



# Proud to Serve

by Kim Nowatzke

**I**t may have been more than 75 years ago, but so many memories of serving his country still flood the mind and heart of 99-year-old World War II veteran Robert (Bob) John Hoerr.

With Veterans Day just around the corner (Nov. 11), *The Beacher* had the honor of speaking with Hoerr, who for nearly two years has lived with his wife of 74 years, Marguerite, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City.

Born and raised in Peoria, Ill., Hoerr (pronounced “Hair”) was drafted by the U.S. Army in May 1944, leaving for basic training right after D-Day on June 6. He would spend 17 weeks at Camp Barkeley’s medical-replacement training center in Abilene, Texas.

“Some of the guys went into surgical training, and I think they were the ones that went in the front lines in the battle,” he said. “I was one of them trained to take care of servicemen after they came back.”

He next went to Brooklyn, where he boarded a ship with approximately 200 officers and enlisted men that formed a medical complement unit, about 150 merchant marines, 21 doctors, 40 nurses and American Red Cross workers. The ship was a former French Transatlantic liner, the SS

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Robert Hoerr holds a photo of himself in March 1945 when he served as a medic in World War II.

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Columbie, which later was converted to U.S. Army Hospital Ship Aleda E. Lutz. Originally from Free-land, Mich., this first lieutenant Army flight nurse is one of the most celebrated women war heroes of World War II. She flew 196 missions and amassed 814 hours in the air — more than any other Army nurse. While helping transport wounded soldiers in a C-47, a violent storm emerged, causing the pilot to crash into the side of a mountain. There were no survivors. Twenty-eight-year-old “Lutz,” as she was called, is thought to be the first female killed in action in World War II. She received the Distinguished Flying Cross Award, the first award of its kind ever given to an Army nurse in World War II.

Hoerr’s first trip on the Aleda E. Lutz was to Liverpool, England, via the North Atlantic Ocean. It took 12 days.

“On the ship, I lost a pound a day in weight due to seasickness. I could go on TV with that weight-loss program,” Hoerr shared with a laugh.

“During this maiden voyage, we were getting our responsibilities in order the night before we were to arrive in port the following day,” he continued. “As we proceeded through the St. George Channel approaching the Liverpool Harbor, we were rudely

interrupted by apparent explosions that rattled us from our toes to our teeth.

“It was like someone hitting the ductwork with a sledgehammer. A merchant marine ran through our ward clutching his life preserver yelling, ‘depth charges!’ and we were ordered to our emergency locations. We found out apparently that a submarine was following us close enough that its movement was overshadowed by our propulsion system. The U-boat was trying to get through massive harbor chains shielding the harbor of Liverpool.”

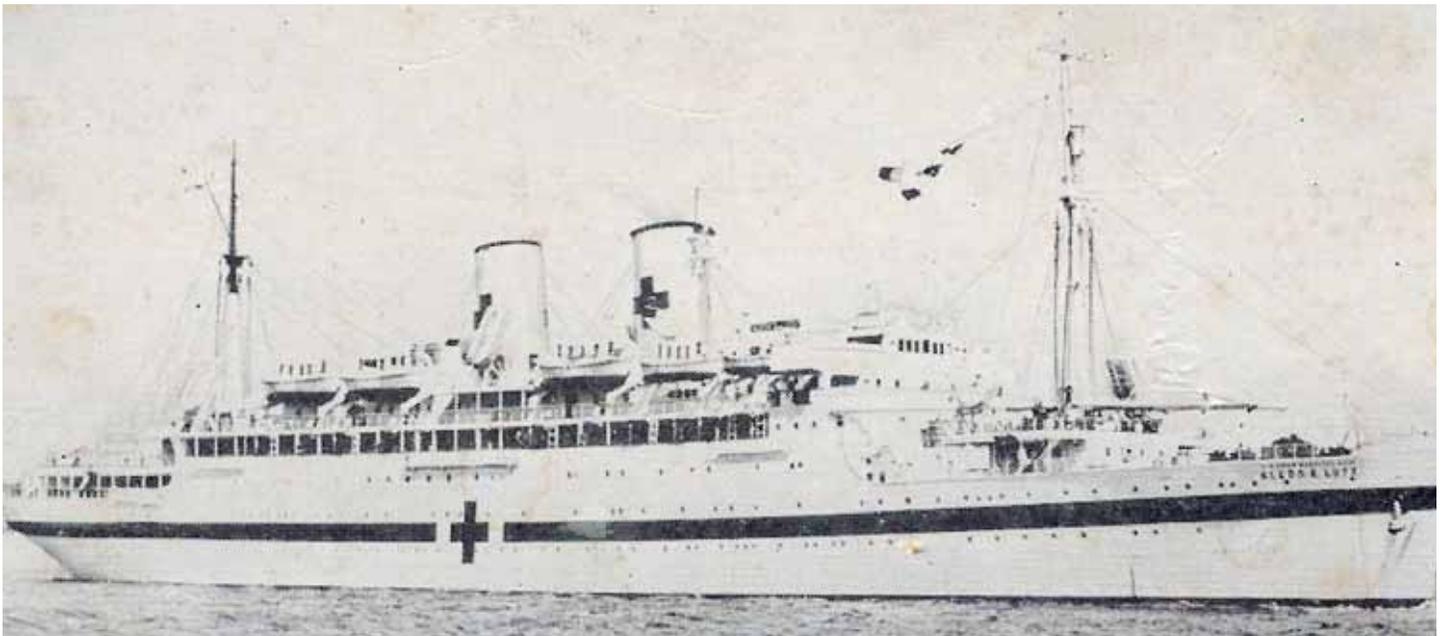
After taking on 800 patients, the Aleda E. Lutz returned to the unit’s home port of Charleston, N.C. There, the casualties were offloaded into a general hospital for distribution across the United States. This way, the wounded could be closer to their families. Hoerr would make three more round-trip crossings from South Hampton, England, to bring back approximately 3,200 passengers.

The ship was temporarily used as a troop transport, which included repatriating 800 German prisoners-of-war working on farms in the prairie states. They were brought back to Cherbourg, France.

“There was a lot of people movement,” Hoerr said.

Hoerr recalled another unforgettable time on the Aleda E. Lutz.

“We were crossing at dusk and someone yelled



The U.S. Army Hospital Ship Aleda E. Lutz, which Robert Hoerr served on as a medic during World War II.

'mine!,' and there was a quite mean-looking floating mine 50 yards off of the starboard bow," he said. "It had broken loose in the English Channel off of Cherbourg. It was about 12 foot in diameter. The Germans had mined the approaches to France, not knowing where the D-Day invasion would take place. Of course, we missed it, but it was good that we saw it. That is why we always closed all bulkheads before entering the channel.

"Several of those things were things you shouldn't have experienced on a medical ship," Hoerr continued. "It sounds like a cushy job, but it wasn't. Our ship was one of five added to the Army ship fleet of 20 hospital ships. The Army and the Navy both had about 25 each of hospital ships at the end of the war. Our ships were added for the invasion of Japan. So, when we went to take over the operation of our ship, it was three weeks before the end of the war, but we didn't know it."



This undated photo shows Robert Hoerr during basic training.



Robert Hoerr, photographed while in basic training at Camp Barkeley in Abilene, Texas, in 1944.

Hoerr recalled the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt died, on April 12, 1945.

"I remember people standing in the streets and looking at the newspaper headlines and saying, 'Truman? Who is that?'," Hoerr recalled.

When the Japanese surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, Hoerr said, the Aleda E. Lutz was diverted from Charleston, S.C., to New York.

"There were still casualties in the Philippines that needed to come back. So, we went to the Far East via the Panama Canal, at which time the crew noticed a crack in

Continued on Page 4

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the main drive shaft of our ship. The Navy flew an engineer from the Brooklyn Navy yard to Panama, and he determined we could go to Pearl Harbor for repairs at half speed," he said. "By the time the ship was repaired, the need for troops or casualties transported from the Philippines was over. The crew was sent back to finish out their tour of duty in California, and a skeleton crew was sent to the East Coast."



A photo of Marguerite, right after she met Robert on Sept. 14, 1943.

Hoerr enjoyed a two-week furlough, taking advantage of that time to marry his fiancée, Marguerite Beer, on April 14, 1946. "Unofficially engaged" before Hoerr was drafted, the two made it official while he was in active duty. They met two and a half years earlier on a farm tied to both of their families.

Hoerr's mother, Aline Weisser, moved to the farm in Milford, Ind., when she was 9. The rest of her siblings, including her brother, Omar, were born there. Twelve years later, the farm was sold to Marguerite's grandfather. Then, when Hoerr's grandfather died in 1943, the Weisser family traveled to the funeral from out of state and Uncle Omar, accompanied by Hoerr, stopped by the farm to take a photo of the old homestead.

It so happened Marguerite had just returned from milking the cows. So, Uncle Omar spontaneously invited her to pose by Hoerr for a photo. The snapshot is a cherished keepsake, and a reminder of the day they met.

When asked why he was interested in the pretty farm girl, Hoerr replied, "Why was I interested? Why wouldn't I be?"

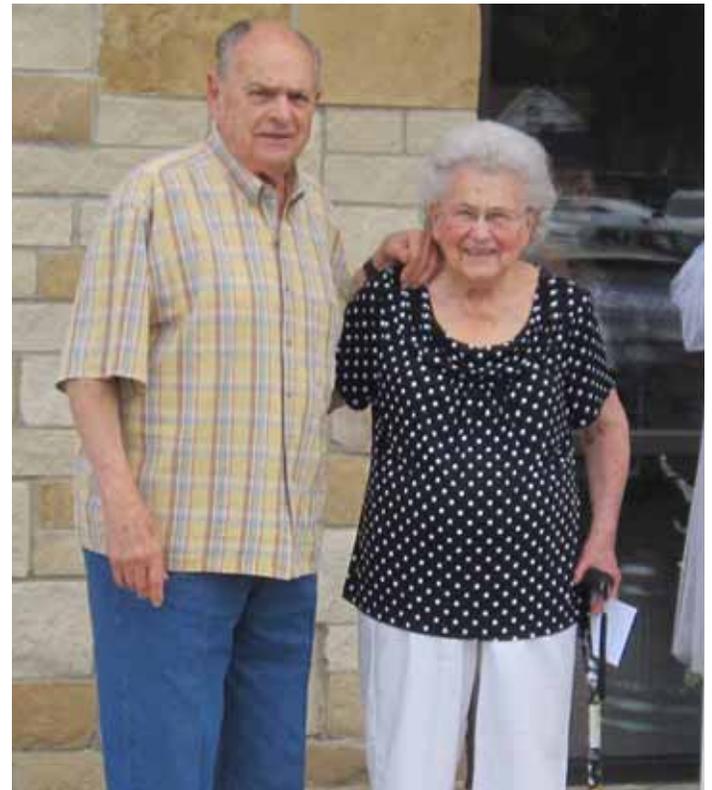
Marguerite, who is six years younger than Hoerr, said she was flattered he paid attention to her. All

the students in school seemed so much younger in comparison. Being the oldest of seven children, she said she had a lot of responsibility and was mature for her age.

After his high school graduation in 1939, Hoerr served as a foundry patternmaker apprentice at Caterpillar for four years. After his discharge from the Army on June 9, 1946, Hoerr returned to his career in foundry and pattern making, which he worked for 48 years until retiring in 1987. He proudly shared that he has been a member of the American Foundry Society since 1939.

Once retired, he found himself corresponding with the secretary of the Antique Stove Association, who thought Hoerr might be interested in crafting a piece for his 1901 Monroe potbelly stove. Hoerr did, and it spurred the launch of his business, R.J. Pattern Services. Through this, he provided iron and plastic antique stove replacement parts, as well as parts for heavy-duty garden gates and benches, and antique furniture restoration.

"I maintained my foundry career in an unusual way," he said. "I've made hundreds of plastic stove knobs for antique stoves – and that's not an exaggeration."



Robert and Marguerite Hoerr stand in front of New Buffalo Township Library, where she was employed.

His online business came to an end only after moving to Rittenhouse Village with Marguerite on March 28, 2019. Marguerite was employed by the Warsaw Soil & Water Conservation District for 24 years. Then, she worked in libraries in Milford and New Buffalo, Mich., for a total of 24 additional years.

The couple has one daughter, Becky Pelath, who lives in Michigan City, and four sons: Robert Alan in Minnesota; Fred in Virginia; and Douglas and Jeff in Illinois. Becky's son, Scott, lives in Long Beach with his family.

"Four are Purdue graduates and one graduated from Indiana University," the proud dad noted.

Hoerr and Marguerite, who is now 93, have 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. While Hoerr was finishing up his tour of duty, they lived for several months in Richmond, Calif., before they moved back to Peoria. After 11 years, they moved to Milford for 44 years, followed by New Buffalo for 18 years before residing at Rittenhouse.

In June 2013, Hoerr boarded an Honor Flight with his daughter, Becky. Described on [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org) as a "non-profit organization dedicated to honor those who served and sacrificed for our country," the national network of independent hubs make possible all-expenses paid trips to the memorials in Washington, D.C., for the nation's veterans. Hoerr said there were about 88 World War II veterans and six Korean War veterans on his flight.

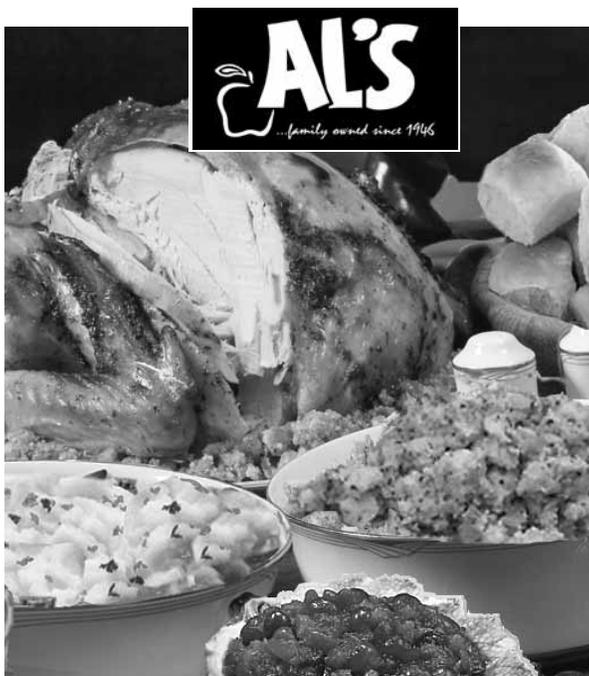
Looking back on his days serving his country, Hoerr said he's proud of his time spent in active duty.

"The Lord put us where He wanted us," he said. "In World War II, the general feeling was 'All gave some and some gave all.' I'm glad I was able to serve."



Robert Hoerr and his daughter, Becky Pelath, amid the 2013 Honor Flight to see war memorials in Washington, D.C.

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## Good Enough

This is not what I set out to write for this month's column.

I penned a piece about dealing with a personal catastrophe (a neighbor's water heater flooded my Florida condo) during the relentless uncertainty swirling around us. Perhaps, like me, you're weary of hearing bad news and coping with a year that insists on dishing out one disaster after another.

As a nation and as people, we are full. We need something – no matter how small or insignificant – to cheer about, to hope for, to distract us from what we cannot change.

In 1974, I benefitted from Title IX. As I entered my freshmen year at Benet Academy, a college-prep Catholic high school in Chicago's western suburbs, the first women's tennis team was being formed. Tryouts were held. As a new fall sport, tennis competed with established and popular programs like cheerleading, cross country and volleyball. I'm not certain how many ladies actually came out for the team, but I made the roster.

Our practices and matches were held in a remote corner of the school's asphalt lot. When the last bell rang and the parking lot emptied, we rolled out portable tennis nets and stretched them across makeshift courts. To get a true bounce on the ball, we swept the courts/parking lot free of debris and erected a mesh backstop to capture errant balls. These were not ideal circumstances for serious tennis, but we didn't complain. We were just happy to be competing at a sport we enjoyed.

In my Tretorn sneakers and flouncy tennis dresses, I yielded a wooden Chrissy Evert racquet. One of the P.E. teachers, who had never played tennis, became our coach. Over the course of my four years on the team, I worked my way up to first doubles. Conference play commenced in late August, and the season closed out in October with sectional championships and state competition. These championship matches were usually fought in wind and cold, at the crack of dawn, and held at far-off large public high schools. Undefeated in our small Catholic school conference, my partner and I never progressed past sectionals to the state tournament. Making it to

“We have cheated COVID out of erasing a hard-earned goal.”

## That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

state was one of those lofty teenage goals that, if I'm honest, is a disappointment lingering in a corner of my heart. We just weren't good enough.

After I graduated high school, I did not pick up a tennis racquet again until after my children were in grammar school. Perhaps because of my high school experience, the camaraderie and competition of ladies team tennis has been a magnet drawing me near. In recent years, I've competed on various leagues and travel teams. When my husband and

I began wintering in Sarasota (home of the above-mentioned ruined condo), one of the first things I did was find a tennis program.

In January, my 55-and-older USTA doubles league began play.

For weeks, we battled to secure the top spot in our division. As league champs, we earned the right to play in the sectional championships at the USTA National Tennis Center in Orlando in May. COVID not only squashed that opportunity, it also shut down all outdoor doubles play at our club.

However, in late July we learned the USTA sectional championships were back on and rescheduled for the last weekend in October. As my team trains for our tournament (the same month as the sectionals of my youth – the irony of which is not lost on me), I'm reminded of my high school years. Nostalgic, I note the differences between then and now.

This time around, our tennis equipment and the facilities are exceptional. Our bodies are 40-plus years older. Our minds wiser. Instead of cold and wind, we will face high heat and humidity, as well as runway noise from the nearby Orlando airport. Beyond the hoped-for victories on three courts in three straight matches, our purpose is more nuanced. For three full days, we will attempt to forget about the surging virus, the divisive election and a broiling social climate. While being mindful of safety precautions, our goal is to play our best tennis and come home injury-free.

Will we be good enough to advance out of sectionals?

Maybe. That's not the most salient point. By competing in Orlando, we have already achieved something important. We have cheated COVID out of erasing a hard-earned goal. To roughly paraphrase a well-used saying: It's not about winning or losing, it's about getting to play the game.

*(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)*

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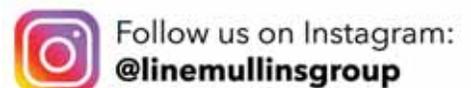
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### LCSO Opens Season With Director Candidate, Switches to Live Stream

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra kicks off its 48th season with conductor candidate Christopher Fashun, and through a live-stream format, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.

The performance, "The Great American Songbook," will be filmed at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., and continue without intermission until 8:15 p.m.

season-opener begins with a 6:30 p.m. presentation, followed by the 7 p.m. concert.

King thanked sponsors Beacon Health System, Dr. Charles and Rita Hagenow, The Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation and Daniel and Tricia Luck for supporting the decision.

Fashun is the fifth candidate in the ongoing "Bravo, Maestro!" search. He is the director of orches-



Fashun



Bordo

"This was a very difficult decision to make," LCSO Executive Director Tim King said in a press release. "In light of the current pandemic situation in LaPorte County, and for the safety of our patrons, our season opening concert will pivot to a no-cost/live stream only format."

The concert will be restricted to LCSO board members and sponsors, and not exceed 50 people in addition to LCSO musicians. The live-streamed

tras at Hope College in Holland, Mich., where he is an active guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator percussionist. In 2018, he received a U.S. Postdoctoral Fulbright Award.

The program also will feature mezzo-soprano Debra Bordo and works by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

The live streamed concert can be viewed at [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net), Facebook and YouTube.

As part of the audition process, a conductor evaluation form will be available online to critique Fashun's performance. The form can be returned to [executive@lcso.net](mailto:executive@lcso.net) or by mail to: LCSO, P.O. Box 563, LaPorte, IN 46352.

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## “Fake Real” Exhibit to Debut at Lubeznik Center for the Arts

A reception for the new exhibit “Fake Real” is from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Admission is free, but timed tickets are required for entry. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis at <https://fakereal.eventbrite.com>.

The exhibit, which runs through Jan. 9, 2021, considers the current environment regarding fact and fiction, and the difficulty in ascertaining the truth. That dilemma encompasses topics ranging from elections and climate change, to the economy, public health and social-media personas.

Exhibiting artists are: Cindy Bernhard, Steven Eichhorn, Carson Fox, Jeffrey Grauel, Regin Iglo-ria, Moises Salazar, Anne Yafi and Rodrigo Lara Zendejas. Each explores cultural and individual perceptions, biases and myths.

For example, for Grauel to create his work, he first searches for unopened latch-hook rug kits from the 1970s. He hooks them according to their directions and then goes back, hooking longer strands of yarn, of a single color, between the rows. This, in effect, buries the images from the front so they are only visible reversed on the backs of the rugs. The technique forces the viewer to walk around the artworks to discover the hidden image.

Bernhard emphasizes the materiality of paint, often applying it with pastry tools. Using humor, she explores femininity and the illusion of it. Dogs serve as a stand-in for the human figure. This allows the viewer to feel empathy and humor while eliminating problematic representations of the female figure, Bernhard said in a press release.

Eichhorn creates elaborate collages that resemble geological formations. Piles of collage components surround him in his studio, and inspire these in-depth meditations on form made by cutting, layering and gluing found pages from books and other materials.

In light of COVID-19, LCA continues to employ safety measures, including capacity restrictions, advance online ticket reservations, mandatory mask wearing and social distancing. Free disposable masks and gloves are provided upon request.

LCA is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends and closed Tuesdays. Call (219) 874-4900 or visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) for more details.



Above: “Shelf Life” by Cindy Bernhard.  
Below: “Stacked Minerals V” by Stephen Eichhorn.





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### Smart Start Book Drive

A month-long Smart Start Book Drive aims to build an age-appropriate library for Head Start of LaPorte County preschoolers.

New and gently used books suitable for preschool-aged children are welcome.

The book drive kicks off from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Nov. 10, with a "Drive-Up Drop-Off" in front of Temple Missionary Baptist Church, 2725 Wabash St. Donations can continue through Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Head Start office, 811 Royal Road.

The drive is an internship project created by Jaelyn Nowatzke, a senior Purdue University Northwest student completing her bachelor's degree in Human Development & Family Studies. Nowatzke is fulfilling an internship requirement at Head Start of LaPorte County this semester.

Email [nowatzke@pnw.edu](mailto:nowatzke@pnw.edu) for more details.

### Long Beach Fall Cleanup

Fall leaf cleanup is under way in Long Beach, with trucks making rounds, only collecting leaves raked to the road's edge, through Friday, Dec. 4.

Some delays might occur due to projects in Long Beach involving large trucks and/or equipment. Do not use brown leaf waste bags, and do not put yard plantings' clumps, twigs/tree branches or large stones/rocks in leaf piles because they damage leaf vacuums.

There is no need to call town hall for scheduled pickups because there isn't a definite timeframe in any certain neighborhood. However, all leaves will be picked up before the trucks leave town Dec. 4. If leaves are raked to the street by the end of the day Nov. 29, they should make the final pass.

Visit [www.longbeachin.org](http://www.longbeachin.org) for more details.

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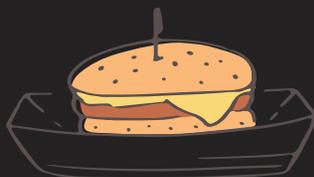
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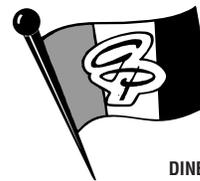


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### Harbor Country Hikers Fall Hike at Galien River County Park

A Berrien County Parks naturalist will lead Harbor Country Hikers' fall hike through Galien River County Park at 10 a.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 7.

The park is located at 17424 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Mich. The group will meet in the parking lot, then walk the upland Ridge Trail, visit the treetop observation platform and continue to the marsh boardwalk and fishing platform. The hike concludes a three-part series of visits to county parks that featured Love Creek and Madeline Bertrand parks.

The Galien River park includes upland and wetland habitats along the river. The wetland area is especially notable because it is part of the larger



The marsh boardwalk from the treetop observation tower.

Great Lakes Marsh that formed along the Galien just upstream from the river's mouth at Lake Michigan. The area is home to, and a popular rest stop for, many protected birds, including bald eagles and sandhill cranes.

Those who attend should prepare for the season: wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, and take insect repellent and water. Social-distancing guidelines are observed, with face masks required.

Membership is encouraged; however, hikes are open to the public. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) for additional information.

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## “Letter to You” is Springsteen’s Unabashed Tribute to E Street Band

by Andrew Tallackson



Bruce Springsteen (far left) works with The E Street Band on his 20th studio album in “Letter to You,” now streaming on Apple TV+.

“Letter to You,” a new documentary streaming on Apple TV+, charts the four-day recording session of Bruce Springsteen’s 20th studio album. While the music delves into issues of aging, regret and death, the film really is a love letter to The E Street Band.

“I’m in the middle of a 45 year conversation with these men and women I’m surrounded by...and with some of you,” Springsteen says early in the film, and you feel it, the moment everyone starts to play. So much talent in the room, fueled by an unspoken language achieved by decades of working together. The performers, after hashing out the particulars, achieve a sound that is pure. Unified. Powerful.

“Letter to You” the album, released to unanimous acclaim, was inspired by the passing of George Theiss, Springsteen’s former bandmate, as well as his earliest days with a group called The Castiles. So, “The Boss,” as he is known by fans, assembled members of The E Street Band, which includes Patti Scialfa, his wife of nearly 30 years, in his home studio to record the new tracks, along with three tracks written prior to Springsteen’s 1973 debut, “Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.”

Director Thom Zimny, who has made a career out of documenting everything Springsteen, films the sessions in stark, gorgeous black and white, and it is fitting. Like Bruce, himself, that raw, stripped down style allows the music, the message, to come across loud and clear. And The E Street Band is so attuned to each other, the recording session involves all the musicians playing at once. That rarely happens. Individual performers are called in, their tracks re-



### “Letter to You”

Running time: 90 minutes. Rated TV-PG.

Streaming on Apple TV+.

corded separately, then edited together. But here, everyone starts to play, and it clicks on impact.

As Springsteen says in the film, “It’s the only album where it’s the entire band playing at one time, with all the vocals and everything completely live. The record is the first record that I’ve made where the subject is the music itself... It’s about popular music. It’s about being in a rock band, over the course of time. And it’s also a direct conversation between me and my fans, at a level that I think they’ve come to expect over the years.”

The music rarely stops in “Letter to You,” which is a good thing because the interludes, the moments that involve narration, come across as artificial. Yes, the narration offers a glimpse into Springsteen as a human being, but it never feels natural. It feels like him reading a script. Wooden. Self-important. And that is *not* what comes across during the recording sessions. Springsteen is a working-class guy who achieved something great with his life, but cherishes those he holds dear. He welcomes their input. Their friendship.

That guy, the humble rock star, is what you savor about “Letter to You.” And, of course, the music. That incredible music.

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The sales comparisons in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties year over year are worth noting. The comparisons over the first 9 months do not show the boom as well because of the down period during April and May. But the comparisons between September 2019 and September 2020 are striking.

First, the number of residential sales for September 2019 compared to 2020.

County	2019	2020	% change
Lake	533	689	29.3%
Porter	232	324	39.7%
LaPorte	121	166	37.2%

Pretty impressive, especially since I thought sales would tank because of the pandemic, as they did in 2007.

So, let us look at the total \$Volume (M means millions of dollars) for the same September 2019 and 2020 periods.

County	2019	2020	% change
Lake	111.7 M	155.0 M	29.3%
Porter	55.4 M	96.8 M	74.7%
LaPorte	20.3 M	34.5 M	70.3%

Again, tremendous changes. Especially in Porter and LaPorte counties. Up 70% year over year is amazing, striking and just unknown.

Finally, the comparisons of median sales price (half of properties sold for more; half sold for less) for the same September 2019 to 2020.

County	2019	2020	% change
Lake	184k	195k	6.0%
Porter	210k	250k	19.0%
Laporte	128k	174k	36.1%

LaPorte started much lower than Lake and Porter counties. But the upswing in the median price has been the highest. Increases in median price of these magnitudes in Porter and LaPorte are extraordinary, even stronger than the 2000 to 2005 boom period.

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## Bill Murray, Rashida Jones Shine in Sofia Coppola's "On the Rocks"

by Andrew Tallackson



Rashida Jones and Bill Murray star in "On the Rocks," now streaming on Apple TV+.

All parents, in one way or another, go through a period of existential funk. That moment when they fear their children have erased how they previously defined themselves, whether it was by career or personal ambition.

Sofia Coppola's new film, "On the Rocks," sounds like a lame rom-com. A 40(ish) wife fears her husband is having an affair, so her wealthy playboy father comes to her rescue, the two embarking on elaborately deceptive means to uncover the truth.

But what the film, now streaming on Apple TV+, *really* is about is a woman stuck in limbo, fearful she cannot pull herself out of the muck. And while the tone of "On the Rocks" is lighter than Coppola's previous works, most notably 2003's dynamite "Lost in Translation," it is meatier than a lot of movies today, with two sharp, deeply empathetic performances by Rashida Jones and Bill Murray.

Jones plays Laura Keane, who on the surface has an idyllic existence. Her husband, Dean (Marlon Wayans, carefully shedding his goof-off persona), is constantly at work, his new upstart company requiring time and energy. They have two beautiful girls, both enrolled in a good school nearby.

Laura, however, is anything but comfortable. The big 4-0 is approaching. She's suffering from writer's block, despite having a publishing deal. Her routine, instead, is consumed by the mundane rituals of daily family life: picking toys off the floor, preparing school lunches, waiting in line with her children at school. A nice touch is the performance by Jenny Slate as Vanessa, a mother inconveniently

★ ★ ★<sup>1/2</sup>

### "On the Rocks"

Running time: 96 minutes. Streaming on Apple TV+.

Rated R for some language/sexual references.

in line next to Laura each morning. Vanessa is one of those women whose private life is a trainwreck, who craves someone to talk to, but can't pick up on social cues that no one wants to hear it. And she is the ideal symbol of how Laura views herself: surrounded by noise, none of it registering.

Jones plays Laura with fidgety anxiousness: a woman intensely aware that life may be passing her by. And having met Dean's colleagues, one of whom is an exceedingly attractive, and younger, woman, Laura fears all his time at work means he is having an affair. Enter Murray as her dad, Felix. He has made a comfortable life for himself as an art dealer. He also can't keep his eyes and hands off other women. His marriage to Laura's mother ended years ago, but he remains a constant presence in Laura's life. And since infidelity is something of which Felix knows well, he feels best suited to help his daughter spy on Dean. In his own warped way, Dean's potential unfaithfulness is one way for Felix to have father-daughter bonding time.

Murray, as a comic actor, has been so good for so long, we tend to have our image of him crystallized from past movies, like "Ghostbusters" or even "Zombieland." Coppola's camera frequently lingers on Murray's face, and for the first thing we realize

how time has caught up with him. Now 70, his body, his very being, sag with age. There is a restraint, a bit of weariness, to him, but his eyes still blaze with mischief. The “fire” in his belly remains, and the joy of his performance is in watching a man who, in his latter years, is searching for common ground with his daughter, who in turn spends much of her time observing her father with raised eyebrows. “*It must be very nice to be you,*” she tells him at one point.

Midway through “On the Rocks,” you suspect you have it figured out. Whatever the outcome in terms of Dean, Laura will grow closer to her father, flaws and all. The treat of Coppola’s screenplay is that it does *not* go there. No foregone conclusion. The film becomes less about Laura embracing her father’s arrested development and more about rediscovering her “glow,” a sense of direction. A firmer purpose.

The end of “On the Rocks” is not what you anticipate, and as such, because it is so much smarter, and satisfying, than the average rom-com, it leaves you on a high. This is a movie about a woman securing what she wants out of life. And on her own terms. And through Coppola and her stars, we firmly believe Laura has achieved it.

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



Marlon Wayans (left) sheds his trademark antics for a remarkably restrained performance.

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# Oscar-Winning Actresses Breathe New Life Into “The Witches”

by Andrew Tallackson

The only thing dated about Nicolas Roeg’s “The Witches” (1990) is the year it was made. The cars, the clothes — true — time has gleefully sent them packing. Otherwise, the movie has withstood the test of time. It’s a bona-fide classic, one of the few Roald Dahl adaptations to perfectly capture the tone, the look and feel of the writer’s warped vision. Jim Henson’s ingenious puppetry and makeup effects have aged remarkably well, while Angelica Huston’s go-for-broke turn as the Grand High Witch is a fiendish spectacle. A sight to behold.

I know this because “The Witches” is one of my son’s favorite books and movies. An old DVD copy scores considerable play in our house. Which begs the question, why remake a movie that, 30 years later, has lost no traction with ensuing generations?

Purists can take comfort in that, for all the 21st century polish director Robert Zemeckis (“Forrest Gump,” “The Polar Express”) lavishes on his remake, Roeg’s film reigns supreme. Having said that, a few welcome updates, and Zemeckis’ trademark razzle dazzle, make this update, now streaming on HBO Max, more enjoyable than it deserves to be.

The core story remains the same. A young boy, living with his kindly grandmother after his parents die in a car crash, heads with her to a seaside resort, unfortunately at the same time as a convention of witches. When the boy ends up inadvertently trapped in the same room as the ghastly creatures, he overhears their plans to strip the world of children, is caught and transformed into a mouse.

Yes, Roald Dahl tales can be cruel. The author never coddled his young readers. He introduced them to worlds where parents are out of the picture or woefully inadequate, and selfish, obnoxious children get their just desserts. But, he countered those darker elements with smart, kind children whose resourcefulness saves the day. Good always triumphs over evil.

The biggest change Zemeckis and his co-writers — Kenya Barris and Guillermo del Toro — make to Dahl’s 1983 book is, they switch the action from England and Norway to 1968 Alabama. It reflects a trend this year, begun with HBO’s “Lovecraft Country,” to cast African Americans as central characters in tales of horror and fantasy, a segment of the population neglected for too long in these genres. And in a stroke of genius, they’ve cast the great Octavia Spencer (“Hidden Figures,” “The Shape of Water”) as the grandmother. You can’t go wrong with this woman. She could read a tax audit and invest considerable tragedy and comedy into it. And when it comes to sharing the screen with children, there is no better actress to convey the unconditional love



Above: Anne Hathaway takes on the role of the Grand High Witch. Below: Octavia Spencer steals the show as the wise grandmother.



## “The Witches”

Running time: 106 minutes. Streaming on HBO Max. Rated PG for scary images/moments, language and thematic elements

and support of family.

So with Spencer leading the charge, and the winning Jahzir Kadeem Bruno as her grandson, Zemeckis has us prepped and ready for the hell that will break loose at the seaside retreat.

Any actress recruited to play the Grand High Witch has impossible shoes to fill. And when we first see Anne Hathaway, the Oscar winner for “Les Misérables” (2012), barrel into the hotel, it’s like watching a pale imitation of Huston, from the overly theatrical gestures to the tortured accent. We fear the worst. Then, the story plunks the young boy into the meeting room, and Hathaway takes the role and makes it her own. She is ferocious. If Huston played the witch as amused by her own treachery, Hathaway creates the equivalent of a rabid beast. With Huston, there was a 50-50 chance kids would have nightmares from the Grand High Witch’s antics. With Hathaway, it’s all but guaranteed, her presence aided by effects that are just special enough to enhance, and not distract from, the terror inherent within the scene.

From there, Zemeckis adheres closely to Dahl’s story, including the big finale. Dahl was notoriously furious with Roeg for changing the ending to his tale, although, to be honest, the movie’s conclusion worked far better than what the author envisioned on the page. Zemeckis restores the original conclusion, including much of the dialogue, and while it is rather bittersweet, by keeping Spencer front and center in the action, the heart and soul of the tale remains where it should be.

In fact, it is Spencer who sold me on “The Witches,” proving, to me at least, why the film should exist in the first place. When it comes to humor and heart, she is simply the best.

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

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## Dunes Learning Center Series

Honoring November as National Native American Heritage Month, Dunes Learning Center will host the online webinar series "Indigenous Perspectives for a Sustainable Environment" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays in November.

The series examines the strengths and limitations of using western science, and how indigenous science can help manage resources for a sustainable future. Topics include language and cultural bias, food systems, land-management techniques and gardening.



Warren

The facilitator is Billie Warren, a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi who also is Bear Clan. She has been an educator, environmentalist, humanitarian and beadwork artist for more than 20 years. She founded the nonprofit organization Jibek Mbwakawen Inc., which aims to improve the environment by connecting people to the land from an indigenous perspective. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University-Northwest and is pursuing a graduate degree.

The schedule is:

- **Monday, Nov. 9: "The Language of Science."**

Frank Barker, of the Gun Lake Band of Potawatomi, explores nuances of language and culture that can create bias when examining empirical evidence.



Barker

- **Monday, Nov. 16: "Rethinking Our Relationship with Land Management."** The program considers the successes and failures of land management through an indigenous perspective.

**Nov. 23: "Food Sustainability and Sovereignty."** Discover the scientific food systems of traditional "wild" food, and how these sustainable indigenous systems can benefit the environment. The speaker is Elena Terry, executive chef/founder of Wild Bearies, a non-profit catering organization, and coordinator of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance Culinary Program.



Terry

- **Nov. 30: "The Art of Indigenous Gardening."** Learn the history of sustainable indigenous gardening, including planting, harvesting and seed saving. The speaker is Gina Roxas, Prairie Band of Potawatomi medicinal gardener project manager.

The full series costs \$40, or \$10 for each. Visit [tinyurl.com/y4onxf7v](http://tinyurl.com/y4onxf7v) to register.

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## Salvation Army Red Kettle Kickoff

The Salvation Army of Michigan City officially launches the 2020 red kettle season with a kickoff event from 7 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, at McDonald's, 3507 Franklin St.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's event is "drive-through" style, with attendees encouraged to meet in the parking lot. Celebrity pourers include: Chief Deputy Ron Heeg of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office at 7 a.m.; Michigan City Police Chief Dion Campbell at 7:30 a.m.; Katie Eaton of the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce at 8 a.m.; LaPorte County Prosecuting Attorney John Lake and wife, Mary Lake, at 9 a.m.; and Angie Nelson-Deutch of NIPSCO and the Michigan City Common Council at 9:30 a.m. A ceremony to introduce the 2020 Christmas campaign chairs, Paul and Sharon Applegate and family, is at 8 a.m.



Because of needs resulting from COVID-19, The Salvation Army launched its national Christmas campaign in September with the theme "Rescue Christmas." Locally, The Salvation Army expects to see an increase of about 155 percent over the number of families receiving assistance last year, with more than 900 families potentially needing food and toys for the holidays.

The kickoff ceremony will highlight the red kettles soon to be seen around Michigan City. Those interested in volunteering to ring a bell can sign up at [www.RegisterToRing.com](http://www.RegisterToRing.com).

The Lubeznik family donates proceeds from all coffee sales at LaPorte County McDonald's restaurants from the morning of Nov. 12 to The Salvation Army of Michigan City.

Visit [www.samichigancity.org](http://www.samichigancity.org) or call (219) 874-6885 for more details.

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## Dueling Pianos at Uptown Social



"Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos!"

Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St., will host "Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos!" from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

The high-energy performance frequently involves audience participation. The dueling artists are Michael Sherman and Robert Deason who, according to a press release, are considered two of Felix and Fingers' best performers.

"Early Bird" tickets cost \$30 — a 20-percent savings. A full-service bar (cocktail hour starts at 6 p.m.) is planned, and seating for groups of up to six people will be allowed to factor in social-distancing protocols. Tickets can be purchased at [www.uptownsocialmc.com](http://www.uptownsocialmc.com)

## KAC Soup's On-the-Go!

Taking into consideration COVID-19 restrictions, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., will host its annual Soup's On! lunch event, but on its lawn from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7.

Guests at the annual fundraiser have the chance to win a prize, and discover items made by regional artists. Visitors will be required to wear masks and maintain 6-foot distance. All proceeds support KAC ceramic and family programming.

Guests can purchase Soup's On-the-Go! "Soup-ertificates" for \$10. They are redeemable with participating restaurants Nov. 6-14. The \$20 Soup-to-Go! PLUS option includes a \$10 Soup-ertificate, an artist-made ceramic ornament and pre-packaged dessert. No dining is planned at KAC.

Visit [www.krasl.org/events/soups-on/](http://www.krasl.org/events/soups-on/) for additional information.

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**Special Thanks**

Oct. 10 was the Eighth Annual St. Stanislaus/Trail Creek 5K Run/Walk held in cooperation with The Town of Trail Creek at Nelson Park.

Jeff Mescal, Hebron, won the race with a time of 17:20.8. Female winner Claire Salyer, LaPorte, who placed third overall, ran a time of 19:48.7.

We want to thank The Town of Trail Creek for its support and cooperation, Town Marshal Stephen Dick, Chris and Jim from the Trail Creek Police Department and LaPorte County EMS.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, the race participants and many volunteers. This fundraiser was for the Parish Capitol Campaign for needed church repairs.

Special thanks to our sponsors: St. Andrews Products; Robert Tyлизz Appliance for Robert's donation of the beautiful plaque awards he handcrafted and other additional support; Members Advantage Credit Union; Kim and Mike Marks; Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel; General Insurance Services/GIS; Castle Ford/Lincoln; Snyder & Associates; Horizon Bank; Results Physical Therapy; Larry Dalton Heating & Cooling; Johnson Johns & Septic Service; St. Joseph Young Men Society; and Dr. Lolita Ang.

We also want to thank the many volunteers, including photographers Paul Kemiell and Jill Wozniak. We could not have held this event without all of their help. We also want to thank St. Luke Church for allowing us to use their lot for parking, *The Beacher* and *The LaPorte County Herald-Dispatch*.

Hope to see you again next year June 5, 2021.

- Patrick Kroehler**  
St. Stans 5K Race Director
- Brother Shaun Gray**  
Committee Member
- Kathi Hale**  
Committee Member
- Susan Snyder**  
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**Leeds Project Heart**

Leeds Public House and Hotel Tango Distillery are teaming up for a Project Heart special event from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the restaurant, 401 Franklin St.

Guests who take a pair of socks during the event will receive 10 percent off. Hotel Tango will use the Project Heart donation to purchase additional socks for service members overseas.

The veteran-owned distillery's efforts are being featured in November as part of Leeds' monthly initiative that donates 50 percent of drink proceeds to support an organization.

Visit leedspublichouse.com for more details.

## Tri Kappa Greenery Sale



Cindy Murray (left) and Denitta Newenhouse display a wreath available through the greenery sale.

Tri Kappa Delta Mu Chapter is holding a winter greenery sale to raise funds for local charities.

The fundraiser includes wreaths from Pacific Northwest farms. They include:

- Noble Fir 22" wreath.
- Mixed Evergreen 28" wreath of Noble fir with berried juniper and incense cedar.
- Western Cedar Garland of 10' of fragrant fresh-cut western cedar.
- Noble Fir Swag.

Email [Michigancitydeltamu@trikappa.org](mailto:Michigancitydeltamu@trikappa.org) or visit [tinyurl.com/yxc5thgp](http://tinyurl.com/yxc5thgp) for details. Information also is available through Cindy Murray at [cmurray1234@comcast.net](mailto:cmurray1234@comcast.net) or call (708) 421-0941.

## Indiana Dunes National Park

Central Avenue is closed so large trucks can safely use it during a beach nourishment project.

The Army Corps of Engineers-funded project will replace beach sand lost due to severe erosion from Lake Michigan's high water levels. The road will be closed the entire length between U.S. 12 and its northern terminus at the beach.

The work, scheduled to be completed by Dec. 24, will place 56,000 tons of sand on the beach.

*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.*

## Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Fall Yoga from noon-1:15 p.m. EDT Friday, Nov. 6, and Wednesday, Nov. 11.**

Join instructor Deirdre Guthrie, in person or through Zoom. All levels are welcome. Visit <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/> for details or to register.

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



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## Innovators Awards Winners

Several LaPorte County individuals are among the winners of The Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest's 2020 Innovators Awards, with recipients inducted during a virtual event from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19.

The selection committee evaluated more than 40 finalists. An innovation needed to provide a new solution, benefit society and create measurable value. Innovators must live/work in Northwest Indiana. Local inductees include:

### Individual Inductees

- Jake Miller, Michigan City, JEM Custom Shoes owner.

### Team Inductees

- Michigan City Economic Development Corp. with Michigan City Area Schools team led by Clarence Hulse, Michigan City.
- Tonn & Blank Construction team led by Jon Gilmore, Michigan City.

The virtual program also will feature remarks from leadership at The Society of Innovators and Purdue University Northwest. Registration for the event is free.

Those wishing to attend may call Jason Williams at (219) 989-2805 or register at [www.pnw.edu/soi](http://www.pnw.edu/soi).

## Bridgman Public Library

Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library will host the Zoom presentation "Michigan Owls" with naturalist Andrew Nowicki at 6:30 EST Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The focus is a discussion and photo tour of owls commonly seen in Michigan. The program can be accessed at [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com) or <https://zoom.us/j/91013492617>.

The library is located at 4460 Lake St. Call (269) 465-3663 for more details.



Nowicki

## Forms Due for Holiday Orders

COVID-19 may have canceled Dunes Woman's Club Holiday Marketplace, but the group is still selling wreaths, swags and garland.

Basket information and an order form can be found at <https://bit.ly/2DLilhS>. Forms are due by Nov. 13 for pickup around Nov. 23.

Also, with each \$10 of a donation, people can earn one entry into a drawing for one of three gift baskets donated by the Friends of Beverly Shores.

All proceeds are distributed to food pantries, Pine School, Community House maintenance and other local causes.



## 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.

## Reach for the Stars

“Reach for the Stars,” Family Advocates’ 30th anniversary gala, is online this year from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, complete with a Q&A involving “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” actor Alan Ruck.

The event also includes a comedy contest with real-time voting, testimonials from former youth, clients and volunteers, and a silent auction. Ric Federighi of radio station WIMS is the emcee.

The gala is free to watch on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Steam. Some costs involved are:

- \$10 — The price per vote for the comedy contest.
- \$50 — The price for four votes and a bottle of wine or six pack of beer.
- \$75 — The price of six votes, a bottle of wine or six pack of beer, and a two-topping pizza from Albano’s Villa.

Visit “Reach for the Stars” on Facebook for more details.



Ruck

## American Red Cross

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

- Midwest Warehousing Co., 3999 Hupp Road, Building R-5-2, Kingsbury, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Donate through Nov. 11 and receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email. 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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details. Visit [rcblood.org](http://rcblood.org) /together for more details.

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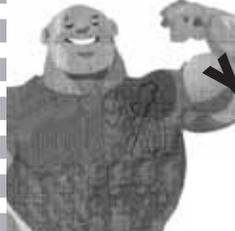
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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Nov. 6** — Exhibit reception, “Fake Real,” 4-7 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Admission: free. Timed entry tickets: <https://fakereal.eventbrite.com>. Exhibit runs through Jan. 9, 2021. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org), (219) 874-4900.

**Nov. 6** — “Felix and Fingers Dueling Pianos!,” 7-10 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. “Early Bird” tickets: \$30. Reservations: [www.uptownsocialmc.com](http://www.uptownsocialmc.com)

**Nov. 7** — Harbor Country Hikers’ fall hike, 10 a.m. EST, Galien River County Park, 17424 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Mich. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**Nov. 7** — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra 48th season-opener, live-streamed, 7 p.m. To view: [www.lcso.net](http://www.lcso.net), Facebook, YouTube. Pre-concert presentation: 6:30 p.m.

### **Nov. 11 — VETERANS DAY.**

**Nov. 12** — Salvation Army of Michigan City 2020 red kettle kickoff, 7-10 a.m., McDonald’s parking lot, 3507 Franklin St. Info: [www.samichigan.org](http://www.samichigan.org), (219) 874-6885.

**Through Jan. 4, 2021** — Works by Jamie McNeil, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: [jessicar@qas.org](mailto:jessicar@qas.org).

### In the Region

**Nov. 6-7** — Soup’s On! fundraiser, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Purchase “Soup-ertificates” in \$10/\$20 options redeemable at participating restaurants. Info: [www.krasl.org/events/soups-on/](http://www.krasl.org/events/soups-on/)

**Nov. 6, 11** — Fall Yoga, noon-1:15 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/>

**Through Nov. 9** — “Through My Eyes,” 2-D and 3-D works by Linda Ligoeki, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: [www.chesterton-art.com](http://www.chesterton-art.com).

**Nov. 10** — Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library free Zoom presentation, “Michigan Owls,” 6:30 EST. Program access: <https://zoom.us/j/91013492617>, [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com). Info: (269) 465-3663.

**Through Nov. 28** — Five-women exhibit, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours: noon to 4 p.m. EST Fri.-Sun. Info: (269) 983-3688.

**Through Dec. 20** — Elkhart Juried Regional Art Exhibition, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all times Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: [info@midwestmuseum.us](mailto:info@midwestmuseum.us), (574) 293-6660.

### Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

- **Miniature Treasure Ornament Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 14.**

Glass artist Lisa Walsh will discuss the formation of sand dunes, and the connection between sand and glass, before making a tiny treasure ornament using a handmade hollow glass bead.

The workshop, appropriate for 7 and older, consists of 30 minutes of instruction and 90 minutes of creating. All materials are provided. Masks are required, and social distancing will be observed.

The cost is \$5 each, with pre-registration required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/95500958939>

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



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On November 5, 1605**, the “Gunpowder Plot,” designed to blow up England’s House of Parliament, failed. The day is celebrated as “Guy Fawkes Day,” named for the leader of the botched effort.

**On November 5, 1733**, publisher John Peter Zenger began printing *The New York Weekly*, the colony’s first political newspaper.

**On November 5, 1857**, McVicker’s Theater, built for \$85,000, opened on Chicago’s Madison Street.

**On November 5, 1872**, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for attempting to vote in the presidential election. She adamantly refused to pay.

**On November 5, 1989**, pianist Vladimir Horowitz died in New York. He was 85.

**On November 6, 1833**, with Chicago’s population at 150, the Board of Trustees extended the town’s boundaries to Jackson Street on the south, Jefferson and Cook streets on the west and Ohio Street on the north.

**On November 6, 1860**, Abraham Lincoln defeated three other candidates for U.S. president.

**On November 6, 1869**, in the first official intercollegiate football game played in the United States, Rutgers defeated Princeton by a score of 6-4.

**On November 6, 1928**, presidential election results were flashed on an electronic sign on *The New York Times* building, reporting the results of Herbert Hoover’s victory over Alfred Smith.

**On November 6, 1993**, the Chicago Bulls christened the new United Center with a loss against Miami, 95-71; guard B.J. Armstrong was the first Bull to score in the new building.

**On November 7, 1805**, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first sighted the Pacific Ocean while standing at the mouth of Oregon’s Columbia River.

**On November 7, 1874**, in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast, which was published in *Harper’s Weekly*, the elephant was used for the first time as the symbol for the Republican Party.

**On November 7, 1893**, Colorado granted women the right to vote.

**On November 7, 1929**, the Museum of Modern Art in New York opened.

**On November 7, 1998**, John Glenn, the 77-year-old senator and former astronaut, returned to Earth aboard the space shuttle Discovery after a nine-day mission.

**On November 8, 1793**, the “Louvre” in Paris first opened to the public.

**On November 8, 1892**, voters returned Grover Cleveland to the White House – the only president to win non-consecutive terms.

**On November 8, 1933**, President Franklin Roosevelt, by executive order, created the Civil Works Administration, designed to create jobs for more than 4 million unemployed Americans.

**On November 8, 1965**, the soap opera “Days of Our Lives” premiered on NBC.

**On November 9, 1872**, fire (which broke out in a warehouse) spread across Boston, destroying in excess of 1,000 buildings.

**On November 9, 1906**, President Theodore Roosevelt sailed by ocean liner to visit the Panama Canal Zone, becoming the first sitting president to leave the United States.

**On November 9, 1953**, the Supreme Court confirmed a 1922 ruling that major league baseball does not come under the auspices of the federal antitrust laws.

**On November 9, 1967**, a Saturn V rocket carrying an unmanned Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a successful test flight.

**On November 10, 1775**, the Continental Congress authorized the formation of the U.S. Marine Corps.

**On November 10, 1871**, Henry Stanley, a newspaper correspondent and explorer, found missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone in central Africa, and greeted him with the now famous remark, “*Dr. Livingstone, I presume?*” And Livingstone answered: “*Yes, and I feel thankful that I am here to welcome you.*” Livingstone was seeking the source of the Nile River, continuing his search until his death in 1873.

**On November 10, 1917**, 41 women suffragists were arrested during a demonstration outside the White House.

**On November 10, 1938**, Kate Smith first sang “God Bless America” on her CBS radio program.

**On November 10, 1969**, the children’s educational program “Sesame Street” made its debut on PBS.

**On November 11, 1918**, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, fighting in World War I ended with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany. The signing took place in a railroad car in the French forest of Compiègne.

**On November 11, 1921**, on the third anniversary of the ending of World War I, in Arlington National Cemetery, President Warren Harding dedicated the “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.”

**On November 11, 1954**, the United States celebrated the first official “Veterans Day.”

**On November 11, 1966**, Gemini 12 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, FL, with astronauts James Lovell and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin Jr. aboard.

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Irene Rosevear, Michigan City Lions Club Boss Lion, recently delivered more than 75 packages of socks to Keys to Hope and Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families. The socks are an ongoing club project, with members taking packages to regular club meetings. The goal is to provide packages of new socks throughout the year to agencies that provide assistance to the homeless and needy families. Community members who would like to support the program by donating socks may call Rosevear at (219) 878-5678.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**A Time for Mercy by John Grisham** (*hardcover, \$29.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 464 pages.*)

If you don't know who John Grisham is, then you must be visiting from another planet...and if you are, you picked the wrong year to drop by.

All jokes aside, Grisham has returned to his Mississippi roots, revisiting the small town of Clanton and lawyer Jake Brigance, first introduced in A Time to Kill. It proves Grisham is back, and better than ever.

*"No one wanted a dead-cop case in a small town. Harry Rex was right.*

*The case had already become a liability and would only get worse."*

Yes, a local sheriff's deputy is shot and killed in his own home. And, by his own gun, by the 16-year-old son of his live-in girlfriend, Josie Gamble. What could possibly cause Drew Gamble to kill the deputy, Stuart Kofer, who gave him, his mother and sister, Kiera, a place to live?

One night in March, the kids are huddled in Kiera's bedroom while Josie waits fearfully in the kitchen for Stuart's return. It is well after midnight, and she knows he will be roaring drunk. He staggers into the house and begins verbally abusing her. It doesn't take long to escalate...

*"Stuart was a sloppy, violent drunk...He charged like a mad bull, grabbed her by the throat, pinned her to the wall, and dug his fingernails into the flesh of her neck."*

A strong punch to her jaw does the trick. Josie drops to the floor like a wilted flower, and Stuart starts up the stairs, calling to Kiera to come out...

Unable to open the bedroom door, Stuart stumbles back down and falls across his bed, passed out dead drunk.

Drew and Kiera run down to their mother and can't wake her. Drew says she isn't breathing. He goes to Stuart's bedroom and picks up his service revolver. Stuart made the mistake of showing Drew how to shoot a gun...and then Drew calls 911. When the police arrive, Stuart is dead, but Josie is not.

Everyone in town is in shock — Stuart was an exemplary deputy. Many didn't know the secrets he hid. Soon, many are calling for Drew to get the death penalty without hearing his side of the story.

Josie has no money for a lawyer, so the judge assigns the task to Jake Brigance, swearing he will find another lawyer to take his place ASAP. Ha! There is

no one available. Jake knows there is no money to be had, and he is up to his ears in debt from other cases he represented for little or no money.

But something changes after Jake visits Drew in jail. Drew is an undersized 16-year-old who looks more like 13: confused, and mentally withdrawn, both for what he did to Stuart, and still thinking his mother is dead. Jake knows someone has to defend this child, despite the court considering him an adult.

*"What magic words or phrases could he conjure up to save his client?"* —because Drew is truly his client now.

The characters are so strongly portrayed, the atmosphere crackles with hatred and revenge — from the Kofer family as well as the townsfolk. But maybe these people don't know, or want to know, the mean drunk Stuart was, whose blood-alcohol level measured twice the legal limit the night of his death.

Here's where Grisham shines — once Jake is committed to this defense, we see his office in high gear: all the paperwork to be filed, witnesses to contact and prep for testimony, and the things that come up only in tirelessly digging up skeletons in the closet.

The machinations and give and take between the prosecution and the defense, the sly tricks only a seasoned lawyer like Jake could think of

— a banquet of legal finagling.

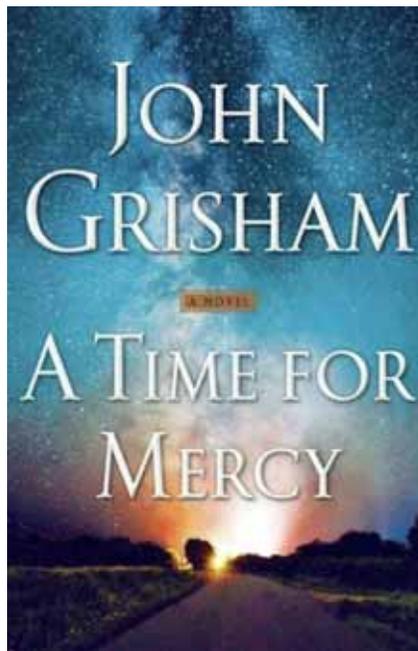
This book takes us back to A Time to Kill, recalling all the excitement, drama and surprises that sealed Grisham's No. 1 position in the field of courtroom crime novels. Emotions are fully engaged here, and every character stands out with their humanity, or total lack of it. Grisham brings out the best and worst, and pulls no punches about aspects of a lawyer's life we never consider.

Kofer's family is more than mad — they want revenge. Just how far will they go to get it? Sixteen-year-old boy or not, he must pay for the life he took — but just what part did Kofer play in his own demise? Does that count in a court of law? People don't want to see the skeletons in the closet if it's their own closet.

Will Jake Brigance win the hardest case of his career and get Drew Gamble set free? Will there be "a time for mercy?"

Settle down and get ready for the legal ride of your life.

Till next time, happy reading!





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