with all materials are provided. Hatch will review jewelry supplies and core techniques that participants can use going forward.

The cost is \$55, with members receiving a \$20 discount. All supplies and tools are included.

Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

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American Red Cross

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

- Walmart, 333 Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.
- Anytime Fitness, 4112 Franklin St., Michigan City, 3:30-6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9.

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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Harbor Country Hikers



Quattrin

An expert's view of wetlands and drainage is the focus of the next Harbor Country Hikers outing at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 7, at Hoadley Nature Trail in Three Oaks' Watkins Park.

Berrien County Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin will explain the benefits of using constructed wetlands versus traditional methods of storm-water management.

The hike is around Schwark Drain and through the adjacent nature trails, which cover a little more than a mile of moderate to easy hiking. They are located behind Harding's Grocery on U.S. 12 at Nels Drive and Locust Street in Three Oaks, Mich.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

Paladin Golf to Give

Paladin will host its Golf to Give: Birdies, Bogeys, Burgers and Beer Big Cup Scramble from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at Pottawatomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

The cost is \$150 for individuals and \$600 for a foursome. Compete for prizes in the putting contest, longest drive, hole-in-one, longest putt, closest to the pin and marshmallow drive contest.

Visit www.paladin.care/golf-outing-9919.html for details or to register.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with Hall of Heroes Director Allen Stewart at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 5, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Stewart, founder of the Elkhart Comic Con, will give an update on the third event.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

Sinai Forum

A limited number of single tickets remain for Gen. John F. Kelly, who opens the 2019 Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum season at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8. Visit pnw.edu/sinai-forum for details.



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La Porte County Parks



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

Northern Indiana Walk for PKD

The two-mile Northern Indiana Walk for PKD is Saturday, Sept. 7, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

Check-in is at 10 a.m., with the walk at 11:15 a.m. Register online at www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana, or contact the walk coordinator at northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org for information.

Polycystic Kidney Disease affects thousands of Americans and 12.5 million children and adults, worldwide. There is no treatment or cure.

Hand-Stitched Painted Canvas

Hemlock Heather leads the program from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Participants 13 and older will make an arrow design with provided paint and thread colors. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The stitching aspect is basic and minimal. The cost is \$15 per person. Pre-registration and payment are required on or before Sept. 9.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- Sept. 11 — "Clean It Up With Homemade Cleaners," Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 2 — Medicare 2020: an overview.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Sept. 16 and 23, Oct. 7 and 28, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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



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Area Middle-Schoolers Complete Summer Leadership Camp



LaPorte County sixth- through eighth-graders involved in the 11th annual Summer Leadership Camp.

Leadership LaPorte County recently completed its 11th annual Summer Leadership Camp for middle-school students.

The camp, funded by a Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant, was held at Kesling Park for LaPorte County students in sixth through eighth grades. The students, nominated by their schools, participated in activities to teach leadership skills and positive character development. The facilitator was Monica Komaskinski, Leadership LaPorte County executive director, with assistance from board members and past LLCY program members. Activities include key concepts such as team building,

personal responsibility, self-confidence and respect for others.

During the school year, students continue leadership training with meetings and activities that focus on community, volunteerism, philanthropy, servant leadership and civic responsibility. As a result of a partnership with Youth Service Bureau and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, a select group of students will learn about grant-making for youth projects here.



Students involved in an ethical exercise.

Contact Leadership LaPorte County at (219) 325-8223 or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for more details.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



Novena to St. Jude

Holy Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, Faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly

beg to whom God has given such great power To come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition, In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to come to my assistance. Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days.

Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Sept. 5 — Are You a Savvy Recycler?, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Sept. 6 — Friends of the Library Book Sale, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 6 — First Friday in the Chapel, pianists Donovan Diedrich/Rose Marie Dure, noon, LaPorte Hospital Chapel, 1007 Lincolnway. Free. Info: (219) 325-7633.

Sept. 6 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

Sept. 6 — First Friday Back-to-School Celebration, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

Sept. 6 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Info: (219) 873-1520, www.barkermansion.com

Sept. 6 — Mary Ann Pals' "Petals, Waves & Wings," 5-8 p.m., The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St. Info: (480) 206-0964.

Sept. 6-8 — "Working," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. General admission: \$20, seniors & students/\$18. Reservations: (219) 879-7509, www.dunesartsfoundation.org

Sept. 6-9 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "David Crosby: Remember My Name." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Farewell." Rated PG. In English and Mandarin with subtitles. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Sept. 6-8 and 12-15 — "Doublewide, Texas," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/12 or younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, FootlightPlayers.org

Sept. 7 — Dunebrook dragon boat racing, 9 a.m., LaPorte's Stone Lake. Info: dunebrook.org

Sept. 7 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Hoadley Nature Trail in Three Oaks' Watkins Park. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Sept. 7 — Northern Indiana Walk for PKD, Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North. Check-in/10 a.m., walk/11:15 a.m. Info: www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana

Sept. 7 — Watercolor *plein air* event, 10 a.m. EDT, Art Loft Studio, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$55. Reservations: (630) 441-8976.

Sept. 7 — History of the 1917 Dunes Pageant, 3-4 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 7 — Hoosier Star, 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., LaPorte. Tickets: \$15, \$5/

12 & younger. Reservations: www.hoosierstar.com

Sept. 7 — The Annual Buddy Holly Birthday Celebration, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: acornlive.org

Sept. 7-8 — Applefest, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Garwood Orchards, 5911 W. County Road 50 South, LaPorte. Info: appleupick.com/upick/

Sept. 7-8 — Door Village Harvest Festival, Scipio Township Park, 3501 W. Joliet Road.

Sept. 8 — Grandparents Day at the Zoo, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Washington Park Zoo, 115 Lake Shore Drive. Free admission/grandparents with paid child admission. Info: www.washingtonparkzoo.com

Sept. 8 — Neighborhood Celebration, noon-2 p.m., The Salvation Army of Michigan City, 1201 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-6885.

Sept. 8 — WPL Movies in September: "Rocketman," 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave.

Sept. 9 — Popular Books, Celeste Ng's "Little Fires Everywhere," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 9 — "A Nightmare on Elm Street – The JFK Assassination" (Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum), 6 p.m. EDT, NB library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

Sept. 11 — 9/11 Remembrance Program and Stair Climb, 7:30 a.m., Michigan City Elston YMCA, 1202 Spring St. Info: (219) 874-6885.

Through Oct. 5 — Art exhibit, former LaPorte resident Roland Lee Hockett, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2504 Indiana Ave.

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

Saturdays through Oct. 26 — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

Sundays through Sept. 8 — Mount Baldy Open House, 1-4 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

In the Region

Sept. 6 — Opening reception, Series 6 Art Exhibition, 5-7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org

Sept. 7 — Biking & Birding, 8:30-11:30 a.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 8 — Free Avant-Garde(n) Party, 2-5 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, krasl.org

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History Museum Annual Dinner

South Bend's The History Museum will honor the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi at its 2019 annual dinner Thursday, Sept. 26, in the Oliver Mansion gardens.

The dinner is the museum's main fundraiser to help further exhibits and programs. A cocktail reception is at 6 p.m. EDT, followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Tickets are \$300 per person or \$3,000 for a table of eight. Reservations are required because seating is limited. Attire is business dress.

The event also will celebrate the exhibit "Keepers of the Fire: The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi," which runs through Jan. 19, 2020. The exhibit chronicles the history, culture and art of the Pokagon Band through interviews and oral histories, sculpture and beadwork, art and artifacts.

Contact Executive Director Randy Ray at (574) 235-9664, Ext. 227, to make reservations or for more details. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Call (574) 235-9664 or visit history-museumSB.org for details.

Dog Park Dedication

Trail Creek Park Board will celebrate the opening of its new dog park at Pritz Park from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

The event includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tree planting. A table will be set up for people to register for annual passes.



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Swallows by Lisa Lutz (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 399 pages.)

“You can keep telling girls to be polite, to keep a level head and it’ll all work out in the end...Don’t be alarmed when they grow tired of using their voices and playing by your rules. And don’t be shocked when they decide that if they can’t win a fair fight, they’ll just have to fight dirty.”

I’m a product of the public school system, so I never understood what it would be like to attend a private co-ed boarding school. I imagine there are good ones, bad ones and blah ones. This week, I offer you a novel about one of these schools and one revealing semester — rank it as you will.

Stonebridge School in Lowland, Vermont, is the setting, and each chapter provides a different voice — student and teacher — and different viewpoints. You may be shocked, or not, but you soon will learn that Stonebridge is a hotbed of lots more than learning the three r’s.

Teenagers — angst, fear of not making it into a top tier college, sexual curiosity — all these things make for a stewpot of boiling hormones. Some will handle it well, some will not.

First on the scene is Alex Witt, new creative writing teacher. She left her past post at a good school for reasons she doesn’t want to reveal. She knew at Stonebridge, she would get a job offer with no questions asked. Alex’s father is a somewhat famous author. It doesn’t take long for the students to find out she is his daughter. Alex is not happy about that — reasons to be revealed later.

Her students are a mixed bag. Alex surprises them by having them fill out a paper answering the following questions: 1. What do you love? 2. What do you hate? 3. If you could live inside a book, what book? 4. What do you want? 5. Who are you?

They don’t have to sign their name.

Sounds strange at first, but there’s a method to her madness. Within a week, she figures out which student wrote each paper. Alex is clever, not very conventional.

Next there’s Gemma, a student. She doesn’t come from wealth like many of her fellow students and is probably the most rebellious of the group — that will play out soon.

There’s Fin Ford, the English teacher, Keith, the coach, Greg Stinson, the dean of students, and a few others who put a capital C in character. The fall semester begins, things slowly fall into place...and

Stonebridge will never be the same.

Lord of the Flies popped into my head while reading this book — remember it? A group of boys on an island without adult supervision who soon fall into two groups — the weak and the strong. Stonebridge also begins to show the division of power, this time between male and female. And the adults are painfully not paying attention to what is happening under their very noses. The administrators are too involved in their own lives, and the few who suspect something are too afraid to muddy the waters or are too apathetic.

There is a group of upperclassmen (guys, of course) who call themselves editors. They have a Darkroom where secrets are kept, also photos and videos, and a record of a contest leading to their Dulcinea Award. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out this is a very specific sexual contest of which the girls are totally unaware.

Alex recognizes something is going on, but not exactly what. She knows the girls have always given in to the boys and what they want sexually. Why so? Because it’s a subtle control issue. Maybe the girls don’t see it that way, but on some level, the guys sense it and take full advantage.

Norman, a student and editor — but not an enthusiastic one — gives Gemma information about the Darkroom. Gemma tells Alex, and she tells the girls they don’t have to be controlled, but she has no idea how far the girls will take her advice. Finding out about the Darkroom brings the girls to the realization of how they have been duped. And, wow, they are angry, but they know the administrators will sweep it all under the rug. So? Next step?

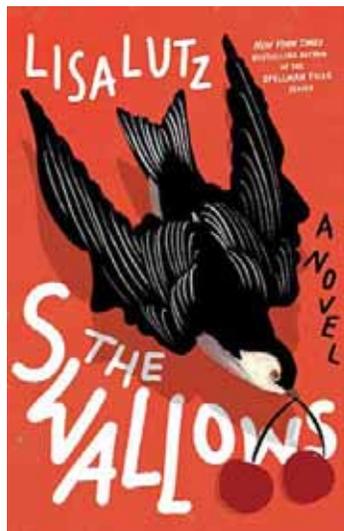
They decide to fight. Gemma: *“She (Alex) gave me allies so I could build an army. And you build an army so you can fight a war.”*

No one can imagine what will happen next: small wins by the girls only lead to vicious retaliation by the guys. Slowly, but surely, the escalation of the war reaches a point that common sense will tell you this will not end well...and it doesn’t.

There’s well thought-out characterization here, and the locale is beautifully laid out. The author’s knowledge of human nature is spot on, and provides a read as sharp as a carving knife, offering plenty of food for thought.

Besides writing books, Lutz has written for film and TV, including HBO’s “The Deuce.” Website: lisalutz.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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