



Volume 36, Number 21 Thursday, May 28, 2020

THE STORIES WE TELL

by Kim Nowatzke

Purdue University Northwest Professor Jerry Holt isn't worried about what he'll do once he's officially retired June 1.

He'll have more time for writing.

As his impressive resume attests, the 78-year-old Holt has amassed 55 years of teaching college-level American literature, film and interdisciplinary studies, excelling as well in administrative experience at dean, division-head and chair levels.

Born in Tulsa, Okla., Holt moved to Oklahoma City at 10. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in English/journalism from Oklahoma State University, then earned a master of arts and doctorate degrees in English from the University of Oklahoma.



It wasn't long before Holt realized teaching lined up perfectly with his writing aspirations.

"I knew pretty early on that I wanted a source of income, that would allow me to write and still follow my passion of writing," he said. "It's been a win-win career."

He spent the first few years at a place he calls "a grand experiment in interdisciplinary teaching — an excellent experience." The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. There, he was chair of the division of

Continued on Page 2

Jerry Holt's tenure with Purdue University Northwest comes to a close June 1.

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

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arts and humanities. Next came 15 years at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio, where he served as dean of the college of arts and science and chair of the department of the division of arts and humanities. After a few years as founding dean of the school of liberal studies at Antioch University McGregor in Yellow Springs, Ohio, he entered his first retirement in December 2007.

However, he said, "I almost instantly knew I would miss the classroom." He decided to accept a one-year visiting professor position at Purdue University Northwest (then Purdue University-North Central) in 2008.

Twelve years later, Holt is still here and spent time as PNW's chair of the department of English and modern languages.

He said he's "found Northwest Indiana to be a rather fascinating place with untold stories or stories that haven't been told enough. Northwest Indiana subjects are plentiful and seemingly endless, and I've celebrated that with a series of plays."

"She's Not There," for instance, features notorious serial killer Belle Gunness, who is believed to have murdered her two husbands, children and other male suitors, mostly on her LaPorte farm.

"Train Stop" is a one-act play about Michigan City native Anita King. In addition to her fame as a silent film star, she was the first woman to drive cross country from California



Holt's play "She's Not There" focuses on notorious LaPorte County serial killer Belle Gunness.



Holt's "Train Stop" focuses on silent film star and Michigan City native Anita King.

to New York City, and was known for her vehicular stunt work. More recently, Holt has teamed up with PNW junior Kayla Vasilko to further research King's involvement setting up safe houses in the form of shelters, halfway houses and the YWCA for aspiring starlets. Holt and Vasilka plan to visit Los Angeles to collect more articles, maps and artifacts. Eventually, they hope to write a more complete narrative of King's life and turn it into a play performed locally.

He wrote other one-act plays based in Michigan City, including "Ledge," "Bagged" and "Loose Ends." His "Ernie" is a one-person play based on Indiana native Ernie Pyle, who worked as a journalist for a short time in Northwest Indiana and was a famed war correspondent.

Holt has a knack of "finding interesting local subjects and writing about them.

"I've found ways to celebrate the community I'm in," he said.



One of Holt's plays centers on baseball giant Branch Rickey.

When Holt lived in Portsmouth, for example, he wrote a play about its native baseball giant Branch Rickey and his friendship with Jackie Robinson. In addition to being seen throughout the United States, his piece is presented at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Holt said he's especially proud of his play about the life of Bessie Stringfield, an African-American woman who "fell in love with motorcycles and raced them" in the 1930s and 1940s. He said she followed carnivals and competed in a ride called the Wall of Death, which consisted of a centrifugal ride around the rim of a large tank. Stringfield also is known as the first African-American woman to ride across America on a solo motorcycle trip. Through Holt's research, he discovered she was in Indiana often.

Holt's critical writing has centered on the life of Sam Peckinpah, legendary film director and screenwriter. One of his best-known films is "The Wild Bunch," an American revisionist western starring



Motorcycle enthusiast Bessie Stringfield was the subject of another play by Holt.

William Holden and Ernest Borgnine. It focused on an aging outlaw gang on the border between the United States and Mexico.

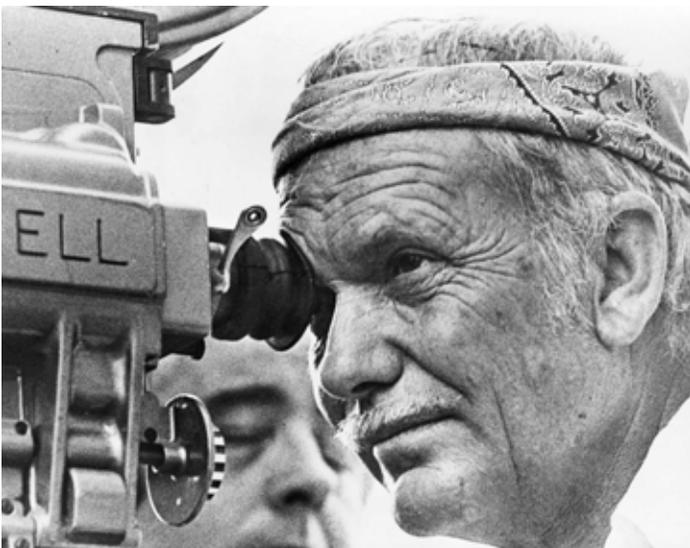
Holt recalled seeing it on a dark, snowy night “when the world was exploding in 1969. It turned my head around. I got the power of what a tale well told can do – the importance of storytelling in the fabric of our lives,” he said. “The real mortality we have is in the stories we tell each other and how we carry that on. It was a big moment for me.”

As he gained research to write his English dissertation, “Peckinpah’s Families: A Filmmaker’s Use of Literary Tradition,” Holt said “it was an influential relationship for me” as he spent time “following Peckinpah (who died in 1984) around.”

“The films of his hold as a...consistent examination of the idea of family,” Holt said.

The retiring PNW professor also wrote *The Killing of Strangers*, a novel centered on mysteries surrounding the Kent State University shootings on May 4,

Continued on Page 4



Holt’s critical writing has followed filmmaker Sam Peckinpah.



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THE STORIES... Continued from Page 3

1970. In 2007, it was selected for permanent inclusion in the May 4th Kent State University Archive.

This was the work that led him to his wife, Lucrecia Guerrero, whom he met at a reading of The Killing of Strangers in a Barnes & Noble bookstore.

“After the reading we had coffee and that...was... that,” Holt shared. “She is also a well-known writer, whose novel Tree of Sighs won the Premier Aztlan Award literary award, and whose short story collection Chasing Shadows won the Christopher Isherwood Foundation Award. I am very proud of her.”



Holt met his wife, Lucrecia Guerrero, at a Barnes & Noble book signing.

Through a Fulbright Award, Holt taught at the University of Bergen in Norway in 2017-2018. There, he explored the genre of Nordic Noir, and crime-fiction, tales of darkness and shadow, which is reaching its peak now. He began corresponding with one of its writers, Gunner Staalesen, whose books feature the adventures of middle-aged private investigator, Varg Veum.

Their friendship grew, and last December Holt organized a trip with PNW students to visit Bergen, where they “were treated like royalty.”

“Staalesen was my guide – my teacher – my mentor on all things Norwegian,” Holt said.

On the second night of the trip, the PNW students and Holt’s former University of Bergen students were able to meet.



Holt explored the Nordic Noir genre while at the University of Bergen in Norway.

“They sat across the table from each other and had the greatest meeting of the minds,” Holt fondly recalled. “I sat back and listened. I saw those people, so young and alive and filled with curiosity and excitement. I was so proud to have a hand in that. I will never forget that.”

In his retirement, Holt is looking forward to work on a sequel to The Killing of Strangers and more critical writing.

“There are a lot of avenues for ‘out-to-pasture teachers’ these days,” he said. “I will concentrate on writing and see what I can do.”

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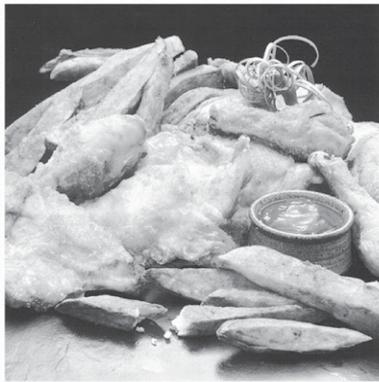
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Horizon Bank A-Maze-Ing Labyrinth Garden

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

Solace and peace, especially during these difficult times, are important to one's mental health and may best be found in Friendship Botanic Garden's Horizon Bank A-Maze-Ing Labyrinth Garden.

Installed and sponsored by Horizon Bank in 2018,

the garden serves as a primary place for peace, meditation and prayer. Beauty, and a promise of growth and rejuvenation, have made labyrinth gardens famous for healing, reflection and a place to unwind.

"The A-Maze-Ing Labyrinth Garden is an extraordinary garden – over 500 chokeberry bushes in such a captivating setting," FBG President John Leinweber said in a press release. "Children will love it as a maze, and those who appreciate labyrinths may utilize it as a place to reflect, meditate and pray in peace."

Labyrinth gardens originally were designed as a meditation tool, and a place of personal and spiritual healing. A labyrinth is a complex, circuitous path that leads from a beginning point to a center, which can be walked. Walking a labyrinth can assist one in resolving inner discomfort and life's distractions. This spiritual tool can be used to calm and quiet the mind; the pathway represents a spiritual track or can be seen as a symbolic "hero's journey."

Labyrinths, themselves, are geometrical patterns used for walking and act as tools to assist the consciousness. However, the garden has several maze-like qualities: there are multiple dividing paths that force the traveler to choose one of many options. There are more than one possible exit, along with a few dead ends.



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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.

Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library will reopen Monday, June 1.

The only services at this time are:

- Borrowing and returning materials.
- Computer lab use with social distancing in place. WiFi and charging tables are available.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is no public seating.

All other services are suspended until further notice, and the library is not accepting donations of materials for the ongoing sale at this time.

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

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Michigan City Farmer's Market

The Michigan City Farmer's Market will hold its grand opening from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 30, 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

Singer Songwriter Competition

Saturday, May 30, is the submission deadline for The Acorn's eighth annual Singer Songwriter Competition.

The event offers cash prizes, plus opportunities to perform at future events. Judges select finalists from entries received by the deadline. The top eight perform in the Aug. 13 finals. Check-in is at 4 p.m. EDT and the show at 8 p.m. EDT.

The submission fee is \$25 for three songs. Visit acornlive.org to register or for more details. The Acorn is located at 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.



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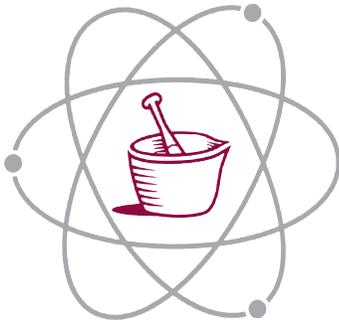


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LaPorte Farmer's Market

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-foot distance) and maintain at least 6 feet between each person in line.

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

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

More information is available at www.laportepartnership.com 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.

Polish Heritage Essay Contest

The theme of this year's Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City essay competition is "The Polish-Soviet War and the 'Miracle on the Vistula.'"

The "Blue Army" was part of a successful effort by Polish Americans to help restore Polish independence during and after World War I.

The contest raises awareness about Poland, Poles and Polish Americans. It is open to any high school or college student living in Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke and St. Joseph counties). Applicants, who do not need to be of Polish ancestry, are eligible for first-place (\$1,000), second-place (\$500) and third-place (\$250) awards.

The submission deadline is July 15. Contact Purdue Professor Janusz Duzinkiewicz at jduzinkiewicz@pnw.edu to obtain more information and an application form.

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Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

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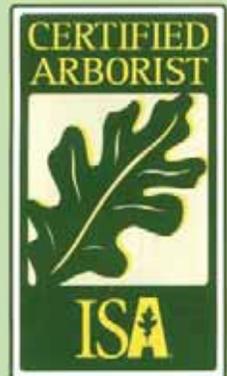
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Are You a Fan of “Parasite”? Try the

by Andrew Tallackson



Mija (Ahn Seo-hyun) spends time with her pet “super pig” in Bong Joon-ho’s “Okja.”

Bong Joon-ho is one hot commodity these days. He’s everywhere, in fact.

In February, “Parasite” made Oscar history with one whopper of an upset. First South Korean film to win Best Picture. First international film to win Best Picture *and* International Film the same night. First South Korean director to nab trophies for Best Director and Original Screenplay.

In April, Hulu offered “Parasite” at no additional cost to subscribers, breaking its streaming records.

This month, Joon-ho’s 2013 sci-fi cult hit “Snowpiercer” was reborn as a TNT series, scoring massive ratings for the cable network.

Interest in the filmmaker’s past work is considerable, and that’s where a streaming service like Netflix is invaluable. Little movies that slip below the radar have a way of experiencing a respectable afterlife in the comforts of our own living room.

“Okja” is Joon-ho’s 2017 stab at a warped fairy tale. It competed for the Palme d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival before debuting on Netflix on June 28, 2017. In addition to its South Korean cast, it features Hollywood heavyweights, actors who delight in playing eccentrics, including Jake Gyllenhaal (“Spider Man: Far From Home”), Tilda Swinton (“Michael Clayton,” Joon-ho’s “Snowpiercer”), Paul Dano (“Love & Mercy”), Steven Yeun (“The Walking Dead”), Lily Collins (“Tolkien”), Shirley Henderson (“Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”), Devon Bostick (“Diary of a Wimpy Kid”) and the great Giancarlo Esposito (“Mad Men”).

How did I miss this? “Okja” is weird, hilarious and frequently invigorating, with a scene at the end

that emotionally crushed me. In other words, another wildly original piece from Joon-ho.

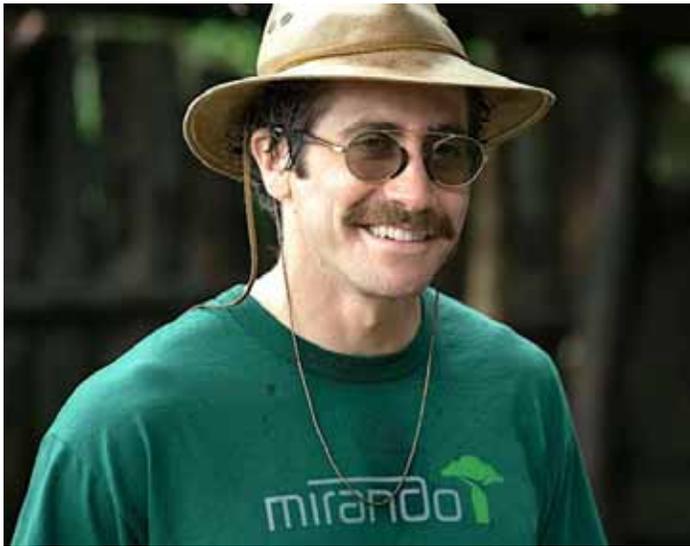
The opening sequence of “Okja” succinctly preps the viewer for its outlandish premise. In 2007, the Mirando Corporation unveils efforts to breed a new “super pig.” Twenty six of them are shipped to individual farmers across the globe. Ten years later, a contest will decide who bred the best pig. The ultimate intention, downplayed, is that mass production of these pigs is designed to curb global food shortages.

Making the big announcement is new Mirando CEO Lucy Mirando, who succeeds her sister Nancy. Both are played by Swinton, whose nutty performances here beg the question, has this woman *ever* played “normal”? Here is someone who delights in disguising her natural beauty, who disappears beneath an entire wardrobe of wigs, prosthetics and kooky costumes. In the opening scenes, Lucy prances across the stage like an overly caffeinated teenager, dressed to the nines, yet sporting silvery braces on her teeth that strip away any attempts at sophistication.

The story then shifts to 2017 in South Korea, where a young farmgirl, Mija (Ahn Seo-hyun, quite winning), lives with her kindly grandfather (Byun Hee-bong). And their Jurassic Park-sized super pig they’ve named Okja. The animal, at 10 years of age, resembles an oversized hippopotamus. Gentle, introverted, it is content to lounge about in fields and forests.

Then, wacked out TV personality Johnny Wilcox (Gyllenhaal) arrives. Johnny alternates between his

Director's Warped Fairy Tale "Okja"



Jake Gyllenhaal and Tilda Swinton are in full wacko mode in "Okja."

on-air voice — smooth as silk — and how he actually sounds, which is more akin to the nasal shriek of Joe "Exotic." Okja is whisked away, the intent to return her to New York for the big competition. Mija, however, will not sit quietly.

It is here that "Okja" kicks into high gear with a breathtaking chase sequence that begins with Mija dangling from a truck on its way to Seoul, then escalates into mayhem as she and Okja barrel through the city's equivalent of Chicago's Pedway. And it is here a group of radical animal-rights activists enters the picture that calls itself the Animal Liberation Front, or ALF (yes, a hilariously random reference to the '80s sitcom). Leading the charge is Dano as Jay, who speaks in the restrained monotones of someone trying to keep calm while defusing a bomb. His group wants Mija to work with them, to sneak into the Mirando Corporation's slaughterhouses so they can expose to the world the injustices committed to these animals.

Early in "Okja," I braced for the South Korean equivalent of "E.T.," where a cute kid tries to save a remarkable creature from certain doom. Thankfully, Joon-ho doesn't do "cute." He prefers social commentary, and "Okja" conveys a world where no one is on the same page. Everyone is looking out for their own interests, disguising unethical practices as clever PR moves.

And in Okja, itself, what the movie delivers is astonishing. The greatest effects succeed because they don't appear as effects, but as living, breathing creations. I don't know how they achieved Okja, where it is animatronics, computers or both, but by the film's end, we accept her as part of this world. She never distracts from the action, but appears fully immersed in it.

Which gets us to a scene near the end, set in a New York slaughterhouse as Mija attempts to leave the place for good, with Okja in tow. What ensues is an act of parental sacrifice that transcends the notion of these super pigs as movie effects, elevating them into beasts with hearts and souls. Any parent who experiences this moment may have trouble holding it together. It is a moment of primal, heart-breaking power.

There is nothing out there quite like "Okja." Then again, the same could be said for "Parasite," which I admired more after a second viewing.

Joon-ho is a rare original. I can't wait to see what he comes up with next.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Dunes Summer Theatre Season Canceled; DAF President on Vandalism: "This Will Not Deter Us"

by Andrew Tallackson

Even amid all the uncertainty triggered by COVID-19, Dunes Summer Theatre's creative forces had no intention of abandoning the forthcoming summer season entirely.

Somehow, some way, the Michiana Shores theater would not go dark.

Then, on Saturday, May 9, shocking acts of vandalism, the damage carried out with bricks and spray paint. Broken windows and doors. Walls, windows and doors defaced with homophobic and racist terms and images. Even the actors' washing machine was targeted.

Whatever wait-and-see approach persisted to the summer season ended right then and there.

"We weren't sure at first what Indiana would do, what the virus would do, what the law would allow us to do. After the vandalism struck, we realized, we just can't move forward. We have to suspend the season," Board President Amy Black told *The Beacher*.

"When we first learned what happened, we had the same feeling you would have if your own home had been invaded. You feel just an invasion of your privacy and of your being. Then, it was just outrage and questioning, why would anyone do such a thing?"

This summer will mark the first time in the Dunes' 68-year history that it will be dark, Black says. Its impressive lineup, announced earlier this year, included the Ken Ludwig farce "Lend Me a Tenor" and an ambitious concert staging of Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd." That production included director Jeremy Ramey and star Philip Torre, both of whom scored Jeff Awards for their work in a Chicago production, Black said. Members of LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra were slated to perform with the cast.

Black and Dunes vice president/artistic director Jeffrey Baumgartner also attended MidWest Theatre Auditions on Feb. 21-23 at Webster University in St. Louis. There, they viewed about 600 performers to consider for the upcoming season. By the time COVID-19 restrictions were in place, Dunes staff were well on their way toward having much of their summer talent lined up, Black said.

The Dunes typically hires more than 100 actors, singers, dancers, musicians, directors, choreographers and technicians each summer.

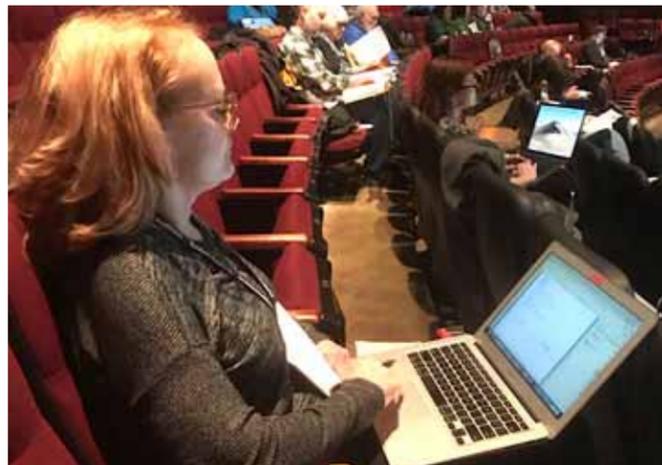
In the interim, Dunes unveiled "Hump Day Happy Hour," a webcast through Dunes Arts Foundation/Dunes Summer Theatre in which regional musicians perform live for 45 minutes starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The concept was one way to support artists hard-hit financially by the pandemic, and infuse some creative inspiration into the com-



munity through social media.

Board members planned to announce their decision on the summer season June 1.

That all changed May 9. Because the vandalism to the Michiana Shores is under police investigation, Black is limited on what she can say. What has been made public is that the suspects arrived in a white four-door Jeep Wrangler Unlimited. Two young women were in front seat — the driver had brown hair — and two young men were in the back-



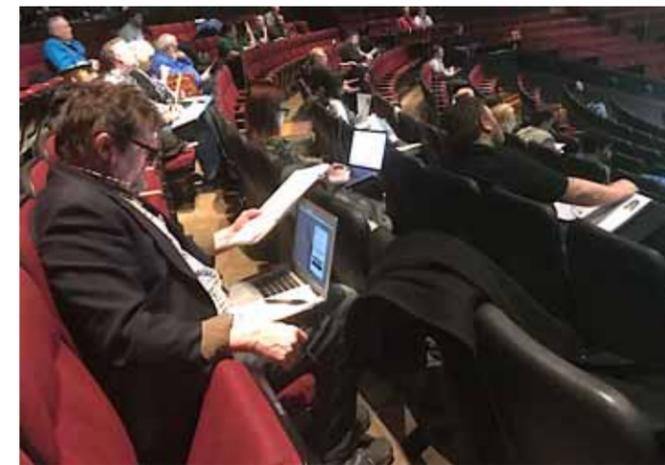
In these provided photos, Dunes Arts Foundation President Amy Black (left photo) and Jeffrey Baumgartner (right photo), the DAF vice president/artistic director, attend the MidWest Theatre Auditions on Feb. 21-23 at Webster University in St. Louis.

seat. The men, according to a press release, ran from behind the theater into the vehicle, which was moving as they jumped in, and left the premises.

The Long Beach Police Department and LaPorte County Sheriff's Office are investigating the case.

Black said it appears the perpetrators arrived first to check out the property, then returned to commit the crime.

"There was clear premeditation there," Black said. "They came, they planned, they talked about



"Hump Day Happy Hour" continues online. Pictured here is Kirsti Manna, who was scheduled to perform May 27.

it, they made a day of it.

"We do know it's not personal against any one of us. It's just a senseless act of hate."

Dunes Arts Foundation, according to a press release, is offering a reward for any information leading to the identification of those involved with the incident. People can call (219) 879-7509 or email contact@dunesartsfoundation.org

(Also, anyone who purchased season tickets, show tickets and paid for classes will have their money refunded.)

Two contractors have been sought to provide bids that will shed light on the extent of the damage, Black said. Once that information has been reviewed, Black said, board members will set a course of action for removing the offensive vandalism and repairing the damages.

Meanwhile, the Dunes will continue its "Hump Day Happy Hour." May 20 featured Mikalyn Hay, an award-winning teen singer/songwriter. May 27 featured singer-songwriter Kirsti Manna. June 3 will feature country singer Zach Janson, whose debut album "More of That" sold more than 10,000 copies.

More than likely, Black said, the plein-air artist event, "First Brush of Fall," will continue as planned, the dates being Sept. 25-27.

"Artists, boy, they are the ultimate social distancers, so that should not be a problem," Black said with a laugh.

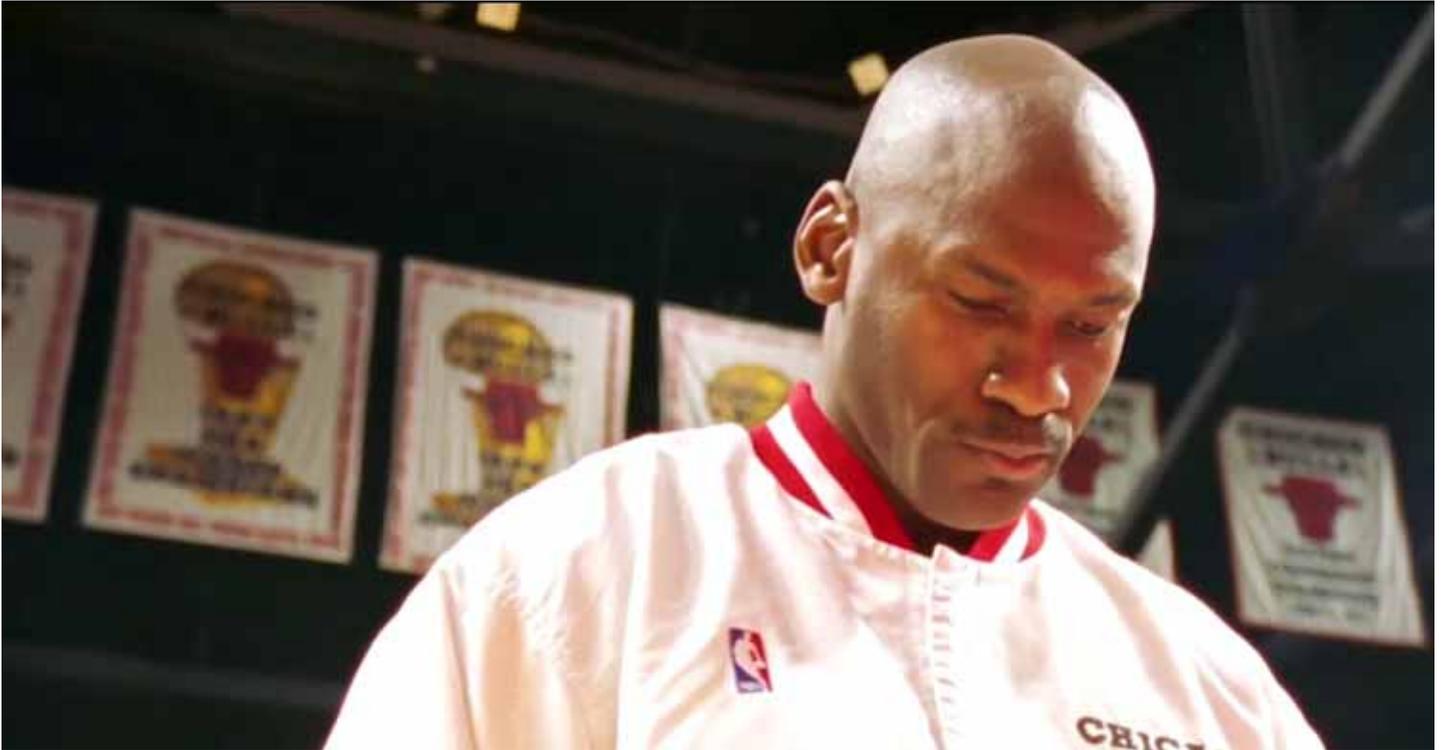
The show, indeed, will go on, just not as everyone at the Dunes originally thought this year. What transpired May 9 only reaffirms their commitment to the community.

"In fact," Black said, "it spurred us on. It gave us a renewed energy, that this will not deter us. We strongly believe we need the arts now more than ever."

(Anyone who would like to support Dunes Summer Theatre / Dunes Arts Foundation can visit www.dunesartsfoundation.org/support.)

“The Last Dance” Takes Compelling Look

by Drew White



“The Last Dance” balances behind-the-scenes footage, new interviews and Michael Jordan’s evolution over the years.

Early on in this new world, when live sports ceased to exist, a fleeting thought went through my mind: Now would be a hell of a time for ESPN to fast track “The Last Dance.”

In May 2018, ESPN and Netflix announced they would begin production on a 10-part documentary series that focused on the 1997-1998 Chicago Bulls and their run to a third-straight, sixth-in-eight years National Basketball Association Championship. With news that unreleased, behind-the-scenes footage existed that followed Michael Jordan and the Bulls on one of the most prolific runs of any dynasty in sports history, anticipation was high for a finished product. Last December, it was announced “The Last Dance” would premiere in June 2020.

With a need for immediate programming, ESPN received the blessing to release “The Last Dance” early, airing the first two episodes April 19 and continuing the next five weeks with two new episodes each Sunday night, wrapping up May 18.

As a teen during most of the years of the Bulls’ dynasty, I was fully immersed in all things Bulls and Jordan during the ’90s. Going into the first episode, I found myself under the impression it would merely be a stroll down memory lane. It’s difficult to fathom as well that two decades have passed since.

What “The Last Dance” ultimately presents is a look back not only at the ’97-’98 season, but also a healthy look back at Jordan’s evolution, from a North Carolina prep player who felt slighted when

he was kept off the varsity roster at Laney High School, to a six-time NBA Champion many still regard as the greatest player of all time. We also get a healthy dose of history on Jordan’s teammates and coaches, including Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman and Phil Jackson, along with snapshots of the Bulls’ previous five titles and the decade as a whole.

The early episodes provide background on the main characters while also setting the scene for the ’97-’98 Bulls campaign, a season that yielded ample drama on and off the court due to tensions between players, coaches and the Bulls front office headed by General Manager Jerry Krause and owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

Krause, who passed away in 2017, has long been the subject of criticism, blamed for the Bulls’ breakup after they won the title in what would be the final season together for Jordan, Pippen, Rodman and Jackson. Early in the series, the narrative is consistent with what people have speculated regarding the players’ displeasure with Krause. However, viewers gain an appreciation for the role Krause played in adapting the roster over the course of a decade to surround the Jordan-Pippen duo with players needed to achieve their ensuing success.

Weekly outside commentary focuses on the fact that Jordan, himself, had what is believed to be the final say as to what director Jason Hehir presented. Prior to the first episode’s release, Jordan was said to be concerned about how footage would affect people’s impressions of him. Hehir is said to have challenged

at Jordan, 1997-1998 Chicago Bulls



The series contains its share of emotional interviews.

Jordan to use the interview portions of “The Last Dance” to answer to the footage that concerned him.

A commercial phenomenon from the time he first entered the NBA, Jordan is said to be worth \$2.1 billion, according to *Forbes Magazine*. As the face of Nike, McDonalds and Gatorade, among others, Jordan was arguably the most recognizable face in the world during his prime. To this day, he is unable to go out in public without fear of the mob that undoubtedly ensues.

On the court, Jordan is argued by many to retain the title of the greatest of all time, or as the kids say, the GOAT. His competitive resume is difficult to argue against, yet there are many who believe players of the more recent generation – LeBron James and the late Kobe Bryant, to name a few – may have laid their own claim to the throne. “The Last Dance” will inevitably further fuel the debate.

Prior to the first championship in 1991, the Bulls had the daunting task of getting past two-time defending champion Detroit Pistons, who were coined “The Bad Boys” because of their highly physical play. Footage of the Bulls and Pistons doing battle in ’89, ’90 and ’91 is prominent in the early episodes, and it illustrates a different kind of basketball. While today’s game includes highly-paid players with rules designed to protect them, NBA play up to the early ’90s was not for the faint of heart. The Pistons’ approach to beating the Bulls was to basically pulverize Jordan anytime he approached the

basket. Witnessing the beating Jordan and Pippen took in those series against the Pistons has to open the eyes of some who weren’t around to see the previous generation of the NBA.

The lasting image of Jordan in the series is that of a competitor who arguably used psychological warfare to prepare his teammates and himself to do battle with their opponents. Many scenes and stories from teammates paint the picture of a bully who often would take trash talk to an extreme, even physically fight with teammates in practice. Of his physical and mental demands of teammates, at the end of the seventh episode, an overly emotional Jordan says it was all a means of preparing his teammates with the mindset needed to win.

Hehir doesn’t shy away from controversies that surrounded Jordan his entire career. The gambling. The murder of his father. An abbreviated retirement that saw him spend a year chasing a professional baseball career with Reinsdorf’s Chicago White Sox. They’re all addressed over the course of the 10 hour-long episodes. Jordan addresses them all. For as quiet as Jordan has remained through much of his post-playing days, the opportunity to hear from him is rare and enjoyable.

Some argue the portrayal of several of Jordan’s teammates may have overly emphasized the negatives without affording them the opportunity to answer in the same fashion Jordan does. Pippen, in particular, is cast as a player unhappy with his contract in his final year. Prior to the final season, Pippen put off surgery until late in the summer that prevented him from starting the season with the team. He is allowed to answer to his decision in

Continued on Page 20

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Continued from Page 19

the documentary, and I take it as a fair criticism of his decision, particularly in comparison with other decisions he made over the course of his time with the Bulls. Ultimately, Jordan acknowledges that Pippen is the Robin to his Batman, and I feel that gives Pippen more than his fair share credit.

I doubt “The Last Dance” will change the perception of anyone who was present to see the Jordan era in “the moment.” Fans of other teams that fell victim to the Bulls are still going to hate Jordan, particularly Utah Jazz fans who insist Jordan pushed off on Bryon Russell on the deciding play of the '98 NBA Finals. Those Bulls fans among us will see further validation to our insistence that Jordan's will to win will likely never be met or surpassed.

What may be the most intriguing case study for “The Last Dance” is how it is received by a generation that wasn't born or old enough to recollect the time period. For those of us old enough to have seen multiple decades of basketball, we often face difficulty in comparing players from different eras. “The Last Dance” does a good job illustrating the NBA game that existed in the Jordan era.

Like the best fictional works, “The Last Dance” leaves viewers with plenty of questions. Would the Bulls have won the titles in '94 and '95 had Jordan not temporarily retired? Would the Bulls have won the '99 title if given one more chance by Krause and Reinsdorf? Was it actually Phil Jackson who sealed the breaking up of the Bulls? My gut tells me the story ended with as happy of an ending as is possible.

One of my greatest disappointments is that I never saw Jordan play in person. There are greater disappointments in life, but I feel fortunate to have witnessed the greatness on television as it played out. “The Last Dance” is going to allow generations the opportunity to witness that time in a candid and entertaining way.



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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.

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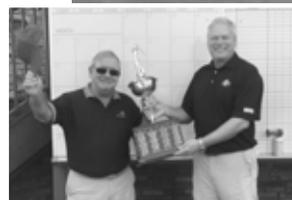
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A Look at the Remaining Stages of

Indiana now is amid Stage 3 of its plan to “get back on track” amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to <https://backontrack.in.gov/>, these guidelines are:

GUIDELINES FOR ALL HOOSIERS

- Hoosiers 65 and older, and those with known high-risk medical conditions, should limit exposure at work and in their communities.
- Continue remote work when possible.
- Face coverings are recommended.
- Social gatherings of up to 100 people may take place following the CDC social-distancing guidelines. The coronavirus often is spread among groups of people in close contact in a confined space for an extended period of time. This limit applies to wedding receptions, parties and other events where people are in close physical contact for extended periods of time.
- Nursing homes remain closed to visitors; nursing home guidance will continue to be evaluated.
- No travel restrictions.

WHAT OPENS

- Retail stores and malls may move to 75 percent of capacity while maintaining social distancing.
- Mall common areas, such as food courts and sitting areas, are limited to 50 percent capacity.
- Gyms and fitness centers may open with restrictions. Class sizes and equipment must be spaced to accommodate social distancing. Limited class sizes. Equipment must be cleaned after each use, and employees must wear face coverings.
- Playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts and similar facilities may open with social-distancing guidelines in place.
- Community pools may open according to CDC guidance.
- Campgrounds may open with social-distancing limitations and sanitation precautions.
- Movie theaters may open at 50 percent capacity; some theater companies have identified specific hygiene and social distancing guidelines.
- The CDC will provide guidance about day camps and overnight camps.

WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

- Bars and nightclubs.
- Cultural, entertainment and sports venues.
- K-12 facilities and activities.



BEGINNING JUNE 14

GUIDELINES FOR ALL HOOSIERS

- Hoosiers 65 and older, and those with known high-risk medical conditions, should adhere to social-distancing guidelines and remain cautious at work and in their communities.
- Continue remote work as needed.
- Face coverings are optional.

- Social gatherings of up to 250 people may take place following the CDC social distancing guidelines. This limit applies to wedding receptions, parties and other events where people are in close physical contact for extended periods of time.
- Nursing homes remain closed to visitors; nursing homes guidance will continue to be evaluated.

WHAT OPENS

- State government building-access restrictions will be lifted.
- Professional office building employees may resume work at full capacity.
- Retail stores and malls open at full capacity, with social-distancing guidelines in place.
- Dining-room service may open at 75 percent capacity.
- Bar seating in restaurants may open at 50 percent capacity.
- Bars and nightclubs may open at 50 percent capacity adhering to social-distancing guidelines.
- Cultural, entertainment and tourism businesses may open at 50 percent capacity. This includes museums, zoos, bowling alleys, aquariums and like facilities.
- Recreational sports leagues and tournaments may resume.
- The CDC will provide guidance about day camps and overnight camps.
- Large venues may open with adherence to social-gatherings guidelines.
- Amusement parks, water parks and like facilities may open at 50 percent capacity; reservations will be required to limit the number of customers at any one time.

WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

- Large events, such as conventions, sports events, fairs, festivals and parades.



JULY 4 AND BEYOND

GUIDELINES FOR ALL HOOSIERS

- Hoosiers 65 and older, and those with known high-risk medical conditions, should adhere to social-distancing guidelines and remain cautious at work and in their communities.
- Remote work optional.
- Face coverings are optional.
- Social gatherings of more than 250 people may take place following the CDC social distancing guidelines. This limit applies to wedding receptions, parties and other events where people are in close physical contact for extended periods of time.
- Nursing home guidance still evaluated.
- K-12 school operations to be determined.

WHAT OPENS

- Retail stores and malls may operate at full capacity.
- Restaurants, bars and nightclubs may operate at

the “Back on Track Indiana” Plan

BACK ON TRACK INDIANA PLAN EXPLAINED

KEY

-  CLOSED/VIRTUAL ONLY
-  ESSENTIAL ONLY
-  75% CAPACITY
-  FULLY OPEN WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING
-  PICKUP AND DELIVERY ONLY
-  50% CAPACITY
-  OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS

	STAGE 1: March 24 - May 4	STAGE 2: May 4 - 23	STAGE 3: May 24 - June 13	STAGE 4: June 14 - July 3	STAGE 5: July 4 and Beyond
Social Gatherings	10 People or Fewer	25 People or Fewer	100 People or Fewer	250 People or Fewer	250+ People Permitted
Facial Coverings	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Optional	Optional
Government Offices	Closed to the Public	Limited Public Access	Limited Public Access		
Manufacturing, Industrial					
Office Settings		Remote Work Encouraged	Remote Work Encouraged		
Retail					
Restaurants		 May 11th			
Bars and Clubs					
Gyms					
Personal Services		 May 11th*			
Entertainment and Tourism					
Religious Services		Services May Convene Following Guidelines Starting May 8th	Services May Convene Following Guidelines	Services May Convene Following Guidelines	

Note: This roadmap is subject to change based on CDC guidance and other new information. Local governments may impose more restrictive guidelines. Stage 2 will begin on May 11 for Lake and Marion counties and May 18 for Cass County.

*Visit backontrack.in.gov for more information and guidelines for reopening Indiana and industry specific guidance for face coverings, etc.



#BackOnTrack | backontrack.in.gov

This piece was created on May 4, 2020. If you see different information published on a more recent date, please use the most current recommendations.

full capacity.

- Personal services may open at full capacity.
- Restrictions are lifted at gyms and fitness facilities.
- Conventions, sports events, fairs, festivals, the state fair and like events may resume.
- Restrictions are lifted at amusement parks, water parks and like facilities. Social distancing guidelines should be maintained.
- The CDC will provide guidance about day camps and overnight camps.

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Boys & Girls Clubs Evolves to Meet Community Needs Amid COVID-19

The doors of Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County have been closed since March 16, but team members have found new ways to serve the community amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Staff have conducted check-in calls to families, sending birthday cards to club members and sharing encouraging messages through Facebook. The organization also launched free Virtual Club sessions that allow members to play games, make new friends and interact with club youth-development professionals. The initiatives encompass all three sites: the Charles R. Westcott Club, Pine Club Extension and Springfield Club Extension.

This month, all current club members are invited to a Summer Kick-Off Kit distribution from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 29, at the Charles R. Westcott Club, 321 Detroit St. Members



Meda Williams, who works in the Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County food-services department, holds up an encouraging sign for members while they shelter in place at home.

will receive reusable tote bags containing kid-friendly snacks, notebooks, crayons, Model Magic clay, make-your-own glider kits and other resources. Many of the kits' contents will be used during future Virtual Club sessions. In partnership with the Pax Center in LaPorte, Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County will distribute another 150 kits to food pantry clients.

Support for the project hails from Bethany Church, LaPorte, Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, Indiana State Department – 21st Century Community Learning Centers, LaPorte County Sheriff's Office, Lubeznik Center for the Arts and many private donors.

Visit www.bgclubmc.org (as the new website name of www.bgclpc.org is transitioned in) and "The Boys and Girls Clubs of LaPorte County" on Facebook for more details.

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Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has begun 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.

SAM Online Private Courses

The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich., is offering online courses in piano, violin, voice, guitar, ukulele and mountain dulcimer.

Under Michigan guidelines, SAM has suspended face-to-face lessons during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been offering virtual lessons to existing students; now, new students have the same option.

Taking into account economic hardships the pandemic created, scholarships for lessons are available from SAM's scholarship fund.

In a press release, Executive Director Donna Mitchell said the primary online instruction platform is Zoom, but instructors have tried Google Meet and others. Many of the specifics are being left to instructors and their students.

Call SAM at (269) 409-1191, email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com for more details.



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Rising Phoenix Gallery

The owners of The Rising Phoenix Gallery LLC, 2803 Franklin St., announced the gallery will remain closed through the end of July because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision, John Ryszka II said in a press release, was made “out of an abundance of caution.”

“Many of our artist, patrons and family members fall squarely within the high risk category. I would not be able to deal with the guilt if we lose even one soul. We are at no risk of closing permanently, and we will be working with our artists to reschedule missed exhibitions.”

Call (480) 216-2583 or visit www.RisingPhxGallery.Com for more details.

R.O.S.E Luncheon Canceled

The LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau and Indiana Dunes Tourism have canceled the 2020 R.O.S.E. Luncheon scheduled for June 24 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021 luncheon will be hosted at the Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion. In the meantime, nominations are still encouraged, particularly for front-line staff and essential employees, by visiting www.michigancitylaporte.com/r-o-s-e/

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

- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 30.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 2.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 3.

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.

Annual Car Show Canceled

The LaPorte County Historical Society's Annual Car Show, scheduled for Saturday, July 18, has been canceled due to COVID-19.

The museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., remains closed to the public, and all events and programs have been canceled or postponed.

Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org and the museum's Facebook page for updates. Email info@laportecountyhistory.org for more details.

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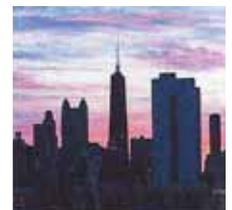
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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

If It Bleeds by Stephen King (hardcover, \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 430 pages)

Stephen King. An apropos name for his many literary talents. Over the years, the King has given us pure horror, the battle between good and evil, the sale of one's soul to the devil, the fears within us... along with characters we can relate to, even sympathize with.

In his latest offering, King has written four new short stories: four different themes in a shorter, but effective format. Each one offers a different view into the real and surreal world we inhabit. One brings back a favorite King character from several other books, the latest being The Outsider. One teaches us about the pitfalls of writing. One takes a backward view of a man's life and death. The other shows how technology may be scarier than any ghostly apparition.

"Mr. Harrigan's Phone" is my favorite. So what's scarier? A reach from beyond the grave, or the fact that modern technology has inured us to its cunning power over us? Is there a "ghost in the machine"?

Old and wealthy Mr. Harrigan has hired 9-year-old Craig to read to him. Four times a year, he sends the boy a card for the appropriate holiday or birthday, and includes one scratch-off lottery ticket. One ticket wins Craig \$3,000. Craig, in turn, generously buys Mr. Harrigan a new Apple iPhone and shows him how he can read the stock reports in real time. Mr. Harrigan is hooked.

The pair enjoy a friendship for several years before Mr. Harrigan dies and Craig, in a moment of sadness, slips the iPhone into the old man's pocket in the casket when no one is looking. He knows there is a charge left in the phone, and that night he calls the iPhone just to hear the voicemail message. It is reassuring to the boy to hear his friend's voice and leave him a message, too.

But then, months later, Craig is still able to call Mr. Harrigan's phone. It still has a charge? How can that be? When a beloved teacher is injured, Craig leaves a message on Mr. Harrigan's phone telling him of his sadness and anger. Well...what happens next could be coincidence, right?

"The Life of Chuck" looks at one man's life in reverse, starting from death and told in three separate sections. King uses a line from Walt Whitman's Song of Myself as a basis for this story: "*I am large, I contain multitudes.*"

The story starts in a world falling apart — California is falling off into the ocean, television, like cell phones, works once in awhile. And one day, Marty, a schoolteacher, starts seeing billboards, TV ads, even a sky-writing plane with the message "Charles Krantz — 39 Great Years — Thanks, Chuck!"

The story begins with Chuck's death. Then, it's on to younger days of Chuck. Not an easy story to fathom at first, but different enough to make you go back and read again.

"If It Bleeds" is all about evil and its many faces. Holly Gibney is back after a starring role in 2018's

The Outsider. She runs a small detective agency and one day is stopped in her tracks over a school bombing that killed more than two dozen pupils and students. The news reporter. There's something about him...how does he manage to get to all these disasters before police or anyone else?

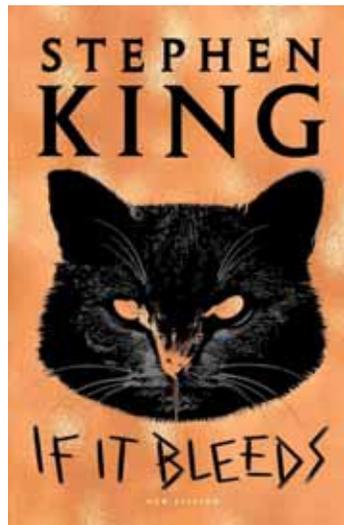
"Rat": Now here's an interesting tale (pardon the pun). Our hero is Drew Larson, a teacher who has dreamed of writing a novel for years. Several short stories, many years apart, did achieve a modicum of success, but at a price... "*They didn't call what happened following the fire that almost took their home a nervous breakdown, but that's what it was.*"

This day, however, Drew is sure he has the outline in his head for a perfect novel, but he needs space from his family to think and write. A family cabin in the woods, far from the main road, would be his savior. Off he goes. He's writing furiously, but one morning starts sneezing, sniffing and aching. Yes, he's coming down with the flu or a cold, whatever. Probably was that old man at the gas station, now in the hospital with pneumonia. To top things off, there's a nor'easter roaring in, high winds dropping trees and rain like Noah must have seen.

After the storm, there's a scratching at the door. It's a half-dead rat. Something makes Drew take it in. Later in the day, the rat is talking to Drew. Really? He must be delirious from the sickness. No, the rat assures him that if he agrees to...something... he will finish the book and be a success. Be careful what you wish for...

Bottom line, if you've never read King, this collection is a good place to start. Each story explores a familiar theme of his and can ease you into thinking about reading one of his novels. Personally, I would recommend The Stand, an early book and my personal favorite: a great example of good vs. evil.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Sandy Rubenstein | 219-879-7525
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401 Willow Bend Dr, 46350

4 beds, 3 baths | 3,996 sq ft
\$399,455

Greg Komp | 219-728-6464
<https://bit.ly/3bGWzXj>



5907 Warnke Rd, 46360

4 beds, 1.75 baths
8.4 acre lot | **\$475,000**
3 pole barns

Wrap around deck w/ gazebo
Above ground pool
Finished, walkout basement



Sandy Rubenstein

219-879-7525

<https://bit.ly/2Y9x7qT>

1401 Lake Shore Drive | 219-874-5209.

Lisa Moore
Jenn Bauer
Trisha Brum
Zach Coulter
Darlene Jesh
Chip Jones
Nancy Morgan

June Livinghouse
Sandy Rubenstein
Douglas Waters
Sheila Saunders
Zach Baker
Jebbie Smith
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