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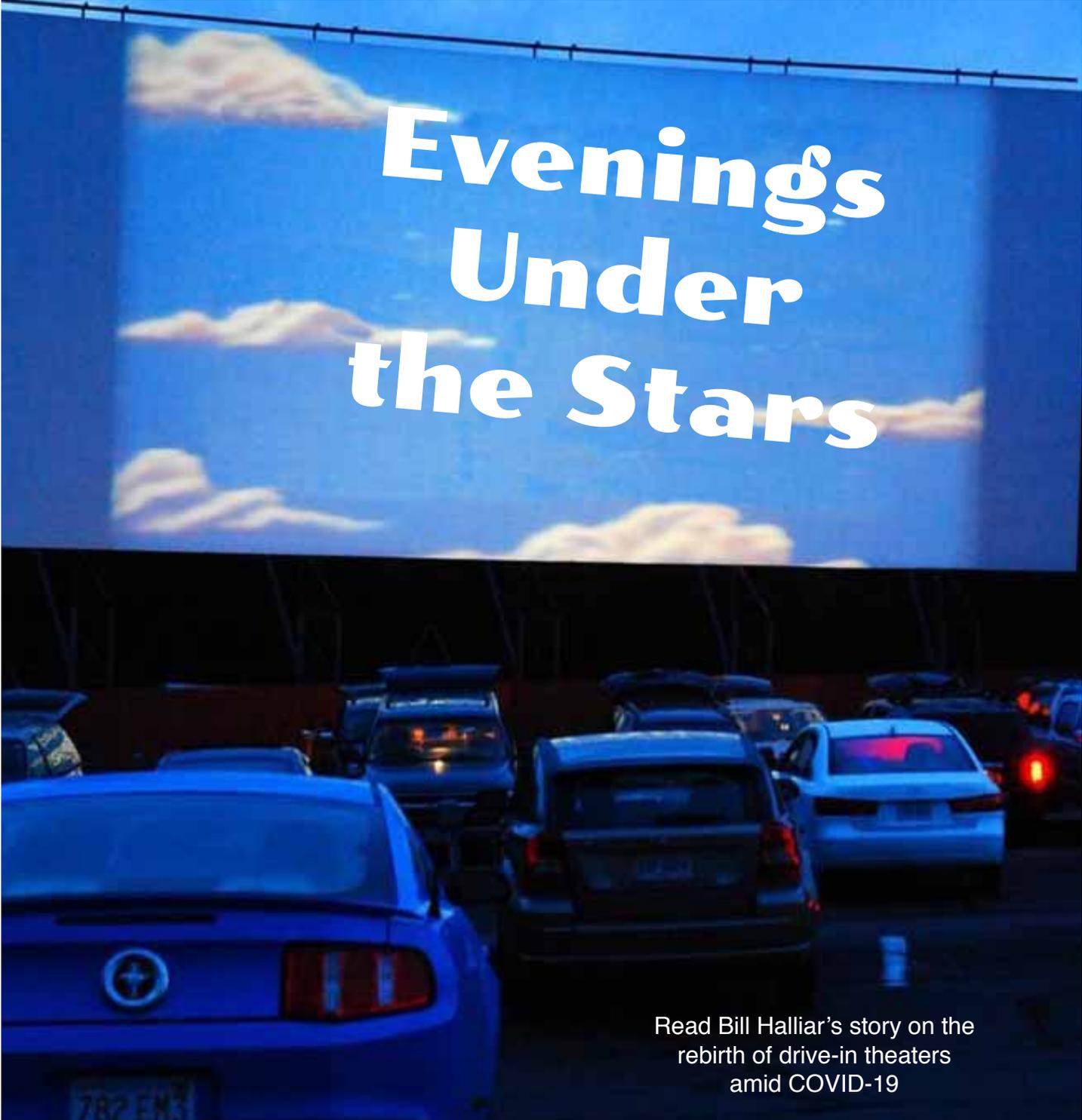
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Volume 36, Number 27 Thursday, July 9, 2020

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**Evenings  
Under  
the Stars**

Read Bill Halliar's story on the  
rebirth of drive-in theaters  
amid COVID-19

THE Beacher

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Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

# 49'er, Melody Thrive Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

by William Halliar

There is nothing like a night at the movies.

Being lost in the thrall of a great story. The smell of freshly popped corn, the taste of your favorite candy on your tongue. Sitting and sharing an evening with friends and family.

Traditional indoor movie theaters may have shut down in March due to COVID-19, but drive-in theaters are flourishing. It has become the ideal way to experience movies while practicing social distancing. Families across the country are flocking to these iconic venues to rediscover classics ranging from "Jaws" and "Jurassic Park" to "Ghostbusters"

and "The Goonies."

Outdoor movie theaters have been part of our unique American automobile culture for more than 80 years. The industry has had its ups and downs, forcing many to close. In 1958, more than 4,000 drive-in theaters existed. The United Drive-in Theater Owner Association reported that as of last October, 305 theaters with a total of 549 screens remained. Nonetheless, these treasures, as COVID-19 has demonstrated, are reinventing themselves, dedicated to presenting great entertainment at a reasonable price to young and old alike.



The marquee at the Melody.



The first drive-in theater at its 1933 opening in Camden, N.J.

The outdoor theater, believe it or not, has its roots in the invention of the first carbon-arc light that, according to some sources, was first demonstrated way back in 1802 by a gentleman named Humphry Davy, a Cornish chemist and inventor.

Every inventor realizes that today's technological breakthroughs are built on inspirations and ideas explored before them, and so it was with the story of the modern outdoor theater.

Most today would credit Thomas Edison with the invention of movies as we know them, but his initial invention, the "kinescope," was a small viewer intended to be enjoyed individually, one person at a time, through a small machine cranked by hand. These were placed in viewing parlors where, for a small fee, a person could crank his way through a short film, something called a "peep show."

The kinescope was a mere novelty and not suited for telling complex stories. The invention of the device was a collaboration between several creative minds. One was George Eastman, who contribution to the fledgling movie industry was the invention of photographic film on a roll.

Perhaps Edison's greatest contribution to the motion picture industry was the invention of a camera that could capture sequential images on Eastman's roll film. It was this camera, a complex device in its own right, that made the creation of motion pictures possible.

Continued on Page 4

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## 49'er, Melody... Continued from Page 3

A movie projector, called the "Panopticon," was invented and perfected by an American, Woodville Lathem, at the behest of sons Grey and Otway, who were producing short films for Edison's Kinetoscope at the time. They wanted to project their films on a screen that could be enjoyed by a larger audience.



Woodville Lathem, who invented the "Panopticon."

Lathem was an officer for the Confederacy during the Civil War. In 1895, he was an assistant at the Edison Laboratory. Woodville and partner W.K.L. Dickson invented a device later dubbed the "Lathem Loop." Any older folks who grew up in the 1950s may recall how a loop of film was placed before the gate in front of the movie projector lens, a delicate operation at best. This loop prevented the projector

from pulling directly on the film within the reel, allowing the use of larger film reels and making much longer movies a possibility. This projector, combined with Edison's kinesthetic images and Davy's 1802 carbon-arc light, made it possible for a larger audience to view longer features. Lathem billed his invention as the "Projecting-Kinetoscope," and the modern movie industry was born.

In September 1894, Edison's Kinetoscope was exhibited in Paris. Brothers Auguste and Louis Lumiere, manufacturers of photographic equipment, were intrigued by the invention and wanted to develop a projector to take the vision outside the box, so to speak, and project it on a large screen for a greater audience. They, of course, employed Lathem's Loop and Davy's 1802 arc light, creating their own version of a projector.



Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope.

The Lumiere brothers invented a movie projector they named the cinematographe (sic) and by the end of 1885 were projecting the first motion pictures to a large-paying audience. The first theater built specifically for the showing of projected movies was the "Electric Theater" in 1902 in Los Angeles.

More inventors and creative minds entered the field, combining ideas of science and entrepreneur-

ship. The field of movie making and projection advanced quickly.

Plato famously said, "Necessity is the mother of invention" in his dialogue "Republic." With that in mind, necessity was the mother of invention of what we today call the drive-in theater.

The early 20th century was a time of great technological advancement in the automobile and motion-picture industries. Like peanut butter and jelly, America's two great passions were destined to be combined. A gentleman named Richard Hollingshead made the connection.

Hollingshead was born in 1869 in Riverton, N.J. In the early 1930s, he was working at Whiz Auto Products as a sales manager when a brilliant idea came to him. His mother enjoyed going to the movies, but because of her great girth — she was a particularly large woman, so the story goes — she was quite uncomfortable in the typical theater seat of the day. Why not come up with a way even his mother could enjoy movies? Thus, Hollingshead's mother literally became the "mother" of the next advancement in movie history.



Richard Hollingshead.

In 1921, two gentlemen from Dallas, Texas, J.G. Kirby and Dr. Reuben Jackson, introduced the first drive-in restaurant to the world. They called it the "Texas Pig Stand," their specialty being barbecue pork. Their success gave Hollingshead the idea to combine moviegoing with modern fascination with the automobile. He came up with an idea where his mother could stay within his comfortable automobile and still enjoy the entertainment of a movie.

Hollingshead began to experiment in the driveway of his home in Camden, N.J. He placed a 1928 Kodak movie projector on the hood of his car. The movie was projected onto bed sheets spread between two trees. A speaker was placed behind the sheet so the sound would come from the movie itself.

Hollingshead also came up with an arrangement that could be used for multiple cars, and a ramp for each car to raise the hoods of vehicles for improved viewing over the roofs of other cars.

One can only imagine how pleased his mother was with this new invention, because Hollingshead applied for a patent later granted to him on Aug. 6, 1933. Along with three investors, Hollingshead purchase a 400-acre lot and constructed his theater per Hollingshead's patent on Admiral Wilson Boulevard in Camden. They called their theater a "drive-in." The first marquee read, "The world's first! The first sit in your car - see and hear movies." The giant screen was 40x40, and sound was provided by three RCA speakers 6' tall. Moviegoers were charged 25 cents per person and 25 cents per car. No car paid more than \$1.

After that, the idea of outdoor drive-in theaters

took off. By 1958, at the height of drive-in popularity, there were 4,063 such theaters in the United States. But with new options such as home video, multiplexes and increased TV programming, the number of outdoor theaters dwindled, with more than 1,000 theaters closing between 1978 and 1988.

Today, in Indiana, only 19 drive-in theaters remain in operation.

Within a short drive of Michigan City, we have two of these wonderful venues still in operation. They are safely open during COVID-19, special places where the entire family can take in Hollywood's amazing stories. They are: Valparaiso's 49'er Drive-in, 675 N. Calumet Ave. (Old Indiana 49), just 18 miles from Michigan City, and Melody Drive-In Theater, 7055 U.S. 35, Knox (Bass Lake), just 42.7 miles from downtown Michigan City.

The 49'er is celebrating its 21st season with the Cotton family: Mike and Steve. The theater, itself, has been in operation for 56 years and this summer is open every night. Steve died a year ago, but his wife, Phyllis, continues his dream of keeping the tradition alive in Valparaiso. She handles public relations



The marquee at the Valparaiso 49'er Drive-in, 675 N. Calumet Ave., which promotes two Steven Spielberg-produced films from the 1980s.

and special events, while Mike works the projector and keeps the place running smoothly.

The theater has a single 90x120 screen and can

Continued on Page 6

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## 49'er, Melody... Continued from Page 5

accommodate 600 to 650 cars. There are benches for seating in front of the projection booth. During some sellout movies in the past, such as "Shrek" and "Toy Story," cars parked outside the perimeter fence and people sat on the grass in front of the screen. At the 49'er, movie sound is broadcast through car radios, but can be heard by all.

For now, until COVID-19 fears are put to rest, only 250 cars are allowed at a time. The concession stand, which serves a large selection of delicious treats, from pizza to sweets, permits just three customers at a time to allow for social distancing.



Phyllis Cotton and Mike Cotton

Phyllis says the 49'er is "a great place for kids." Costumed characters often make visits for photo ops, like the Avengers, Batman and Wonder Woman. During the showing of "Shrek," a live donkey made an appearance, while Jesse and Woody delighted young ones to accompany the "Toy Story" showing.

The 49'er also hosts special musical concerts. On July 5, Garth Brooks was in the spotlight.

A live performance of a Jimmy Buffett concert shown a few years ago was one memorable evening. A special antenna had to be installed to receive the live feed. Buffett held the benefit concert to help outdoor theaters who at the time were footing the bill to switch from the traditional reel to reel projectors to new digital units.

Movie studios switched from film to digital format, and theaters had to foot the bill for a \$150,000 digital projector, as well as construct a climate-controlled projection booth that was heated, air-conditioned and maintained year-round, even during the off season.

The 49'er switched to digital in 2016. Before that, Mike spent much time hand splicing five or six reels of film together each week for the Friday night opening.

Now, most of the income is derived from sales at



The 49'er's Mike Cotton, at the controls of the digital projector.

the concession stand since movie studios have increased the prices of their film rentals.

On May 18, the theater experienced a first: a high school graduation. According to a *Times of Northwest Indiana* article, Principal Kevin Teasley of the 21st Century Charter School of Gary said, "In what has been an unbelievable year, we are able to do something unbelievable." Graduates took to the stage to receive their diplomas while parents sat at a comfortable distance in their vehicles, sharing the joy and celebrating with their students.

So, the old theater takes on a new life and grows with the times. Mike and Phyllis Cotton are excited to meet the challenges of the future.

For an old-fashioned good time, the 49'er can't be beat. People tend to show up early. On one fine warm evening, children play in a large, grassy, open area in front of the screen while the adults visit with neighbors and snack on delicious foods. As the sun falls, the "Beep-beep song," a 1958 Roulette classic by the Playmates, is heard over the theater speakers, and all of the cars blow their horns to accompany the song. There is a moment of quiet for The National Anthem, and all settle in for an evening of movie magic.

A little further to the east, near Knox in the Bass Lake area, is the Melody Drive-in.

The Melody also is a family operation. The theater was built in 1949 by George Banta and Richard Hand. It was sold in 1961 to Edward and Marguerite Heise and has been run by the Heise family ever since. Fred and his wife, Louise, purchased the theater from his parents in the early '70s. Louise

Continued on Page 8



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# 49'er, Melody... Continued from Page 6

passed away last year and Fred is contemplating retirement. Now, Fred's son, Fred Heise II, is taking an active role in operating the theater, preparing to take the business into the future.

The Heise's motto and vision are, "Presenting the future while preserving the past."

The Melody Theater has two 30x70 screens and can accommodate 300 cars in the front theater and 180 cars in the back. The screens tilt down to provide a better viewing experience.



Father and son, Fred Heise and Fred Heise II, at the digital equipment at the Melody.

Like the 49'er, the concession stand is filled with delicious snacks. Instead of allowing folks inside or having them line up outside the concession building, orders for snacks are taken at a window, then drivers are texted when their food is ready. This has become quite a popular perk during the pandemic.

Melody switched to a digital format for projecting film in 2013. Fred says he still misses the clackety-clack sound of the old projectors. He also laments the old projectors could be fixed and kept running with bailing wire and duct tape, even run by hand if need be. The new digital projectors are expensive and must be repaired by tech specialists.

Everyone in Fred's family has worked at the theater at one time or another. He says his children never had a summer vacation, but worked right through. They enjoyed the experience.



A digital movie cassette at the Melody.

People coming from Chicago and Lake County, vacationing at Bass Lake resorts, form the bulk of the summertime audience.

Since 1995, the Melody Drive-In has been home to the Bass Lake Ministry begun by the Rev. Tim Miller to cater to area tourists. Today, the pastoral responsibility is shared by area Lutheran churches. What began with an attendance of a few cars every Sunday in the summer now averages at least 240 people a week. This ministry, in a normal season, has services at the theater over the 15 Sundays of summer from Memorial Day until Labor Day. This year, because of COVID-19, outdoor services began in March.

When asked about unusual memories, Fred hesitates, then mentions the baby born in the ladies bathroom one summer evening, and the day a circus came to town. One summer's morning, Fred received a call from a circus owner who was on the road and needed a place to water and exercise his animals. According to the circus owner, they could put on a show and split the profits. A big profit was not expected because there were no advertisements, but it might be fun. Fred agreed to let the circus set up and was amazed at how efficiently the elephants helped raise the big tents. When the circus pulled up stakes, the entire area was left spick and span.

Because of the ingenuity and perseverance of the Cotton and Heise families, we can enjoy an evening under the stars with the stars of the silver screen.

In the words of Fred Heise Sr., "It has been a good life."



A banner advertising specifics about the Melody.

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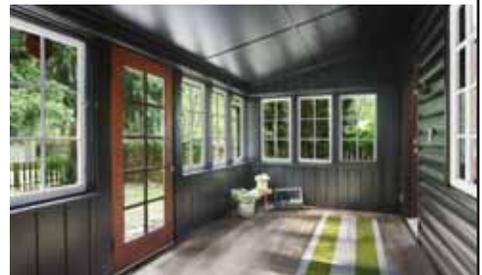
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## Disney+ Gives “Hamilton” the Royal Treatment

by Andrew Tallackson



Lin-Manuel Miranda and Phillipa Soo star in “Hamilton,” now streaming on Disney+.

A part of me regrets having not seen “Hamilton” on stage. Few Broadway musicals carry such extraordinary buzz, but forking out the cash for tickets — exorbitant sums all but requiring firstborn children be sold into indentured servitude — felt like an extravagance.

Television is no substitute for live theater: the spark, the connection between performer and audience. Having said that, Disney+ has reserved the best seat in the house for Lin-Manuel Miranda’s musical. *This* is how you capture landmark theater, with the original cast and superior technology.

How’d they do it?

The film is edited together from three performances in 2016 originally intended for the documentary “Hamilton’s America.” The plan was for an October release in movie theaters. COVID-19 scrapped that, but landing on Disney+ was a stroke of genius. True, a few naughty words are dropped or bleeped. But by broadcasting in 4K resolution, the picture quality is unparalleled. The images are crisp, the colors rich and vibrant. The music pops. It feels alive. The cameras are right at the stage, the filmmakers using Steadicams and cranes to plunk you right into the action.

And the show, itself? “Hamilton” feels more relevant than ever, its emphasis on the immigrant experience in America fusing hip-hop with traditional musical theater. The use of rap, its free-form style, requires that the viewer pay close attention, as these musical numbers contain an incredible



### “Hamilton”

*Running time: 160 minutes. Rated PG-13 for language and some suggestive material*

amount of facts, history and personal info. Hip-hop, thus, advances the story. The showstoppers, the more traditional Broadway elements, delve into the emotional state of the characters.

Miranda, in conceiving the show, also offers a warts-and-all look at his subject, making America’s first Secretary of the Treasury an admirable man in the first act and a troubled soul, one consumed by his own ambitions, in the second.

There is not one weak link in the cast, but this Disney+ production catapults a few individuals into the spotlight. Renée Elise Goldsberry and Phillipa Soo as Angelica Schuyler and Eliza Hamilton, respectively, have full-throttle, belt-it-out-of-the-ball-park voices. I envision Idina Menzel camped out in some underground laboratory, secretly plotting their destruction. Daveed Diggs is a wonderfully hip Thomas Jefferson, while Jonathan Groff’s priggish King George III steals the show, “You’ll Be Back” one of the show’s many hummable tunes. And the final number is lump-in-the-throat heartbreaking.

Everything about this production, from the show itself to the way it’s been captured on film, is so astonishing, I intend on seeing it again. And again.

It’s that good.

### LaPorte Farmer's Market

The LaPorte Farmer's Market is open Saturdays starting at 8 a.m. through October in the Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

The event is run by Angela Rose, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership downtown director, and Lindsay Jongkind, LEAP marketing and membership director.

Vendors are organized in a straight line on both sides of the area. Customers are asked to stand behind the marked line (3-foot distance) and maintain at least 6 feet between each person in line.

Market managers will be posted at the entrance and limit attendance to 50 people at a time.

All produce and goods will be prepackaged and handed out in bags. Seniors and at-risk individuals are encouraged to shop from 9 to 10 a.m.

More information is available at [www.laportepartnership.com](http://www.laportepartnership.com) or on the Farmer's Market Facebook Page. On Thursdays before the market, a weekly list of vendors and produce is posted on the Facebook page. Call Rose and Jongkind at (219) 324-8584 for more information.

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### Juvenile Diabetes Garden Creates Awareness About Condition

*Editor's note — The following column was written by Friendship Botanic Gardens staff*

At Friendship Botanic Gardens, an area comprising carefree beauty roses, munstead lavender, imperial gem and grosso lavender stands for much more than beauty.

Known as the Juvenile Diabetes Garden, it brings awareness to the lifelong condition.

In 2016, when FBG President John Leinweber asked board members if any would be willing to take over a garden, Kevin Egan stepped up, seeing it as an opportunity to transform an area of the Gardens into a new creation.

“When I went home to discuss the garden with my son, Sean, he asked if we could dedicate the garden toward those who have Type 1 diabetes,” Kevin Egan said. “We could use the garden as a way to bring about a greater awareness of what it is like to live as a Type 1 diabetic, and (teach others) the differences between Type 1 and Type 2.”

Type 1 diabetes, which also is known as juvenile diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little to no insulin.

“With a condition like Type 1 diabetes, every day is a struggle, but also one to be thankful for,” Sean Egan said. “You are constantly battling for a life at which you cannot simply win. The condition affects everything in life as I know it: I can’t eat, sleep, exercise or go to school without having to take the life I have at my hands very seriously.”

There are no simple fixes to cure Type 1 diabetes.

“With this life-changing experience, I felt that having a garden specifically dedicated to the condition and those with it would help not only bring light to the life of a Type 1 diabetic, but to also have a great area that could eventually be a basis at which we can work towards battling the condition and possibly providing a cure,” Sean Egan said.

Sean hopes for the Gardens to be a future destination of a diabetic walk that would raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, or for companies to sponsor him or the Gardens at the diabetics walks held in Indiana, which also donated to the JDRF.



The Egan family.

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[www.friendshipgardens.org/virtual-gala](http://www.friendshipgardens.org/virtual-gala)*



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## Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

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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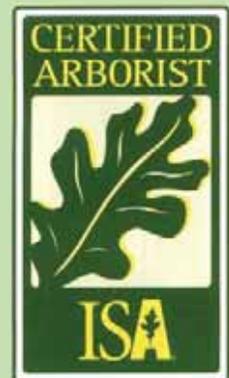
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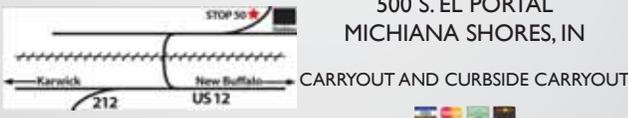
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**Legacy Center Artist Showing**



Pat Herman's "Chickaming Autumn."

Local artist Pat Herman is the first to display work in the Legacy Center, new gallery space at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church.

The works will be shown through Sept. 30. Her-



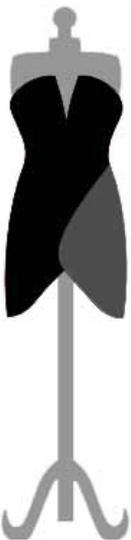
Herman

man is a QAS member, and a long-time member of Duneland Plein Air Painters. Her subject matter varies, including: beaches, fields, farms, figures and water. She has shown her work at The Box Factory, The Art Barn, Southern Shore Art Association, SFC Gallery, Michigan City LaPorte visitors bureau, Rising Phoenix Gallery, Midwest Museum of American Art, Brauer Museum of Art, Chesterton

Art Center and the Beverly Shores Depot Gallery.

The Legacy Center is a multi-use gathering space for community and parish functions. Open to the public from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, enter the center on the south side of the building. The church is located at 1725 E. Barker Ave.

Questions can be directed to [jessicar@qas.org](mailto:jessicar@qas.org).



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# Meet Our Stylists



**Hi, I am Kristin Soplanda**, 28 years young. I love all things beauty: inner and outer. Dance and music are my favorite hobbies. I have been doing hair for eight years. I have a strong passion for color, specifically bayalage and ombres. I enjoy men's cuts, too. Who doesn't love a good fade? Be a part of my journey as I live my dream.



**Hello, my name is Marlee Doms.** I have been a stylist since 2012. I attended an Aveda institute to achieve my cosmetology license. I enjoy all thing hair; color is my passion. I enjoy making people feel good about themselves. And to me, it's very rewarding. That's why I love what I do.



**I am Saige Mendoza.** I have a love and passion for nails. It began in middle school. So, I decided to follow my dream. I specialize in a unique technique of acrylic free-nail extensions. Nail art is where it's at, and I can make it happen. And I always keep the health and integrity of my clients' nails to be my main focus.



## “Eurovision” is a Return to Form for Will Ferrell

by Andrew Tallackson



Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams star as a couple hoping to win an international song competition in “Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga,” now streaming on Netflix.

“Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga” is a sweet, goofy, big-hearted comedy. It’s far from perfect, with considerable third-act troubles, but everyone in it is so likable, their energy level so irresistible, the silliness wins you over.

This is Will Ferrell’s best comedy in some time. After making the leap from “Saturday Night Live” to A-list movie star, the salad days of “Elf,” “Anchorman” and “Blades of Glory” began to show signs of fatigue. Oh sure, an occasional clever risk (“Stranger Than Fiction”), a solid comedy here and there (“Talladega Nights,” “Step Brothers”), but more often than not, coasting on fumes, shouting his way through misguided projects (“Bewitched,” “Land of the Lost,” “Semi-Pro,” “Anchorman 2,” “Get Hard”).

“Eurovision,” which just debuted on Netflix, doesn’t rewrite Ferrell’s comedy playbook, but it affords him more subdued, character-oriented laughs. He’s still the class clown, but a generous one, allowing his costars to shine, along with some unexpectedly great music.

For the uninitiated, Eurovision Song Contest is an international competition that, save for this year because of COVID-19, has been held every year since 1956. The only reason I am acquainted with it is because my mother purchased cassette tapes of the top acts during the ’70s and ’80s. Even as a child, the cheese factor, the over-the-top European theatricality of the music, was outlandish to me, and Ferrell’s comedy, which he cowrote, does not skip a beat in lampooning it.

He plays Lars Ericksson, who lives in Húsavík, Iceland, performing as part of the band Fire Saga

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga”

*Running time: 123 minutes. Rated PG-13  
for crude sexual material, including full nude  
sculptures, some comic violent images and language*

with longtime pal Sigrit (Oscar-nominee Rachel McAdams, fetching), much to the dismay of his fisherman father, Erick Ericksson (Pierce Brosnan), who believes the two to be a musical joke. It is Lars’ dream, however, to win Eurovision, oblivious to the fact that Sigrit has been in love with him from childhood, and that the town’s mayor wants them to lose.

It is a typical Ferrell underdog story: the community outcast hellbent on proving he’s no loser. And Fire Saga’s early Eurovision audition is vintage Ferrell. It’s disastrous, but after an unexpected tragedy that includes Demi Lovato’s Icelandic sure-bet Kätiana Lindsdóttir, Fire Saga is the only Icelandic act remaining, entering Eurovision by default.

Lars and Sigrit arrive in Edinburgh for the contest, where we are introduced to the movie’s comic revelation: Dan Stevens as Alexander Lemtov, a Russian performer whose act includes bare-chested male dancers, a whip and lion imagery. The “Downtown Abbey” alumnus, having struggled to redefine himself post-Matthew Crawley, is a comedic natural. We knew from Disney’s live-action update of “Beauty and the Beast” that he could sing, but here,

he seems freer, as if the satire loosened him up. He isn't afraid to look silly, yet he never pushes the laughs too far, to where the character is a pointless cartoon.

The same holds true of the movie's music. Ferrell and crew take a similar approach as the Christopher Guest mockumentary "A Mighty Wind," where the songs are flawless recreations instead of comedic slaps in the face. These musical numbers *could*

exist in a Eurovision contest, so it is our American sensibilities that find humor in them. That includes the movie's highlight: a Song-A-Long by all the contestants at a party that mashes together "Abba's "Waterloo," Cher's "Believe," Madonna's "Ray of Light" and the Black-Eyed Pea's "I Gotta Feeling." Director David Dobkin ("Wedding Crashers") stages the music with fluid high energy, his camera roving through the singers and accentuating the silliness, and thrill, of making music.

*(The sequence also includes previous real-life winners of the Eurovision contest.)*

And it is about here that Lars finally realizes Sigrit is the one for him. The back and forth between them culminates in a sweet moment, after another disastrous performance, where fan support rallies to Fire Saga's cause. But it here the movie stumbles. It *feels* over, but it sends Lars back home, prolonging



"Downton Abbey" alumnus Dan Stevens steals the show as a Russian performer out to win the Eurovision contest.

the tale by 10 to 12 minutes. The result is a tad anticlimactic, a payoff denied the oomph it deserves.

Still, Ferrell and McAdams are so charming, the movie so gentle and ridiculous in spirit, "Eurovision" remains a delight, more so than a lot of Ferrell comedies. Its heart, and laughs, are in precisely the right place.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

**WEDNESDAY PIPE ORGAN CONCERT SERIES**

Regional musical artists will be featured organists at the noon **Wednesday Pipe Organ Concert Series** at the First Congregational Church of Michigan City, Indiana. The Church is home to an 1891 Roosevelt tracker pipe organ. **The church is located at 531 Washington Street. The noon concerts begin at 12:15 pm central time.**



The 19th season concert series runs from July 8, 2020, through Aug. 26, 2020. Performing organists include Matt Gerhard, Carol Garrett, Lee Meyer, Kent Jager, George Karst, Oliver Rzycki, Mark Sudeith and Ann Dobie.

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*The portrait of Ann Dobie was painted by Michigan City artist Connie Kassal.*

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## Crossing Canada with Madam Speaker

By now, you have gathered I like to write about memorable train trips. Gather 'round now to hear tell of one truly amazing rail journey in December 1984, from our home at the time in Chicago to Toronto, then on from Lake Ontario to Vancouver on the Pacific Ocean aboard VIA's legendary Canadian.

Permit me, if you will, to share the story I originally wrote for the March 1985 issue of *Passenger Train Journal*.

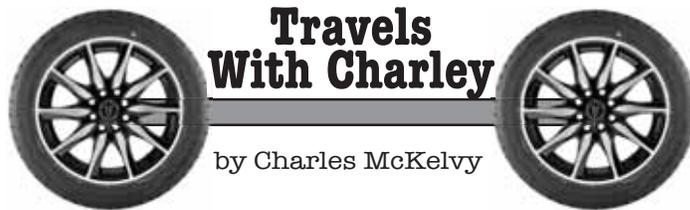
To wit:

When my wife, Natalie, accepted an invitation to speak in December to a group of Canadian pension fund managers in Vancouver, B.C., she suggested I come along for the ride. By ride, I assumed she meant the airplane variety, because she hasn't been much for overnight train travel since the night in 1977 when our eastbound Broadway Limited struck and killed a motorist at a crossing in Lima, Ohio. So, imagine my surprise when she said, "You know, I've been thinking it over, and you're right. We should take a long train ride. How about taking the train to Vancouver and flying back?"

"Sure," I readily agreed, wondering how we would get from Seattle to Vancouver after our ride through the Rockies aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder. "Ah, how are we going to get to Vancouver from—"



The Canadian's arrival was a major event in Field, B.C. My photo graced the cover of *Passenger Train Journal* and hangs in our living room.



"We'll take the Canadian route and go right to Vancouver," she said, opening a brochure called Rail Ventures. "You've always said you wanted to take a really terrific train ride — feast your eyes on this."

The passage read: *"It is indeed fitting that some of North America's finest scenery can be viewed from the only remaining (true) transcontinental train in the Western Hemisphere. It's a long journey from Montreal to Vancouver — 3,045 miles, taking more than 3 1/2 days to complete, but there is no finer way to travel between these two great Canadian cities."*

"But you can't stand sleeping on trains after—"

"You've always said I shouldn't give up on trains until I've taken one to the West Coast, so here's my chance. Well, what do you say?"

What else could I say but, "Yes!"

We could have flown to Winnipeg and connected with the westbound Canadian there, but we wanted to see the north shore of Lake Superior and other Ontario sights in winter, so we took Amtrak's (since discontinued) International from Chicago to Toronto, by way, of course, of our present home in Michigan.

(Maybe it was a sign to move to Michigan three short years later, but that's a story for another time.)

We brought along plenty of reading material and food, stuffed by the time we crossed under the St. Clair River into Canada. The best scenery was ahead, but night had fallen. Sensing our despondency, the VIA Rail Canada conductor asked, "Are you on your honeymoon?"

He was amazed when we told him the true purpose of our trip, then he said, "Well, pretend you are anyway and kiss each other while we're in the tunnel. It's good luck." We kissed in the dark as a couple of hairdressers across the aisle snickered.

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There is some sort of famous beauty school in Toronto, so snickering hairdressers seem to come with the International.

A trio of blue-uniformed Canadian customs men boarded in Sarnia and made their brief, polite inquiries. This was 1984, mind you, and they did not even demand proof of our U.S. citizenship, taking us at our word that we were really going to Vancouver by way of Toronto.

The VIA crew soon found the time Amtrak lost in Michigan, and the rest of the ride was a smooth blur of Christmas lights, snowflakes and passing corridor trains.

“Well,” I asked as we alighted in Toronto for a two-hour layover, “do you still want to take the train the rest of the way?” Natalie looked at the city’s inviting lights and suggested we stay for a few days and fly to Vancouver in time for her speech. We dined at a friendly place near the station and were so delighted to eat real food and have good service, we almost stayed. An after-dinner stroll along Yonge Street only made us want to stay more, but we figured we were simply suffering from first-day anxiety and should press on.

So, we bravely boarded the westbound Canadian at 11:30 p.m. and went to our bedroom car: Car 130, Dawson Manor. The porter had prepared our berths, leaving little room in which to negotiate. We repeatedly collided as we struggled with our luggage. It was stifling; there seemed to be no way to control the heat, but we finally found the valve at the base of the bottom bunk.

We went to one of the two Budd-built skyline domes and supervised train 1’s on-time departure at 11:59 p.m. Toronto looked so inviting, and the seven-car train seemed so tired and empty, we were

sure we were making a terrible mistake. But rather than leap from the vestibule, we returned to our Budd sleeper in hopes of a better tomorrow. I took the top berth because I was in the Navy, and Natalie slept below so she could watch for accidents. There were none that night as the Canadian swept along lakes Simcoe, Muskoka, Haggart and Georgian Bay.

Natalie woke me from a peaceful sleep the next morning with, “Charley, you’ve got to see this!”

One look, and I thought we had landed on the moon. Constant smelting has not only made Sudbury the nickel capital of the world, but the tailings have left it looking like a lunar landscape. We were

later informed that NASA was so impressed, it tested the lunar landing module in Sudbury prior to that historic day in 1969 when Neil Armstrong took that first, big step on the moon. We were also informed that Sudbury blows its smoke toward Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

We were soon in the Great Lakes forest region, and every bend in the track brought another pretty-as-a-Christmas-card scene. “Well, what do you think now?” we asked one another. We both nodded enthusiastically, took our baths, dressed and raced to the rear car, a Budd-built dome sleeper/observation car named Algonquin Park.

Sounding more Caribbean than Canadian, the friendly attendant suggested we purchase a copy of Bill Coe’s Scenic Rail Guide to Western Canada.

We did, and thus read: “A train ride anywhere in Canada is an instant geography lesson and a journey into history. A train ride can also be an adventure into pioneering. Imagine being late because of a moose on the tracks or an eight-foot-deep avalanche covering the rails.”



Train travel is magical any time of the year.

Continued on Page 22



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### Crossing Canada... Continued from Page 21

“Oh, do you think we’ll see a moose?” Natalie asked, racing up the winding staircase.

“Why not?” I said, wondering why we even thought for a moment of flying from Toronto to Vancouver.

Armed with Coo’s marvelous book, and befriended by the attentive crew and fellow passengers, we spent that Sunday, Monday and Tuesday having the land cruise of our lives. Yes, the former CN and CP steam-heated equipment was showing its age, but VIA keeps everything in running order, and we came to regard that blue-and-yellow train with great affection. OK, the dome windows could have been a tad cleaner, but that didn’t prevent us from becoming dome-car junkies.

We were in the vicinity of Biscotasing, Ontario, when we sampled our first VIA fare: a hot meat sandwich for \$6.85 (Canadian). It consisted of turkey slices and gravy (everything in Canada has gravy on it) on hamburger buns with mashed potatoes, salad, soup, rolls, coffee and a fresh fruit cup for dessert. The waiter gladly accepted our U.S. currency and gave us the going exchange rate of \$1.28.

If not terribly imaginative, the food was fresh, cooked to perfection and served with a friendly flourish I’ve yet to experience on an Amtrak train. (Mind you, I wrote this in 1985 and, in fairness to Amtrak, have since had many a pleasant meal on an Amtrak train down here in the U.S. of A.)

A bilingual passenger-ser-

vice assistant roamed the train before each meal taking orders and reservations for the two sittings: one for non-smokers and one for smokers (how far we’ve come!!). A nice touch, we thought.

Our favorite meal was the baked halibut served somewhere in Saskatchewan. Where VIA got fresh halibut in the snow-clad prairie, I’ll never know, but it was terrific and worth the \$9.45 price.

We were well-served in our sleeper by two successive porters. They not only took good care of our quarters, but also told us where to go and what to do during the long stopovers in Winnipeg and Calgary.

Despite the bitter cold, we tromped halfway across downtown Winnipeg, through the windiest and coldest intersection in Canada to the YMCA, where we had an invigorating swim, sauna and shower. I suppose it would have been simpler to walk across the street from the VIA station to the Fort Garry Hotel, where through passengers can take a hot shower for \$10, but we needed the exercise.

The Calgary Y was closed, so we took a long walk around Canada’s temporarily busted boomtown and wondered where all the old buildings were. Every gleaming office tower appeared to have been just built, and there appeared to be plenty of vacant space. We were later told Calgary is making a comeback, but is not staking its entire fortune on oil this time around.

The star attraction, of course, was Canada. On each of the three days — in the Great Lakes forest on the first day, across the exquisite prairie on the second and



Natalie has planned great rail adventures, even from Michigan City.

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through the majestic Rockies on the third — we were struck by the vast emptiness of our northern neighbor.

The arrival of the Canadian was a major event in outposts like Chapleau, Ontario and Field, B.C. We really got a sense of the railroad's role in Canada's past and present. We went through the Rockies wondering where everyone was. There were no street lights nor neon signs at night, just the moon on the snow and our little train. It was awesome, and we could only shudder at the thought of all that wilderness just off to the right and left.

Like most passengers, we longed to see the fabled Banff Springs Hotel where Agatha Christie found a cure for her neuritis. Although it was not visible from the train, we could see the ski runs up there in the Sundance Range.

When we detrained to take the mountain air, we met an Australian ski bum who said, "Good day, mate. It's all happening!" He was too thrilled with the train to tell us what exactly was happening, but we judged from his enthusiasm that it really must have been something. We offered to trade our Daw-



Be sure to pick a train with an observation car.  
This one belongs to Amtrak.

son Manor bedroom for his lift ticket and skis, but he said the train fare was "too bloody dear" and dashed back to the slopes.

It was a wonderful journey, every second of it, and there was even a moose along the tracks, but we were too busy taking pictures of an east-bound Canadian to notice.

When we arrived — without incident — in Vancouver exactly at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1984, I asked Natalie if she had overcome her fear of overnight train travel.

"Have I ever," she said, giving me a big hug. "Now we've got to take this trip in the summer so we can see everything when it's green, and in the fall when it's—"

What a wife!

Oh, her speech in Vancouver was a huge success, but our flight home to Chicago had none of the romance we experienced riding the rails across Canada on the Canadian.

If I could persuade Natalie to hang out a shingle as a rail-travel consultant, I would have you call her to arrange your own adventure. But she is resolutely retired, so I would refer you to the friendly folks at VIA Rail Canada and Amtrak for expert advice.



## SHERIDAN BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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(Virtual meeting link and details will be provided on SBHA's website closer to the meeting date.)

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**September 5th**

**For more information visit: [www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com](http://www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com)**

### Krueger Middle School Awarded \$25,000

Krueger Middle School students learned an important lesson this past school year: Helping the Earth can be rewarding.

The school has learned it finished among the nation's top schools in the 2020 PepsiCo Recycle Rally Challenge. With the help of students, parents, teachers and the community, Krueger finished sixth in the challenge, receiving a \$25,000 prize.

Throughout the school year, KMS collected 194 tons of recycled goods, including plastic No. 1 beverage bottles, plastic milk cartons and aluminum drink cans.

Daisy Lee, Krueger Middle School environmental science teacher, coordinated the effort. Students and families brought items to be recycled

and weighed for the challenge, which also expanded to the community, as several businesses began recycling and hosting collection bins. Participating businesses included

LaPorte Insurance Agency, LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch and Anytime Fitness.

Last year, the school finished in ninth place and received \$10,000. Funds aided upgrades and repairs to the gym, athletic uniforms and other needs. This year, funds will assist efforts such as picnic tables for outdoor classrooms, new uniforms and equipment for additional athletic teams, and items to increase student engagement in school clubs and programs.



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### Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, new hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The public is asked to wear masks and abide by social-distancing recommendations. Meeting-room spaces will remain closed for now.

All due dates of materials checked out before the library closed due to COVID-19 must be returned by June 14 so no charges are assessed.

There is no public seating, and programming is canceled as of now.

Access is limited to the computer lab: One session (up to one hour) per person per day is allowed. Due to social-distancing guidelines, only one person at a station at a time. Children are not allowed in the computer lab with parents/guardians.

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day.

Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations).

WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

The summer reading program, "Imagine Your Story," runs through July 25. Everyone who reads at least 10 hours receives a book and entry into a raffle. Every additional 10 hours earns another raffle entry. A reading log can be downloaded from the library website or picked up at Youth Services.

Virtual Slam Camp for middle school students begins July 6. Call (219) 873-3049 or youth services at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

*Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.*

### Michigan City Farmer's Market

The Michigan City Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through October at Eighth and Washington streets.

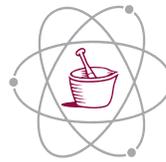
Following advice from Gov. Eric Holcomb and health officials, the following restrictions are in place:

- No open food. All items must be pre-packaged and fully labeled.
- No sampling food items.
- Home-based vendors can sell items.
- Social-distancing guidelines must be followed.
- No cooking or food preparation on site.

Everyone, including vendors, is encouraged to wear proper masks. Portable handwashing stations will be available.

Market organizers want to create a craft market on the north side of Eighth Street later this summer or in spring 2021. Surveys are planned to determine what customers would like to see in such a market.

Contact Special Events Coordinator Johnny Stimley for more details, or if interested in becoming a vendor, at (219) 229-1567 or [jstimley@emichigancity.com](mailto:jstimley@emichigancity.com)



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## Forging "Connections"



Michigan City Chamber of Commerce representatives delivered a \$4,000 check to Michigan City Area Schools on June 29. The funds, provided by the chamber's Education Foundation Fund, will support MCAS in printing and distributing its annual "Connections" newsletter highlighting the district's programs and overall progress. The publication will be mailed to all postal customers in Michigan City and neighboring postal routes. The education-focused fund is permanently endowed and managed by Unity Foundation of La Porte County. Pictured are: (from left) Shannon Walker, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County vice president; MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins; Betsy Kohn, MCAS director of communications; chamber board chairman John Wall; and Katie Eaton, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce president.



**DAILY ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE!**

Dune Billies will be taking daily orders for inside or patio dining, picnic in the park or curbside pickup from 8-2 Wed. thru Sunday!

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French Toast w/ Bourbon Bananas  
Tuna Melt \* Cucumber Wrap  
...just to name a few!*

**(219) 809-6592**

## Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

For patrons with materials checked out before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, return them to the building drop boxes. Do not return them in bags. Do not return board games; those can be returned at a future date. Return eReaders into the Audio/Visual drop.

*Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.*

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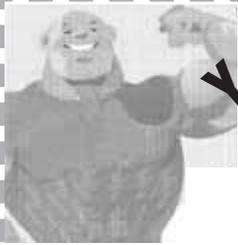
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Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

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**Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series**

The Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 15, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

All concerts are free and begin at 12:15 p.m., with seating at noon. Local organists, as well as those from the greater Chicago area and even Poland, will perform on the 1891 Roosevelt pipe organ. Those attending are asked to wear face masks and practice social distancing. Safety precautions, along with protocol established by Christ Church for Sunday worship, are in place.

The July 15 recital is by Carol Garrett, who has been a church organist for more than 56 years. After several years of piano lessons, she was asked by a friend, as well as the Church of the Brethren in Franklin Grove, Ill., to take organ lessons. Since then, she has played for various congregations in LaPorte, Michigan City, South Bend and New Buffalo, Mich. These days, she is the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Michigan City and an occasional substitute organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Garrett was a fourth-grade teacher for 40 years at Pine and Joy elementary schools. A member and past president of Monday Musicale, she has three children and four grandchildren.

Donations are accepted. The church is air-conditioned. Call Ann or George Dobie at (219) 608-5358 for more information

**Aviation Day Program Canceled**

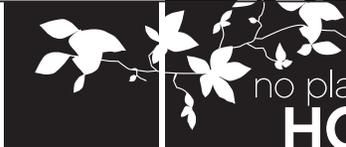
The National Park Service is canceling the annual Aviation Day Program due to difficulty in social distancing, with plans to return in 2021.

Offered the last two years at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center in August, the program celebrates Octave Chanute's pioneering glider flights here during the late 1890s. His work influenced the Wright Brothers' development of the airplane.

A highlight of this year's program was to be the showing of local filmmaker Paul Nelson's new documentary, "Octave Chanute: Patron Saint of Flight." WNIT (South Bend), however, will show it at 8 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 30. Other showings are planned.

Visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for details.

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### “Made in Michiana”



“Made in Michiana” highlights “Best of Show” winners over the past 40 years.

Midwest Museum of American Art will present “Made in Michiana,” sculptures, paintings and ceramics from the past 40 years of the Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibitions, through Sunday, Aug. 2.

Every year since 1979, the museum collects what Elkhart Juried Regional jurors award as “Best of Show.” In 1993, the award was divided between three participants, accumulating two additional pieces. These pieces become part of the museum’s permanent collection with acquisition funds provided by patrons. Past recipients include Abner Hershberger, Bill Kremer, Tom Meuninck, A.J. Nafziger and Dora Natella.

Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$10 per adult, \$6 for ages 8-12, \$8 for ages 13-18 and \$8 for college students with ID.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Call (574) 293-6660, visit [www.midwestmuseum.us](http://www.midwestmuseum.us) or email [info@midwestmuseum.us](mailto:info@midwestmuseum.us) 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.

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## Friendship Botanic Gardens Plans Virtual Gala; Grant Helps Pave Trails

Friendship Botanic Gardens' annual fundraising gala will be held online from 6:45 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 23.

The virtual event replaces the annual gala, which serves as the main fundraiser. It includes a silent and live auction and musical entertainment. The silent auction launches July 13 and continues through July 22. Also planned is a raffle with a \$5,000 grand prize. Second place is \$1,000 and third place \$500.

Only 300 tickets will be sold. Tickets are available from FBG board members for \$100: cash or check. The winner will be announced the night of the virtual gala. Contact [info@friendshipgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipgardens.org) to buy a raffle ticket.

Information [www.friendshipgardens.org/virtual-gala/](http://www.friendshipgardens.org/virtual-gala/) or @FriendshipGardensIndiana on Facebook. The Gardens are located at 2055 E. U.S. 12.



More than 2,900 feet of trails at Friendship Botanic Gardens were paved the week of June 15 thanks to a Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant.

The goal was to provide more access to people requiring mobility assistance, such as wheelchairs and walkers. The two main paved trails wind through all the cultivated gardens and major attractions. Plans are under way to pave other areas.



## Become a Patron!

For more than 35 years, The Beacher has existed as a **free** newspaper, and it will **continue** to do so.

Amid the pandemic, however, small newspapers across the country are finding additional ways to financially support themselves. So, we've created a page where you can support us by becoming a Beacher patron. This week, we thank **Julia Hohman and Rhonda McGivney!**



Visit [patreon.com/thebeacher](https://patreon.com/thebeacher) to make a contribution

## Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series resumes with "Made in Michiana", 12:20 p.m. EDT Thurs, July 9, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Director/Curator Brian Byrn will discuss four decades of Best of Show work purchased each year through the Elkhart Juried Regional for the MMAA permanent collection.

Gallery talks are limited to 35 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Masks are required. Doors will be locked at 12:15 p.m. No admittance to the museum by the public is allowed until the talk has concluded and the galleries emptied and sterilized.

The total numbers allowed for gallery talks will be modified as permitted under the governor's most recent executive order.

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



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### Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Wetland Wander at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 15.**  
Take a 45-minute hike into the dune wetlands to explore breeding birds and underwater critters.
- **High Dunes Hike at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 16.**

Meet a naturalist at the nature center for a hike to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes.



### Weekend Naturalist Roving Table Locations

Look for interpretive naturalists who will share stories and props while discussing the park's natural and cultural resources.

#### Saturday, July 11

- 11 a.m. to noon – beach parking lot naturalist table.
- 2 to 3 p.m. – Mount Tom naturalist table.

#### Sundays, July 12 and 19

- 11 a.m. to noon – Trail 9/10 intersection naturalist table.
- 2 to 3 p.m. – Nature Center naturalist table.

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.

### Krasl Art Fair Online

The 2020 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff has canceled onsite festivities, but invited artists with online presences to be featured on Krasl Art Center's website.

Individual artists will be profiled throughout July on social media. Visit [krasl.org/art-fair/2020-featured-artists/](http://krasl.org/art-fair/2020-featured-artists/), or follow the fair on Facebook and Instagram.

All 2020 artists are invited back for the 60th annual KAF on July 10-11, 2021.

### Gabis Arboretum Seeks Volunteers

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest is seeking volunteers to help with controlling weeds.

Gabis staff said in a press release weeds that grew amid the COVID-19 pandemic are beyond what the staff now can contain. Individuals and families are welcome.

Email [braschke@pnw.edu](mailto:braschke@pnw.edu) or call (219) 462-0025 if interested.

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## LBCC Women's Golf Leagues

### 9-Hole League

June 25, 2020

Event: Beat the Pro



Our pro "knocked it out of the park."

Ryan Siffermann shot 32.

Only one player beat the pro:

Congratulations to Linda Wilson, who shot 31!

#### FLIGHT A

##### Low Net

- First — Donna Hennard
- Second — Eunie Nondorf

##### Low Putts

Donna Hennard

#### FLIGHT B

##### Low Net

- First — Marge Walsh.
- Second — Dottie Healy.

##### Low Putts

Linda Wilson

#### Flight C

##### Low Net

- First — Gloria McMahon.
- Second — Kathie Mole.

##### Low Putts

Carol Sullivan

##### Birdies

- Carol Excel — Hole 5.
- Katie Mole — Hole 5.



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

- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, July 13.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, July 14.

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 [red-crossblood.org](http://red-crossblood.org) for more details. Visit [rcblood.org/](http://rcblood.org/) together for more details.

### Friday Movie Night

LaPorte Main Street Association will show "Frozen 2" during Friday Movie Night at dusk July 10 on the lawn at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Families should take blankets and lawn chairs. Popcorn and hot dogs will be available. Families should practice social distancing, remaining 6 feet apart from other viewers.

### 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.

## A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun  
new office hours

**Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*Thank you for your patience  
during the COVID-19 pandemic*

### Chesterton Art Center

“Dunes, Lagoons and More,” an exhibit by painter Ginny Takacs, runs through July, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 17, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.



Ginny Takacs' "Rolling Waves."

Takacs will display about 30 paintings, many inspired by daily walks in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood and Marquette Park.

Takacs enjoys painting *en plein air* (outside), as well as creating studio works using outdoor sketches and photos for inspiration. She is mostly self-taught, reading and studying other artists in museums, galleries and online. She recently started painting with a palette knife.

Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for details.

### Libations for Donations

Leeds Project Heart again will spotlight regional organizations through its monthly Libations for Donations effort, the latest being Save the Dunes.

Throughout July, a tiki-inspired drink will support the non-profit group that works to protect, preserve and restore the Indiana Dunes and other natural resources in the region.

Contact Dave Roberts, general manager at Leeds Public House, 401 Franklin St., at (219) 814-4530 or [droberts@leedspublichouse.com](mailto:droberts@leedspublichouse.com) for more details.

### Sullair Disconnected Meeting

The Sullair Disconnected Compressor Honorees annual meeting is at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at Galveston Steakhouse, 10 Commerce Square.

The group includes former Sullair Corp. employees who resigned, retired or were fired.

The \$10 cost at the door includes appetizers. Donations and guests are welcome. Send an RSVP to [SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com](mailto:SDCH.Reunion@gmail.com)

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On July 9, 1776**, in New York, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops.

**On July 9, 1893**, at Chicago's Provident Hospital, Daniel Hale Williams, a black surgeon, performed the first successful suture of a human heart and pericardium.

**On July 9, 1918**, Congress authorized the army to issue the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Service Medal.

**On July 9, 1995**, the Grateful Dead played its last concert at Chicago's Soldier Field.

**On July 9, 2005**, a panda cub, later named Tai Shan, was born at the National Zoo in Washington.

**On July 10, 1913**, in the hottest day ever recorded in the United States, the temperature rose to 134 degrees Fahrenheit in California's Death Valley.

**On July 10, 1925**, in Dayton, Tenn., a jury selection took place as schoolteacher John Scopes went on trial, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.

**On July 10, 1938**, Howard Hughes, accompanied by a crew of four, completed a flight around the world.

**On July 10, 1958**, Ezra Pound, after 13 years in an American mental hospital, returned to Italy and told reporters, "All America is an insane asylum."

**On July 11, 1798**, an act of Congress created the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Marine Band.

**On July 11, 1804**, in a pistol duel near the New Jersey town of Weehawken, Aaron Burr killed former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton.

**On July 11, 1899**, E.B. White, author of children's books such as "Charlotte's Web," was born in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

**On July 11, 1936**, New York's Triborough Bridge, linking Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens, was officially opened.

**On July 11, 1944**, President Franklin Roosevelt announced his availability for a fourth term by saying, "If the Convention should nominate me, I shall accept. If the people elect me, I will serve."

**On July 12, 100 B.C.**, future Roman general and statesman Julius Caesar, considered to have been one of the greatest and most influential men in world history, was born in Rome.

**On July 12, 1810**, the Shoemakers' Union went on trial in New York City for calling a strike to win a

wage increase. The court found the union guilty, fining each member a dollar plus court costs.

**On July 12, 1862**, during the Civil War, Congress authorized the issuance of the “Medal of Honor.”

**On July 12, 1982**, Buckingham Palace tightened security after it was learned that an intruder had made his way into the bedroom of Queen Elizabeth.

**On July 12, 1984**, Walter Mondale, Democratic candidate for president, announced that Representative Geraldine Ferraro, of New York, would be his running mate. Ferraro became the first woman to be on a major party presidential ticket.

**On July 13, 1919**, Britain’s R-34, the first dirigible to cross the Atlantic Ocean, completed a round trip between London and New York.

**On July 13, 1977**, a massive power blackout virtually paralyzed New York City for 25 hours. More than 3,700 people were arrested for looting and rioting during and after the blackout.

**On July 13, 1985**, Live Aid concerts were held in Philadelphia and London to raise money for African famine relief.

**On July 13, 1995**, Chicago’s high temperature for the day reached 106 degrees, breaking a 61-year-old record, and was the herald of the second hottest summer in city history.

**On July 14, 1853**, Commodore Matthew Perry presented a letter from President Fillmore to the Emperor of Japan. His diplomacy, plus a show of force, convinced the Japanese to open up their markets to world trade.

**On July 14, 1877**, Chicago’s Humboldt Park was officially dedicated.

**On July 14, 1881**, in the New Mexico town of Fort Sumner, outlaw William Boney Jr., alias “Billy the Kid,” was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

**On July 14, 1914**, scientist Robert Goddard was granted a patent for a liquid-fueled rocket.

**On July 14, 1965**, the American space probe Mariner 4 flew by Mars, sending back photographs of the planet.

**On July 15, 1912**, led by Oklahoma athlete Jim Thorpe, the United States was the unofficial winner of the Stockholm Olympic Games.

**On July 15, 1918**, World War I’s “Second Battle of the Marne” began.

**On July 15, 1965**, U.S. scientists showed the first close-up photographs, taken by spacecraft Mariner IV, of the planet Mars.

**On July 15, 1975**, three American astronauts blasted off aboard Apollo 18 for a mission that would include a linkup in space with a Soviet Soyuz 19 spacecraft.

**On July 15, 1996**, MSNBC made its debut on cable and the Internet.

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**Christmas in July Sale: Friday-Saturday, July 10-11, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
7536 Peach Tree Lane, MC, off Wozniak Road and CR 200N

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5 Santa holding Christmas tree w/ bears. Ornaments, Disney, IU, PU.  
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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Deacon King Kong** by James McBride (*hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 370 pages.*)

Why? That's the question on everyone's minds right from the start of this fascinating book. Why, indeed, does an old man shoot a young drug dealer in daylight, right in the plaza of the housing development where they both live. The answer may not be as simple as you think...

The 71-year-old shooter is Deacon Cuffy Lambkin, although most call him Sportcoat on account of the snazzy coat he wears every day. He is "*a wiry, laughing brown-skinned man who had coughed, wheezed, hacked, guffawed, and drank his way through the Cause Houses...*"

He pulls out an old .38 Colt pistol and aims toward the face of 19-year-old Deems Clemens — young, but nonetheless a ruthless drug dealer with a whole crew behind him. Bang! And Deems falls over backward, Sportcoat calmly pocketing the pistol and going on his way.

It's 1969, and the story takes place in South Brooklyn in the Causeway Housing Projects. Sportcoat is a deacon of the Five Ends Baptist Church, an umpire for the projects' baseball team who also knows more about plants than anybody. His wife, Hettie, was treasurer of the Christmas Club money at the church until her recent death.

So what possessed him that fateful day? Rumors, as many as there are residents of the Cause, fly like the wind. True, Deems is a drug dealer, but he also is the best baseball player Sportcoat ever had on his team. In fact, he even was invited to play ball in college, but the lure of easy drug money won out over four years of school, followed by minor leagues and a lot of waiting around for his big break.

Lucky for Sportcoat, Deems doesn't die, he only loses part of one ear. I guess Sportcoat's aim isn't as good as it used to be.

This opening salvo of unexpected violence on the part of an otherwise gentle old man will open up an inside look at living in the melting pot that is Brooklyn. The story contains love as well as hate, good people as well as bad, dreams as well as nightmares, and an honest look at life in the inner city.

One thing is for sure. Sportcoat is a walking dead man, because when Deem's boss, the Italian mobster Joe Peck, finds out, he will be gunning for Sportcoat as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow.

Sportcoat leaves a stunned audience at the flagpole — "*...no one in the projects really knew why*

*Sportcoat shot Deems — not even Sportcoat himself.*"

As if nothing happened, he makes his way to the boiler room in the basement of Building 17 to see his friend, Hot Sausage, and get a drink of his homemade hooch called King Kong. Doesn't mention Deems. Heck, he already forgot what happened.

Now the stories come out. How many of the people in the projects made their way from the South looking for work and a better way of life. Many tried — the Five Ends Baptist Church is a prime example. Plot twists? McBride has plenty. One thing leads to another, and what follows is not just a look at the black experience in urban America. No, it's not hyperbole, it's the voice of a generation. Through the eyes of Sportcoat's friends, family, the police and even the mob, a story emerges: While we have control over our own actions, we also can become controlled by our surroundings. And, there's another lesson: an old southern expression — "what goes around, comes around" — things that happened years ago can resurface to either bite us for being stupid or greedy, or reward us for our humanity for some past good deed. More than one person will discover that to be true.

The white cop, Potts, is about to retire; he's worked the housing projects for years. He fell in love with Sister Gee, who cleans houses for white people. She wisely notes to him: "*You and I got the same job. We clean dirt.*"

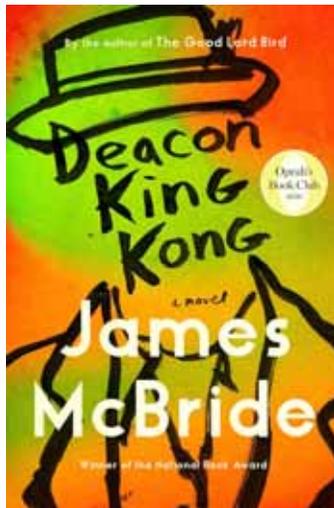
The Italian mobsters, the Elefantos, son and father, still live in the neighborhood, and there's a story there that connects them to the Five Ends Baptist Church that will warm your heart and renew your faith in humanity. And, there's smiles and laughs to go around, too, like Sportcoat and Hot Sausage down in the boiler room. The generators go out, they're stumbling around in the dark and a hit man sneaks in to kill Sportcoat, but instead gets... well, that's for you to find out.

This is a beautiful story of one man's dealing with life and death, and where oh where did Hattie hide the Christmas Club money that everyone thinks Sportcoat already spent on booze?!

It's real, it's beautifully written and deserves your attention.

McBride wrote the National Book Award-winning novel *The Good Lord Bird*, as well as five other titles that have sold millions around the world. He was awarded a National Humanities Medal by President Obama for "humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America." He is a Distinguished Writer in residence at New York University.

Till next time, happy reading!



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