



Volume 36, Number 16 Thursday, April 23, 2020



Avery Braden, 7, uses kids' paint to make her front door look like a stained glass window.

The New Normal

by Kim Nowatzke

"We're all in this together."

It's become somewhat of a social-distancing slogan amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the crisis has meant different things to different people. However, many local residents are concentrating on staying as positive as possible. And, they're making the best out of this unprecedented situation that so quickly and drastically disrupted everyday lives. As they face the unknown together, families are coming up with creative, memorable ways to spend time together – in-person and virtually with others – while they shelter in place.

"We have been filling up our days with as much positives as we can, considering these new unexpected uncertainties we have been dealt," Trail Creek resident Sarah Wojasinski said. "Although it is a tough time, it will be looked back on as a time when we found a lot of appreciation in each other as a family."

The Great Outdoors

Sarah and her husband, Marty, enjoy continuing a family tradition of beach walks with their children: Nate, 26; Madeline, 23; Aiden, 21; Sam, 14; and Sophia, 12. While practicing social distancing, they've enjoyed collecting beach glass, skipping rocks, hiking, family runs and bike rides to fill the gaps between daily schoolwork.

Spending time outdoors has helped

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Michigan City residents Mike and Jane Malott through their days, too.

“My mom and dad walk nearly every day on trails in the area,” their daughter, Shelly Malott, said. “They enjoy going for a ride with their Sheltie dog, Teddy, and recently visited Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife Area. A change of scenery helps them stay positive.”

For Michigan City residents Dustin and Valerie Jesko, who have 3-year-old Theo and 17-month-old Noah, outdoor activities have been a lifesaver.



Noah Jesko, 17 months, is thrilled to play with bubbles outside on his home's deck. His parents, Dustin and Valerie Jesko, cherish the time outdoors with Noah and his big brother, Theo, 3.

“Some days are much harder than others. With having two toddlers, getting out and going places is sometimes the only relief,” Valerie said. “While everything has been going on, we are taking advantage of the nice days and spending them outside. Even though we haven't had many of them, the few we have had are very beneficial to our mental health.”

The family enjoys visiting a local park, while being sure to practice social distancing. While taking long walks there, their route takes them past the playground equipment.

“Our 3-year-old asks to stop so he can go down the slide,” Valerie said. “We try to explain to him

that we can't stop, but he just doesn't understand why playing isn't OK.”

Yet, the Jeskos focus on what they can do with their young sons, stocking up on bubbles, sidewalk chalk and sports equipment.

“Our boys are outdoor kids,” Valerie said. “They are the ones that spot the smallest mud puddle and go sit in it. Our kids just enjoy being able to play in the backyard for hours.”

The great outdoors has played a significant role in the lives of Josh and Jenn Gregg and three of their four children: Madi, 22; Braydon, 17; and Jack, 7. Originally, the family planned to spend spring break in Laguna Beach, Calif., but decided to change plans once the COVID-19 crisis began. With Josh now working from home, and their kids completing eLearning or continuing their education virtually, they decided to embark on an extended stay in Scottsdale, Ariz., from early March through April.

“Josh and I went to The Five Love Languages Marriage Conference there the beginning of February and fell in love with the place,” Jenn Gregg said. “And we all wanted to go someplace warmer.”



Jack, Braydon and Madi, who are staying in Scottsdale, Ariz., during the COVID-19 crisis, enjoy hiking with their parents, Josh and Jenn Gregg.

She explained how family members hold each other accountable to their fitness goals. Jenn runs three times a week to improve her two-mile time, while Jack learned how to ride his bike without training wheels. The family takes a mandatory hike, bike ride and walk each week. Together, they met their goal of hiking a trail on Camelback Moun-

tain in Phoenix, and enjoy golf outings as well.

LaPorte residents Ben and Cathy Braden, along with their 7-year-old daughter, Avery, also rely on time outside as they practice social distancing.

“We make it a point to get outside everyday – even if it’s a short drive – so we’re not looking at the same four walls,” Cathy said. “We took the top off of our jeep for the very first time since we purchased it. Avery let her hair blow all over. It was so much fun.”

Michael and Nicole Cox and their 10-year-old daughter, Ryann, and 7-year-old son, Gavin, have made time outdoors a priority, too.



Michael Cox and his children, Gavin, 7, and Ryann, 10, enjoy a game of Quick Cups.

“Being outdoors is another favorite thing of ours,” Nicole said. “Whether it be jumping on the trampoline, playing volleyball, throwing the football around, going for a walk, riding bikes or taking a stroll on the beach, we try to get outside as much as we can.”

The Cox family creatively managed to work a favorite hobby into their “new normal.”

“Camping is also another hobby of ours that our family absolutely loves to do,” Nicole said. “Unfortunately, we have had to cancel some of our trips due to everything that is going on, so we had to get a little creative. We decided to bring our camper to our home and camp out in our driveway. Aside from spending the night in it, we also enjoy movie nights in the camper, and we love to play games and listen to music there. It breaks up our day and offers a change of scenery, which is so nice.”

The Michigan City Smiertelny family has been in a unique situation, as Lisa’s senior parents, Bob and Cookie Perez, live with she, her husband, Sean, and their four children.

“One of our favorite activities has been taking my parents on drives to places that they have never visited before, even though they have lived here over 45 years,” Lisa said. “We have driven to Indiana Dunes and walked out on the beach, compared the waves from New Buffalo beach to Michigan City beach and

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Couch Party Menu

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Deep dish Quiche</u> - - Whole \$25 Veggie \$30 Meat - - 1 Piece includes salad and fruit \$10 - <u>Biscuits and Gravy</u>(for 2) 10 - <u>Southshore Breakfast Burrito</u> 10.50- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With fruit - <u>Raytown Reuben With Chips</u> 11.50- - <u>Individual Chicken Pot Pie</u> 7.50 - - <u>Harvest Chicken Salad</u> 12- - Served with assorted fresh fruit, crackers and ½ Blueberry Muffin - <u>Mushroom Thyme Soup</u> 12 - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (1 Quart – 3 cups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Uncle Dan’s Blueberry Muffins</u> - (3 Pack for 10) - - <u>Dick’s Cinnamon Rolls</u> - - (3 Pack for 10) - <u>Key Lime Pie</u> - 20 <p style="text-align: center;">Visit our Facebook Page for our Weekly Quiche & Specials</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FACEBOOK LIVE with Johnny V! Every Sunday 12-1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Order by phone 219-809-6592 by Friday at 12:00 p.m For Saturday or Sunday curbside pick-up between 9-11 Free Delivery</p>
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tried to catch the sunset in different places. We try to catch when the moon looks vibrant or look at constellations with our phone apps.”

Some of area residents’ outdoor time has been spent in creative art projects. Following popular social media trends, the Bradens made stained glass art with painter’s tape and sidewalk chalk on cement, and with kids’ washable paint on their windows. Jenn Gregg said her family has transformed rocks into painted (and disinfected) “Kindness Rocks” they leave behind “for others to find and hopefully to spread some love and happiness.”



The Wojasinski family, Marty, Sarah, Madeline, Aiden, Sam and Sophia, enjoy creating positive and uplifting sidewalk chalk murals as a family.

In addition to decorating sidewalks with vibrant drawings and positive messages to help encourage those who pass by, the Cox family has attached bright-colored hearts and “Have Hope,” “Stay Safe,” and “We Will Rise Up” messages to their home’s windows.

“We aren’t just concerned about our own mental health, but the mental health of everyone else going through this is important as well,” Nicole Cox said.

The Just-As-Great Indoors

Locals have been boosting their own mental health with plenty of indoor activities. Shelly Malott has returned to adult coloring books, “as it relaxes me and lets my creative juices

flow,” in addition to planning interactive bulletin board designs as her job as an instructional assistant at Joy Elementary School. Jane Malott, a retired school librarian, keeps busy reading since eBooks provide fresh content. She concentrates on the Indiana Young Hoosier list for third to sixth grades so she can recommend them to students at Joy and Knapp elementary schools, where she volunteers in the library.

Kasey Rehbein, another Michigan City resident, has used her social-distancing time to concentrate on writing a novel. Through a Camp NaNoWriMo (www.nanowrimo.org) chal-

lenge held during April, Rehbein set her personal goal of writing about 1,200 words per day for a total of 35,000 words in the month. She decided in January 2019 to pursue her goal of becoming an author. She has finished the rough drafts of three young adult fiction books and is working on her fourth.

“It’s an escape,” she said. “It’s an opportunity to focus on something other than what’s going on today. It’s cathartic to focus on something that you have control over – the plot, characters, outcome – as opposed to our world right now that we have very limited control over, and where there are a lot of unknowns.”

The “New Normal”

The loss of structure within days has been a challenge for families interviewed.

“Every day, we wake up and don’t know what we are facing – what the new mandates are,” Jenn Gregg said. “We do better when we know what to expect. Knowing what our schedule is and what to expect helps us feel grounded and connected.”

The Gregg family’s schedule includes showers, breakfast and personal chores — making their beds, putting away laundry — finished daily by 9 a.m., in addition to other assigned chores for each member.

“Setting up a schedule for me so I don’t feel hopeless and depressed is a great way for me to be successful in surviving this stay-at-home order,” Shelly Malott said.

Nicole Parry, a kindergarten teacher at Pine Elementary School who lives in Michigan City, admits her new ambiguous schedule took some getting used to.



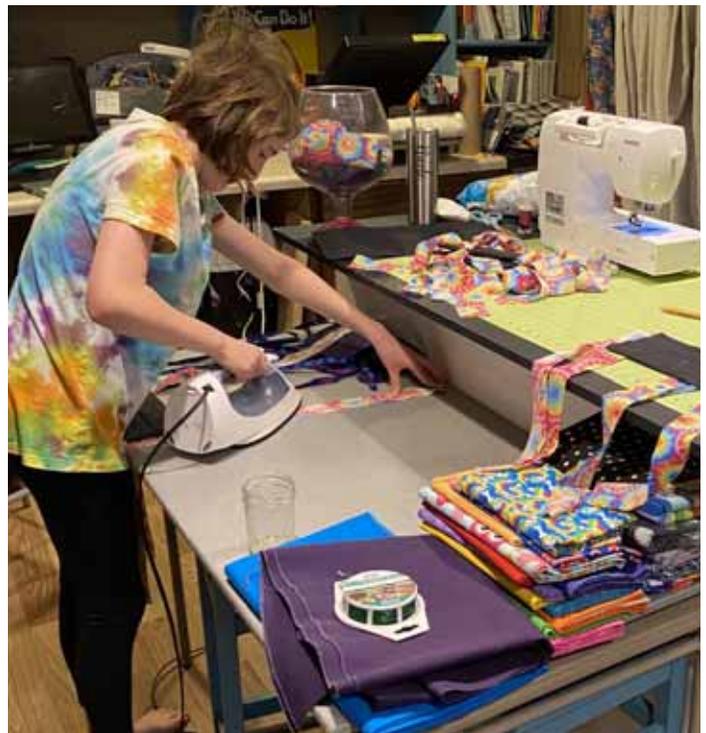
Josh and Jenn Gregg’s son, Jack, 7, enjoys a game of giant Jenga during his stay-at-home social distancing.

“The first week was the hardest for me. I am a planner. I like to know the details,” Nicole said. “I fill in calendars and make lists. I very quickly found myself having to figure out how to teach virtually and help my own children (Maddy, 11, and Mason, 9) with their schoolwork. This is my 14th year of teaching, and I can confidently say I know what I am doing at this point on a normal day in my classroom. This flipped all of that upside down. As I felt myself struggling, I could see it was having an effect on the rest of the family.”

Making A Difference

This is when Nicole Parry turned to another outlet that gave her a respite from teaching and mom duties, and allowed her to help her community: making face masks.

During the first week of social distancing, she saw plenty of Facebook activity about the need for masks for health-care workers. After further research, she immediately took on the project with direction from the Facebook group page NWI Healthcare Workers, which has donated 11,733 masks to 170 different facilities as of April 14. Maddy assists her mom by ironing the masks and trimming strings. At press time, Nicole has made 122 masks distributed to the Pines Fire Department, where her husband, Brett, volunteers in addition to area health-care workers,



Maddy Parry, 11, helps her mom, Nicole Parry, make face masks as part of an NWI Healthcare Workers Facebook Page project.

family and friends.

Michigan City resident Tara Stevens also began sewing masks after her work as a certified surgi-

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cal technologist slowed down due to COVID-19. She first made them for her daughter, Micaela Hackett, who is a behavioral health specialist in a long-term care facility for adolescents and teens, and for her daughter's co-workers.

"I wanted to make sure that Micaela would have some protection if it came down to it," she said. "Then, I started thinking about others that would probably need them if this thing got ugly – which is has proven to do in a very short time."



Brett Parry was one of the recipients of a face mask made by his wife, Nicole Parry, for the Pines Fire Department.

Others, especially those in the health-care field where Personal Protective Equipment is in high demand and low stock, reached out to her, so she kept on sewing, only asking for a small, nominal fee to replenish her supplies when they ran out. On their downtime at work, Tara and her co-workers even

have created disposable masks out of repurposed instrument wraps to help with the PPE shortage.

"I'm trying to make the masks 'fun' because, who really wants to wear a mask? I'm used to wearing them because I work in surgery, but your average person has never worn a mask and they feel uncomfortable," Tara said. "I'm trying to bring a little 'fun,' if you will, into an awkward situation. It makes me feel like I'm doing something productive and good for people in need. As a caregiver, I think I'm always wanting to help others in need, and this feels like a good thing to do with this time off of work."

Josh and Jenn Gregg try to support local restaurants by ordering carryout a few times each week. And, they have found a creative way to help their hometown's economy even while out of state. Each week, their Facebook friends enter a drawing for a carryout meal, compliments of the Greggs, from a local family-owned restaurant near Michigan City. The idea went over so well, they decided to do the same to support the local economy of Josh's hometown of Muncie, Ind.

"We're learning about restaurants that we haven't

eaten out at before. The restaurants have become so supportive. It's created a nice way to connect with people," Jenn said. "The first people we bought dinner for paid it forward for another family the second week, something we hoped that would catch on."

What's For Dinner?

Meal times have been an area of big change for most locals during the pandemic.

"We typically eat dinner at home, but our meals were often put together quickly and at the last minute due to both parents working and after-school activities," Lisa Smiertelny said. "After-school activities also prevented all of us from eating together because the kids are coming and going to practices. We have been able to plan out our meals ahead of time and eat together again."



Thalia Smiertelny, 10, enjoys cooking with her family during the pandemic.

The kids are helping us plan meals and baking desserts. (Daughters) Kayla, 17, and Thalia, 10, find new recipes online and check the cupboards for the ingredients."

For LaPortean Megan Bercham, who works at LaPorte County Public Library, the pandemic has left her with more time to pursue her baking passion. While currently staying with her sister and brother-in-law, Caity and Justin Spence, both essential workers, she enjoys making fun, elaborate dishes for when they come home from work.

"I've always been a baker for as long as I can remember, but this time has really just amplified that," Megan said. "I started with some focaccia that my sister wanted, and that then lead to me making banana bread, croissants, churros, cakes, loaf cakes and many other things. I find that I am making us more complex dinners that are almost completely from scratch. This is just due to the amount of time on my hands and they keep me pretty busy."

Megan even found a way to combine a second hobby with her culinary efforts.

"I have been very into photography since early high school, but I am not very technically skilled with it," she said. "I could tell you what ISO and

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f-stops are, but I could not honestly tell you how to use them.

“So, with the amount of baking I am doing, I decided that the best way to get better with technical skills is to photograph what I make. After I take them, I post them online on social media, and it just opens up a conversation of exchanging recipes, as well as talking about the photos them-



Megan Bercham enjoys honing her culinary skills by baking dishes such as this focaccia for her sister, Caity Spence, and brother-in-law, Justin, during her spare time due to the pandemic.

selves, which has been really nice. It creates this sense of communicating with your friends still, even though you can't go to see them.”

The Greggs ordered a Microgreens Home Growing kit containing pea shoot, radishes and sunflower seeds.

“We're making connections between life cycles and new growth through edible science experiments,” Jenn Gregg said. “We created a chart to track the seeds' growth and progress. Now we're eating them daily.”

The Smiertelnys created their own science experiment of “growing food from food” by “watching the process of celery and onions growing from the ends of pieces we've already eaten.”

The Bradens have started their own garden, planting seeds inside first. They've enjoyed searching for recipes that take longer than they normally would have time for. And, they are more careful about wasting food, such as turning overripe bananas into banana bread.

New “To Do” Lists

Families are occupying their time through a long list of other activities.

Cathy Braden has kept Avery occupied with science lab kits, making homemade slime, arts and crafts, board games and puzzles. She created a Bingo chart containing fun activities, as well as chores, such as “Mail a letter to a friend,” “Make and do a scavenger hunt” or “Clean an area of the house.” In addition, Cathy regularly checks the Girl Scout troop Facebook page. Avery's Girl Scout leader, Alison Hoover, posts fun activities.

“Doing activities to keep her entertained also entertains me,” Cathy said.

She also noted the idea of quarantine isn't new to the Braden household, as Avery is a childhood can-

cer survivor who is now in remission. She was diagnosed at 2 with hepatoblastoma, which she fought for two years.

When Avery was undergoing her cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, “we were on lockdown because we couldn't risk getting sick at all. I got in a routine of how to keep her entertained. We know how to have fun when we're locked up in our house. We've the experience of going through this many times before.”

Going into social distancing, Cathy embraced the attitude of “We've got this – we can totally entertain ourselves.”

Lisa Smiertelny keeps up with Girls Scouts for Thalia and Boy Scouts for her son, Roberto, 13, through Zoom so they can continue on schedule.

Nicole said she's seen her kids entertain themselves with items they haven't pulled out in a long time.

“We have a shelf in our game closet filled with different crafty things the kids have gotten as gifts over the years, and we have gotten many of those out,” she said. “Maddy got a

small weaving loom as a gift two years ago, and we finally put it together. She has weaved a purse and wallet for herself with that. She also decided she wanted to loom knit a hat for herself with a round loom.”

Area residents mentioned they've enjoyed spending time together playing board games, such as Euchre, Code Names, Ticket to Ride, Yahtzee, Sorry, Taboo, Parents vs. Kids, Quick Cups, Uno, Jenga and Skip-Bo. Shelly Malott plays Words with Friends online, and uses the chat feature to make it more social. The Parrys have held virtual games nights. Interactive video games such as Just Dance are favorites with families, too.

Staying Connected

Locals are trying to remember they are in this together by connecting with families and friends through technology such as ZOOM, Google Meet, FaceTime, Snapchat and Marco Polo, but also by drive-by conversations, even old-school hand-written letters. While virtual playdates can't replace in-person time together, it does give children a change to connect with friends.

Originally, the Bradens planned to visit Cathy's parents in Key Largo, Fla. When the pandemic pre-



Tara Stevens began making face masks to protect her daughter, Micaela Hackett, and co-workers, then continued the effort to help other health-care workers, family and friends.

vented the trip, Cathy's father, John Baxter, over-nighted "a vacation in a box" with fresh fish from the area for Ben and a coconut craft for Avery.

While acknowledging the harsh realities of the world today, families are accentuating the positive as much as possible.



The Gregg family enjoys hiding disinfected Kindness Rocks to spread "love and happiness."

"In ways, I feel like it has been great for us. We are always going and doing something," Nicole Parry said. "Both kids are involved in multiple sports and activities, and we don't always get a chance to slow down. My biggest challenge has been finding a balance between keeping myself busy and enjoying the downtime."

Nicole Cox added, "Our lives before this pandemic were so 'on the go' with things such as swimming, volleyball, Girls on the Run, student council, Circle the State with Song, doctor appointments, etc. It left little to no time to enjoy each other as a family and do things on our own with the kids. Now that things have changed, we have been able to do so much more together as a family."



Avery Braden, 7, made a coconut craft from a "vacation in a box" gift from her grandfather in Key Largo, Fla. Her parents, Ben and Cathy Braden, had to cancel plans to spend spring break there due to the pandemic.

Nicole continued.

"This stay-at-home order has actually brought our family closer," she said. "We now have so much more time to do things together, laugh together and just get to know each other more. I think it has helped us all realize the things that really matter and are important to us in our lives."

"It has also helped us have a greater love and appreciation for the ones who mean so much to us. We will now never take for granted meeting up with our friends, family get-togethers and being able to hug someone, among many other things. Not being able to do things like that have been the most challenging for us, but we are making the best of this situation."



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Non-Profits Remain on the Frontlines in Helping Community Amid COVID-19

by Andrew Tallackson

On average, The Salvation Army food pantry serves about 120 families a week.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, that figure has nearly quadrupled to more than 400 families weekly. In the past, people in need would enter the building and select items from the pantry. Now, with social-distancing guidelines enforced, food is distributed through prepackaged boxes and bags of perishables in the back alley of the Franklin Street site.

And for some families, this is the first time they've sought such help.

"We have seen people we have never ever seen before, people who say, 'I've never done this, I don't know what to do,'" Maj. Rebecca Simmons told *The Beacher*. "I say (to them), 'this is super simple. I ask questions, we put food in your car and we wave goodbye.'

"We have seen that happen over and over again. People who are now out of work, and they don't know what to do. So we are making sure we are filling that gap, for people who have never had to rely on this before."

Whenever public discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic turns to essential employees, what can get lost is that many of these individuals work through non-profit entities, groups like The Salvation Army and American Red Cross.

Supporting many non-profits here is the United Way of LaPorte County. Its beneficiaries include: American Red Cross Local Services; Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City; Catholic Charities of LaPorte County; Dunbrook; Family Advocates – CAYA; Grace Learning Center; Hours for Ours; Imagination Station Child Development; Keys to Hope; LaPorte County Family YMCA; LaPorte County Meals on Wheels; North Central Community Action; Open Door Adolescent Health Center; READ LaPorte County; Safe Harbor After-school Program; Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families; Stepping Stone Shelter for Women; Teen Court; and The Salvation Army.



Pate

United Way staff now are working by remote/home, but remain in close contact with staff from each agency, United Way Executive Director Kris Pate told *The Beacher*. They've also created a link, accessed through its website and facebook page, to accept COVID-19 donations, all of which directly aid United Way-supported agencies.

Contributions help out in these areas:

- Additional relief funds to LaPorte County agen-

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- Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Visit www.dunesartsfoundation.org, then click on the "Support" link near the top.
- Footlight Players, 1705 Franklin St. Visit www.footlightplayers.org. In the left column is a box

marked "Patron Program."

- Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Memberships, valid for one year from the date of purchase, are available at friendshipgardens.org/membership-benefits. PayPal receipts may be used as temporary membership cards until a permanent membership is received by mail. Once purchased, contact the office at (219) 878-9885 or at info@friendshipgardens.org to learn how to access the grounds when the gates are closed. Financial contribution can be made at <https://friendshipgardens.org/donate/> or by

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- Funds for food relief and restocking local pantries.
- Medical relief for costs linked to medical supplies, prescriptions and insurance copays/deductibles.
- Housing support for mortgage, rent and utility assistance, as well as assistance to shelters.
- Financial assistance for child care.

“These are our main areas,” Pate said. “We have a committee that meets once a week to review applications into United Way from non-profits. We don’t fund individuals, but organizations in the community who are addressing the needs people have right now.”

One piece of advice Pate has involves the forthcoming government stimulus checks. She recommends people use the money to pay bills and other key expenses, to stay ahead of the game.

“Stay current as much as you can, and then get help if you need it,” she said.

A concern, Pate continued, is that times of economic stress often lead to increased reports of domestic violence and child abuse.

“Most of the (non-profit) organizations are doing what they can, trying to stay in touch with families,” she said. “Everyone is doing what they can, but on a greatly reduced level.”

That is certainly true of the American Red Cross. Blood drives are still in effect, but no longer held at smaller businesses or venues. The reason, of course,

is avoiding tight, confined spaces that conflict with social-distancing guidelines.



Marlow-Kellemen

That’s according to Kristin Marlow-Kellemen, executive director of the American Red Cross’ Northwest Indiana Chapter. In addition to LaPorte County, it serves Lake, Porter, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Starke, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Fulton, White, Cass, Carroll, Benton and Warren counties.

Whereas in the past, blood drives were social occasions for frequent donors, Marlow-Kellemen says, the Red Cross now is adhering to Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requirements for social distancing. Blood donations are distanced apart by advance appointments. People wait in their cars. Extra safety and health precautions are taken.

The goal, Marlow-Kellemen says, is safety, and making sure wait times are as short as possible.

“This (COVID-19) has changed collections, for sure, and it’s changed for the donor as well,” she told *The Beacher*. “The days of waiting in lines and this being a social opportunity are gone. We are all maintaining our social distance.

“I will tell you, the message (about blood drives during COVID-19) got out really quickly. We were

Continued on Page 12

clicking the “Shop Now” tab on the @friendshipgardensindiana” Facebook page.

- Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000N, LaPorte. Visit www.hesston.org, then scroll to the “Donate” link.
- The Holdcraft Players, located in The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Visit www.yptcinc.com/holdcraft-players, then click on the “Support” link near the top of the page.
- LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org, then click on the “Membership” link at

the top of the page. Several options exist there.

- LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. Visit www.lcso.net. Two ways exist to help. Contributions of any size can be made. Those donations of more than \$100 are recognized in the season program book and are 100 percent tax deductible. Also available are subscriptions to the 2020-2021 season. The cost is \$80 for adults and \$65 for seniors 60 and older. “The LCSO operates on a ‘bare bones’ budget,” Executive Director Tim King told *The Beacher*. “Every penny earned or contributed is used wisely, and expenses are very closely monitored. We now have six consec

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Non-Profits Continued from Page 11

reaching people as quickly as possible. And Hoosier communities came out in strong support.”

In the past, a blood drive might have collected from 30 individuals. Now, that figure is closer to 100. However, Marlow-Kellemen cites a statistic where only about 3 percent of those eligible to give blood in the United States actually do so. And now, because of COVID-19, some past restrictions concerning who can donate have been lifted or modified, she said.

“If people haven’t given before, this is a great opportunity to have an impact with a life-saving donation,” she said. “Providing a donation also is healthy for an average individual. It’s like changing the oil in your car. Gives a little bit of a refresher, because we also do quick, little medical screenings.

“It is a healthy practice, and it can be a little intimidating, but if they haven’t done it, they should become a first-time donor. Give it a shot.”

(The Beacher lists weekly dates, times and locations for local drives. Additional information is available at www.redcrossblood.org)

For The Salvation Army, community needs persist amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantry items are distributed Tuesday and Thursday, with a few volunteers packing the



Majors Dale and Rebecca Simmons.

boxes on Monday and Wednesday. Rebecca Williams works out of the office, while her husband, Maj. Dale Williams, works by remote from home due to taking medication that acts as an immunosuppressant.

One delayed service is the men’s summer shelter. As of now, it will open May 1, but that could change, Rebecca Williams says, depending on the

latest updates involving COVID-19. The Salvation Army has a shelter committee that is working closely with Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, specifically Unity Vice President Debra Varnak, on the issue.

“We’re standing ready to serve that population,” Williams said, “in any way possible.”

Ways to Help and Contribute

Facebook pages are the best way to stay updated on each organization. Search for their name once logged into Facebook. We also have converted some websites to easier tinyurl addresses.

- American Red Cross: Visit tinyurl.com/qq6xk3d. The Red Cross also has a link to its Doing My Part outreach campaign. Visit www.redcross.org/doingmypart
- The Salvation Army: Visit tinyurl.com/sl95ewh
- United Way of LaPorte County: Visit tinyurl.com/uwbpeom

utive years with a balanced budget.”

- LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Visit www.laportelittletheatreclub.com. Then, click the green “donate” button at the top of the page.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Visit squareup.com/store/lubeznikcenter/
- Michigan City Historical Society/Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park. Tax deductible donations can be made through the museum’s website at www.OLDLighthouseMuseum.org
- New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St. Visit <http://new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org>, then scroll to the yellow “Donate” link.

- The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Visit www.regionofthreеоaksmuseum.com, then click on the “Volunteer/Donate” link near the top of the page.
- The Singing Co. of LaPorte County. Visit www.singingco.com
- Washington Park Zoo, 115 Lake Shore Drive. Visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com. Click on the “About” link, then scroll down to “Charitable Donations.”

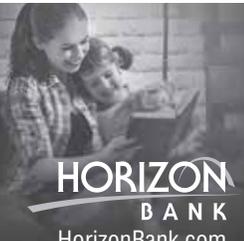
(Any non-profit attractions we missed, please email them to us at drew@thebeacher.com)

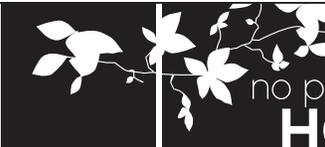


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Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center and Chesterton Branding Leadership Team developed a two-part plan to support the downtown business community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first component was a children's art contest. Children ages 4-7 and 8-15 could interpret the phrase #ChestertonStrong. Online voting occurred Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19. The two winning artists receive a full week of a CAC summer art camp of their choice.



Contest winners receive a full week of summer art camp through Chesterton Art Center.

For the second component, one of the winning designs will be turned into #ChestertonStrong yard signs so the community can support downtown businesses. Residents can buy yard signs for homes and businesses through a link on the "Visit Chesterton" Facebook page.

Funds raised by the project directly benefit Chesterton's local businesses. Email visitchesterton@gmail.com for more details.

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

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1. Don't "top" your trees. Topping is the removal of large branches to reduce the height of the tree. This causes decay that leads to large branch failures in the future.
2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.
5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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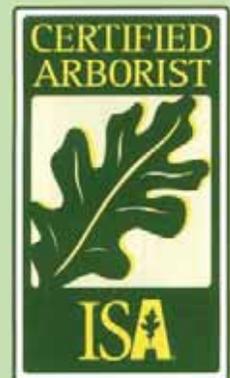
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Spotlight on Community Conversations



"Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary School" is the focus of the live-stream event.

Purdue University Northwest and *The Beacher* will host "Spotlight on Community Conversations," a live-stream event about the documentary "Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary School," at 3 p.m. Friday, April 24.

Spearheading the effort is the PNW School of Education and Counseling. The film, produced by KARE11 in Minneapolis and streaming through Amazon Prime, features the triumphs and challenges faced by children, families, staff and teachers at Lucy Laney Elementary School. The focus is how the principal and staff worked to get the school off the "underperforming" state list.

The panel includes: Anne Gregory, director of the School of Education and Counseling at PNW; *Beacher* Editor Andrew Tallackson; and Hannah Stambaugh, School of Education and Counseling student and Miss South Bend. They will explore social-emotional learning in classrooms and communities.

The program audience can include educators, community members and PNW students. Those watching may submit questions and contribute comments to the conversation. Viewing the film, which also is available on YouTube, prior to the discussion is recommended, but not required.

Log into Facebook, to facebook.com/pnw.soec, to watch the event.

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LONG BEACH TOWN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE ORDER

On 4/13/2020, the Long Beach Town Council adopted an executive order to take effect at 11:59 p.m. on 4/13/2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and expire at 11:59 p.m. on 5/11/2020 unless extended by the Town Council. To summarize:

1. Other than individuals travelling to or involved in essential activities, there is a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
2. The Community Center remains closed for all but essential activities, along with all parks, basketball courts and tennis courts. Moon Valley remains open, though please abide by social distancing guidelines.
3. Anyone travelling from out of state to Long Beach for any reason is now mandated to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes people involved in essential activities out of state. This self-isolation period resets each time you return to Long Beach.
4. Golfing (for members only, solo or in twosomes, without guests) will be allowed at Long Beach Golf Course. No carts will be allowed, and until this executive order is lifted, no golf carts will be allowed on Long Beach streets.
5. Enjoying the beach and walking on our streets is allowed, although, again, please observe social distancing.
6. Individuals with high-risk conditions such as diabetes, obesity, asthma, COPD or age greater than 60 are encouraged to minimize all travel to the extent possible. All of us need to practice social distancing, do frequent hand washing, wear masks in public places and disinfect frequently used surfaces.

Robert LeMay MD, Long Beach Town Council President

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“The English Game” Finds

by Andrew Tallackson

No one explores class warfare within thorny British society better than Julian Fellowes. With “The English Game,” he shifts that struggle to the soccer field, but without sacrificing the human element that makes him a superb storyteller.

Fellowes, of course, is the mastermind behind the PBS smash “Downton Abbey” and before then the similarly themed Oscar-winner “Gosford Park” (2001). His forte is the precise moment when divisions between Great Britain’s upper crust and working class start to crumble, when the two begrudgingly tip-toe toward a middle ground.

“The English Game,” Fellowes’ first venture through Netflix, unfolds in 1879, when football, or soccer, as we Americans know it, stopped being a sport solely for the wealthy. Unlike “Downton Abbey,” whose upstairs-downstairs saga unraveled in a fictional English manor house, “The English Game” introduces real-life individuals, key players in this pivotal point in the sport’s history. What Fellowes proves again is his talent for balance and empathy. This is another ensemble-based piece, and while Fellowes cannot resist rubbing a little “soap” on the material, each character gets his or her due. No one feels shorted, and each passing episode — there are six total — grows more emotional. The characters are so deftly drawn, each episode builds to powerhouse moments that stir the heart and soul.

“The English Game” begins in 1879 during the Football Association Cup quarterfinals. Favored to win are the Old Etonians, an upper-class team. Up against them is the working-class factory team Darwen FC, where owner James Walsh (Craig Parkinson) secretly pays two players from Glasgow, Scotland, to beef up the lot: Fergus “Fergie” Suter (Kevin Guthrie) and James “Jimmy” Love (James Harkness). Walsh wants to secure the FA Cup, designed only for amateurs.

It says something about the Old Etonians, their

snide sense of entitlement, that their uniforms include white linen pants. The players clearly don’t anticipate having to get their hands, and legs, dirty. And by centering much of the drama on life in Darwen, “The English Game” provides a stark portrait of the English working class at a tipping point in tolerating unacceptable work conditions. The Cotton Guild, which oversees many of the town’s key businesses, proposes a 10 percent wage cut and



Kevin Guthrie (left) and James Harkness are ideally cast as Fergus “Fergie” Suter and James “Jimmy” Love, respectively.

reduced hours to halve expenses. Talk of striking infiltrates the town, at one point resulting in workers, torches in hand, storming through town like an angry horde.

Guthrie and Harkness are ideally cast as Fergie and Jimmy. They don’t come across as contemporary actors dressed to look the part, but as if they might have come from the era. Guthrie (“Dunkirk”), in particular, is an actor to keep an eye out for, as “The English Game” affords him his best role. At 5’7, he is considerably shorter than his teammates, but what he lacks in size, he makes up for in intensity. Determination. Guthrie plays Fergie as someone exceedingly uncomfortable in his own skin: feeling like an imposter for being paid, while juggling a sense of duty to his family and his newfound “family” of players. That dilemma also taps into an issue

Julian Fellowes in Top Form

with resonance today, specifically athletes who play for money or because they love the game.

How Fergie reconciles these conflicts over the course of six episodes is a prime example of how Fellowes refuses to paint his characters in simple black and white. They are not assigned one personality trait, then reduced to being that single trait. They are allowed to rise, then fall, then boldly stand again, transformed.



The marriage between Arthur (Edward Holcroft) and Margaret (Charlotte Hope) becomes the emotional core of the series.

That is certainly true of Arthur and Margaret Alma Kinnaird, who with each passing episode become the poignant core of “The English Game.” Arthur (Edward Holcroft) is the Old Etonians’ captain and star player. His love of the game surpasses just about everything else in his life. His cushy job through his father’s bank, his marriage to Margaret (Charlotte Hope) — all of it fits into his notion of a comfortable life.

When Arthur and Margaret lose a baby to miscarriage, she descends into despair, he grows distant. Their union as husband and wife is put through the ringer, but the beauty of Fellowes as a writer is how he forces Arthur, through Margaret, to re-evaluate himself as a man and a husband. Step by step, these two not only regain their footing, but become equals in their marriage. By comforting Margaret in her grief, and embracing causes she supports — the working class, a facility for young unwed mothers — she, too, comes to appreciate how soccer is in Ar-

thur’s DNA.

Holcroft and Hope are absolutely wonderful here. More than any other individuals in “The English Game,” Arthur and Margaret emerge as better people. The moment when Margaret watches Arthur stand up in court for a man unfairly arrested during a labor dispute is powerful: a wife admiring the man her husband is on the cusp of becoming. And as Arthur’s grip on his cushy life slackens, as his defense of the working class alienates him from longtime friends, the journey is complete. Arthur and Margaret. On the same page. Their love for each other deeper than ever.

That Fellowes has you rooting for both sides of the equation adds to the complexity of “The English Game.” Even when the series lapses into “Call the Midwife” territory — the facility for unwed mothers includes its share of soapy twists and turns — Fellowes refuses to go for the obvious. That Fergie’s love interest, Martha Almond (Niamh Walsh, superb), ends up working there, a

development whose specifics I won’t spoil, is proof that in Fellowes’ world, characters can be smart enough to set aside devastating blows and consider the greater good.

“The English Game” ends content to depict these key events in history. If Netflix decides not to renew it, we would be satisfied. It stands tall with everything Fellowes has delivered. It’s *that* good.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Does Disney Have a Dud on its Hands with “Artemis Fowl”?

by Andrew Tallackson



Ferdia Shaw stars as the title character.

Eoin Colfer’s “Artemis Fowl” debuted in 2001, but for some reason never entered my literary radar. Could be a certain boy wizard tickled my fancy at the time. Heck, who *wasn’t* beholden to J.K. Rowling then?

When it was announced Disney tapped Kenneth Branagh to direct a live-action film adaptation of Colfer’s works, I was intrigued. Having sown his Shakespeare oats early in his career — “Henry V” (1989), “Much Ado About Nothing” (1993) and “Hamlet” (1996) — the actor shifted to helming agreeable, polished Hollywood entertainment, like “Thor” (2011), “Cinderella” (2015) and “Murder on the Orient Express” (2017). Having tackled Norse gods and Disney princesses, Branagh could certainly introduce a 12-year-old criminal mastermind and his skirmishes with the magical underworld.



Branagh

The film was slated for a May release. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, saw Disney reschedule its summer releases to the back half of 2020, with projects like Marvel’s “Black Widow” now debuting in November. In a surprise move, Disney decided

not to release “Artemis Fowl” in theaters, instead dumping it onto its Disney+ streaming service. June 12 is the premiere date, according to an announcement last week.

Disney issued a statement from Ricky Strauss, Disney+ president of content and marketing, that read: *“With audiences largely unable to attend theatres in the current environment, we are thrilled to offer the premiere of ‘Artemis Fowl’ on Disney+. Director Kenneth Branagh and his spectacular cast take viewers right into the vibrant fantasy world of the beloved book, which fans have been waiting to see brought to life onscreen for years. It’s great family entertainment that is the perfect addition to Disney+’s summer lineup.”*

As a PR move amid COVID-19, that sounds all fine and dandy. But having just read the first book in Colfer’s series, and having checked out the initial trailer online, I have a theory.

Disney lacks confidence in the film.

Even by gold standards achieved by Harry Potter and crew, “Artemis Fowl” is quirky. The first book essentially is a hostage tale/crime procedural, but with a cheeky Gaelic twist. The cops and other law-enforcement officials are fairies, dwarfs and the like. The hostage? An elf-fairy captured by the smarmy title character who, initially, is the least interesting of the lot. It is the magical folk, surrounding the

Artemis Fowl estate like the cast of some Dick Wolf TV crime caper, who fuel the laughs and intrigue.

The story has mass appeal for Young Adult readers — a crafty central character, outrageously silly beasties — but it is adults who get Colfer’s deadpan approach. Like Mulch Diggums, the kleptomaniac dwarf whose retractable jaw allows him to tunnel below into the Fowl estate. No need for a Trojan Horse when you’ve got this fellow on your team.

But unlike Harry Potter, Chapter 1 in the Artemis Fowl saga has no readily filmable imagery. No Quidditch match, no paintings that come to life, no dark lord in hiding. Just a bunch of oddball creatures trying to rescue one of their own.

So how do you translate that to film? Glancing at the trailer online, it was somewhat of a shock to discover I couldn’t find the book anywhere present in the imagery. Sure, the characters are there, but it appears they’ve taken what I call the “Cuisinart” approach: tossed several of Colfer’s books into a blender, then stood back to watch what tumbles out. The result looks hectic, chaotic.

Thinking back to the Harry Potter franchise, you have to admire what Hollywood achieved. Warner Bros. had faith in audiences that it would venture through the series one book adaptation at a time. That the core audience had the patience to take the journey as it should be done, by honoring Rowling’s

vision.

If “Artemis Fowl” is as killer as the Disney+ statement claims it to be, then why not postpone its arrival in theaters until the fall. For now, time



Commander Root, male in the book, is played by Dame Judi Dench in the film.

will tell if Branagh’s film does Colfer’s tales justice, if, at the very least, it remains true to the spirit of the books.

Until then, we wait. Cautiously optimistic.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Shakespeare Festival Rescheduled

The 2020 Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival has been rescheduled due to public-health and safety concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The planned productions, including “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “The Two Noble Kinsmen,” will move to equivalent dates in summer 2021. In the meantime, NDSF is working with schools, homeschool groups and community organizations to offer online workshops, classes and performances. ShakeScenes and Shakespeare After Hours, for instance, will become part of online offerings. Content is focused in three core areas: education, training and performance.



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Between June 15 and Aug. 5, NDSF will offer a twice-weekly series of online events in those core areas, ranging from readings and “flash” performances to classes like Shakespeare in Musical Theatre, Costume Design, Stage Management, Acting Shakespeare. The full schedule will be released May 15. All events are free, but patrons in some cases may need to register.

NDSF patrons who have purchased tickets for the 2020 season may:

- Apply their purchase to their DeBartolo Performing Arts Center account to use for a future NDSF or Actors From The London Stage event. Email or call the DPAC Ticket Office at (574) 631-2800. The credit expires April 1, 2022.
- Receive a refund to the card used for purchase. Patrons should email or call the DPAC Ticket Office. All calls will be returned within two business days.

The 2021 season will see the return of the NDSF Professional Company, featuring a new staging of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by Chicago-based theater director Lavina Jadhvani. Dates are Aug. 17-29, 2021. Tickets are on sale at shakespeare.nd.edu.

The NDSF Touring Company will present a new staging of “The Two Noble Kinsmen” directed by Scotty Arnold. The company will perform at various parks and stages across Michiana during July and August 2021. A complete tour schedule will be available soon at shakespeare.nd.edu.



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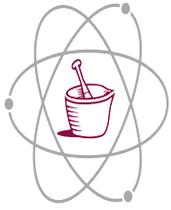
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A Guide to Area Restaurants Offering Carryout, Delivery Services

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, *The Beacher* looked into which restaurants in our area are still offering carryout.

A few restaurants also are offering delivery or curbside service, and that is noted as well. Please call ahead to confirm what is available.

By no means is this list a complete guide to local restaurants. Any businesses with changes or updates, call us at (219) 879-0088 or email drew@thebeacher.com

Michigan City Area

- A Slice of Heaven. (219) 380-8374.
- Albano's Villa. (219) 872-0571.
- Barker Pub. (219) 873-9306.
- Bartlett's Fish Camp. (219) 879-9544.
- Ben's Soft Pretzels (delivery available). (219) 879-5557.
- Biggby Coffee. (219) 809-9912.
- Bubbles Ice Cream Parlor. (219) 872-1024.
- Buffalo Wild Wings (delivery available). (219) 872-9464.
- Carlson's (regular services). (219) 872-0331.
- Chili's Grill & Bar (curbside, delivery available). (219) 872-2266.
- China One. (219) 872-7722.
- Cool Runnings Jamaican Restaurant. (219). 210-3885.
- Creekside Bar & Grill (curbside available). (219) 814-4041.
- Denny's (delivery available). (219) 879-1860.
- Domino's Pizza. (219) 879-8330.
- Dune Billies. Check facebook for details.
- El Cajete. (219) 872-3333.
- El Cantarito (curbside, delivery available). (219) 243-7117.
- Fiddlehead (delivery available). (219) 210-3253.
- FLUID Coffeebar and Roasting Lab (ask about delivery). (219) 878-1800.
- Frosty Boy. (219) 874-3773.
- Galveston Steakhouse. (219) 879-5555.
- Gelsosomo's. (219) 872-3838.
- Hacienda Mexican Restaurants (curbside available). (219) 879-4404.
- Hammer's Restaurant. (219) 879-0760.
- Hokkaido Japanese Restaurant. (219) 814-4226.
- Holly's Restaurant. (219) 879-5124.
- India House Restaurant. (219) 874-5700.
- Jimmy John's. (219) 871-0850.
- Leeds Public House. (219) 814-4530.
- Lighthouse Restaurant (drive-through, curbside available). (219) 872-1900.
- Little Caesar's Pizza. (219) 879-3211.
- Little Giant Pizza. (219) 874-4268.
- Local Option (delivery available). (219). 874-3663.
- Long John Silver's (drive-through). (219) 879-4193.
- Memo's House of Pancakes. (219) 871-1583.
- Miller Pizza by the Beach. (219) 878-9480.
- Mucho Mas Michigan City. (219) 221-6639.
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant. (219) 879-6830
- Panda Express. (219) 879-1079.
- Panera Bread (drive-through available). (219) 879-5765.
- Panini Panini. (219) 873-1720.
- Papa John's Pizza. (219) 872-7227.
- Patrick's Grille (curbside pickup). (219) 873-9401.
- Pita Express. (219) 210-3512.
- Polish Peasant (curbside). (219) 873-1788.
- Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen (drive-through available). (219) 210-3540.
- Red Lobster (delivery available). (219) 879-1328.
- Roma Pizza Michigan City. (219) 872-9123.
- Royale With Cheese. (219) 243-7106.
- Schoop's. (219) 872-0170.
- Shrimp Max of Michigan City. (219) 221-6485.
- Sophia's House of Pancakes. (219) 879-9999.
- St. Joseph Young Men's Society. (219) 879-9454.
- Stadium Inn. (219) 879-9781.
- Station 801. (219) 872-4976.
- Stop 50. (219) 879-8777.
- Swingbelly's Restaurant. (219) 874-5718.
- Tap House (curbside). (219) 221-6099.
- Taverna Tonelli. (219) 243-7181.



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- The Blind Pig (delivery available). (708) 243-0952.
- The Boathouse Grill (drive-through). (219) 814-4127.
- Three Sheets Bar & Grill. (219) 878-9872.
- Wana Pizza. (219) 873-9262.
- Zorn Brew Works Co. (219) 243-7157.

Fast Food with Drive-Throughs

- Arby's. (219) 879-0500.
- Burger King. (219) 879-0509.
- Culver's. (219) 872-5065.
- Dunkin Donuts. (219) 879-2922.
- Hardee's. (219) 879-8025.
- KFC. (219) 879-0343.
- McDonalds. (219) 874-7772.
- Rally's. (219) 221-6001.
- Sonic. (219) 878-1950.
- Subway. (219) 872-7827.
- Taco Bell. (219) 879-4022.
- Wendy's. (219) 872-0368.
- White Castle. (219) 879-5837.

LaPorte

- Aurelio's Pizza (delivery, drive-through available). (219) 324-9950.
- Bare Bones Gastropub. (219) 575-7469.
- Ben's Soft Pretzels (inside Walmart). (219) 324-8593.
- Buffalo Wild Wings. (219) 324-9464.
- Burger Bar & Grill (delivery available). (219) 324-1144.
- Cafe Trilogy. (219) 561-3310
- Colima. (219) 324-0355.
- Domino's Pizza. (219) 380-0760.
- Gourmet House Chinese Restaurant (delivery available). (219) 362-1270.
- Great Wall Restaurant (delivery available). (219) 324-4580.
- J&J's Pizza Shack (delivery available). (219) 362-4290.
- Jimmy John's. (219) 324-9600.
- JJ's Sideout Bar & Grill (delivery available). (219) 369-6583
- Little Caesar's Pizza. (219) 326-7725.
- Marco's Pizza (delivery available). (219) 326-1010.
- Mari's Mexican Restaurant. (219) 326-6226.
- Mucho Mas (delivery available). (219) 362-9183.
- Northside BBQ. (219) 324-0952.
- Papa John's Pizza. (219) 362-7272.

- T-berry's Diner (some delivery available). (219) 362-6261.
- Third Base Bar & Grill. (219) 324-0300.
- Trattoria Enzo. (219) 326-8000.
- Wana Pizza. (219) 324-6062.
- Wings ETC. (delivery through Grubhub). (219) 402-3803.

Fast Food with Drive-Throughs

- Arby's. (219) 326-1718.
- Burger King. (219) 325-9000.
- Culver's. (219) 369-6450.
- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill. (219) 325-0400.
- Dairy Queen LTD Brazier. (219) 326-5454.
- Dunkin' Donuts. (219) 369-4957.
- KFC. (219) 326-7433.
- McDonald's (Boyd Boulevard). (219) 362-6717; Pine Lake Avenue. (219) 362-5819.
- Pizza Hut. (219) 324-5180.
- Subway. (219) 326-5818.
- Taco Bell. (219) 324-5180.
- Wendy's. (219) 362-1155.

New Buffalo

- Beer Church Brewing Co. (curbside, delivery available). (269) 586-3864.
- Bentwood Tavern (curbside available). (866) 238-2208.
- Brewster's Italian Cafe (delivery available). (269) 469-3005.
- Casey's New Buffalo (delivery available). (269) 469-6400.
- Ghost Isle Brewery. (269) 469-9069.
- Jackie's Cafe (delivery available). (269) 469-1800.
- Pizza Hut. (269) 469-6900.
- Roma Pizza (delivery available). (269) 469-3698.
- Song Asian Cuisine (delivery available.) (269) 586-3699.
- Timothy's Restaurant (curbside available). (269) 469-0900.
- Villa Nova Pizzeria (delivery available). (269) 469-0200.

Fast Food With Drive-Through

- McDonald's. (269) 469-1924.
- Subway. (269) 469-5055.

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American Red Cross

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

- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 1-7 p.m. Friday, April 24.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., 1:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details. Donors through April 30 receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

• **Virtual “Beach Mysteries” from 10 to 10:10 a.m. Wednesday, April 22.**

A naturalist leads the virtual beach discovery program, introducing natural and cultural items that wash up on Lake Michigan’s shore. Visit www.facebook.com/INDUNES

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

Michigan City Public Library

E-books, e-audiobooks and digital resources are available on mobile devices through the free Axis 360 app, available in the App Store and Google Play Store.

They also can be streamed from the library’s Axis 360 website at mclib.axis360.baker-taylor.com/

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

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Footlight Scholarship Recipient

Michigan City High School Senior Anna-Lisse Lenard is the recipient of Footlight Players' \$1,000 Robert W. Komendera Theater Scholarship.

The annual scholarship, funded by patron donations, goes to a graduating high-school senior or recent graduate interested in continuing an education in performing arts.

Lenard has been accepted to Ball State University's School of Music, majoring in music performance. She has been part of the ISSMA solo and ensemble competition and received a level gold performance. She also has been part of the wind ensemble, and placed top chair for three consecutive years. Her dream is to be an orchestra member for a movie soundtrack, or in an orchestra pit for a professional Broadway show.



Lenard

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LaPorte County Public Library

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, LaPorte County Public Library is offering programs through the Internet.

Early Childhood Literacy classes have been adapted, with the virtual classes “Play & Learn” and “Stories & More” available through the calendar of events on Zoom, a video-conferencing software.

On YouTube, Miss Megan has created a series of videos explaining the Every Child Ready to Read program. Videos focus on reading, writing, talking, singing and playing.

Through Kanopy, patrons can use their library card to stream free movies. Click on “kanopy” to get started.

The online eBook club, Big Library Read, will host its next session through Zoom at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 9. The focus is comedian Michael McCreary’s memoir Funny, You Don’t Look Autistic: A Comedian’s Guide to Life on the Spectrum. The title is available through Overdrive in ebook and audiobook formats. Register at <https://bit.ly/3dquqGt>

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North.

Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

National Park Trails Open

Indiana Dunes National Park’s 50 miles of hiking trails remain open, providing safe space for exercise while social distancing and complying with the state’s Shelter-in-Place orders.

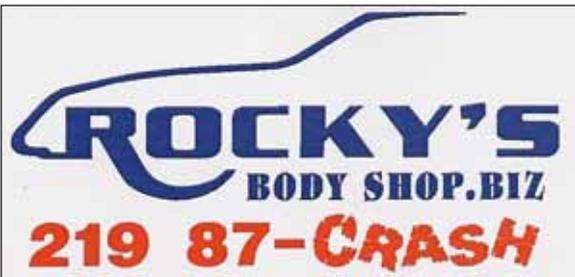
While all park buildings, including restrooms, are closed until further notice, hiking and biking trails, parking lots and most beaches remain open.

Law-enforcement rangers remain on patrol; however, visitors can help protect park resources. With most maintenance staff under shelter-in-place orders, visitors are asked to practice Leave No Trace principles, including: staying on trails, packing out your own trash and leaving the park as you found it. Violations can be reported at (800) Park-Tip.

The National Park Service is working with federal, state and local authorities to closely monitor COVID-19. The public will be notified when the park resumes full operations. Updates are posted at www.nps.gov/indu, and social media channels such as www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS

CALL THE BEACHER WITH YOUR NEWS!

Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week’s issue. (219) 879-0088



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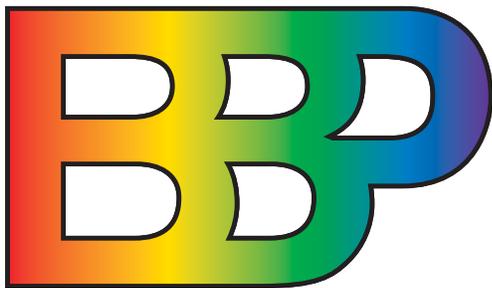
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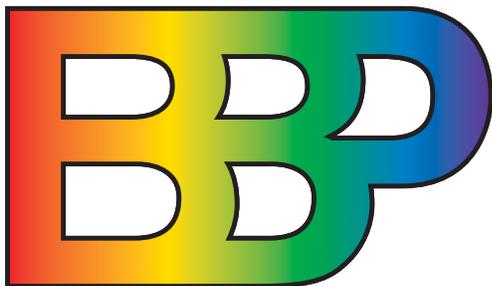
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 23, 1564, William Shakespeare, considered the world's greatest dramatist, was born in Stratford-on-Avon, an English market town about 80 miles northwest of London.

On April 23, 1789, in New York (then the nation's capital) President George Washington moved into the Franklin House, the new nation's first executive mansion.

On April 23, 1848, the Illinois & Michigan Canal, linking Chicago with the Mississippi River, officially opened.

On April 23, 1896, in New York, the first public showing of a motion picture took place.

On April 23, 1954, Hank Aaron, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals, hit the first of his record 755 major league home runs.

On April 24, 1704, *The Boston News Letter* commenced publication. It was the first American newspaper to be printed on a regular basis over an extended period of time.

On April 24, 1800, with a startup fund of \$5,000 "for the purchase of such books as may be necessary," and with the books from Thomas Jefferson's entire library, the Library of Congress was officially established.

On April 24, 1897, William Price, upon reporting for work at *The Washington Star*, became the first journalist to have the title "White House Reporter."

On April 24, 1942, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley was born.

On April 25, 1719, *Robinson Crusoe*, a novel by Daniel Defoe, was first published.

On April 25, 1859, Chicago's first horse-drawn street railway, began operation on State Street between Lake and 12th Street (Roosevelt Road).

On April 25, 1901, New York became the first state requiring automobile owners to have license plates for their vehicles; the fee was \$1. The plates, for all 954 registered cars, carried their owners' initials.

On April 25, 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway, connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, was opened to shipping.

On April 26, 1607, colonists from England, led by Capt. John Smith, landed at Virginia's Cape Henry to establish the first permanent settlement in America.

On April 26, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was found dead in a

Virginia barn.

On April 26, 1954, an announcement was made that 900,000 American children would receive the Salk anti-polio vaccine.

On April 26, 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of a record 61 home runs in a single season.

On April 27, 1875, New York's Roman Catholic Archbishop John McCloskey was installed as the first American cardinal.

On April 27, 1906, U.S. Steel broke ground for its new steel mills, and a city named "Gary" was born on the Indiana shores of Lake Michigan.

On April 27, 1937, the nation's first Social Security checks were distributed.

On April 27, 1972, after an exploratory mission to the moon, Apollo astronauts John Young, Thomas Mattingly and Charles Duke made a safe splash-down in the Pacific.

On April 28, 1789, while sailing in the South Pacific, the crew of HMS Bounty took over the ship, casting Captain Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in a lifeboat.

On April 28, 1947, a six-man expedition sailed from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the Kon-Tiki, the beginning of a 101-day journey that would take them across the Pacific Ocean to Polynesia.

On April 28, 1967, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali (Cassias Clay), refused induction into the United States Army.

On April 28, 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

On April 28, 1992, the Agriculture Department unveiled its pyramid-shaped recommended diet chart that had cost nearly \$1 million to develop.

On April 28, 1993, the first "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," promoted by the New York based Ms. Foundation, was held to boost the self-esteem of girls by having them visit a parent's place of work.

On April 29, 1492, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead the French to victory over the English.

On April 29, 1899, jazz legend Duke Ellington was born in Washington.

On April 29, 1913, Gideon Sundback, of Hoboken, N.J., was granted a patent for a "separable fastener." It is now known as the zipper.

On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American forces liberated the concentration camp in Dachau. The same day, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz his successor.

On April 29, 1974, President Richard Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made tape recordings related to Watergate.

On April 29, 1983, Harold Washington took the oath of office as Chicago's first black mayor.

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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.



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.

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

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A Temporary Change in Office Hours

During the COVID-19 crisis, The Beacher will limit hours it is open to the public. The new hours are

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday
Phone first please (219) 879-0088

Editor Andrew Tallackson will be in the office regular hours throughout the week and can be reached at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com. The weekly deadline to submit ads for the ensuing week's publication remains the same: noon Thursday. The weekly deadline to submit press releases and community notices is noon Thursday as well.



We appreciate all of your patience and support, and we will announce in The Beacher and on Facebook when the office resumes regular hours to the public.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Operator by Gretchen Berg (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 337 pages)

"I love the charm, the coziness, the predictability of it all. Mostly the people. They'll never really surprise you, small town people, you know."

"But everyone knows everyone else's business."

"Not if you're careful."

This is an eye-opening look at life in a small Midwest town in the early 1950s. It shows the simplicity of the times and the bigotry of the times. It goes from charming to funny to hateful to sad in a heartbeat, and you won't be able to put it down.

It's 1952 in Wooster, Ohio. Vivian Dalton has worked as a telephone operator for Ohio Bell Co. for a long time. For those of you too young to know, back then, there was no direct dialing. You picked up the phone, an operator answered and you gave her the phone number you wanted.

Vivian loves her job and the opportunity to listen in on conversations without anyone the wiser. But she's not the only one: all the operators do it! After all, Vivian...*"rationalized that she could be more compassionate to her fellow Woosterites if she knew what was going on in their lives."* Hmm. Not sure about that thought process. Vivian also thinks she "knows" people and can read them like a book. Again, about that thought process...

One fateful night at work, Vivian puts a call through for Betty Miller, but surprisingly, she doesn't recognize the caller's voice. Time to listen in...The conversation is about Vivian. What she hears will destroy all she thought she knew about her life...how can it ever be the same? Question is, will Betty distribute this information immediately, or hold it for a more opportune moment? The author is cagey, holding the contents of the conversation for some pages later...

Vivian is married to Edward Dalton. They have a high school sophomore daughter, Charlotte. They are neither rich nor poor. Life is good, or so it would seem.

Betty Miller, the town's social leader, is the bane of Vivian's existence. After all, her daddy is mayor and president of the local bank. She attended college, Vivian only to eighth grade. For some reason, Betty has a vendetta against her. Why? All will be revealed...eventually.

Moving on — another mind-blowing moment comes when two bank employees, Gilbert Ogden and Flora Parker, rob the bank of \$250,000 and hightail

it out of town. Flora leaves behind a husband, so we have a double jaw-dropping moment! Trust me, there is a third jaw-dropping moment connected to this event.

J. Ellis Reed, Betty's daddy, promises to return all the money to the depositors out of his own pocket, but somehow only the well-to-do and his personal friends get their money back; those in the lower spectrum of society are conveniently looked over.

This is another reason the book is so special: Berg offers a look at the mores and social rules of the era. For example, one night Vivian invites

the Italian woman who works with her and her husband to dinner. Her husband is shocked she would invite those "Guineas" into his home. The bigotry of the time is as much a part of life as ladies wearing the right hat and gloves to match their outfits for Betty Miller's afternoon teas, which are nothing more than gossip-spreading events.

In the meantime, Vivian's marriage is falling apart from the information in that fateful phone call, of which the reader now knows the contents. *"The once romantic, charming, and sparkling had sunk and crusted into something bleak, stale and dirty."* Heavens. Vivian continues obsessing about who called Betty with the earth-shaking news and

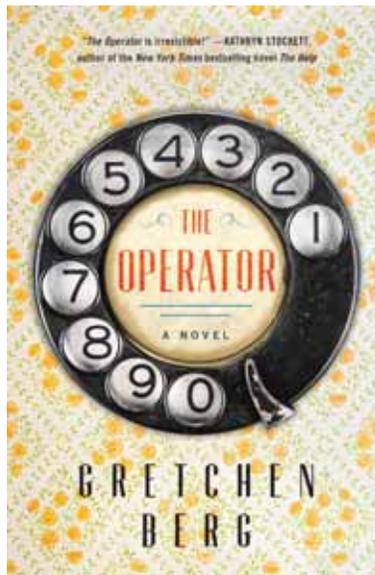
decides it's time to look into it herself. She takes off for Syracuse, N.Y., where her husband is from, and does some sleuthing. Edward had been trying hard to make up for the damning information his wife now holds, but Vivian just can't get over it. And can you blame her? Everything she thought she knew about her husband is a joke, something for Betty Miller to hold over her head.

But, dear readers, there is light at the end of the tunnel! Syracuse does provide Vivian with needed information, but she also stumbles across more information that will really blow the lid off Wooster, Ohio, and the social hold Betty Miller has over the town will come tumbling down. But there's one problem — Vivian herself. Can she throw Betty Miller to the dogs? It will be an interesting moral problem to solve, unless someone else takes the burden off Vivian's shoulders.

This debut novel is a shining beacon of perfect prose and a storyline filled with fascinating characters you won't soon forget. It's a nostalgic and insightful look at what it was like in the '50s.

As the song says, it's "simply irresistible"!

Till next time, happy reading!





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