



Volume 36, Number 29 Thursday, July 23, 2020

Bringing the Past to Life

by Kim Nowatzke



Sarah Berndt is photographed by The Beacher's Kim Nowatzke in front of Barker Mansion.

While sharing history, Sarah Berndt certainly didn't anticipate making history.

Fewer than two months into her new position, the COVID-19 pandemic

emerged and the new Barker Mansion director found herself with a closed museum as she navigated uncharted and virtual territory.

As the nation and city slowly reopens, Berndt focuses on the future while telling the stories of the Barker family, knowing the methods may be differ-

ent, but the message remains the same.

"Once we figured out the logistics of closing (on March 17), it was nice to have some time to plan and learn more about this building and its history," said Berndt, who officially started Jan. 22.

While the museum was closed, the new director outlined a three- to five-year strategic plan that focuses on annual exhibits each fall, as well as restoring the gardens by reintroducing historic plant varieties and landscaping techniques. Another key point is refurbishing the mansion by a curatorial

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Bringing the Past

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fellow to "breathe some life into some of the spaces."

"The furnishing plan is a process of studying artifacts, archival materials and comparable buildings from the same time period to create a more detailed representation of what the rooms would have looked like when the Barkers and their staff lived here...," she continued. "We want you to come in and it looks like the Barkers just got up and left for a few minutes. I'm excited to do a deep dive and find out more."

It's estimated 90 percent of the museum's furnishings are original, Berndt said, so this will be more of a "restaging of the mansion to make it look as it would have looked in the early 1900s when the family was here – how the rooms looked and were utilized at that time."

Inherently more difficult to reach the community behind closed doors, Berndt also utilized digital platforms, including blogs, social media and YouTube, to showcase artifacts and mansion details the public could enjoy while social distancing.

Before the museum reopened, Berndt was busy checking off maintenance projects in the ongoing upkeep list, too.

"There's always little things that need to be done around here," she said. "We've been busy."

For example, a re-wiring project funded by the Friends of the Barker Mansion begins later this month.

"Electricity is one of the central themes in the story of the Barker Mansion because residential electricity was new and modern when the mansion was renovated," Berndt said. "Technologically, the house was cutting edge. That said, the wiring has been in



This undated photo shows workers on the factory floor at Haskell & Barker Car Company, the subject of an upcoming exhibit.

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use for over 100 years now and is in need of replacement. Electrical work has been done in recent decades to keep the wiring safe and updated, but this will be an in-depth rewire. The project will be completed in phases, so the mansion can remain open as usual.

"We're excited to use the opportunity to learn more about the building and give visitors more perspective on what it takes to preserve a building like the Barker Mansion. Our priority is to preserve and protect the historic interiors, so the project is designed to minimize disturbance to the original woodwork and wall coverings."

In addition, Berndt is crafting a membership program that incentivizes repeat visits and gives the public more access to spaces at the mansion. Details are still in the works.

Barker Mansion reopened June 16 with its COVID-19 Response Plan in place. It included: face masks for staff and visitors; 6-feet social distancing for all in-person interactions for staff and volunteers; guided tours limited to five visitors and self-guided tours limited to 30 (50 percent capacity); and an option to purchase tickets online or by phone. The part-time staff, furloughed due to COVID, have returned and the mansion is back to booking weddings and other specials.

"The public reacted well to the reopening," Berndt said. "People are excited to have things to do and feel comfortable and safe doing them."

The mansion's first event since its closure, "First Floor Free" on July 4, included self-guided tours of the first floor and access to the gardens. The successful gathering brought in 43 guests who also enjoyed croquet, hula-hoops, sidewalk

chalk, bocce ball and free popsicles. Next up is a historical walking tour series with details to be announced soon at www.barkermansion.com.

For this native Hoosier, Berndt's new job at the "Gilded Age mansion" is "like a dream come true."

Originally from Westfield, she was especially interested in a position closer to home and family. After receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees in anthropology and art history at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., Berndt went on to earn a Master of Arts in American Material Culture from the University of Delaware.

Previously, she was a museum assistant at the Augustana College Teaching Museum of Art, in addition to a school and family programs intern, and a Lois F. McNeil fellow, at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Winterthur, Del. Her most recent position was assistant director at Porter County Museum, where she coordinated hands-on programming and educational exhibit interactives for multiple audiences, managing as well the registration, exhibit and care of the museum collection. There, she also supervised and trained front-of-house staff and volunteers.



Sarah says downtime during COVID-19 gave her time to outline a three- to five-year strategic plan.

"I love creating a sense of space," she emphasized. "Giving people a sense of place and rootedness is important to me. We want people to feel a sense of connectedness that they are a part of what we are doing here."

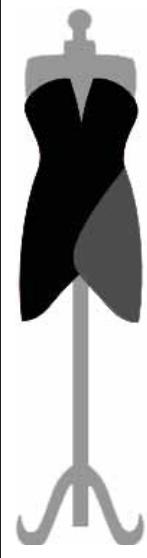
Berndt also "loves pulling out stories."

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Bringing the Past

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She's excited about one the mansion "hasn't touched on yet": the Haskell & Barker Car Company.

"You can learn a lot about Michigan City through the history of the freight car company," Berndt said. "It was the largest manufacturing company in the state at one time and drew workers from all over the world. It's an interesting story and a significant piece of history in how the city developed."

Plans are for the Haskell & Barker exhibit to debut in late fall/early winter as one of several multiple, immersive, interactive exhibits in the basement. This is one underutilized space Berndt hopes to transform.

"I want to tell their stories throughout the house, but particularly in the staff spaces that remain largely unaltered: the Butler's Pantry, head maid's room, staff bathroom and the linen closet," Berndt explained. "There was a distinct separation of public and private areas in the house, but we can highlight the presence of these individuals by describing what they would have done in the house, their social and economic backgrounds and by comparing their stories to those of similar historic individuals. I'm really interested in interpreting the stories of the staff that worked here and about the service area – who used them and what their lives may have looked like."

"I'd like to see us bring more life to the stories of the domestic staff throughout Barker Mansion," she continued. "The Barkers employed up to 10 staff members to run the house while they lived here. We know many of

their names, the rooms they occupied and the jobs they performed in the household. In the staff wing of the house, most of the rooms have been significantly altered for functional use as offices, storage and archives."

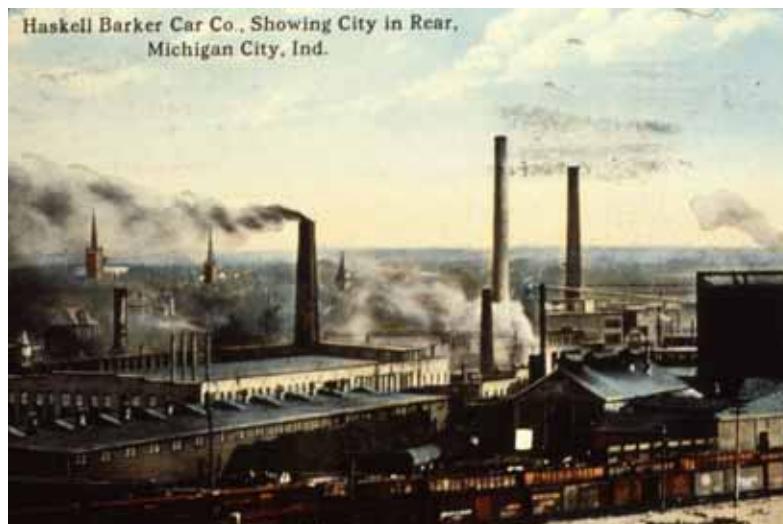
Berndt's favorite room is the Butler's Pantry: the most intact staff space. She's drawn to the natural light and modernity of the space. She noted how the sinks there contain a high zinc content, allowing any dishes accidentally dropped to not break, but rather dent the sink.

Her fascination with the Butler's Pantry also is fueled by her own love of baking and old cookbooks. Studying them, she enjoys trying to recreate the sweet treats therein, as well as trying her hand at the "fun challenge" of making vegan recipes for friends.

More recently, Berndt started a baking business, selling cookies, pies, cinnamon rolls and some vegan and gluten-free treats at the Michigan City Farmer's Market.

"I've been meeting a lot of people in the community," she said, "so that's been a good outreach connection."

And, connecting the community – and beyond – to Barker Mansion is the foremost goal.



A postcard spotlighting the Haskell & Barker Car Company, the subject of an upcoming exhibit at the mansion

"The history of the Barker Mansion is intertwined with the history of Michigan City," she said. "We interpret the Barker legacy of industry, civic engagement, immigration and innovation. These are themes that speak to relevant experiences in our lives today. We hope to illuminate the present by bringing stories from the past to life and connecting those stories to visitors' lived experiences."

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"Relic" is Slow, but Bold Metaphorical Horror

by Andrew Tallackson



Robyn Nevin (left, seated), Emily Mortimer and Bella Heathcote star in "Relic," now streaming on Amazon Prime.

"Relic" is the kind of horror movie they rarely make these days, where the supernatural exists as a metaphor for the human condition. It's meant to be discussed afterward...which means the *idea* of it is more satisfying than the execution of it.

The movie, now streaming on Amazon Prime, continues a trend out of Australia in which women call the shots by exploring the dark recesses of motherhood. It comes on the heels of another mind bender, Jennifer Kent's 2014 debut, "The Babadook," which depicted parenting as a soul-crushing experience. "Relic," also helmed by a newcomer, Natalie Erika James, uses its mother-daughter-granddaughter dynamic in the context of a haunted house chiller, as a rumination on loved ones with dementia.

The story is simple. Kay (Emily Mortimer) receives a phone call that her mother, Edna (Robyn Nevin), is missing. No one's seen her in a week or so. Kay and her daughter, Sam (Bella Heathcote), head to her ramshackle country home. Indeed, she is nowhere to be found. The police are called. In the meantime, Kay and Sam busy themselves by straightening all the clutter in the house.

Then one night, Edna turns up. A bit confused, but basically herself...at first. She now has a way of lashing out, the outbursts frequently turning violent. Her memory is scattershot at best.

The tone of these scenes is moody, atmospheric, James' camera quietly observing the domestic drama. It is a slow-burn approach, with Mortimer, Nevin and Heathcote each delivering terse, frayed performances. However, the first half is awfully



"Relic"

Running time: 89 minutes. Rated R for some horror violence/disturbing images and language

slow, to the point where you grow antsy. You can feel something bad awaits, but even at a brief 89-minute length, the momentum is slack.

The turning point is an agonizing sequence in which Sam is trapped within the walls of Edna's house. Visually striking and nightmarishly terrifying, Sam finds the walls *literally* closing in on her, her path doubling back on itself. Coupled with Sam's hysterical screams, James, as director, achieves the horror movie equivalent of an Alzheimer's fugue state. The house has become the living embodiment of Edna's crumbling mental state.

A hefty metaphor, indeed, and the final scene, acted to steely perfection by all three actresses, is beautifully done, symbolic of the duties family members have to care for one another, particularly if the same illness awaits down the line.

James is a born storyteller. She certainly inspired confidence from Hollywood's elite. Jake Gyllenhaal is a producer, and "Avengers: Endgame" directors Anthony Russo and Joe Russo are among the executive producers. The buzz surrounding "Relic" probably will lure James to Hollywood, where she'll earn a far more significant budget. If she can carefully, and consistently, amp up the tension with her next effort, well, the sky's the limit.

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Friendship Botanic Gardens to Host Taste and Tunes Concert

Friendship Botanic Gardens will host “Taste and Tunes Concert,” an evening of musical entertainment featuring local artist Johnny V, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 31.

Johnny V is a singer-songwriter who weaves through genres such as blues, folk and Americana. He has been singing in the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana for more than four decades. He has released six albums and is working on a soundtrack for an independent film.

The July 31 concert is on the Celebration Pavilion stage that overlooks Lake Lucerne and the ArcelorMittal Children’s Garden. This is the first Johnny V performance in his series at the Gardens. He returns Aug. 28 and Sept. 25.

Beer and water will be sold. Advance tickets are available at tinyurl.com/y7x89kos. Cash only ticket sales also are available at the door. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$2 for ages 13-17 and free for children 12 and younger. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., with music starting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairs will be set up in the Celebration Meadow socially distanced from one another. Guests can take lawn chairs or blankets.

Friendship Botanic Gardens is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12. Visit www.friendshipgardens.org or call (219) 878-9885 for more details.



Johnny V in concert.

Butterfly Bonanza

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host a free educational program dedicated to monarch butterflies at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

Families can learn about the life cycle of monarch butterflies, and how they can help boost the butterfly populations from Dolly Foster, landscape horticulturist and monarch butterfly expert.

Guests can experience live butterflies through a monarch butterfly release near the Butterfly Garden. Children can create butterfly-themed arts

and crafts.

Chairs and tables will be distanced. Guests should take hand sanitizer, practice social distancing and wear masks.

The program marks the first event in the free eco-adventures summer series, with “Bug Safari” from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23.

Call the office at (219) 878-9885, visit the Butterfly Bonanza Facebook event page or www.friendshipgardens.org for more details.



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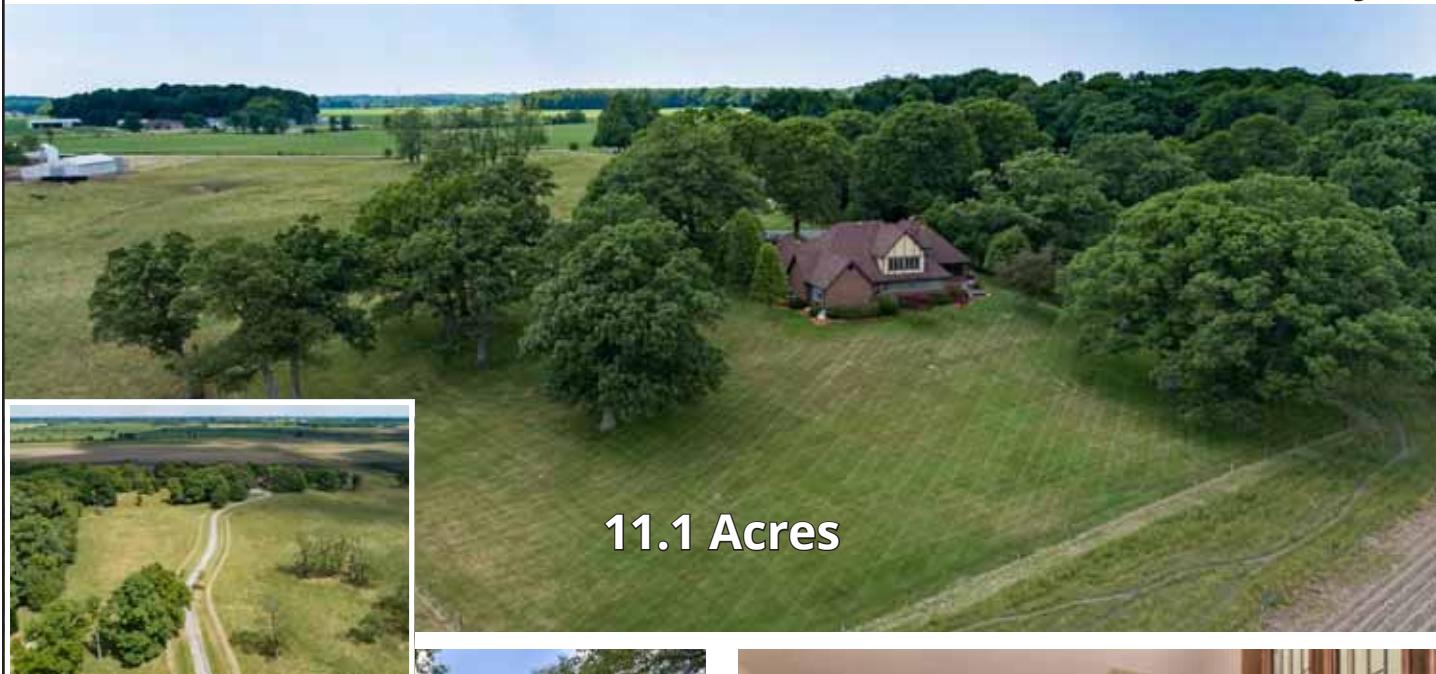
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Eastland Memorial Service



The Michigan City Historical Society will honor the 844 passengers lost when the steamship Eastland capsized in the Chicago River on July 24, 1915, with a ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 25.

The passengers were employees of Western Electric Co., Hawthorne Works, on a company outing bound for Michigan City's Washington Park. The tragedy touched the lives of many working-class families of Chicago and Michigan City. Twenty two entire families lost their lives that day, with most of the victims being young women and children.

The memorial service will be held at the foot of the Old Lighthouse Museum, where the Eastland would have docked had the trip been successful. A wreath will be placed in the creek, with prayers and tributes spoken by Father Lev from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and Jim Retseck, Michigan City Historical Society president.

Dunes Summer Theatre

Dunes Summer Theatre staff seek volunteers to help with grounds cleaning and clearing.

Several zones have been organized around theater grounds. Volunteers can pick a zone and stop by at his/her convenience.

Those interested in becoming part of the grounds crew can meet board member Esteban Vargas at around 11 a.m. Tuesdays for details.

Other volunteer opportunities include organizing small props and costumes in the scene shop, and re-organizing the backstage and building. Email contact@dunesartsfoundation.org if interested.

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Lubeznik Arts Festival Canceled

Lubeznik Center for the Arts staff announced the cancellation of the 2020 Lubeznik Arts Festival due to COVID-19 health concerns.

This year would have marked the 39th year of hosting about 90 artists and artisans for the two-day event that attracts nearly 3,000 visitors.

"The health of our staff and patrons is my No. 1 responsibility," LCA Executive Director Janet Bloch said in a press release. "After much deliberation, the LCA team feels this is the most responsible position. We want to get back to business as soon as we can and as safely as possible. Hopefully, next year we will attract twice the number of visitors!"

LCA reopened to the public July 3 for the exhibit "Well-Behaved Women: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage." To keep guests safe, LCA is limiting attendance to 20 visitors at a time, requiring everyone to wear masks.

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

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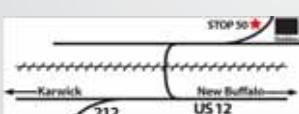
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Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series resumes with speaker Zach Tate at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 23, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.



Tate

Tate is a ceramic artist, teacher and the Goshen Community Arts director. His artwork will appear later this summer in the MMAA exhibit "Politics & Religion."

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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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.
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"The Old Guard" Reinvents the Super Hero Tale

by Andrew Tallackson



Charlize Theron (center) leads a team of "immortals," played by (from left) Marwan Kenzari, Matthias Schoenaerts, Luca Marinelli and KiKi Layne, in "The Old Guard," now streaming on Netflix.

"The Old Guard" begins like many an action picture. A former CIA operative hires scruffy riffraff to free kidnapped children in South Sudan. Cue the twitchy, handheld camera work, playful banter and Charlize Theron back in badass kickass mode and, *voilà*, you have another fill-in-the-blanks Netflix time killer.

Then, Theron's team is ambushed, set up by the guy who hired them, their mangled bodies riddled with bullets. Then, one by one, the wounds heal, each one rising with nary a scratch.

Suddenly, all bets are off.

"The Old Guard" may introduce itself as standard popcorn fare, but it consistently reinvents itself, subverting expectations at every turn. The result is a summer surprise: a shoot-'em-up with more on its mind than just a body count.

The film, now streaming on Netflix, is based on a graphic novel by Greg Rucka and Leandro Fernández, with Rucka penning the screenplay. The director is Gina Prince-Bythewood, a curious choice when you consider her background is small-scale, character-driven pieces like "Love & Basketball" (2000) and "The Secret Life of Bees" (2008). However, having always wanted to direct an action film, that hefty desire and her past resume create the ideal vehicle: a smart comic-book adaptation with a feminist slant and characters whose race and sexuality don't amount to "token" representations, but

★★★½

"The Old Guard"

Running time: 125 minutes. Rated R for sequences of graphic violence and language

fully realized individuals.

Turns out, Andy (Theron) and her crew — Booker (Matthias Schoenaerts) and lovers Joe (Marwan Kenzari) and Nicky (Luca Marinelli) — are "immortals" who have lived for ages, using their regenerative powers not just to heal themselves, but also to do some good, to right wrongs across the globe.

The former CIA operative who hired them for the phony Sudan rescue, James Copley (Chiwetel Ejiofor, "12 Years a Slave"), believes rounding up Andy and her team means they can be studied, their healing power used for good, to remedy illnesses like cancer and dementia. His boss, though, like any comic-book villain, has darker aspirations. In an inspired bit of casting, the heavy is played by Dudley Dursley himself, Harry Melling. Prince-Bythewood could have cast some steroid behemoth in the role, but the weasely Merrick is just greedy and odious enough to be despicable.

The dynamic between Andy's team is fascinating. Joe and Nicky, their long-standing love affair, is presented so gradually and matter-of-factly that when their big moment arrives, when Joe publicly profess-



Harry Melling, best known as Dudley Dursley in the "Harry Potter" films, makes for a surprisingly effective villain in "The Old Guard."

es his love for Nicky amid homophobic soldiers, the scene earns its emotional and comic payoff.

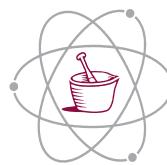
Andy, plagued by regret over a doomed colleague from years back, takes on a protégé, Nile Freeman (KiKi Layne), a U.S. Marine who served in Afghanistan. Prince-Bythewood handles her introduction with subtle flourishes. Notice, for instance, how she's frequently accompanied by women into combat, not men. Layne, doing a complete about-face after the delicate grace of "If Beale Street Could Talk" (2018), is ferocious, giving Theron a run for her money scene after scene. Her mounting devotion to the team becomes the emotional core of the picture. Same holds true for Ejiofor, who takes a rote character and makes him far more complex than we initially suspect.

The action scenes contain plenty of violence, but this is a case where the bloodshed for once is *relative* to the narrative. We see how the team sustains wounds and rebounds from them, in some cases not quite healing like they should. We now have a greater investment in the action, curious to see how and why they survive.

The icing on the cake? The most delicious tease of a sequel in the final shot. What comes next is so enticing, you can't wait for more. Judging by how well "The Old Guard" has done — it was the No. 1 streaming movie the weekend it debuted — more, indeed, is on the way. And it cannot arrive here fast enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Just in Time: Art Venues Reopen with a Range of Work and Styles

by Linda Weigel

Exciting news for those of us eager to tentatively travel — protected, of course — to visual art venues.

With so many sites still closed and outdoor summer art fairs canceled, we are fortunate Michiana artists have been busy creating new works. The results can now be viewed as area galleries reopen.



Laurel Izard's "Thought" & "Memory," machine-quilted assorted fused fabrics

The Art Barn, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso, begins its summer season with Laurel Izard's "On The Edge: Quilts of Endangered Animals" through Aug. 10.

An artist statement indicates that "Izard addresses the mass extinction of animals through her art quilts, exploring the factors underlying the perilous edge on which they exist." So, the expectation of a typical quilt does not hold here. These are more paintings executed in fiber art with strong/solid design, color and textural quality — the heart of the Michigan City artist clearly is on display.

This is a must-see show for art lovers of all ages, one that tops my list for the month.

□

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., reopened with "Dunes, Lagoons and More," oil paintings by award-winning artist Ginny Takacs.



Ginny Takacs' oil painting "Spring at Portage Lakefront."

Closing July 28, I would place this exhibit, too, at the top of my must-see list this month. Takacs is a Duneland Plein Air Painters member and dedicated professional in her field. The textural quality of her work and the quick, loose stylings of her paintings lend a freshness and spontaneity to the work. Her art speaks, too, of intense, sustained concentration, quality and a keen eye for composition.



"High and Dry," an oil painting by Ginny Takacs.

The show closes soon, so I would not hesitate to catch it now.

□

A new venue has opened this season.

Queen of All Saints Church, 1725 E. Barker Ave., has established an art gallery in its Legacy Center, opening with work by Pat Herman.



Pat Herman's "Three On the Dune," a watercolor on paper.

She, too, is a Duneland Plein Air Painters member and long an active voice for the visual arts in the community.

"When I received the call from Queen of All Saints asking if I would consider hanging my work on the 'Gallery Wall' in the Legacy Center, I was so surprised," she said. "I hadn't known there was a plan for the wall and was flattered and

honored to be the first artist to be asked to mount a show. It took me about a nanosecond to say yes!"

Working primarily in watercolor, sometimes adding ink, Herman applies her work in quick, expressive strokes: joyous illuminations of a captured moment in time.

The exhibit closes Sept. 30.

□

In addition to "Well Behaved Women: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., offers "Quarantineens: An Exhibit of Works from LCA's Teen Arts

Council" in its NIPSCO Education Studios.

The LCA launched the Teen Arts Council in 2017 "to provide relevant programming for teens and encourage young artistic leadership."

Exhibiting artists are: Mireya Barrientes, Ashlyn Bowen, Dayton Dec, Olivia Jobbe, Drew Malpanes, Katrin Marks, Abbeyjane Morelli, Eve Senderhauf and D Charity Smith.

Viewing this exhibit, one senses the future of visual arts is in good hands. These young artists are producing exciting, thoughtful, contemporary art that speaks to their place in the world.



"Thank You America" by Mireya Barrientes, oil on canvas diptych.



Olivia Jobbe's "Boss (Self Portrait)," photography and digital media.



Not surprisingly, the art takes on serious subjects concurrent in many cases with the exhibit in the upstairs galleries. For example, Olivia Jobbe has two zines exhibited in the Brinka/Cross Gallery upstairs. Her work in the downstairs space makes equally strong statements.

I enjoyed each and every piece in this show, which ends Aug. 31. □

SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St., reopened with photographs by Peggy Carter and Steve Bensing on display through July.



Peggy Carter's "Mystical City."

Both are members of Duneland Photography Club, "a community social forum to promote knowledge of photography through informative programs at meetings, special activities and approved instruction." Be sure to stop by and see the current show.

"Wherever I go, photography is part of me," Bensing says. "What I see, I interpret with my photography. Then, I share my vision with the world."

Carter says, "Photography has opened my eyes to the world and is a way for me to express to others what I see." □

The Ellen Firme Art Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores, continues with works by watercolorist Michelle Hunt-Newham.

The show runs through the summer until Sept. 8. The gallery holds a large number of Hunt-Newham's watercolors with varying subject matter. □

Other favorites, such as The Rising Phoenix Gallery and The Depot, remain closed. Sadly, Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art also has closed for the rest of the year and possibly more.

Regardless, there is a lot of fine art available to enjoy. All locations will require masks, of course.



Michelle Hunt-Newham's "Irises," a watercolor on paper.

If You Go

- The Art Barn is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Call (219) 462-9009 for more details.
- Chesterton Art Gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday. Call (219) 926-4711 for more details.
- Queen of All Saints Legacy Center is open 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. To enter the center, use the doors on the south side of the building.
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts now is closed Tuesdays. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call (219) 874-4900 for more details.
- SFC Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Call (219) 877-4420 for more details.
- Ellen Firme Art Gallery is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. It is closed Sunday. Call (219) 874-4003 for more details.

Friendship Botanic Gardens Gears Up for Virtual Gala

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

Friendship Botanic Gardens' first virtual gala is from 6:45 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 23, on Facebook.

During the live event, an abundance of silent and live auction items will be available before bidding closes at 8 p.m. Visit <https://go.rallyup.com/fbg> or text "Friendship 2020" to (855) 215-2100.

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The featured items include: a one-week vacation at a magnificent residence in Naples, Fla. (just one block from the Gulf of Mexico); a one-week safari experience and stay on a private estate in South Africa (in the Blue Canyon Conservancy); a ski trip in Bariloche, Argentina, that includes a stay at a five-star ski resort; a private sunset cruise on Lake Michigan; and a luxurious, six-course dinner party for 10 at Firefly Farm that includes a mixologist to make a custom cocktail/wine for each course.

The auction items serve a dual purpose: They are a primary source of revenue for the Gardens while donors also get something in return.

"My husband and I visited the gorgeous Bariloche during summer months in Argentina," Mary Beth Rebedeau Warden, virtual gala co-chair and FBG board member, said in a press release.

"It is one of the top ski destinations in the world, and a unique way to beat the summer heat here in the Midwest."

There also are almost 50 other items and experiences on the auction page that start at around \$25.

The Gardens also has partnered with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, which will receive 10 percent of all proceeds from the event.

*You're invited to the Friendship Botanic Gardens
Virtual Gala
Thursday, July 23 6:45-8:00 p.m.
www.friendshipgardens.org/virtual-gala*



Introducing Nail Technician and Artist Saige Mendoza:



I love creating fun, bold, wearable art: It's my passion. That being said, I take the health of my client's nails as the No. 1 priority. Specializing in a revolutionary system of soft gel nail enhancements — GEL X — there is no need to worry. This is not your typical powder and liquid full set that leaves a lingering odor! Soft gel, hence the name, is much softer and gentler on the natural nail and lasts much longer.

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wear and tear, these enhancements can last anywhere from 3-6 weeks between fills! Luckily, removal is easy as can be as well. The nails can be soaked off like a gel polish, without leaving any damages to your natural nail. Making removal a breeze and your nail beds happy & healthy!

For my natural nail folks out there, don't shy away. The horror stories of gel polish can be left in the dust! Thanks to The Gel Bottle Inc. and its luxurious base coats, you, too, can enjoy a long-lasting gel mani with some added strength! Gel manicures, also known as shellac manicures, are one of a kind at The Salon at 10th & Pine, lasting 4-5 weeks between fills or soak offs!

A big hit, clients from the surrounding states travel here to experience the excitement of growing out their once short and/or bitten nails. Countless success stories. If you are a nailbiter, look no further, we can work together on beating the habit I too possess! Don't feel embarrassed any longer, at The Salon at 10th & Pine, we'll get you looking like fine wine in no time!

Let me help you Mani-fest a marvelous manicure! Don't hesitate, call Saige today!

Hello, I am Joshua Pillivant, stylist and owner of The Salon at 10th and Pine. I started my career 18 years ago right out of high school, doing an apprenticeship program to achieve my license. Starting off in St. Joseph, Mich., I then worked at the same salon for 12 years. I have built a solid clientele who are more like family. I always knew I would own my own salon, so when the building at 128 E. 10th St. came on the market, my partner encouraged me to "Go For It." We already had a presence in the Uptown Arts District with Hoity-Toity, which we opened about seven years ago. After a good six months of renovations to the building, I tried to create an ambiance of being at home. We carry Kevin Murphy products and color. It is sulphate, vegan, gluten and cruelty free line. All bottled from 100% recycled ocean plastic.



Old School Run Goes on Despite COVID Impact

Editor's note — Thanks to Kevin and Camille Higdon for providing this story and photos.

The 23rd annual Long Beach Old School Run, sponsored by *The Beacher* and Town of Long Beach, was held on a steamy, humid July 4th. But with no parade and other festivities due to COVID-19, the low-key event took on an even more subdued, no frills atmosphere.

The course even is a non-standard distance at approximately 2.75 miles.

Normal turnout over the past couple of years has been in the 125-145 range, but this year, only about 30 or so runners and walkers participated in the properly social-distanced event. However, that was to be expected as health and safety was the top priority for head race organizers Camille and Kevin Higdon and the rest of the Higdon family.

The day started early by marking the course at 5 a.m., then registration at 6:30 a.m. at the community center. Taking social distancing into account, all participants had to register at least 6 feet apart, and the coveted Old T-shirts for the finishers were laid out in single file on the ground to ensure when participants finished, no one took any health risks.

The race has a \$10 donation, with proceeds assisting the Town of Long Beach to aid the com-



munity center or other town activities. The town donated water for thirsty participants. Due to the hot weather, it was extremely well-received, with entry fees and donations raising more than \$600. *The Beacher* also has been a loyal supporter for all 23 years, providing free advertising in *The Beacher* and certificates for the finishers.

Camille Higdon and her helpers had everything organized by making sure registration went smoothly and donated water was available. Despite the lower numbers, all sections of the United States were represented, from the Atlantic Ocean, to the lowlands of Arizona and many areas in between.

Runners finally gathered at the starting line, but this year's event embraced social distancing with runners spread out and staggered starts. In true holiday mode, for the fourth year in a row, Holly Higdon performed a beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Finally, the run began, with recent high school graduate Duncan Riley shooting out to a quick lead. He is the son of former Beacher Rico Riley and grandson of Mike and Martie Riley, who live right across from the Old School. Ultimately, Kyle Higdon

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caught him, and they ran together until the two-mile mark, when Kyle pulled away. He finished in a relaxed time of 16:22, with Riley finishing up in 16:44. Rob Earl came in third, with former Purdue roommates racing to the finish line together behind him. Because of social-distancing starts, it couldn't be determined who was the fastest woman. But the race had more woman finishers than men, and they were able to pick up the coveted old T-shirt and *Beacher* certificates.

All the runners/walkers finished in their own fast and/or leisurely way, with everyone done in less than an hour. Everyone were able to have their morning breakfast and focus on their own July 4th festivities. The most important aspect was the typical camaraderie participants shared, catching up on everything since the previous holiday.

So, keep up the training and the hope that we will be beyond the virus concerns to have a normal, awesome July 4th next year.

And, of course, wear your old T-shirt proudly.





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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.

Information 219-608-4719.

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



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Harbor Country Singers Sing-Along

Harbor Country Singers will present a second Summer Sing-Along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 30, at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

Pat Putnam, producer of HCS events, said in a press release support was strong when the community event premiered in late June. The July 30 program will feature popular Broadway songs, including "There's No Business Like Show Business" from "Annie Get Your Gun," "Sunrise, Sunset" from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Getting to Know You" from "The King and I."

School of American Music Guitar Instructor Ron Spears will provide accompaniment, and other guitarists can take their instruments and play along. Putnam and Donna Mitchell, SAM executive director and voice instructor, will lead the singing.

HCS will follow social-distancing guidelines, and provide face shields on request. Sanitized chairs from the Arts & Education Center will be available, or attendees can take their own. HCS will distribute music and lyrics, but the ability to read music is not required to participate.

The rain date is the same time Thursday, Aug. 6.

Gabis Arboretum Virtual Program

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue University Northwest will host the webinar "Tree Identification for the Novice Naturalist" from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 25.

The online program emphasizes using a pocket ID guide to identify trees using leaf, bud and bark characteristics. No tree-identification experience is necessary. Registration costs \$5 for the Zoom class.

Visit www.brownpapertickets.com to register. Gabis Arboretum is located at 444 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 29, 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 29 recital is by Kent Jager, organist and choirmaster at Chicago's Queen of Angels Parish. He will premiere a new work by Chicago composer Thomas Winthrop Stevens, "Prelude and Fugue No. 1 for Solo Organ." The program also includes Dietrich Buxtehude's "Chaconne in C Major" and two Romantic pieces: "Cantabile" by Cesar Franck and "Sonata II" by Felix Mendelssohn.

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



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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-feet 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 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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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.

Matching Grant Supports Arts

An anonymous donor has pledged \$75,000 through Berrien Community Foundation as a challenge gift to support 10 arts organizations amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The groups are: The Acorn; ARS Gallery, Arts and Culture Center; The Citadel Dance and Music Center; Children's Music Workshop; The GhostLight Theatre; Krasl Art Center; Performing Arts Workshops; Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra; Twin City Players; and Water Street Glassworks.

The organizations provide experiences in various arts disciplines to all ages. Through the matching challenge gift, every dollar donated will be matched; therefore, the challenge could net \$150,000 or more.

Each organization's leadership, along with their respective boards of directors, have made contributions, achieving \$29,160 of the \$75,000 goal. They now seek community support to raise the remaining \$45,840 before Aug. 15. Donors also may participate in an online auction of items donated by the organizations through July 31. Contributors may send checks to: Berrien Community Foundation, 2900 S. State St., Ste. 2E, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or donate at www.berriencommunity.org/artschallenge. Contact Lisa Cripps-Downey at Lisa@BerrienCommunity.org or (269) 983-3486 for more information.

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).

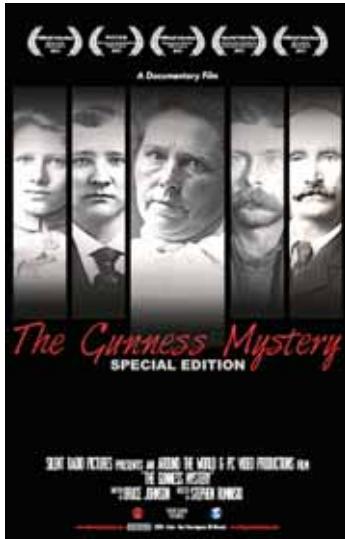
For patrons with materials checked out before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, return them to the building drop boxes. Do not return them in bags. Do not return board games; those can be returned at a future date. Return eReaders into the Audio/Visual drop.

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.

Updated Belle Gunness DVD

The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum has announced a special-edition DVD release of "The Gunness Mystery."

Directed by Stephen Ruminski, and written and narrated by Bruce Johnson, LaPorte County Historical Society board president, the historically accurate documentary chronicles the life and crimes of the notorious Belle Gunness. Originally released in 2010, it now includes commentary by Knut Eric Jensen regarding Esther Carlson, a woman once thought to be Belle Gunness.



In 1881, Gunness emigrated from a small town in Norway to Chicago. Following the curious death of her first husband, she moved with several of her foster children to a farm in LaPorte, where she began luring men from across the Midwest through a series of want ads in Norwegian-language newspapers. Men who replied to her ads were promised a bright future as a partner in her farm. Those who came were never seen alive again.

Harold Schechter, author of Hell's Princess: the Mystery of Belle Gunness, Butcher of Men, stated, "Richly illustrated with rare archival photographs and briskly narrated by historian Bruce R. Johnson, this first-rate documentary vividly evokes the life, times and unspeakable crimes of one our nation's most darkly fascinating serial murderers. A must-see for fans of historical true crime."

The DVD costs \$25. Call the museum at (219) 324-6767, email info@laportecountyhistory.org or stop by the museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, to reserve a copy.

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(Briar Leaf has received an "exceeds expectations" designation
for COVID-19 safety from the LaPorte County Health Department.)

Fall Master Gardener Class

The fall 2020 Purdue Extension Master Gardener class will be held statewide online from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 25 through mid-December.

The volunteer training program teaches a wide array of information on growing plants. In exchange for the classes, Master Gardeners share their knowledge with the community. Volunteers are required to give a minimum of 40 hours after completing the classroom portion and passing an exam.

The teachers — extension specialists at Purdue University or extension educators from across Indiana — will offer classes on topics such as soils, fertility, pest control, invasive species, pesticide safety and alternatives, trees, vegetables, flowers, lawns and fruit.

Also planned is a one-hour weekly online session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays to reinforce important concepts, and how the week's topic applies to local gardeners.

The cost is \$175 for individual registration with a printed version of the Master Gardener manual. Individuals also have the option to buy an optional digital version. For \$270, two people living in the same household can share a print version of the Purdue EMG Manual.

Contact Tina DeWitt of Purdue Extension-La Porte County at dewitt8@purdue.edu or (219) 324-9407 for an application. The deadline for returning the application and beginning the screening process is July 31. All applicants must show evidence of a government-issued photo ID to their local county educator or designated Purdue Extension staff, either virtually or in person. Then, an online link will be sent to complete registration and submit payment.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will learn how to restore or alter an ecosystem at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 25, at Chris Thompson Memorial Preserve.

Hike leader Ryan Postema, the Chikaming Open Lands executive director, will discuss long-term plans for the new preserve to illustrate ecosystem change. The Chikaming Township preserve covers 49 acres and consists of an abandoned farm field, high-quality floodplain forest and frontage on the Galien River. Together with adjacent public and private property, it is part of a large, continuous corridor of relatively undeveloped land along the Galien River.

The hike and presentation will take about two hours and cover a little more than one mile. The preserve is located on Warren Woods Road. Hikers must observe social-distancing guidelines and wear masks.

Membership is encouraged, but the public is invited. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

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9 HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF
July 9, 2020
Event: Low Net
Flight A

First — Eunie Nondorf.

Second — Pat Coker.

Low Putts — Eunie Nondorf.

Flight B

First — Janet Andreotti.

Second — Linda Wilson.

Low Putts — June Salmon, Linda Wilson.

Flight C

First — Regina Bradley.

Second — Rosanne Conroy, Catherine Kelly.

Low Putts — Mary Weithers.

Sunken Approach

Pat Bailey — Hole 8.

Birdies

Eunie Nondorf — Hole 5.

18-HOLE WOMEN'S GOLF

July 7, 2020

Event: Beat the Pro
FLIGHT A LOW NET

First Place — Linda Behringer.

Second Place — Carol Excell.

Third Place — Cindy Levy.

FLIGHT B LOW NET

First Place — Beth White.

Second Place — Claudia Brennan, Melanie Davis.

Third Place — Kathy Chlystun.

FLIGHT C LOW NET

First Place — Jayne Krol.

Second Place — Carol Sullivan.

Third Place — Paulette Harnach.



American Red Cross

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

- LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, July 24.
- Cannon's Automotive Service, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 28.
- Family Life Center, 154 Main St., Westville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, July 28.

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. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.

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LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has resumed its curbside pickup service.

Hours for locations in *The Beacher's* readership area include:

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Place holds on materials using an online account or by calling (219) 362-6156, Option 1. Then, select a pickup location. Notifications will come by email, text or phone. There is no limit on the number of requested items at this time.

Two parking spots will be labeled at each location. When arriving, a staff member will greet people outside. If no one arrives, call (219) 362-6156, Option 3, or the direct number for the branch location. A staff member will bring the reserved items to vehicles in a brown paper bag.

Returns can be placed in book drops and checked in within 24 to 72 hours. All library materials are quarantined between customers for 24 to 72 hours, per CDC and IMLS best practices. Materials are cleaned when needed. Library patrons can disinfect materials after arriving home.

Check laportelibrary.org and follow social media for updates.

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.

Community Concert Season

After considerable discussion, the LaPorte Community Concert Association is canceling its two fall concerts in the 2020-2021 season due to COVID-19.

If the situation improves in the next several months, the plan is to host a concert March 9, 2021. Information will be posted on Facebook at LaPorte Community Concerts and in local media.

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Krasl Art Center Summer Classes

Krasl Art Center will present Outdoor Adult/Teen and Youth Art Classes.

To ensure everyone's health and safety amid COVID-19, classes are planned on KAC's oval lawn and in the south parking lot at Lake Boulevard and Park Street. All students will be spaced 6-feet apart in tents — when not exploring St. Joseph's natural beauty — and required to wear masks while class is in session.

Courses, which run through Aug. 17, range from \$35 (\$25 for members) to \$85 (\$75 for members). Students will not have access to the studios.

The remaining schedule is (all times Eastern):

- Drawing and Painting, four Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 24-Aug. 14. Tuition costs \$85, or \$75 for members, with a \$15 materials fee. The class is appropriate for 13 and older.
- Botanical Illustration with Handmade Paints, 9 a.m.-noon Monday, Aug. 17. Tuition is \$40, or \$30 for members. The class is appropriate for 13 and older.
- Acrylic Paint Experiments, July 27, ages 8-12.
- Action Painting, Aug. 3, ages 5-7.
- Acrobat Paper Sculptures, Aug. 10, ages 5-7.

Also planned are Summer Camp To-Go Kits! The four kits contain KAC faculty-crafted lesson plans and all necessary materials. A wide range of camps, available for ages 5-7 and 8-12, are offered through Aug. 17.

Register at www.krasl.org for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

- **Park Plays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23.**

Park Plays, presented through Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation, features local theater groups presenting shows and excerpts from classic Shakespeare, to contemporary musicals, to improv. Take a blanket or beach chair to the west side of the pavilion.

On July 23, the program is "Sandy Showtunes," presented by Supercharged Trio with the Reasoner Family Singers. The trio features three boys ages 8-14 from Dyer who sing and play violin, ukulele and other stringed instruments. The Reasoner Family Singers is from Schererville.

In light of COVID-19, guests are asked to maintain 6 feet of distance between their party and neighboring guests, wear masks, wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer.

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.

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 an **anonymous** \$100 donor!



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A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun new office hours

Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On July 23, 1829, William Burt, of Mount Vernon, Mich., received a patent for a machine called a "Typographer." The name was changed to typewriter.

On July 23, 1846, Henry David Thoreau was sent to jail for refusing to pay his poll tax. The ordeal inspired him to write his most famous novel, Civil Disobedience.

On July 23, 1904, in St. Louis, Charles E. Menches invented the ice cream cone.

On July 23, 1958, Queen Elizabeth II named four women to the Peerage, the first women entitled to sit in the House of Lords.

On July 23, 1962, a Telstar communications satellite relayed the first live television programs from the United States to Europe.

On July 24, 1870, the first railroad car from the Pacific Coast reached New York, marking the beginning of transcontinental rail service.

On July 24, 1897, Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, was born in Atchison, Kan.

On July 24, 1915, 812 drowned when The Eastland, an excursion boat preparing to leave Chicago for Michigan City, rolled over in the Chicago River.

On July 24, 1975, Apollo astronauts returned to Earth after completing an orbital rendezvous with a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft.

On July 25, 1866, Ulysses S. Grant, victorious Union general in the Civil War, was named to the five-star rank of "General of the Armies," the first officer to be so honored.

On July 25, 1885, Louis Pasteur inoculated the first human being against rabies. The patient, Joseph Meister, who was bitten by a rabid dog, later became superintendent of the Pasteur Institute.

On July 25, 1909, French aviator Louis Bleriot (in a monoplane) made the first flight across the English Channel, traveling from Calais to Dover in 37 minutes.

On July 25, 1944, Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters recorded Cole Porter's popular "Don't Fence Me In."

On July 25, 1971, in Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Christian Barnard successfully transplanted two lungs and a heart into a man.

On July 25, 1978, Louise Brown, the world's first "test tube baby," was born in Lancashire, England. She was conceived through in-vitro fertilization.

On July 25, 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration in a White House ceremony ending a 46-year formal state of war.

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin to be the nation's first postmaster general.

On July 26, 1941, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was named commander of United States forces in the Philippines.

On July 26, 1943, Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger was born in Dartford, England.

On July 26, 1948, President Truman banned discrimination in the military and in federal employment.

On July 27, 1694, the Bank of England was incorporated.

On July 27, 1866, the first underwater cable message was sent between North America and Europe.

On July 27, 1909, Orville Wright set a world record by keeping his airplane aloft for 72 minutes and 40 seconds.

On July 27, 1931, thousands of acres of crops were destroyed as swarms of giant grasshoppers descended on Nebraska and South Dakota.

On July 27, 1940, Bugs Bunny made his "official" debut in the Warner Bro. cartoon "A Wild Hare."

On July 27, 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington by President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam.

On July 28, 1750, Johann Sebastian Bach, the German composer/organist regarded as one of the greatest composers, died at 65 in Leipzig, Germany.

On July 28, 1825, John Kinzie, who was referred to as the "First Citizen of Chicago," was appointed as the city's first justice of the peace.

On July 28, 1859, Chicago's "Rosehill Cemetery" was officially dedicated.

On July 28, 1927, 27 passengers drowned when the "Favorite," a Lake Michigan cruise ship, capsized in a sudden squall off Chicago's North Avenue.

On July 29, 1030, King Olaf II, the patron saint of Norway, was killed in battle.

On July 29, 1850, "La Traviata," the first opera to be performed in Chicago, opened at the Rice Theater.

On July 29, 1957, Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

On July 29, 1958, NASA came into being when President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act.

On July 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford became the first U.S. President to visit the site of Poland's Auschwitz concentration camp.

On July 29, 1977, the first oil began flowing through the 800-mile long Alaska pipeline.



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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Long Beach Home for Sale, 2219 Oriole Trail
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Michigan City Senior Center

Michigan City Senior Center, in complying with Mayor Duane Parry's executive order, is closed through July 31, reopening Monday, Aug. 3.

The Aug. 3 date is tentative, dependent on any further executive order' from the mayor, governor, LaPorte County Council or Michigan City Common Council.

Once open again, the center will resume its schedule printed in the July *Golden Times* newsletter. The entry times for each activity are 20 minutes prior to the start time and 20 minutes after the start time. No other entry is permitted.

Mail all dues to MCSC, 2 on the Lake, Michigan City, IN 46360, until further notice.

South Shore Legends Nominations

Nominations are open through Sept. 2 for South Shore Legends at the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority, Hammond.

Legends are individuals or teams whose accomplishments "resonate in and beyond Northwest Indiana." This includes the following counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, New- ton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke.

Multiple individuals engaged in the same activity can be included in one nomination. Contact Davies for a form at (219) 789-1214. Nominations can be submitted at tinyurl.com/ycshzgmf, by email to john.davies1214@gmail.com or by mail to South Shore CVA, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond, IN 46323.

Four A's Cruise In

The Four A's Cruise In is from 3 to 6 p.m. EDT Sunday, July 26, at the Three Oaks (Mich.) American Legion Post, 204 W. Linden St.

The event is a cruise-in only; no trophies, food or raffles. The cost is \$10 per car. Proceeds benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. Call Donna at (219) 363-5736 for details.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Outsider by Linda Castillo (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 309 pages)

"But can I trust you?"

It's action right out of the gate as Chief of Police Kate Burkholder takes on strained loyalties and dirty cops in the 12th book of this popular series set in the fictional town of Painters Mill, Ohio. It's mostly farmland, and the population is split between the Amish community and everyone else they call the "English."

This time, however, the story opens in Columbus, Ohio, with a woman waking up to the sound of broken glass and shattered wood. It's a police raid Gina Colorosa was expecting. Fully dressed, she leaps out of bed and out the bedroom window. Unfortunately, she gets winged in the shoulder while sprinting down the alley to the friend's garage where a truck is ready and waiting. She flees the town just as snowfall is showing promise of becoming a major blizzard. Where to now, Gina?

Gina has been a Columbus police officer assigned to the vice squad, and now she's about to become a fugitive from the very law she promised to uphold. She knows she's being set up, but who can she trust or even turn to for help? The only name that comes to mind is Kate Burkholder, the woman she shared an apartment with when they both were rookie cops in Columbus. Kate has since become police chief in Painters Mill, but maybe Gina can count on their past friendship. Really? They didn't part on sociable terms 10 years ago, but, after all, Kate is a former member of the Amish, and maybe, just maybe, she still remembers the friendship they once shared. Even after what Kate observed before she left Columbus? That's hoping for a lot of good memories and overlooking some not so good ones...

So, despite the worsening blizzard, Gina heads for Painters Mill and Kate. Maintaining a view of the road ahead soon becomes white-knuckle driving. Castillo's description of a Midwestern winter storm had me shivering and reaching for a quilt. As Gina turns off the main highway onto a county road, her pickup fishtails and careens off the road, plowing into a tree. She is knocked unconscious...

Down the road a piece, Amish farmer Adam Lengacher is hitching up his horse and sleigh to give his three children a fun ride in the snow before the weather gets worse. They spy the truck off the

road and stop to help. Adam takes Gina back to his house; after all, the nearest phone is several miles away and the woman obviously needs help now before she freezes to death. She whispers Kate's name, a name Adam knows very well — he and Kate grew up together.

Kate makes it to Adam's house just in time to get stuck there until the storm will abate and the road crews can plow the highways. She is shocked to see Gina and the bullet hole in her shoulder, but there's no way to get her to a hospital. Gina can't be reported by the doctors because word will get

back to...Who? Her story comes out in bits and pieces, and there's one problem...make that one *big* problem. Kate doesn't know whether she can believe the story Gina is giving her about the abuses, thievery, even murder in the Columbus vice department — bad things in which Gina also took part.

But now, Gina wants to come clean and tell the truth, no matter the consequences. Kate calls on her live-in boyfriend, John Tomasetti, an agent for the Ohio State Police who can make discreet inquiries about Gina's situation.

"Tomasetti, what if she's telling the truth? She believes she wasn't supposed to survive the raid last night." Maybe this dilemma will reinforce Kate's theory that sometimes, facts alone cannot be relied on. Sometimes, you have to go with your gut reaction.

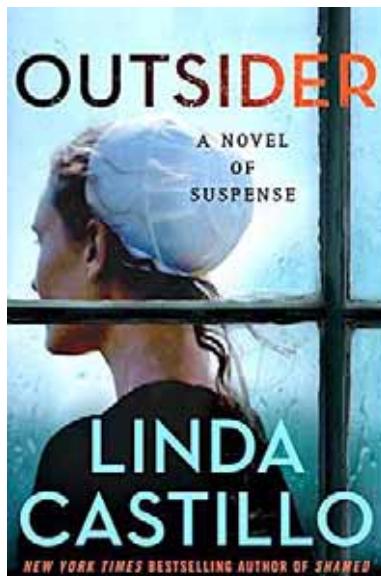
Which brings on the next problem: Those who want Gina dead are most likely on the hunt to find out where she would go for help...and then just maybe, they remember her good friend, Kate Burkholder.

Snow keeps piling up, two desperate cops are closing in on Gina's location and it's a thrilling climax that leaves death and destruction in this quiet Amish community.

Castillo is one of my favorite authors. She writes about the Amish community with compassion and understanding, giving us an inside look at their beliefs and way of life. She's also created a character in Kate who is a force to be reckoned with, a woman with a foot in two worlds, trying to do right by both — a sympathetic character you want to succeed and to succeed well.

Castillo is a *New York Times* bestselling author and recipient of numerous industry awards. Her first book, *Sworn to Silence*, was adapted into a Lifetime Original Movie, "An Amish Murder." Learn more at www.lindacastillo.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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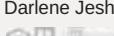
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