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Saving the Tunes

by William Halliar



Marti Pizzini performs during the February Save the Tunes Council concert at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. All photos by Bob Wellinski

For 30 years now, The Save the Tunes Council has shared its talent and love of American song with the people of the dunes. In this true labor of love, the traditional songs of our ancestors are passed down, with an appreciative audience that shares in the joy by joining their voices with performers, celebrating old-time, homespun fellowship.

Every third Friday of the month, anywhere from

eight to 10 friends who happen to play instruments and warble sweet tunes gather at 7:30 p.m. at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, to share their love of folk songs with old and new friends. The concert is one of the highest attended through Indiana Dunes National Park. A loyal group of fans has been attending these intimate performances for the past 30 years.

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Saving the Tunes

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“It is so nice to see people enjoy our facility in the evenings,” says Lorelei Weimer, Indiana Dunes Tourism executive director.

I had the privilege of being in the audience for the February concert. As is my habit, I arrived early on that cold February evening. As cars spilled into the visitor center parking lot, I bundled up against the cold wind blowing that night and entered the building. The auditorium there is small, but comfortable and with good acoustics — perfect for small group music-making. Musicians began to assemble on the stage. Among the instruments I noticed being carefully unpacked were dulcimers, autoharps, accordions, assorted small rhythm instruments, a couple of hurdy-gurdies and, of course, guitars.

The audience slowly began to fill the auditorium, each person greeting the other as old friends and family, laughing and sharing events of the past month.

“The audience is a vital part of each performance,” Marti Pizzini says. She was crucial to making the concert series a reality.

Just like in church, each person knows where his/her traditional seat is. The audience looks forward to a performance where they can interact with performers on stage, and sing along as the spirit moves them.

On stage, the players take their positions. Chairs are available, but some musicians sit, relaxed, on the front of the stage. One gentleman stands on the floor in front of the audience, noodling with a few notes. They tune up, strum chords or crank their hurdy-gurdies, warming up before the show.

What would constitute tonight’s performance? Only the musicians know. Pizzini says the only requirement of the night is that each musician will “play what is in their heart.” There is no particular theme to be followed.

When Pizzini moved back to Michigan City in 1988, she dreamed she would some day bring folk music to the Indiana Dunes. Music was in her blood. She had been singing since she was a little girl. Growing up in the 1960s, music, especially folk music and guitar music, was in the air everywhere.

Protest songs were popular in the late 1960s, and Pizzini remembers singing for every event of social relevance imaginable, from civil rights to women’s rights to hunger drives. If there was a wrong to right and a song to be sung, she was there with her guitar, autoharp or dulcimer.

At this concert, the audience has been seated, beginning to settle down. The musicians on stage complete their tuning and warmup rituals. All settle in for an evening of shared, magical, musical joy.

These performances are “like an old-time house party,” Pizzini says. “There is a gentleness and



Nine musicians share their talents during the February program.

homeliness about the music.”

You can almost imagine sitting around in grandma’s living room, singing together quietly after supper or hanging out on the front porch on a hot summer’s night. Someone brings out a guitar, and the music simply wells up out of a spirit of contentment and family.

“For 30 years, Save the Tunes has been primarily about friendship,” Pizzini says. “It is all about the music and being together.”



Performances take on a relaxed air, with musicians seated on stage or wherever proves comfortable.

Tonight, there are nine musicians on stage. The number of performers varies slightly each month. All friends, all here to share their music and have a good time.

“For years, we would all get together and practice before each performance,” Pizzini says. “Nowadays, we just get together and play.”

Each musician takes center stage and plays two songs of his/her choice.

“There is no competition among the musicians,” Pizzini says. “Sometimes, we play alone, and sometimes everyone joins in. Sometimes, we all just sit back and listen and enjoy.”

There is much banter between the performer and this familiar audience that has followed Save the Tunes for many years. Jokes are told. Stories are shared.

The first song at this concert was one performed during Abraham Lincoln’s first presidential campaign back in 1860: “Lincoln & Liberty Too.” This is followed by a rendition of “The Old Maid’s Lament.”

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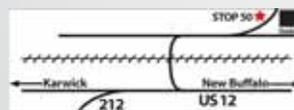
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The performer says to everyone, “Here is the key,” and everyone joins in the fun. Rusty old voices join mellow voices and the chorus is raised.

Joy is in the air.

Irish songs celebrate the forthcoming St. Patrick’s Day, and country songs are added to create an eclectic sound. The tunes are lively and the performers charming, each telling jokes and stories to introduce the tunes.

“Before the crowbar was invented, crows had to drink at home,” one performer quips.

“At Save the Tunes, you will hear music that you can’t hear anywhere else,” Pizzini says. “There is always a great variety. Very often, we shift seamlessly between centuries of musical history.”

“You can’t sing too many country songs” is a sentiment agreed upon as all join in on a chorus of “I Ride an Old Paint” before a segue into “Dance a Little Closer” as the audience hums and harmonizes along. The performance might be called organic. It springs from the heart and is shared between hearts.



Long Beach’s Brian Kanyer has performed with Save the Tunes Council for more than 25 years.

I hear harmonies from the audience as we sing, “Where Have all the Flowers Gone?” Much of the music is old and obscure, but many familiar tunes are shared. The evening is mellow as music is whispered through the halls of the visitor center. Harmony melds with bass notes and melodies to create a peaceful atmosphere.



Concerts celebrate music and especially instruments of the past.

A quiet rendition of “Fools Rush In” washes over the assembly, and we join in remembering “The Edmund Fitzgerald.” This audience, which has followed Save the Tunes for so many years, is delighted by the evening’s performance and, after the pleasant sounds have died away, ventures out into the cold of this February evening with songs in their hearts.

Bruce Rowe, an Indiana Dunes National Park ranger and supervisor of public relations, says he appreciates the Save the Tunes program.

“It is nice that the musicians get the audience involved,” he said. “They really love what they are doing.”

Indeed, that is true of Long Beach’s Brian Kanyer, who has performed with Save the Tunes for more than 25 years.

“The players have changed over that time, but the message is always the same: enjoy music, enjoy playing music and listening to it.

“We aren’t professionals. Some are very much amateurs, but we love to share a classic, or a fun, odd tune with our friends on the stage and in the audience, just to make people smile. And it’s worth the price of admission — it’s free!”

If You Go

The Save the Tunes Council performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49. Call (219) 395-1882 to confirm the program is still scheduled amid recent coronavirus concerns.

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“I Still Believe” Tackles Issues of Loss, Faith With Mainstream Appeal



K.J. Apa stars as Jeremy Camp and Britt Robertson as Melissa Henning in “I Still Believe.”

I saw Jeremy Camp in concert. Three years ago, I believe it was, in Valparaiso. No knowledge of his past, just his music. He frequently joked about nearing 40, but his energy, his faith, were limitless. You walked away from the experience lifted up.

“I Still Believe,” the fifth film by the writing-directing team of Andrew and Jon Erwin, charts the singer’s early days in college when he met and fell in love with Melissa Henning, right as she was diagnosed with cancer. The dramatic arc of the picture is, how do you walk away from tragedy with your soul intact? And with that, the Erwin brothers, whose last faith-based picture was the moving “I Can Only Imagine” (2018), have achieved their most inclusive picture to date. Polished and skillfully told, they preach to the choir, yes, but they don’t do so with blunt force. They let the plight of their characters speak for itself so the message affects a broader audience.

We meet Jeremy (K.J. Apa) leaving home in Lafayette, Ind., for college in California. A nice touch, by the way, are all the Pizza King nods, a visual cue that needs no explanation for anyone familiar with central Indiana. Once at school, he meets Melissa (Britt Robertson), who is friends with his musical mentor, Jean-Luc (Nathan Parsons). That leads to an awkward love triangle, with Jeremy ultimately securing Melissa’s heart...and at about the time her cancer diagnosis is unveiled.

This is a rare love story where we get a true feel



“I Still Believe”

Running time: 115 minutes.

Rated PG for thematic material

for why two people belong together. Jeremy is at the start of his journey as a faith-based singer, and she is the real deal, walking the walk, inspiring him at every turn. Apa and Roberts are exceptionally winning. The young actors have chemistry to spare, their conversations on life, love and faith handled with delicate care.

Apa and Robertson are so good, in fact, that when the inevitable finally arrives and Jeremy is forced to question why terrible things happen, we feel a tremendous sense of loss. An aching emptiness. The great Gary Sinise delivers a powerful father-son moment that contributes to Jeremy’s first steps in picking up the pieces. But there is no sidestepping the fact that Jeremy’s loss makes “I Still Believe” inspiring *and* depressing. It’s unavoidable, really, those two emotions.

Faith-based films often are designed to do repeat business among audiences affected by the message. Maybe that’s the boldest move of all for “I Still Believe.” It introduces pain and healing, and the sensation that experiencing the film once was more than enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host its annual “Wake Up the Gardens” volunteer day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 28.

Reservations are required by March 23 to info@friendshipgardens.org or by calling (219) 878-9885.

Volunteers can assist with spring cleanup and prepare the grounds for the approaching season. Helpers will rake leaves, pick up fallen branches and sticks, and clean up other debris. If possible, take a rake and garden gloves. Water and light snacks will be provided. Dress for the weather.

Visit friendshipgardens.org or the Facebook event page for more details.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will explore vernal pools and rivulets at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 21, at Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve.

The 521-acre property on Meer Road harbors several plant species typical of more northern latitudes: leftovers from the last ice age. The dense, thick woods provide habitat for 39 state-listed plant species. Comfortable weather boots are recommended for the three-mile moderate hike.

The group will meet in the southern trail parking lot, which is located on Meer Road 0.7 miles south of Freyer Road (County Road 900 North).

HCH events are free and open to adults and children accompanied by an adult. Dogs are allowed according to destination rules.

Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for more details.

The Earliest Spring in 100+ Years

March 19 marks the first day of spring this year. If that sounds a tad early to you, then you are exactly right!

Typically over the past century, the spring equinox, also known as the March or vernal equinoxes, falls on March 20 or 21. The last recorded date for an early start to spring was 1896.

On the equinox, day and night are nearly the same length throughout the world. The sun crosses the celestial equator from south to north. After, the Northern Hemisphere tilts toward the sun, yielding longer days.

With 2020 being a leap year, that had some impact on the date for spring’s official arrival.

A fascinating article by meteorologist Bob Berman, “Why the Spring Equinox is So Early This Year,” is available at The Old Farmer’s Almanac website: www.almanac.com/spring-2020-earliest-spring-in-over-100-years

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You Can't Go

As adults, we romanticize the films of our youth, crystallized in our memory as perfection. Some, indeed, stand the test of time. “The Wizard of Oz.” “To Kill a Mockingbird.” “Star Wars.” “E.T. The Extra Terrestrial.”

But oh, how the mighty take a nasty tumble when revisited through the eyes of our children, eyes tainted and made cynical by modern degrees of perfection.

For me, it all began a few years back. My son, Will, discovered disaster flicks. Craptacular Irwin Allen flicks like “The Poseidon Adventure” and “The Towering Inferno.” You could say the all-star casts, the life-saving heroics, hooked my boy. Truth was, he loved seeing things go boom. Buildings, ships, cities — you name it — all decimated by natural disasters. Hungry for more, we plundered through my collection. Plenty existed. “The Day After Tomorrow.” “2012.” “Deep Impact.” “Dante’s Peak.” “Twister.” Enough tsunamis, earthquakes, comets, tornadoes and volcanos to last a lifetime.

There was one flick missing from the bunch, though, a 1951 sci-fi extravaganza that halted me in my tracks whenever it was on TV.

“When Worlds Collide.”

Don’t recall it? Here’s a quick refresher. No big movie stars. Brief running time. Bare bones plot. Earth has reached its end thanks to an approaching rogue star called Bellus. All of humanity will be wiped out, save for a scant few chosen by lottery to enter a rocket ship called “The Ark” headed for Zyra, Bellus’ single planet. Classic ’50s sci-fi capitalizing on the time’s nuclear-age fears. It won an Oscar for special effects, scoring a second nomination for color cinematography. “Deep Impact” (1998) paid homage, not just with the same cataclysmic plot, but by naming its underground hideout — the lucky few also invited by lottery — “The Ark.”

My memory, heretofore untainted, was the big finish: a flooded Manhattan, that rocket ship, dipping along a roller coaster trajectory before leaping into the night sky. I shared my recollections with Will. His immediate reaction: “Can you get it?”

One of the area libraries had it. Having finished his homework early one weekday afternoon, Will and I watched it before dinner. Chomping at the bit, I was. Will *would* love it.



Above: The final shot of “When Worlds Collide,” the actors filmed against a painted backdrop.
Below: The models used to depict the rocket that will take survivors to another planet.



Sixty minutes into the 83-minute run time, little had happened. People talking. And talking. And talking some more. The movie was a stone-cold bore. Every 10 minutes or so, Will turned to me, asking, “When’s it going to get good?” He was antsy, careful of not hurting my feelings.

The first few earthquakes: not too bad. *Then*, the tsunami. A submerged model of Manhattan, the “wave” resembling water from a garden hose at full

Home Again

by Andrew Tallackson

blast. Will had an odious look on his face, like he'd taken a whiff of something sulfuric. The final nail in the coffin: The rocket barrels along its rounded path, into the sky...and you can see the strings hold-

the storytelling was painfully stiff, the robotic acting like watching moving cardboard cutouts. *This* was one of my childhood favorites?

In his classic posthumous novel, *You Can't Go*

Home Again, Thomas Wolfe wrote, and the excerpt here is abbreviated, "You can't go back home to your family, back home to your childhood...back home to the old forms and systems of things which once seemed everlasting, but which are changing all the time – back home to the escapes of *Time and Memory*." That Wolfe guy knew what he was talking about. With "When Worlds Collide," the bloom had come off the rose.

In all fairness, children do not engage in much critical thinking. They accept what they encounter at face value.

If that's what a flooded Manhattan looked like to 7-year-old me, then *that's* what a flooded Manhattan looked like. But to my son, groomed on today's cutting edge visuals, "When Worlds Collide" was a snooze. And he wasn't wrong. I vowed not to push off on him my childhood favorites again.

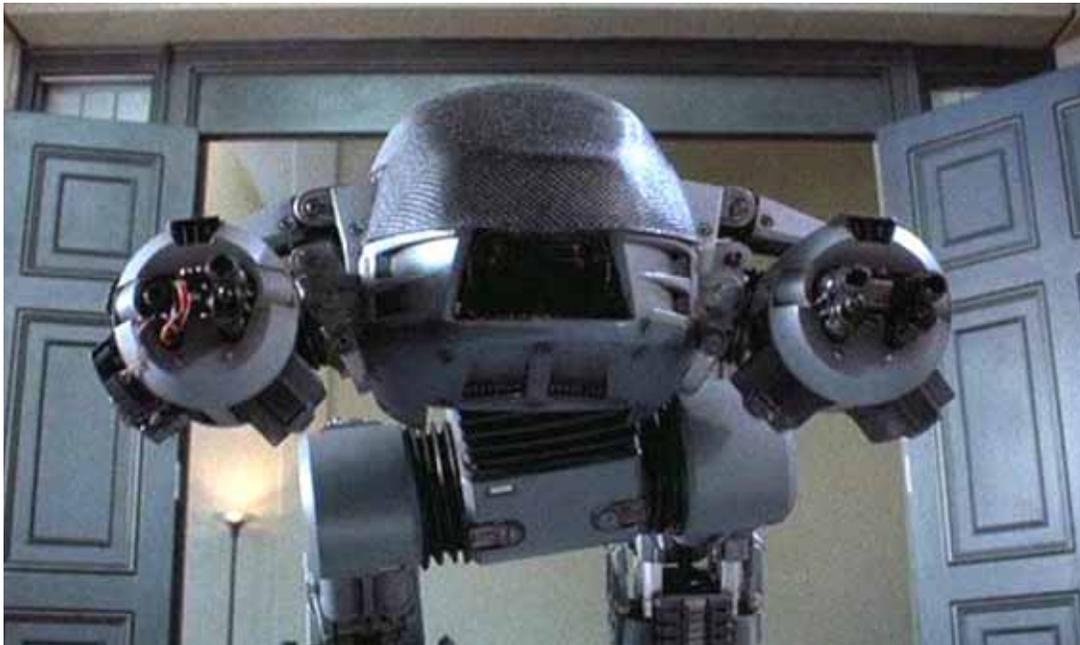
Until last week.

Perusing my movie collection, a now 13-year-old Will asked, "What's 'Robocop'?"

A fire ignited in my belly. Ooooh. "Robocop" (1987). Peter Weller. Half-man/half cyborg. Keeping Detroit's streets safe from sickos. Part "Frankenstein," part "Terminator." Total badass. Director Paul Verhoeven now calls it a parable on the resurrection of Christ. That's pushing it. Then again, this is the same filmmaker who, while promoting his notorious fiasco "Showgirls" (1995), allowed the screenwriter, Joe Eszterhas, to tell a reporter the film was akin to a "spiritual experience."

But in reference to "Robocop," I quickly told my son, "Yes, Will, yes. You're old enough now. Let's do it!"

Early in the film, the corporation Omni Consumer Products uses a board meeting to unveil its new crime-fighting robot, ED-209. Designed by "Star Wars" veteran Phil Tippett, its sleek look was cool as heck. Fans of the movie also know ED-209 expe-



Above: ED-209, the crime-fighting robot that malfunctions in "Robocop."
Below: Peter Weller as the titular character.



ing it up. My head sagged, my left hand shielding my line of vision from Will and the TV. Moments later, the rocket landed, the scenery a painted backdrop one notch away from a Road Runner cartoon.

Roll end credits.

I looked up at Will, who appeared confused. He did not mince words. "Dad, that was *totally* fake." And with that, he headed into the kitchen for dinner. Time, obviously, had shamed the effects, but



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Continued from Page 11

periences a "glitch," killing a board member. "Wait 'til you see the robot," I nudged Will.

The board room doors open, ED-209 makes its big entrance...and nostalgia again had played cruel tricks on me. I'd forgotten the film relied on stop-motion animation for the robot's movement. The mechanical monstrosity advanced on its target with jittery clunkiness. Will turned his gaze to me, perplexed, as if he'd been subjected to watching a bronze turd.

True, much of "Robocop" is dated today, but time had not tarnished the core elements — the tragic story, the attacks on government and media influence, the humanity of the main character.

After it was over, I asked Will for his opinion. "It wasn't bad," he replied. "It was very '80s, though."

Aye-yi-yi. He's definitely my kid. A future critic, tried and true. Putting personal ego on the backburner, I smiled and left it at that.

The experience, like "When Worlds Collide," was a reminder that entertainment is subjective. We all react to it differently. What affects one person may have little to no impact on another. Just because something left me exhilarated during my formative years does not mean my son will favor it as well.

He has his own shelf of movies, by the way. Films he enjoys revisiting. The "Back to the Future" trilogy. "Forrest Gump." "Grease." "A League of Their Own." Anything Pixar.

Good for him. And me? Who knows. Maybe one day, when he's off to college and no one's looking, I'll revisit my clumsy '80s robot, or my '50s rocket-on-a-string. Just for old time's sake.

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Native Plant Sale

April 10 is the deadline to submit pre-orders for the Friends 24th Annual Native Plant Sale, which is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

A limited quantity of each plant variety is ordered, and each year, several varieties are gone early because of pre-orders, which are filled as they are received.

Forms are available at dunefriends.org, through the facebook page link, at the visitor center or the Indiana Dunes State Park office and nature center.

Contact Angel Gochee-Goins, the sale's committee chairwoman, at angel@dunefriends.org or (219) 707-3617 for details.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with "Youth Art 2020" at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 19, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The four-week series explores teaching methods of art educators, and award-winning work by students from schools in the current exhibit.

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

Paladin Splash of Color Gala

Paladin will host its Splash of Color Gala and Auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton.

The fundraiser, which supports Paladin's mission to serve people with disabilities, includes entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

Sponsorships and tickets are available at www.paladin.care or by calling (219) 874-4288, Ext. 0302.



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La Porte County Parks



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

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- April 1: Flower Power.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- April 1 — Foot and ankle care, Dr. Grandfield, podiatrist.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 6 and 27 at Luhr County Park. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Sunset Stroll and Nature Center Visit

The free event is from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at Luhr County Park.

Meet with a naturalist to begin the stroll around the park. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Register by calling (219) 325-8315.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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

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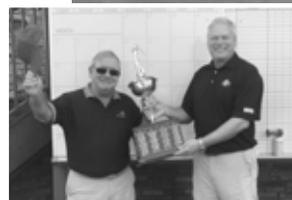
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The Wearing of the Green

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association hosted the annual St. Patrick's Day parade on March 7 in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District. The route headed north on Franklin Street from 11th Street to Fourth Street, with plenty of onlookers along the way. All photos by Paul Kemiell



Indiana Dunes National Park

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that is part of the monthly Indiana Dunes birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21.**

Projects focus on preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail. All equipment and protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, will be provided. Meet at The Park Connection volunteer office, which is adjacent to the main Chellberg Farm parking lot.

• **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at The Paul H.**

Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

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

• **Stargazing from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• **A ranger will lead a tour in one of the park's 16-passenger buses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22.**

The free tour meets at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

• **Critter Dinner at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21.**

Watch the Nature Center's reptiles and amphibians eat breakfast.

• **Walk & Talk With the Timberdoodles at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21.**

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the shorebirds called woodcocks, bogsuckers or timberdoodles. At 6:30 p.m., participants quietly head out in search of the birds. Dress for the weather. The program maximum is 30 people. Register by calling (219) 926-1390.

• **Mount Tom Trek at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 22.**

Join a naturalist for a hike to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes and meet at the Nature Center.

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.



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Chesterton Art Center

• **Leona Jurincie will teach a six-week Beginning-to-Advanced Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 27.**

Jurincie will lead students through watercolor techniques and styles. The cost is \$200, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Jurincie will discuss them with all beginners to start the class.

• **Sarah Fantuzzo will teach a six-week Intermediate/Advanced Drawing Class starting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 1.**



An example of Fantuzzo's work.

The class will focus on design and composition, and creating realistic volume through perspective and value. Students will work from more complex still lives, as well as landscape drawing and an introduction to portrait and figure drawing. Special attention goes to drawing textures such as metal, fur and wood. Prior drawing experience is required.

The cost is \$200, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list is included upon registration.

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

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 11th St.

The Rev. Walter Rakoczy is the facilitator. Membership is free and open to anyone interested in learning about the Polish language, culture and traditions.

Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369, email polamnwi@yahoo.com or view "Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana" on Facebook (click "Join Group") for more details.

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March 10, 2020

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Gutter Gals	26.5	13.5
2. Lucky Lefties	25	15
3. Striking Beauties/Gutter Busters	23	17
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Dottie Brinckman		208
2. Mary Lou McFadden		171
3. Sue Labovitz		160
4. Nancy Kubath		158
4. Cindy Beck		158
5. Kathleen Staninger		153
5. Shelley Dunleavy		153
5. Ginny Hogan		153
6. Jean Bethany (series)		407
SPLITS		
Deb Novak		5-10
June Salmon		7-8-9, 3-10
Kathy Angelo		5-6
Jean Bethany		4-5
STRIKES		
Dottie Brinckman (4)		
Sue Wall (3)		

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.



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

- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24.
- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, Michigan City, 1:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.

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.

Annual Tree and Shrub Sale

The Berrien Conservation District is taking orders for its spring Tree and Shrub fundraiser.

Bare root seedlings of evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees are available, along with strawberry and raspberry plants, rain barrels and composters.

Orders may be placed at www.berriencd.org. Forms also can be obtained from the office, 3334 Edgewood Road, Berrien Springs, Mich., or requested by mail by calling (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3. Forms are due by April 10.



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Birding Festival Awarded

The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival has received the 2020 Mindful Birding Award for promoting bird conservation and ethical birding guidelines through its annual event.

Mindful Birding is a charitable project through the Morrissey Family Foundation.



This year's Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, hosted by Indiana Audubon, is May 14-17. Mindful Birding praised the event's stewardship fund, which this year will support the continuing Piping Plover monitoring project in the Chicago region of Lake Michigan. Also recognized was festival efforts to adopt and adhere to a code of bird-

ing ethics "marked by clarity, specificity and restraint," according to a press release.

Registration for this year's festival is under way at indunesbirdingfestival.com. The event includes more than 150 trips, programs, workshops and social events. It is co-hosted by Indiana Dunes national and state parks, along with a consortium of environmental organizations as festival sponsors.

Contact the IDNP information desk at (219) 395-1882 or Indiana Audubon at (219) 928-6905 for more details.

LaPorte County Public Library

- **Anime Club from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, March 20.**

Meet other teen anime fans through the club.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.**

Students in grades 3 and older can move through levels, earning a certificate for each completed level. They work independently and chart their progress while completing hands-on, interactive projects.

- **MAKE a Difference from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays in March.**

The focus is kindness bracelets.



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.

New Troy Community Center

The indoor flea market scheduled for March 21 at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Also, Friends of New Troy's 15th anniversary celebration set for March 28 will be rescheduled.

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Youth-Led Project Funding

Leadership LaPorte County’s Youth to Youth program has mini-grants available for community service projects.

Y2Y, a spin-off of Leadership LaPorte County’s Youth Program, is a collaboration with Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County. Now in its 10th year, the program has collectively funded more than \$5,000 in youth-led community projects. Requests are reviewed by a youth committee. The application and project must be completed by youth and serve a community need.

Grant packets are available by contacting the Leadership office at info@leadershiplaportecounty.com. The deadline is April 1. The youth committee will invite finalists to an interview. Grant amounts can range from \$50 to \$500 per project. Youth groups meeting the criteria include school classes, athletic teams, clubs, neighborhood groups, Scouting groups, 4-H clubs, church youth groups and other organized groups. An adult supervisor is required, but the application and project must be youth-led. Any LaPorte County youth group or individual youth can apply.

NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of New Buffalo Library kicks off its 2020 Community Forum season with the checkered history of area viticulture and wine making at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, March 23, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Speakers for the program, “From the Land to the Glass: Winemaking in Southwest Michigan,” are wine expert Rick Cooper and Nick Bogert of The Region of Three Oaks Museum.

The ensuing schedule includes: “The Iron Brigade and the Red Arrow Division” on April 6; “A History of the American Women’s Journey to the Vote” on April 13; “Putting America on Wheels: Henry Ford and the Culture of Mass Consumption” on April 21; “Unsolved Mysteries: The Shipwreck Thomas Hume” on May 5; “Documentary Night: ‘They Shall Not Grow Old’” on May 19; and “Plastics Pollution” on June 16.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more details.

Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club will discuss Dan Egan’s The Death and Life of The Great Lakes at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 26, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The April selection is Stephen King’s The Institute.

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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.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Spring Signs with the Turquoise Top Hat from 1 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 21.**

The workshop, hosted by The Turquoise Top Hat, Stevensville, Mich., lets participants choose from spring-themed and Easter wood signs to paint and stencil under guidance. The cost is \$45 per project. Registration is required.

• **Inviting Bluebirds to Your Backyard from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 21.**

Naturalist Wendy Jones details the natural history of bluebirds, and shares tips to have them nest in backyards. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

Miller Garden Club

The Miller Garden Club will hold its first 2020 general meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.

The speaker is Purdue Extension Educator Rebecca Koetz. She will discuss the Master Gardener program and Urban Agriculture, answering questions afterward. She received her masters' degree in forestry and natural resources from Purdue University. Also, Jack Tonk, a founding club member and former club president, will discuss the basics of growing herbs and vegetables.

Miller Garden Club meets the third Saturday of the month March through October. Membership dues are \$20. Visit Millergardenclub.org for details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee will hold a special meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 19, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E Michigan Blvd.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

March 19 — “31 Days, 31 Women,” 7-8 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 20 — Bookmarks: “Dear Edward,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 20 — Anime Club, 3:30-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 20 — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 20-22 — “Gypsy,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

March 20-23 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “Just Mercy.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “Little Women.” Rated PG. Times: 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Mon. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

March 21 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EDT, Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve. Meet @ southern trail parking lot, Meer Road, 0.7 miles south of Freyer Road. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

March 21 — “Hoosier Suffragists: The Other Feminists,” 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 21 — Walk & Talk With the Timberdoodles, 5:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

March 21 — Stargazing, 7-9 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 21 — Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute: Shining Star, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40-\$65. Reservations: acornlive.org

March 22 — “Bad A** Women of the Dunes,” 2-3 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

March 23 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, 6 p.m. EDT, NB library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (269) 469-2933.

In the Region

March 20-21 — Peter Shaffer’s “Black Comedy,” 8 p.m., Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$17/seniors 62+, students 21 & younger, veterans. Reservations: www.boxoffice@chicagostreet.org

March 21 — Spring Signs with the Turquoise Top Hat, 1-4 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$45/project. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

March 21 — Inviting Bluebirds to Your Backyard

2-4 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$12, \$10/members. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Tuesdays through April — Free community class, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 W. U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (269) 469-1966.

Wednesdays — Musician jam sessions, 6-9 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Performer signup: Nicole Pierard @ anso91@yahoo.com. Audience donation: \$5.

Through April 29 — Free display, "Cruisin' Through the Times," Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Info: (219) 989-7979.

Support Groups

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6:15 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

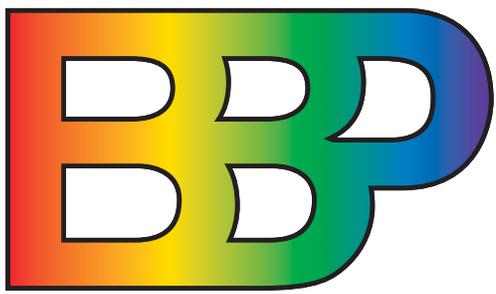
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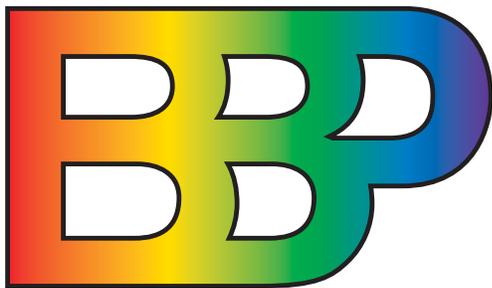
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On March 19, 1831, robbers removed \$245,000 from City Bank in New York, gaining the dubious distinction of participating in the nation's first bank holdup.

On March 19, 1859, "Faust," an opera by Charles Gounod, premiered in Paris.

On March 19, 1917, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Adamson Act, which provided for an eight-hour work day for railroad workers.

On March 19, 1918, Congress approved daylight saving time for the nation.

On March 19, 1953, the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles were televised for the first time.

On March 20, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte entered Paris in triumph, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

On March 20, 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, went on sale. The author depicts the cruelty, horror and tragedy under slavery. The book, perhaps more than any other single event, awoke the conscience of the nation to the inhumanity of slavery.

On March 20, 1965, Martin Luther King led more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators as they began a march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

On March 20, 1969, the Beatles John Lennon married Yoko Ono.

On March 20, 1985, Alaska's Libby Riddles became the first woman to win the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, traveling from Anchorage to Nome in 18 days, 20 minutes and 17 seconds.

On March 21, 1685, German composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

On March 21, 1916, Frank Marshall took on 105 other chess players at the same time at a Washington, D.C., tournament. His final score was: 82 wins; eight losses; 15 draws.

On March 21, 1956, "Marty" won best picture at the Academy Awards and its star, Ernest Borgnine, won best actor.

On March 21, 1963, after three decades of housing some of America's most notorious criminals, including Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly, the Alcatraz Federal Prison, located in the middle of San Francisco Bay, was ordered closed by then Atty. General Robert Kennedy.

On March 22, 1630, colonists in Boston were forbidden to gamble. A law was passed that stipulated

that "...all persons whatsoever that have cards, dice or tables in their homes shall, under pain of punishment, make away with them before the next court convenes."

On March 22, 1882, Congress outlawed polygamy.

On March 22, 1895, Auguste and Louis Lumiere showed their first movie in Paris.

On March 22, 1963, the Beatles' first album "Please Please Me" was released in Britain.

On March 22, 1997, American Tara Lipinski, at 14, became the youngest person to win the women's world figure skating title.

On March 23, 1743, Handel's "Messiah" had its London premiere. During the "Hallelujah Chorus," a captivated King George II rose to his feet. The audience rose with the King, and the tradition of standing during the chorus was born.

On March 23, 1806, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

On March 23, 1965, America's first two-person spaceflight began as Gemini 3 blasted off carrying Virgil Grissom and John Young.

On March 23, 1983, 112 days after receiving the world's first permanent artificial heart, Barney Clark died at the University of Utah Medical Center.

On March 24, 1783, Spain recognized the independence of the United States.

On March 24, 1883, long-distance telephone service was inaugurated between Chicago and New York.

On March 24, 1949, John and Walter Houston became the first father and son to receive Oscars from the "Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science." The award was for "The Treasure of Sierra Madre."

On March 24, 1955, the popular Tennessee Williams' play, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," opened on Broadway.

On March 24, 1958, singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army.

On March 24, 2002, at the Academy Awards, Halle Berry became the first black actress to win an Oscar for a leading role for "Monster's Ball."

On March 25, 1867, the cornerstone was laid for Chicago's famous Water Tower.

On March 25, 1882, fascinated New Yorkers lined up on the sidewalk to witness the first public demonstration of pancake making in the window of a restaurant.

On March 25, 1913, the Palace Theatre, which was to become known as The Home of Vaudeville, opened in New York.

On March 25, 1954, RCA announced it had begun producing color television sets at its plant in Bloomington, Ind. The sets, with 12-1/2 inch picture tubes, cost \$1,000 each.

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HELP WANTED: Part time (3 or 4 days per week) person for working our Magic Food Pantry at the Furnessville Schoolhouse, which entails merchandising shelves and keeping dept in order. Also, assembling in-house samples to distribute in shop. Also, serving pre-made food for our patio customers (weather permitting) lunches.

Call Jim Ruge @ (219) 252-8567.

No matter how you cut it, we just keep growing.

We would love for you to grow with us! At The Salon at 10th and Pine, we are looking for new and experienced stylists to join our team. Apply in person at 128 E. 10th St. in Michigan City. **Call (219) 809-963 for details.**

The Beacher is seeking a part-time employee to help collate our weekly newspaper. Call us at (219) 879-0088 and ask to speak with Dora Kayser.

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Furnished 2BR/1BA rental September-May in Sheridan Beach. Newly rehabbed. \$1,050. **Call (574) 514-3224.**

1BR Sheridan Beach Apartments. Off-street parking. No pets/smoking. Utilities included. References and sec. dept. required. **Call (219) 879-2195 for details.**

Large studio with separate kitchen. Total renovation! Private, but close to everything. \$850/mo., includes all utilities, cable and Internet, snow removal/trash pickup. No smoking/pets. **Call (219) 221-2228.**

Rental room with kitchen access. Ideal for college student. \$350 rent with monthly lease. References required. **Write: Room for Rent, P.O. Box 9112, Michigan City, IN 46361.**

BOAT SLIP RENTAL: 50 Marine Drive, Michigan City

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RENTALS MICHIGAN

House for Rent: Galien, MI, 3BR/2B furnished home. \$980/month.

No smokers. **Call (312) 498-1444**

A Notice to Our Readers

The articles, columns and community notices in this week's edition were prepared before concerns about the coronavirus resulted in closures throughout the community. For any event we've included this week, please call beforehand to see if has or has not been canceled.

The Beacher office at 911 Franklin St. will remain open, our print services still available to the public. Any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at (219) 879-0088



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

One Minute Out by Mark Greaney (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 493 pages)

“Hope isn’t a strategy, but sometimes it’s all you’ve got.”

Was he in the right place at the wrong time? Or in the wrong place at the right time? With Court Gentry, it’s hard to tell...

In this ninth book about Gentry, aka Violator to the CIA, or The Gray Man to the rest of the world, he is in Croatia “on assignment.” Not from the CIA — he took a vacation from them for this job from another source. That means you’re on a need-to-know basis, and you don’t need to know.

Gentry has a checkered past. First a valued member of the CIA, then boot-ed out with a “kill on sight” label on his head, currently back in the CIA’s good graces. All is forgiven...well, maybe forgiven, but not forgotten. The CIA likes to “handle” its agents. Court doesn’t like being “handled,” so contention between him and the agency continues. Thing is, the CIA admits he gets results.

Gentry has a moral compass. That’s hard to swallow given his occupation, but he really believes he only kills those who deserve killing. And he plays by his own rules. The CIA can direct him, but he, and he alone, makes his own path to complete any assignment. Many ask if he’s a saint or sinner. He answers with something his mentor told him: *“Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.”*

Little does he know this latest job will lead him to a bigger, nastier scenario he just can’t walk away from. The implications of involvement in this situation will test Gentry’s moral capacity to its limits.

First things first. Gentry’s in Bosnia to take out retired Serbian general Ratko Babic. *“He’s a war criminal, the perpetrator of acts of genocide...personally responsible for orchestrating the mass execution of 8,000 men and boys over three days in the summer of 1995.”*

The plan is well-thought-out and executed with medical precision. Babic is killed, but Gentry finds something on the property he didn’t expect: several dozen young women locked in a basement, their ankles shackled to eyebolts in the floor.

It doesn’t take a genius to see these women — some no more than girls — are victims of a sex-trafficking business. Problem: There is a group of thugs and paramilitary men guarding them.

No spoiler alert here. I will not explain how he gets away, but not with the women.

Here’s where that very moral compass of Gentry shoots a straight line to righting an obvious wrong when he could have just said, I’ve done my job, taken out Babic, time to go home. Not his way.

“I dream about the women in the cellar. I can’t make out any faces clearly, but I see eyes shining red: fearful, despairing orbs that track me wherever I move...I sense the inevitable bleakness of their futures and, more disheartening, I see they sense that bleakness, as well.”

He does, however, meet Talyssa Corbu (another interesting part of the story), who says her sister

was abducted and is probably in that basement. She is determined to follow them and somehow save her sister...nice dream, but not very realistic. Can Gentry just leave her and go home? Not a chance. Corbu has figured out this sex operation picks up girls from all over the globe, sends them through a “pipeline” to hidden places where rich men bid on them, the girls disappear and most are killed after they outlive their usefulness.

These girls, along with Corbu’s sister, are moved from Babic’s farm to a yacht taking them to Venice, Italy, for the next “auction.” Gentry is still frustrated, as he wants to take out the head of this organization, but the CIA is reluctant to help. Could it be they

already know who he is and need him for something else? Where do you go from here, Gray Man?

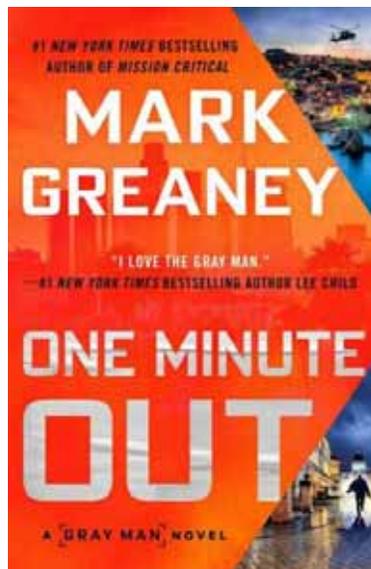
Persistence and Corbu’s hacking takes them to California and, finally, to a wild climax high in the Hollywood Hills. Would you believe his strike team consists of six former Vietnam vets, one helicopter and a whole lot of fire power? You take and work with what you can, that’s Gentry’s philosophy.

But, does the story have a happy ending? Yes... and no.

Gentry sums up the events of the past week in typical Gray Man style: *“I think about the past week, and realize how much I wish I could take a vacation from this vacation.”*

If you’re looking for action starting from Page 1, this is the book for you. And, you won’t be disappointed. Greaney has made Gray Man America’s answer to 007; his exploits keep my fingers dug into the arm of my chair. No doubt he gets my vote for thriller novel of the year.

Till next time, happy reading!



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To see more of this listing, please visit 2012SomersetRoad.info



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February Top Producer | February Most Transactions

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