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THE
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http://www.thebeacher.com/**About the Cover**

For this year's Labor Day edition, we wanted to pay tribute to the many people who embody the spirit of the holiday. So, we sent photographer Paul Kemiell out to find as many images as possible. More of his photos are available inside this edition.



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Making Waves

by Kim Nowatzke

Just kept swimming.

That's exactly what the Michigan City Piranha Swim Team has done for nearly 50 years. But it has offered so much more to a multitude of swimmers and families than just a chance to compete and learn the fundamentals of the sport.

It all began in June 1972 with a group of parents interested in starting a local swim club with the help of Sullair Corp. The swimmers decided to call themselves the Piranhas, holding practice during summers at the Michigan City manufacturer

and winters at the former Rogers High School (now Michigan City High School), in addition to some time in the former Elston High School. By the late 1990s, the group had officially moved to MCHS, emerging as a feeder program for the school's swim team. The Piranhas are now a member of USA Swimming Inc., Indiana Swimming Inc. and the Northwest Swim Conference.

Currently, the Piranhas have 45 registered swimmers. There is no minimum age requirement, but the team is designed for swimmers who know one stroke, and can swim the length of the pool, on up



A.J. Gawat competes at a July 2019 intrasquad meet. All photos by Monica Zibutis.

to those who qualify for state and national competitions. Typically, Piranhas begin as young as 4 and up to 19. The fall/winter season runs September through March, and the summer season starts the beginning of April and continues through the beginning of August. A six-week Learn To Swim program open to the community is held every March and usually has 25 area kids participate.

Learn To Swim has opened the door for many who got their feet wet in the program and wanted more.

That was the case with Ryann Cox, 10, and Gavin Cox, 8, of Michigan City. After participating in Learn To Swim in the fall of 2019, their parents signed them up for a trial day on the team.

“They instantly fell in love with the sport,” the swimmers’ mother, Nicole Cox, said. “There’s a lot of hard work that goes into swimming, but the kids look forward to it every day.”

She cites self-confidence and self-discipline as two big takeaways from their Piranha experience.

Ryann says, “I just like swimming and how to do different strokes. I like competing because it helps me reach my goals. I like the whole swim team – they are really awesome. They build your confidence.”



Coach Scott Heitmann with Henry Zibutis at the Piranha Bowl in February.

Scott Heitmann, the Piranhas’ head coach, said swimming teaches important life lessons, “from paying close attention to details, to challenging and pushing themselves, to being competitive with others in a friendly manner, to developing really good focus and mind control because you spend two hours a day at practice, and most of that is spent staring at the bottom of a swimming pool.”

“Swimmers have to pay very close attention to details because swimming is highly technical,” Heitmann continued. “Even having your pinky in the wrong position can make a difference of two one-hundredths of a second, which can be what separates first and third place. As highly competitive as the sport is, swimmers mainly compete with themselves. We teach that every race is about swimming

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Making Waves

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the stroke the right way, but also going for your personal best time.”

Heitmann began as the Piranha head coach for the 2017 fall/winter season. A former Elston High School swimmer, he had limited coaching experience, while his sisters were on the Elston High School and Michigan City Family YMCA teams in the 1980s and 1990s. He “had a knack for wanting to be involved” since he holds a secondary education degree, and three of his own children have been Piranha swimmers.

“Jackie Babcock and Charlie Greis were my coaches growing up and taught me the fundamentals and were great role models for me as coaches. My goal is to do the same for the swimmers today,” Heitmann said. “Teaching fundamentals is so important, no matter if our swimmers go on to swim in high school, college or the Olympics. Teaching them the basics of this sport and giving them a great appreciation on how to challenge themselves, and to never give up achieving their goals, will help serve them to not only always love swimming, but to grow into the role models we need for the next generation.”

Emily Gross has grown up with the Piranhas, starting when she was 12. Now 17, she has spent her last six birthdays either swimming or cheering on her team.

“I’ve done so many sports, and I’ve always loved swimming, so when I found out I could do it for a sport, I was so excited,” she said. “I love being a part of a team. I like to think we are a really close team, and if any younger swimmers had an issue, they would come to me and I would be there for them.”

Swimming was such a priority for the Westville resident, she transferred to MCHS so she could be part of its swim team. With the 500-yard freestyle

as her favorite event, she credits Piranhas for teaching her “if I put my mind to something, I can do it.”

A senior this year, Gross plans to join the Army after graduation and begin her education to become a nurse.

Emily’s mother, Theresa Gross, has enjoyed “not only seeing Emily, but all of the kids grow as they progressed throughout the years. The Piranhas helped prepare Emily for the high school team and now possibly for college sports. The Piranhas are a great group of people to work with and to be involved in your child. Swimming is a great sport for kids of all ages.”

The team is run by four volunteer executive board members: President Jaymi Fenton; Meet Director/Team Manager Kathy Lee; Secretary Joy Williams; and Treasurer Hannah Weiler. In addition, there are three general board members: Amanda Retseck, Amelia Laskey and Jamie Morford.

While in elementary school, Weiler was a Piranha for five or six years along with other family members. Her son, Sam, now 12, began when he was 7. Her 7-year-old daughter, Emma, started after attending Learn To Swim.

Weiler said she got her kids involved in Piranhas because “We have Lake Michigan here, and with a family house on the lake, we are around water a lot.

I wanted peace of mind. I wanted them to learn the strokes and be strong swimmers. I like that even though it’s a team sport, the kids can push themselves and race against themselves. My son sets a goal that he wants to achieve and his teammates encourage him to make it, too.

“It’s taught my son patience and perseverance – that it’s going to take work,” she continued. “It’s not going to happen overnight. He’s wanted to start pushing himself more as he’s gotten older. Everybody that becomes a Piranha doesn’t want to leave. Your team becomes your family.”



Gavin Cox receives a trophy from Piranhas Assistant Coach Chris Blake at the Piranha Bowl Meet in February.



Justin Vance and Jada Adrian prepare to swim the backstroke at a 2019 Intrasquad Meet.

Since their involvement began in 1997, Bob and Kathy Lee also consider the Piranhas so much more than a swim team. Their daughter and son both swam and have served as assistant coaches. Their son, Bobby Lee, served as head coach for several years and now is an assistant coach. All of their grandchildren who are old enough have participated in Learn To Swim, and their granddaughter, Cecilia, is on the team.

“Piranhas are so much more than a swim team,” Kathy emphasized. “Family is a better word, but that even falls short. Yes, we are a competitive team, but so much more than that. We teach kids to strive for their personal best and that, although they may not be the fastest or most skilled, they are a valuable member of the team. The kids that swim together become very close and are often life-long friends. Each swimmer, from the youngest to the oldest, feels valued.”

It wasn't long after their daughter joined that the Lees followed and became active on the board. Bob quickly followed with the necessary courses to officiate. As a referee, he is the highest official at meets. Kathy volunteers as an administrative official, making sure the meets run smoothly and legally. She also is listed as the meet director, which is appointed by the coach. She was responsible for transforming all the manual paperwork to its electronic format.



Coach Chris with some of his championship swimmers at this year's Divisionals (front to back, from left): A.J. Gawat, Kira Oman, Zander Wiegel, Gavin Cox, Ryann Cox, Kaylie Hekter, Hannah Morford and Henry Zibutis.

She's also run Learn To Swim for “longer than she can remember.”

Even though she wasn't fond of swimming as an exercise, Kathy said her parents made sure she

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Making Waves

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knew how to swim for safety reasons. That played a big part in her involvement with Learn To Swim.

“Because of Piranhas, I went on to become WSI (Water Safety Instructor) certified and am a certified lifeguard,” she said. “I also run the MCAS Open Swim program and am the head coach for the Special Olympics swim team. Now, because of Piranhas, we are a swimming family and can’t imagine it not being in our lives.”

In addition to the Lees, other Piranha adults who volunteer at meets include Retseck, who serves as a starter for the beginning of the races, and Weiler, who is a stroke and turn official. In addition, Fenton runs the electronic timing software.

Laskey’s sons, 9-year-old Alexzander and 4-year-old Atlas, are more area residents who became involved in Piranhas through Learn To Swim. Since 2017, it’s been that a sense of community, a “social connection, friendship and enjoying the dynamics of a team, yet working on your personal best and always striving for greatness” that sustains her involvement.

“We home-school, so this is an excellent social activity allowing our son to have structure within another social and learning avenue,” she continued. “We want him to be able to take direction from all areas in life, and a coach like Scott Heitmann is invaluable. I have seen my son deal with many things and conquer his goals this way. He has been so encouraged and pushed to overcome his fears. My son has won many awards just by going out and trying. Once he won, he was addicted to racing and seeing how many heat winners and personal bests he could get.”

Just like so many other sports, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Piranhas. The last competition the team participated in was divisional championships March 6-8. The swim club is still looking forward to resuming official practices once it gets the go-ahead from MCHS. After the required number of practices have taken place, it can resume competing under new strict guidelines and protocols from not only the federal, state and local governments and MCAS, but also from the swimming organizations



Max Muckway is pleased to receive a trophy at the Piranha Bowl Meet in February.

of which Piranhas belongs.

Looking to the future, there most likely will be more Intrasquad meets and virtual competitions for Piranhas, with each team swimming in person by themselves, then comparing scores to determine winners.

Even though the Piranhas’ last season was cut short, it was memorable for many reasons.

Twelve-year-old Matisse Guhlstrof achieved state cuts in all four of her events: the 50-yard freestyle, 50-yard backstroke, 50-yard breaststroke and 50-yard butterfly stroke. In addition, she broke two Piranha records set 35 years ago by Heather Roberts. She broke the 50-yard freestyle in February, then broke her own record with a time of 26.43. Guhlstrof also broke the 50-yard backstroke record with a time of 30.31.

Heitmann said Piranha swimmers Max Muchway, Emmy Kempf and Carson Retseck have represented the team at the state level; in fact, over the last few seasons, the club had at least 60 percent of its team compete in either divisional or state championships.



Emmaleigh Kempf is all smiles with her medal at the 2019 Divisionals Meet.

The last season also was memorable because the club hosted its successful annual Piranha Bowl on Feb. 1, with five teams and about 150 swimmers participating. Then, the Piranhas successfully hosted the Northwest Indiana Swim Conference Championship on Feb. 13-15; Kathy estimates it brought in 4,000 to 5,000 swimmers and double that in attendees.

Pulling off such a feat says a lot about the commitment and involvement of Piranhas parents and families, as there are more than 100 volunteer slots to fill for such an endeavor. Besides the obvious concession stand workers and meet timers, volunteers are needed behind the scenes to make memento “bag tags” for winners to hang on backpacks, and for positions such as “clerk of course,” who shepherd swimmers 8 and younger to where and when they need to be during a meet.

“As with most sports, Michigan City Piranhas Swim Team families have an obligation, beyond the financial, to provide a little bit of themselves – a bit of their time – to achieve the team’s goals,” Fenton said.

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Making Waves Continued from Page 6

In 2013, Learn To Swim brought in Fenton and her children, four of whom are on the team and two who look forward to their chance in the water. She not only appreciates that swimming is a great sport for kids with special needs, but also is thankful how no one is left out, along with the challenge the kids face of beating their own time.

Her 16-year-old son, Justyn Kempf, appreciates that he can swim year-round when he's not part of the MCHS swim team. Piranhas, she said, has taught him patience. One goal he's reached is improving his swim times.

"When I started swimming it took me 2 ½ minutes to swim a 50 free," Justyn said, "and now I can swim it in 30 seconds."

Nicole Cox said the bond between parents also drew her family to the team.

"There is definitely a sense of family, and that is what I love!," she said. "Most of these kids all go to different schools, but you would never know by some of the bonds that they have."

Joy Williams, whose 13-year-old daughter, Maya, joined the team in April 2016, also is impressed with the parental involvement.

"It's pretty amazing to see the volunteerism from everyone involved, from the officials that travel all around to the meets, to the parents that come out from the stands to help time, or help set up and tear down," Joy said. "Everyone is very dedicated to the sport and supportive in helping these kids excel and reach their goals. Our coaches are truly amazing. Each one of them goes above and beyond to help the kids become better swimmers. I am extremely grateful for Maya to be a part of such an amazing

team."

Maya said her favorite part of Piranhas is the swim meets.

"Sometimes, I get to hang out with my friends all day, or sometimes at hotels all weekend," she said. "Sometimes, I even get to compete with them or swim relays with them. It keeps you in shape with swimming and weight training, and I also get to hang out with my friends during the whole practice so it's a win-win situation."

Maddy Parry, 12, says she enjoys long-distance events best because she feels she is better at them.

"I like the challenge of getting better at swimming," she said. "I like individual sports where I'm trying to improve my own self."

She began in Piranhas three years ago. Her 9-year-old brother, Mason, joined last year.

Their mother, Nicole Parry, said, "The kids have always been water bugs, and it is important that they can confidently swim in the lake. Additionally, swimming is a lifetime sport. You can always swim to stay in shape. Competitiveness and value of practicing hard are things that can be taught early in life. The club has taught my kids drive, work ethic and pushing through adversity."

She is especially thankful for the time coaches contribute, and all the family support of the swimmers.

In addition to Head Coach Scott Heitmann and Assistant Coach Bobby Lee, Chris Blake is another assistant coach. Blake said he jumped at the job opportunity last year.

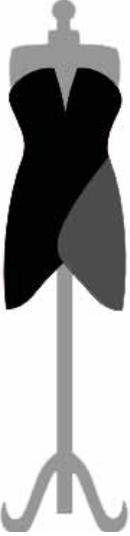
"The coaches in our club are willing to get in the water with the swimmers to help teach proper form and techniques needed to improve while keeping the experience fun and something the swimmers look forward to," he said. "Every kid loves it when they can finally beat their coach in a race. I have only had the opportunity to teach these amazing kids for one season and, honestly, just being able to come in and teach a skill I grew up loving and seeing the potential and skill of these swimmers has overwhelmed me with countless special moments and memories.

"I am looking forward to getting everyone back in the water swimming towards new goals and having fun while doing it. I hope to show the kids that their level of skill will be pushing myself as well to train a bit more and give them an even greater challenge when we swim against each other for fun."

(Visit mcpiranhas.com or "Michigan City Piranha Swim Team" on Facebook for more details.)



Kira Oman and Elliot Jasicki are photographed at an Intrasquad Meet in July 2019.



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Bill and Ted Make Welcome Return in “Face the Music”

by Andrew Tallackson



Ah, yes. Just what I'd hoped for...and then some.

It's been nearly 30 years since we last saw Theodore “Ted” Logan and William “Bill” Preston Esquire, those San Dimas dunderheads played with lobotomized pep by Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter. Through two films, “Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure” (1989) and “Bill and Ted’s Bogus Journey” (1991), the gimmick was, if plenty of movie geniuses perfected the science of time travel, there had to be room for two dunces convinced Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife.

My fear with a third film, especially now, was that it would be a cynical cash grab: a soulless reboot. The pleasure of “Bill and Ted Face the Music,” penned by the franchise’s original writers, Ed Solomon and Chris Matheson, comes from how easily Reeves and Winter slip back into these roles. This could have been like watching the two actors in their 50s feebly trying to recapture their youth. Instead, they inhabit Bill and Ted as if they haven’t skipped a beat. These characters are still each other’s best audience.

That certainly is true of an early scene in which Bill and Ted, trapped in a creative funk, bomb their performance at the wedding reception for Ted’s brother. One look at Reeves and Winter, busting out with a musical number that is like a stoner’s vision of performance art, and we see, these actors have been itching for this.

Turns out, Bill and Ted are part of a prophecy that entails writing a song that unites the planet. If they fail, end times. Warning signs are everywhere as historical figures ranging from George Washington to Jesus turn up out of nowhere.

In a burst of inspiration, the screenplay has Bill



“Bill and Ted Face the Music”

Running time: 91 minutes. Rated PG-13 for some language

and Ted traveling *forward* in time, to see if they can steal the coveted song from themselves and return to the present. At the same time, their devoted daughters (Samara Weaving and Brigette Lundy-Paine) travel *back* in time to retrieve notable musicians like Jimi Hendrix and Mozart to help their fathers out. The song, though, over the course of their journey, becomes less important than keeping their families in tact.

Orchestrating all the silliness is director Dean Parisot, whose “Galaxy Quest” (1999) remains a gem of a “Star Trek” tribute. Here, he secures the biggest laughs in the smaller moments. Case in point, a hilarious scene in which Bill and Ted don’t grasp the concept of “couples therapy,” complete with scene-stealer Jillian Bell (“Brittany Runs a Marathon”) as their exasperated counselor. Later, a time jump forward reveals Bill and Ted in shoddy physical shape, a gag that earns a laugh nearly equivalent to “Fat Thor.” More smiles: the return of Death himself, again embodied with deadpan perfection by William Sadler.

“Bill and Ted Face the Music” could have been a generic retread packaged as Generation X nostalgia. Instead, the charm of the tale is that all Bill and Ted want to do is save their families. And by doing so, “Bill and Ted Face the Music” succeeds. Everyone involved in the film still has great affection for these characters. And so do we.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Brass Band Concert

The LaPorte City Band will present The North American Brass Company in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6, at Fox Park's Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater.

The program, which includes a guest vocalist, soprano Heidi Ferris, will feature a variety of music ranging from classical to jazz to pop.

The brass band, which features performers/educators, has traveled extensively in the Midwest, including: Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart; The Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph, Mich.; The Community Concert series in Portage and LaPorte; Dogwood Fine Arts Festival of Dowagiac, Mich.; and Old Rugged Cross Church of Pokagon, Mich. It also has presented concerts and master classes at high school and college levels, including Andrews University, Southwestern Michigan College, Valparaiso University and Trine University. In addition, it has helped raise money for community projects, such as CASA of Cass County, Mich.

Featured performers are: Charles Steck (LaPorte) and Jay Crouch (Niles, Mich.), trumpets; Katy Hosey (Stevensville), horn; Gary Cooper (Benton Harbor), trombone; and Roger Lewis (Sturgis, Mich.), tuba.

Golf to Give Scramble

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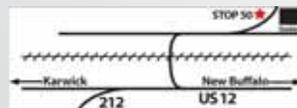
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Fellowship and Favorite Family Phrases

The other night, as another magnificent summer sunset faded, a few family members and me – the same ones I’ve been sequestered with since early spring – lingered in our sunroom over beverages. We were weary of the tumultuous news and Netflix. We sought fellowship. I’m not sure how it started, but we began to rattle off old stories from when the kids were little. One story led to another, and what emerged was a list of memorable sayings specific to our family’s experiences.

No doubt your family has its own set of quirky, insider-joke-kind-of phrases, too. Witty or moving one-liners uttered innocently, or not, by a family member that over time have become standard vocabulary and family legend.

Here’s a few highlights from my family’s list.

It was the Fourth of July and our oldest daughter had just learned to ride her two-wheeler – just in time for the annual Long Beach town parade. Like all the other neighborhood kids, the day before the event she threaded red, white and blue crepe paper through the bike’s spokes, then pushed streamers into the ends of her handlebars. The morning of the 4th, she was out in the driveway before breakfast, practicing her pedaling and braking.

That year, like most July 4ths, it was hot and steamy. If Mother Nature had provided any cooling lake breezes, they were freshening folks on a different Great Lake. The sun was high and bright, and it had the sky all to itself. A real scorcher. It was a day for popsicles, hats and plenty of sunscreen.

Our family claimed a spot along the parade route, and my husband walked our little gal over to the starting area adjacent to the fire station. He got her lined up alongside some pals, kissed her good luck and turned to leave. Her big brown eyes begged him to walk the parade route beside her. The first few blocks were in direct sunlight and uphill. Sweat trickled from her scalp and dampened the festive ribbons tied on her ponytails. Undeterred, she pedaled hard. She focused on the road ahead of her, muttering to herself. Her dad leaned in to catch her whispered words. *I think I can. I think I can.* He chuckled at the infamous refrain from The Little Engine That Could. That fledgling bicyclist is now a mother herself, and that four-word sentence, *I think I can*, remains a favorite family battle cry.

The same, determined young girl who pedaled the length of that sweltering July 4th parade coined the next memorable quip.

In raising our four kids, I admit we tended to spoil them. We threw elaborate birthday parties. Each child had their own room. They were gifted with the latest toys and wore trendy clothes. Not only did we enroll them in a multitude of activities and sports, but we also hauled them everywhere. To the pool. To a friend’s house. To the lake with friends

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

for sleepover weekends. Perhaps you’re guilty of the same indulging behavior.

During those child-rearing years, my husband and I had a standing agreement. One day out of the weekend, I got to sleep in and he took the troops for breakfast. I’m not certain how he learned of the M&M restaurant (sadly, it’s no longer in business), but it was the hands-down favorite. Who wouldn’t like chocolate ice cream shakes and pancakes or waffles with rich maple syrup for breakfast? And with that much sugar coursing through their systems, before the outing was over, at least one overfed child was obnoxiously twitchy, feisty and/or whiny.

My husband is not one to hold back on calling a kid up short. “Hey, what’s your problem? After all that we’ve done today, I can’t believe you’re going to act like that. When I was a kid, five of us lived in a tiny house with only one bathroom. You kids are so spoiled.” I can see his face reddening, his hands thrown up in disgust.

Little smartie pants — alias sweaty biker chick — thought about this. As the oldest, she took it upon herself to become the group’s spokesperson. Putting her hands on her hips, she glared at him. *“Dad, we did not spoil ourselves!”*

What do you say to that?

Nothing. He laughed, and so did the few M&M patrons within earshot. That wisecrack comes back to haunt my husband. “Hey Dad, ‘member how we didn’t spoil ourselves...do you think you can help out with xxx?” Sometimes, that little nostalgic jest is enough to tease the wallet open.

One more anecdote before I close.

The youngest of our four was always dragged to her older siblings’ events. She and I would pull out coloring books and crayons on the bottom bleacher at Little League games. At her sister’s basketball games, her backpack was loaded with bead kits and trolls. When we’d get home, tired and hungry, she’d drag all her favorite toys and crafts back inside.

On one of those nights, she exploded with frustration. *“Mommy, I can’t open the door. I’m too full of hands.”*

Since then, anytime a few of us are together and loaded down with gear or groceries, *“I’m full of hands”* is thrown out with a giggle.

Family and fellowship. Memories and nostalgia. Wisecracks and one-liners. Such nice diversions from the anxiety and worries that occupy our present daily lives. With the future still so uncertain, shore yourself up with whatever goodies you’ve stockpiled as families. Stay well!

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)

Group Supports Share Foundation



Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians-McGinnis by the Lake Division pictured here are Paul Carey (from left) Terry McKenna, Duane Kelley and Roger Guerin.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians-McGinnis by the Lake Division donated \$5,000 to the Share Foundation through its sixth annual golf outing.

The event was held Friday, Aug. 21, at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course. The donation marked the fifth such support from the organization to the Share Foundation

The AOH is America's oldest Irish-Catholic fraternal organization. This is the seventh year here for the local chapter. The non-profit Share Foundation provides residential living, services and support programs for other-abled adults in Rolling Prairie.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

- **History Comes Alive Weekend on Friday through Sunday, Sept. 11-13.**

Visit www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm for more information.

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

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Apple+ Show Finds Its “Voice”

by Andrew Tallackson



Bess (Brittany O’Grady) and Samuel (Colton Ryan) perform at a local venue in “Little Voice,” now streaming on Apple+.

Editor’s note — This is the first in an ongoing series about programming on Apple+, which in less than a year has emerged as one of the best streaming services available.

“Little Voice” won my heart. It achieved something rare, in fact, amid the season finale. I turned to my wife and son and with a sad-faced scowl said, “I’m not ready for it to be over.”

Most TV shows, even the bigger-bolder variety on most streaming platforms, travel across a carefully plotted arc. Episode by episode, all the elements lock into place so the season finale, regardless of any dangling threads, has an air of closure, where what needed to say has been said.

But with “Little Voice,” I was not ready to relinquish these characters from my streaming regimen, taking little solace in the fact that Apple+ has renewed the show for a second season. I wanted more of these people. Now.

This is a case of taking a story that is old, old, old — a fresh-faced 20-something struggles to achieve musical success in New York City — and breathes new life into it with honesty, charm and songs so catchy you’ve downloaded them off iTunes before the episode has drawn to a close.

The series is a collaboration between director-creator Jessie Nelson (“I Am Sam,” “Corrina, Corrina”) and singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles. The latter, who scored an Emmy nomination for playing Mary Magdalene in NBC’s “Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert,” wrote the music and lyrics for the Broadway musical “Waitress,” which featured a book by Nelson. The two clicked through that project. “Little Voice” thus takes its inspiration from Bareilles’ early days as a performer, and taps into her exquisite catalog of songs to use for the show.

The starting point for the series is Bess King (Brittany O’Grady), a young woman in her early 20s with immeasurable talent, but scant opportunity for the music industry to notice her. During the day, she alternates between teaching music lessons and being a paid dog walker. At night, she tends bar with frequent open-mic nights.

So far, familiar stuff. Especially the love triangle. Oh, yeah, did I mention the love triangle? There’s Ethan (Sean Teale), a not-exactly-single filmmaker, and Samuel (Colton Ryan), a scrappy guitarist with lost-puppy eyes.

I rue the day that yucky “Twilight” introduced Team Edward/Team Jacob...because every young-

With Humor, Heart and Song



The heart of the show emerges through Bess and her brother, Louis (Kevin Valdez), who is autistic and lives in a group home. Valdez is autistic in real life.

adult saga now feels obliged to copy and paste the same format into its own schemes: the strong-willed heroine who pines for the bad boy, yet casts a blind eye to the square fellow who traipses beside her like a lap dog. Ethan and Samuel, while agreeably cast, are the least compelling elements of “Little Voice.”

The heart and soul of the series begins with O’Grady as Bess. She’s plunked down into a romanticized vision of New York City where the streets are clean, the afternoons are bathed in the warm glow of a summer sun, street performers attract generous crowds and budding musicians rehearse in rented storage sites without fear of being mugged or attacked. That NYC innocence is counterbalanced by O’Grady, whose cherubic face and airy vocals have a dark edge to them. Yes, she’s sweet and kind, but life made her cynical, aware of how quickly it disappoints. Her mother is absent, her father an alcoholic who, when sober, warbles with other destitute musicians by the subway. Because of that, Bess drinks a little too much. She’s fiercely guarded, protective of her own emotions, her music and who hears it, and especially those closest to her.

She essentially is a mother to her older brother, Louis, and it is here we get to the giddy surprise

of “Little Voice.” Louis is played by Kevin Valdez, who emerges as the most endearing character in television.

Now, let’s take a step back for a second.

In interviews promoting “Little Voice,” Nelson has discussed how when making “I Am Sam” (2001), a father-daughter custody drama, she wanted to cast an actor with real developmental disabilities as the father. The studio balked, insisting on a big name. The role eventually went to Sean Penn, who scored a Best Actor Oscar nomination.

Now, nearly 20 years later, Apple+ gave Nelson the freedom to cast her show as she pleased. Valdez, who is autistic, plays Louis, who lives in a group home for men with autism and other delays. All the group-home actors have autism in real life. The effect is lovingly crafted, breathing authentic humor and heart into the story. And Louis, as played by Valdez, is all heart. He adores his sister... but he may cherish Broadway more, his extensive knowledge putting Wikipedia to shame. The humor comes from how everyone in the group home marches to their own beat, unimpressed by each other’s savant-like abilities. Valdez’s range, however, is tremendous: loving life to the fullest with his sister, or while filming

his Broadway blog, then, in a devastating scene, crushed after blowing a job interview, his lack of filters a turnoff to the interviewer. The scenes between Louis and Bess ring with truth, luring out the best in O’Grady, whose retractable mother-bear claws emerge whenever Louis is involved.

The increasingly complex relationship between Bess and Louis lends considerable weight to what otherwise is designed as a fairly lightweight story. We also appreciate the performance by Shalini Bathina as Prisha, Bess’ roommate and longtime friend. Prisha, who performs with an all-female mariachi band, is street savvy and secretly a lesbian. Her fear is that telling her parents she’s gay will crush them as they are bound by Indian tradition that she wed through an arranged marriage. Bathina balances the pain and humor of her dilemma, and airtight bond with Bess, with the skill of a pro.

Then, we have the songs by Bareilles. *Good golly*, this woman is talented. Bareilles knows how to craft an instant “hook,” where the melody ropes you in on impact. And she doesn’t overproduce her own music. In most cases, it’s just vocals and piano.

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Continued from Page 15

Take, for instance, the opening scene in the first episode. Bess toils on a song she's written, "I Don't Know Anything." Ethan, working on his latest film project next door, can't help but sneak over to introduce himself. Their meet-cute conversations serve as interludes between each verse of the song. It's a dynamite way to set the tone of the show: the lyrical flow of Bareilles' music and the obvious chemistry between Bess and Ethan.



Bareilles

There are plenty more musical standouts. Like the propulsive "More Love" that features Bess and Samuel, playing while Ethan films her new music video. The moment also contains the show's best line as Prisha, bearing witness to the sparks between Bess, Ethan and Samuel, pulls her friend aside and says, "Uh, you're supposed to be eye humping the camera, not the director."

The most haunting is "Ghost Light" in which Bess, stumped by writer's block, uses the past history of her apartment as her muse. And the most joyous? The big Season 1 finish in which Bess realizes it's time to pony up and perform one of her songs at her bar's open mic night. When the power goes out — every gig's nightmare — the way the crowd rallies behind her is exhilarating.

Season One leaves plenty of issues unresolved, but it has bolstered the characters to where they're ready to take the next big step. They are exactly where they should be. And we can't wait to take the journey with them.

A side note: Stay put as the last episode's credits roll. We are treated to a musical number in which Louis' housemates cheer him up by performing the opening song to "Hamilton."

That moment, like "Little Voice" itself, is pure joy. Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Children's Art Classes

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., is offering monthly children's art classes during the school year taught on Zoom by Jennifer Aitchison.

All materials are included in the tuition and can be picked up from the center. Students actively participate in learning while studying a major movement of modern art history each month. All classes include drawing in some form and exposure to mediums such as painting, printmaking, sculpture, collage, drawing, weaving and paper arts. On-site classes may be added later when it is safe to do so.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1:30-3 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary 8- to 12-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool 3- to 5-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m., 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Thursday, 1:30-3 p.m., 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., fifth through eighth grades.
- Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m., 13- to 18-year-olds.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Families must be current members to receive the discount. Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. All payments made after the 15th of the month are subject to a \$20 late fee.

September classes begin Sept. 8. The supply pickup date is 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 3 outside the center. Aitchison can answer questions or concerns. Those who can't stop by should go to the center during regular business hours. Any supplies left from the month are kept by the student.

Visit www.chestertonart.com or Eventbrite.com for details.

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Exhibit Curated by Water Street Glassworks Founder at KAC

Krasl Art Center will host two new exhibits, “Artists as Influencers: Pathways in Glass” and “Shelter-in-Place,” through Nov. 29.

“Artists as Influencers” is in the main galleries and “Shelter-in-Place” in the artlab. Both offer in-person and virtual options.

In the 1960s, glassblowing moved from the industrial factory floor into the artist’s studio through the Studio Glass movement. This evolution shifted perceptions of the medium and birthed generations of artists working in glass.

“Artists as Influencers” features a personally selected roster of 14 artists by Jerry Catania, guest curator and Water Street Glassworks founder. Featured artists include: Herb Babcock, Brianna Barron, Tim Belliveau, Raghvi Bhatia, Percy Echols, Mundy Hepburn, Justin Hunting, Wes Hunting, David King, Charles Manion, Theresa Pierzchala, Kait Rhoads, Cassandra Straubing, Edgar Valentine and Eli Zilke; plus an honorary selection of works by Catania.

“Shelter-in-Place” reflects how self-isolation has affected artists and why they create art. The works by regional artists reflect innovations in materials due to: limited access to supplies; shifts in content or concepts; and an increase in available time.

The exhibits can be viewed during KAC’s new regular hours (all times Eastern): 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Special events also are planned. The schedule is (all times Eastern):

- A free edition of “Virtual Coffee With the Curator” at noon Wednesday, Sept. 9, on KAC’s Facebook Live. Miller and Lynne Clayton, Water Street Glassworks executive director, will lead a virtual tour of the exhibit.
- A program by Edgar Valentine, featured on Netflix’s “Blown Away,” on Friday Sept. 11. Open to members only, advance registration is available at www.krasl.org/education/adult/classes. Valentine and KAC Curator Tami Miller will lead an introduction to artists as influencers and Valentine’s artwork.



David King’s “Cabinet of Convenience” (2016), which entails float glass, collected objects and adhesive.

Virtual and in-person tours are available. A virtual gallery tour with Valentine is free from 5 to 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. In-person gallery tours with Valentine are at 6, 6:45 and 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15.

An in-person glass demonstration with Valentine is at 8:30 p.m. at Water Street Glassworks. Details will be posted on Water Street Glasswork’s Facebook page.

- A free Shelter-in-Place Virtual Party is from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, on Zoom.

All events are subject to change based on CDC and state health recommendations. Updates are posted on KAC’s Facebook page.

Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more details.





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Drew Tallackson

Editor Drew Tallackson



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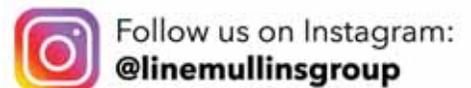
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Sincerely, Naturally Wood Owner's & Staff

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**MORE SALES;
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July 2020 was a stellar month in Southwest Michigan, stretching from the Indiana line to north of Bridgman. Compared to July 2019, the number of residential sales were up 105% (doubled); Median Price was up 68%, the average price up 45% and, stunningly, the total \$Volume was up 249% (2.5 times).

So, I compared July 2019 and 2020, looking for what I call Indiana lakefront that stretches from Beverly Shores to the Michigan line between U.S. 12 and the lake, minus the north end of Michigan City. Positive, but less so.

July	2019	2020	% change
Units Sold	34	59	58%
Median Price	\$400k	\$410k	03%
Average Price	\$442k	\$531k	20%
Total \$Volume	\$15 M	\$31 M	206%

Differences and similarities. It is similar in the strong increase in number of sales and dramatic increase in total \$Volume, although the percent increases were significantly lower in Indiana Lakefront than in Southwest Michigan area.

Interesting that the median price hardly budged in Indiana Lakefront, while the Michigan median was up 68%.

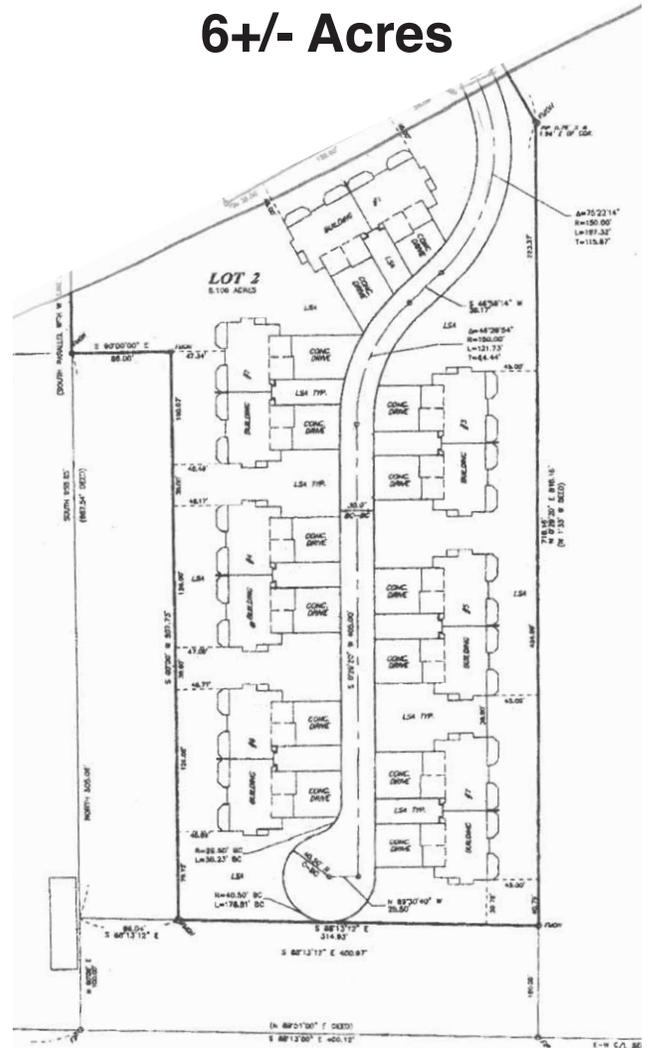
In both areas, we can see that the increase in sales and \$Volume does not follow what we have seen for years. Normally, the increased number of sales occurs at the bottom of the market, so the median usually goes down when the number of sales and the \$Volume go up. In this case, the median stayed the same, but the Average Price increased. Those two numbers indicate higher-end properties sold better than the lower end of the marketplace. This was very true of the marketplace in Southwest Michigan.

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729ELakefrontDrive.info



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WORKING FOR A LIVING

For our Labor Day edition, we asked *Beacher* photographer Paul Kemiell to drive around town and capture images of people at work, busy at improving the aesthetic values of our community. He more than rose to the challenge.







LBCC Women's Golf Leagues



18-Hole Women's Golf
Aug. 11 and 18, 2020
Event: Betterment
Flight A

First Place: Cindy Levy, Carol Excell.
Second Place: Melanie Davis.
Third Place: Vicki Hill.

Flight B

First Place: Janet Andreotti, Claudia Brennan.
Second Place: Kathy Kenefick.
Third Place: Susan Keeley, Mary O'Neil.

Flight C

First Place: Kathie Mole.
Second Place: Paulette Harnach, Eileen Miller.
Third Place: Carol Sullivan, Mary Weithers.

Birdies

Carol Excell: Hole 16.

9 Hole Women's Golf
Aug. 20, 2020
Flight A

First Place: Carol Excell.
Second Place: Eunie Nondorf.
Low Putts: Carol Excell.

Flight B

First Place: Jean Guerin, Marge Walsh, Dottie Healy.
Second Place: Pat Bailey.
Low Putts: Pat Bailey, Mary Weithers.

Flight C

First Place: Kathie Mole
Second Place: Jeanne St Peter, Barb Hall, Rima Binder, Nancy Thill.
Low Putts: Jeanne St Peter, Nancy Thill.

Sunken Approach

Eunie Nondorf: Hole 15.
Mary Weithers: Hole 12.
Linda Wilson: Hole 17.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

A Tale of Taking the Tigers by the Tail

My friend, Randy Lober, and I sensed last year that not all would be well with this year's baseball season. So, we made plans to attend a Tigers game in Detroit in September.

Sept. 26, 2019, to be precise. The Tigers' last home game in quite a while.

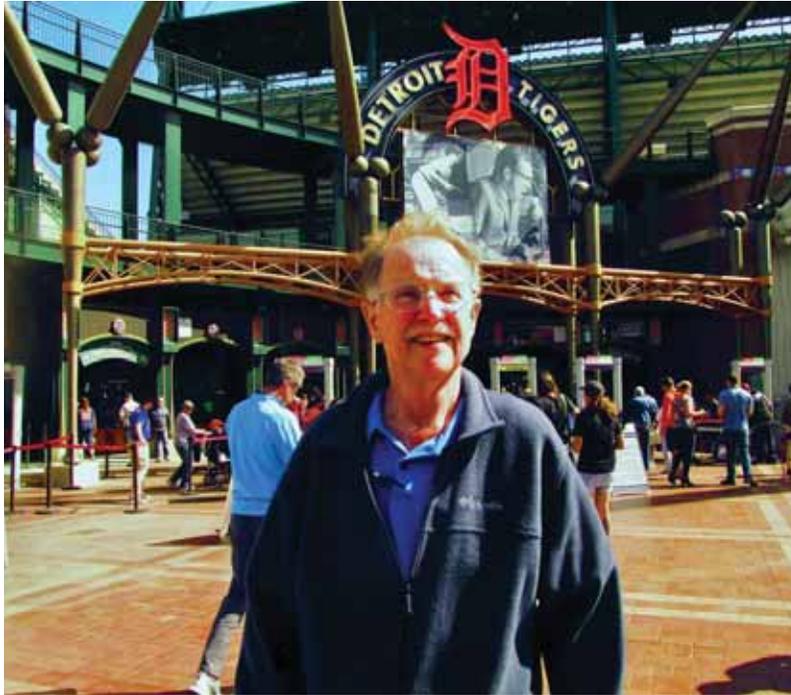
Who knew, right?

Randy and I must have sensed something like the COVID-19 pandemic was going to come along in early 2020 and turn the world upside down, including Major League Baseball.

So, we sat down one August afternoon in Randy's living room north of Kalamazoo and got the Tigers' ticket office on the horn: We lined up a couple of ducats for the Tigers/Twins day game on Sept. 26. Never mind the Tigers were ending one of their worst seasons ever. We were going to see some serious baseball because, after all, they were playing the Minnesota Twins, which had earned a playoff berth. We reckoned the Twins would play their back-up players to save their starters for the post season, but we didn't care. We just wanted to enjoy the game of baseball on a pleasant September afternoon in the Motor City, and we did.

And let me tell you all about it.

Beginning, of course, with our drive over to Randy's pleasant town on the afternoon of Sept. 25. He lives northwest of Kalamazoo, so we took Interstate 94 to Paw Paw, then plied some of the most pleasant backroads in all of Michigan to reach Casa Randy. We had planned to stay there overnight so Randy and I could get an early start to Detroit on the 26th, and so Mary, his wife, and Natalie could catch up and discuss their many topics of mutual interest, including books and their husbands' latest antics.



Randy Lober arrives at Comerica Park.

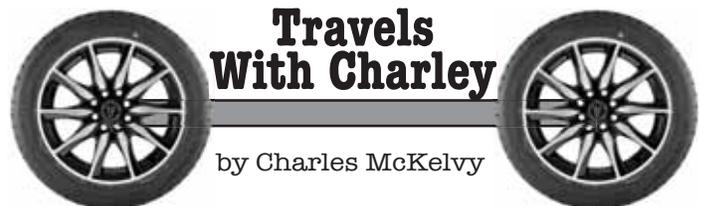
So, we had a restful night with our friends, complete with one of Mary's famous home-cooked dinners. After a bountiful breakfast the next morning, Randy and I set out in his Buick Enclave for an afternoon of Major League Baseball in the Motor City.

Randy insisted on driving, and I am glad he did, because I do not enjoy driving in Detroit. But he handled it with ease, and I listened with interest all the way to Detroit as he told me of his service to the nation in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam

War. Randy enlisted in the Army and easily could have received orders to serve in Vietnam. But he was ordered instead to serve in Germany, and so he "fought" the Cold War there, preparing to face the Red Army in horrific combat.

I, having served stateside in the U.S. Navy Reserve, thanked Randy for his service. I told him he had put himself in harm's way just as much as if he had taken that long flight to Saigon.

Being men of a certain age, we did have to interrupt our trip down memory lane by exiting the freeway before Comerica Park to make, as we say, "a pit stop." That put us in a gritty, industrial section of Detroit and, as we were trying to find our way back to the freeway from our pit stop, we spied a bar featuring "adult entertainment." We jokingly



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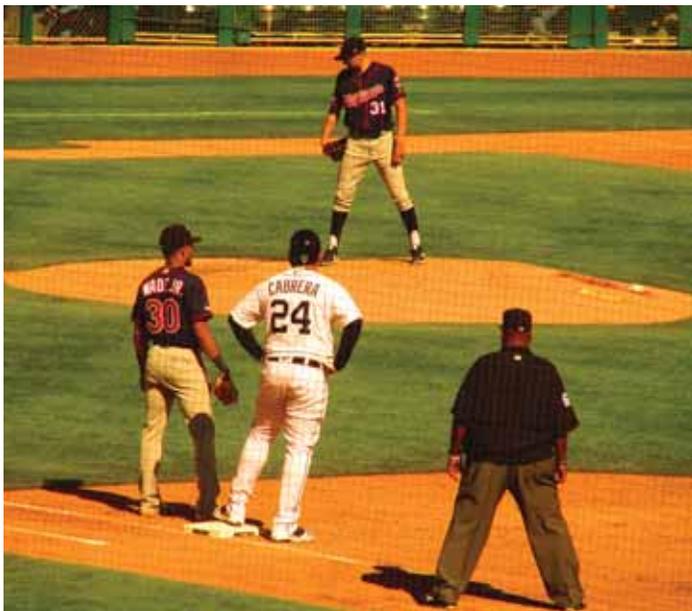
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Miguel Cabrera was held to first base after hitting what he thought was a double.

wondered if Mary and Natalie would mind if we stopped there after the game. We decided that was not a great idea, so we went on with our day, which included parking in a garage right across Woodward Avenue from Comerica Park, a pleasant stroll to the old ballpark, then seated ourselves in the wrong seats, up in the upper deck. At least we *thought* they were the wrong seats, but the Tigers' front office said we didn't look at the seating chart correctly when placing our phone order.

Anyway, they made it right, and we soon settled into great seats on the terrace level, along the first baseline. We foraged for ballpark food before the first pitch and found exactly what we wanted, including a couple of Tigers hats. Yes, I am a lifelong White Sox fan, but I do live in Michigan, and I do root for the Tigers when they're not playing the White Sox, so...

You get the point, and the point of this story is that Randy and I had a great time at the old ballpark, along with 17,555 other die-hard fans who turned out on a gorgeous fall afternoon. We watched the Tigers set the dubious record of tying the 1939

St. Louis Browns for the most home losses (59) during a season in the modern era. The Tigers took an early lead, but snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory by going down 10-4. But we got to see Miguel Cabrera hit a solid single and try to stretch it into a double until the first base coach stopped him. We figured he said something like, "You're not that young guy anymore, Miggy."

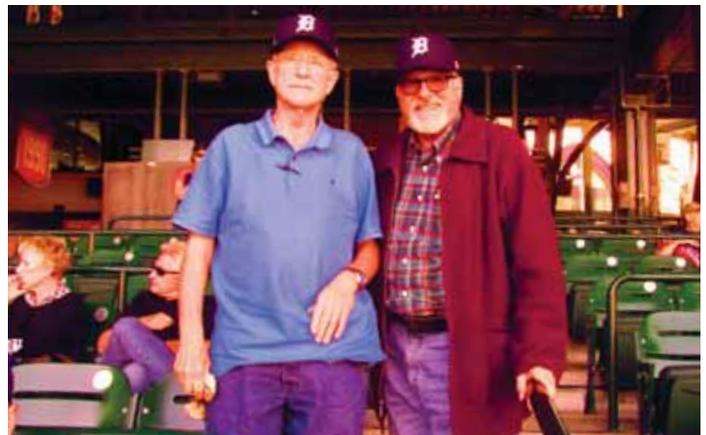
Hey, we were a couple of old guys enjoying baseball with other like-minded old guys in our section. We didn't catch the orange T-shirts they blasted into the stands between innings, but we hit the pro shop before heading for home and were their last customers of the 2019 season. Randy bought himself a smart Tigers golf shirt; I got myself some hot Tigers pajama pants to wear with the orange T-shirt I received as a result of volunteering at a church function in Detroit in 2017.

It was all good, and we had a great ride home, chasing the setting sun along I-94.

I kept saying we had to do a repeat in 2020, but Randy kept saying one doesn't know what the future will bring.

Indeed.

At this writing, MLB just released an abbreviated, 60-game schedule for 2020, but no matter, because Randy and Charley have their memories of a great day at Comerica Park in 2019.



An anonymous fan took this photo of Randy Lober (left) and me in their brand-new Tigers hats.

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Dunebrook's Dragon Boat Event Goes Virtual



The team from Applegate & Co. celebrates its 2019 victory.

Instead of canceling its premier Dragon Boat races because of COVID-19, Dunebrook has reinvented the annual fundraiser as the “Virtual Dragon Boat Celebration.”

The event kicked off Sept. 1 and culminates in a Sept. 29 celebration at Dunebrook, with social distancing in place.

Two-time returning champ Applegate & Co. CPAs is back as a Green Dragon sponsor. Additional sponsors are:

- White Dragon sponsor and returning Spirit Award winner Franciscan Health Michigan City.

- Red Dragon sponsors Horizon Bank, NIPSCO and former two-time champ UPS.
- Green Dragon sponsors American Licorice and an anonymous donor.

For the virtual event, teams record a homemade video showcasing why they will win the 2021 Dragon Boat Races. The video will be aired on social media and YouTube. Social media marketing, sponsor signage at Dunebrook's Johnson Road frontage and e-news features are additional sponsor perks. Sponsorship levels range from \$5,000 to \$300. A new plus is that teams are featured on Dunebrook's new “Tuesdays at Ten” livestream on Facebook, where they can promote their business, discuss their experience with dragon boat racing and share why they want to support Dunebrook.

Each week, “Tuesdays at Ten” reaches more than 1,100 viewers, and is rapidly gaining momentum. Past guests include Michigan City Police Chief Dion Campbell, Blair Milo, Indiana Secretary for Career Connections & Talent, Tim Gartland, Kris Pate, Maggi Spartz, LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody, Krysta Loucks of Horizon Bank, Jenilee Haynes of Michigan City Economic Development and Mike Bober of Centier Bank.

Teams and sponsors may contact Lisa Scheller at Dunebrook by email at lisa2@dunebrook.org or call (219) 874-0007. To donate by phone, text 2020 Dragon to 41444 (message and data rates may apply).

Next year's races are Saturday, Sept. 11, at Stone Lake. Visit www.dunebrook.org for more details.

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Beach Nourishment Begins

Beach nourishment, sometimes called sand nourishment, has begun at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk to repair erosion damage.

The work involves placing dredged sand obtained from other locations onto the beach. While the public can watch from the pavilion, the beach is temporarily closed so heavy equipment can safely move the sand into place.

The rest of Portage Lakefront, including the pavilion, Dig the Dunes Trail Stop food operation, breakwater, riverwalk and hiking trail will remain open. Work is expected to take at least three weeks.

The project is funded through the reallocation of operating funds at Indiana Dunes National Park. While the beach-nourishment method normally must be repeated over time, this project will help prove that sand nourishment is the most effective and environmentally appropriate solution to beach erosion, according to a press release, and unlike rock walls or shoreline armoring techniques does not cause damage to neighboring stretches of beach.

Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for updates.

LaPorte Farmer's Market

The LaPorte Farmer's Market is open Saturdays starting at 8 a.m. through October in the Lincoln-way 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.

United Way Golf Outing

The 16th annual United Way of LaPorte County Golf Outing is from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Beechwood Golf Course, 2222 Woodlawn Ave., LaPorte.

The event includes golf, lunch and beverages. Visit tinyurl.com/ojla9dy to register or serve as hole sponsors.



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State Grant to Help Honor Michigan City Native and Suffragist

Suffragist and Michigan City native Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson will finally get her due in town with a tribute at Charles R. Westcott Park.

The honor is thanks to a \$40,000 Preserving Women's Legacy Grant awarded to the Michigan City Mainstreet Association. The local agency was among two others named to receive the grant, the announcement made by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who serves as chair of the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the Indiana Main Street Council.

Preserving Women's Legacy Grants support historic preservation work, public art and other projects that commemorate Indiana women's history, and promote visits to Main Street communities.

The grants are through the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, presented by a partnership between the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Indiana Humanities. In addition to funding, the partnership provides capacity building and marketing training to ensure the project's sustainability in all three cities.

The \$40,000 received by Michigan City Mainstreet Association will help erect either a sculpture, mosaic or mural based on community and artist input at the park. Anderson was born in Michigan City in 1843 to free African-American parents and became a significant suffragist, civil-rights activist, orator, writer and poet. The artwork will have a narrative format, and a companion to this will be the creation of an archived collection of biographical information about Anderson.

The project reflects a partnership with Lubeznik Center for the Arts, the NAACP LaPorte County Branch-Unit 3061 and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

(The Beacher wrote a story about Anderson in our



Rediscovering a Local Hero

By William Hallier

It was by chance a 2019 Christmas gift Sue Webster received led her and her sister, Bonnie Schaaf, on a quest to discover an amazing hero from Michigan City's past who prominently figured into the 19th century women's suffrage movement.

Naomi Anderson, unfamiliar with her? The sisters were, and they've been active in women's rights issues for years. Webster serves on the board of Indiana's League of Women Voters. Schaaf is president of the Michigan City Commission for Women and vice president of the League of Women Voters of LaPorte County.

The gift arrived on the cusp of 2020, a landmark year in the story of women's rights in America. It

was 100 years ago, on Aug. 18, 1920, that the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified and signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The Amendment states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The amendment was the culmination of a long struggle for women's suffrage. The idea had been debated in Congress for years. Republican Sen. James Mann, of Illinois, proposed a House resolution to approve the Susan B. Anthony Amendment for granting women the right to vote. Between January 1915 and June 19, 1919, the U.S. House and Senate voted on the bill five times. Each vote was extremely close, with Southern Democrats in heated opposition to giving women the right to vote.

For this year's local celebration, Webster and Schaaf have been heavily involved in planning and organizing events. And that Christmas gift was the impetus for one of them.

The thoughtful gift came from a friend who knew of Webster's passion for the history of women's rights. It was a color-

Continued on Page 2



The March 5 edition of *The Beacher* in which we profiled Naomi Anderson.

March 5 edition.)

The other two groups receiving grants were:

- Rediscover Downtown Peru: \$35,000 to create the Miami County Woman's Suffrage Trail.
- Downtown Angola Coalition: \$40,000 to commission a life-size sculpture of abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun
new office hours

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

Thank you for your patience
during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. • (219) 879-0088 • beacher@thebeacher.com



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

- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit red-crossblood.org for more details. Visit rcblood.org/ together for more details.

Support those who advertise in the Beacher!
Tell them you saw their Ad!

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 Farmer's Market

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

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

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

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

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

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



DAILY ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE!

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

Please go to our Facebook page for our Menu Selections posted on the Menu Tab, or give us a call and we can email a menu to you!

Breakfast and Lunch All Day!

*Quiche * Benedict * Biscuits & Gravy
Corned Beef Hash * Avocado Toast
Reuben * Turkey Avocado BLT
French Toast w/ Bourbon Bananas
Tuna Melt * Cucumber Wrap
...just to name a few!*

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Become a Patron!

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

Amid the pandemic, however, small newspapers across the country are finding additional ways to financially support themselves. So, we've created a page where you can support us by becoming a

Beacher patron. This week, we thank **Cheryl Chapman** and **Alberta Tolton!**



Visit patreon.com/thebeacher
to make a contribution

Little Free Libraries

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library has installed Little Free Libraries at South Whitaker and Merchant streets in downtown New Buffalo, Mich., and at New Buffalo Township Park on Red Arrow Highway.

The two outposts are among more than 100,000 placed by volunteers worldwide.



Kate Mell is photographed with the Little Free Library at South Whitaker and Merchant streets in New Buffalo, Mich.

Kate Mell, who led the Little Free Library effort in New Buffalo, said Judie Giardina and Karen Kingsley are keeping the boxes stocked.

“Anyone is welcome to take a book and either return it to the box or pass it along to someone else,” Mell said in a press release. “People also are welcome to donate books in good condition.”

Mell says the Friends of the Library plans to stock adult and children’s titles, and offer a range of fiction and nonfiction. Books, mostly used, are being supplied through individual donations and New Buffalo Township Library. If the initial outpost proves popular, Mell said, the Friends of the library may add others.

The new outposts are registered with the national organization.

NBBA Seeks Board Members

New Buffalo Business Association staff are interested in adding a few board members.

Anyone who is civically minded or owns a local business is invited and can email info@newbuffalo.org

Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

There is no public seating. The library also will follow the LaPorte County Health Department’s Public Health Order Face Covering Mandate by requiring masks inside the building. Every individual must properly wear a face covering over his/her nose and mouth at indoor areas open to the public. The original order statement is available at www.mclib.org and printed out in the library. The circulation and reference desks will have masks available for \$1.

The following services have been temporarily suspended: public seating; public programs and meetings; literacy tutoring; MakerSpace/3-D printing; study rooms; homebound service; interlibrary loan; puppets; puzzles; blocks and children’s AWE computers in Youth Services; Ellison die cut machine; public faxing; microfilm use; magazine/book sale; and acceptance of donations.

Writing Out Loud and the Fall Film Series on DVD are canceled.

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

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

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

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

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

NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum continues with “Sally Rand: American Sex Symbol” at 7 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 8, on Zoom.

The icon of the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair was named by Cecil B. DeMille for a road atlas. She appeared in more than 30 films and paved the way for every sex symbol who followed, from Lana Turner to Marilyn Monroe to Lady Gaga. The presenter is William Hazelgrove, an author with Michigan City ties who has written on the Wright Brothers, Al Capone and Edith Wilson.

Visit the library’s Facebook page for log-in details.

Read The Beacher On Line

<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

Chesterton Art Center



New Chesterton Art Center instructor Milissa Beale.

“Beginning Ceramics” classes resume this month on-site, and with new instructor Milissa Beale, at Chesterton Art Center.

Beale is a potter and ceramic artist from the Chesterton area who has been working in clay for more than 20 years. She works with her husband, Eric, making functional wares for their small business, Beale Pottery.

The five-week course starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21. Participants learn basic techniques for wheel throwing, hand building and how to finish works using standard decorating and glazing styles. Students will make three to five finished pieces.

The class cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$20 discount. The cost of clay (25 pounds) is an additional \$15 payable to the instructor the first day of class. All other supplies are included.

Masks are required, and hand sanitizer is available. Social distancing will be enforced, and the classroom will be cleaned and sanitized before students’ arrival. All students will be asked to sign a waiver regarding COVID-19.

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

First Friday

First Friday Art Walk is from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 4 in the Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City), with sidewalk sales planned from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 4-5.

At press time, participating merchants included: Hoity Toity; Paris House of Bridal; Beach Bum Jewels; Art & Science Works; Lake Life Social; Static Age; Patina Vintage Goods; SFC Gallery; Unsalted; Studio Roma/Surprize; and Salon Cilla/Natural Magick Boutique.

Westchester Public Library

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

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

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

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

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

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New SAM Faculty Member



Kutch

Madison Kutch has joined the faculty at The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich.

Kutch is a brass specialist, but will teach all band instruments. She also teaches elementary music in Michigan City schools and has been giving private lessons to beginning and advanced students for eight years.

Kutch is a member of LaPorte Symphony Orchestra, Windiana Concert Band, Michigan City Municipal Band and LaPorte Municipal Band. She also performs occasionally with the St. Joseph Municipal Band.

A New Carlisle resident, she earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Valparaiso University, and completed her student teaching at New Prairie High School, where she has worked with the school's marching band for six years. Kutch has studied with well-known trumpet player Charles Steck for 12 years and continues to perform with him regularly.

Now in its eighth year, SAM offers socially distanced, one-on-one lessons at its Three Oaks Arts and Education Center, as well as remote lessons through Zoom and other platforms.

Visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com for more details.

SSL Offers COVID Thanks Special

To show appreciation and understanding of ongoing impacts by COVID-19, the South Shore Line will allow all monthly tickets purchased for September to remain valid in October.

Passengers purchasing a paper September monthly ticket should keep that ticket for October. Those purchasing a digital September monthly ticket through the mobile app will see an October ticket uploaded to their account prior to Oct. 1. For those who receive tickets through an employer benefit program such as Wage Works and Commuter Benefit Solutions, do not order October tickets if already receiving a September monthly ticket.

Each train continues to offer a "mask-optional" car (the second car of every train); however, St. Joseph, LaPorte and Lake counties now require facial coverings in public areas. Therefore, passengers seated in the "mask optional" car are requested to govern their behavior consistent with the mask requirements posted by those counties. Guidance on mask requirements by county can be found at www.mysouthshoreline.com.

Contact SSL through www.mysouthshoreline.com/contact with questions.

What happened to summer?
Where did it go?
How did it escape me?
Was I just too slow?

What happened to mornings,
Just lolling around;
Evenings spent swinging,
To soft cricket sounds—

Where's all the jelly
I didn't make?
All those art classes
That I meant to take?

Where's all the planting
I thought I would do?
And refinished porch chairs?
I haven't a clue.

September's upon us,
and Labor Day's here—
My list still has doing,
And won't now, I fear.

Begone with you, lady,
You've come on too soon—
I'm not done with summer,
Hang on Harvest Moon.

Stay warm, sandy beaches,
Keep calm, waves and wind—
Just give us a bonus,
Before leaves begin.



Labor Day Lament

by Maggie Beyer



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On September 3, 1894, Labor Day was celebrated (as a legal public holiday) for the first time in the United States.

On September 3, 1951, the TV soap opera “Search for Tomorrow” made its first appearance on CBS. It ran continuously for 35 years, the last five on NBC.

On September 3, 1976, Viking II, an unmanned U.S. spacecraft, landed on Mars, taking the first close-up photographs of the planet’s surface.

On September 3, 2001, influential movie critic Pauline Kael died in Great Barrington, Mass.; she was 82.

On September 4, 1781, Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers. Its original name was “*El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora La Regina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula.*”

On September 4, 1833, Barney Flaherty, a 10-year-old New York boy, became the first newsboy in the United States when he was hired by the publisher of *The New York Sun*.

On September 4, 1882, the Pearl Street Electric Power Co., built by Thomas Edison, began operation in New York City.

On September 4, 1888, George Eastman patented the first roll-film camera and registered the name as Kodak.

On September 4, 1894, about 12,000 New York tailors went on strike to protest the city’s sweatshops.

On September 5, 1774, the First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia’s Carpenter Hall.

On September 5, 1882, an estimated 10,000 New York City union members took part in the nation’s first Labor Day parade.

On September 5, 1957, *On the Road* by beat writer Jack Kerouac was published.

On September 5, 1958, the novel *Doctor Zhivago* by Russian author Boris Pasternak was published in the United States.

On September 5, 1972, 11 Israeli athletes, taken captive by Arab guerrillas at the Munich Olympic games, were killed in a shootout with West German police. A West German Police officer and five terrorists were also killed.

On September 6, 1837, women students at Oberlin Collegiate Institute (now Oberlin College) were granted equal status with men, making it the first co-educational institution of higher learning in America.

On September 6, 1883, the Chicago White Stock-

ings, after scoring 18 runs in the seventh inning, defeated the Detroit Tigers 26 to 6.

On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley, while attending a reception in New York, was shot by an assassin. He died on Sept. 14.

On September 6, 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent word that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

On September 6, 1916, the first self-serve grocery, Piggly Wiggly, opened in Memphis.

On September 6, 1995, Baltimore Orioles short-stop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his 2,131st consecutive game.

On September 7, 1892, in Newport, R.I., 19 automobiles took part in the first automobile parade in the United States.

On September 7, 1936, Boulder Dam, which was later changed to Hoover Dam, went into operation.

On September 7, 1963, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

On September 7, 1979, ESPN made its cable TV debut.

On September 8, 1565, a Spanish expedition landed at what is now St. Augustine, Fla., establishing the first permanent European settlement in North America.

On September 8, 1858, Abraham Lincoln, in a speech in Clinton, Ill., said: *"You can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."*

On September 8, 1860, 287 died when the Lady Elgin, a Lake Michigan excursion steamer, was rammed by the schooner Augusta, sinking off Waukegan.

On September 8, 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance" appeared in *The Youth's Companion* magazine.

On September 8, 1921, in Atlantic City, N.J., Margaret Gorman, of Washington, D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America."

On September 8, 1930, the comic strip "Blondie" first appeared.

On September 9, 1776, the term "United States" became official when the Second Continental Congress ruled *"...that in all Continental Commissions and other instruments, where heretofore the words United Colonies have been used, the style be altered, for the future, to the United States."*

On September 9, 1830, Charles Durant made aviation history by flying in a balloon across the Hudson River from New York to Perth Amboy, N.J.

On September 9, 1926, NBC (the National Broadcasting Company) was created by Radio Corporation of America.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Hollow Ones by Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan (*hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 325 pages.*)

Most of us claim we don't believe in ghosts or things that go bump in the night, but there is a certain macabre interest in the unknown and unseen that gives us a tickle of excitement...we love to be scared to death! Just look at the popularity of stories about vampires, werewolves, ghosts, witches, warlocks, the list goes on and on.

Guillermo del Toro has taken this extreme interest and turned it into books to be read by the dark of the night — do you dare? — and movies on the big screen that have us scrunching down in our seats, shivering with anticipation of what is to come (while reaching for the popcorn box).

Now we have a different twist on horror stories with entities that feed on the thrill of the moment of death. Let me explain...

This story must be told going back and forth in time. There are three stories here that culminate in a climax at the speed of light— who's winning? who's losing? That is sure to please the most devoted followers of horror stories.

Story One starts out in the present with FBI agents Odessa Hardwicke and Walt Leppo about to eat at a diner in Newark, N.J., when both their phones ring with a news alert about a hijacked airplane out of Teterboro. So much for dinner...

The plane lands on a golf course, the pilot steals a Jeep, crashes it and runs to a nearby house. The two agents in full pursuit arrive shortly and the scene in the house is vomit-producing — blood soup on the floor and walls. The next few minutes has Leppo running upstairs. Odessa first checks the other rooms downstairs, then follows Leppo. Odessa sees the confrontation between Leppo and the unknown man and shoots the assailant. Leppo disappears into another bedroom where Odessa finds him holding a knife to a little girl's throat. What is going on? Seeing he is about to plunge the knife into her neck, Odessa shoots her partner.

Needless to say, she is put on administrative leave pending an investigation. The one thing she doesn't tell the other officers is that a black fog-like shadow seemed to leave Leppo's body as he died. Who in their right mind would believe that?

Assigned to a temporary desk job, Odessa is told to clear out the office of retired FBI agent Earl Solomon. He's in the hospital, having recently suffered a stroke. She finds a number of reel-to-reel tapes in his desk. Hmm, could be important. She packs up everything and heads for the hospital to see Solo-

mon. He is not expected to live long. He gets Odessa to talk about the shooting of Leppo, and that brings us to the second part of the story — The Mississippi Delta in 1962...

A young Agent Solomon is been sent with other agents to investigate a lynching, but this time, the victim is a white man. Was Solomon brought in because he's black? Will the local black community open up to him because he's black? And what about the white-sheeted Klansmen who just arrived in town? The sheriff doesn't seem to care; he treats them as if they are visiting tourists. Small footprints lead Solomon to a house where a young black boy is chained to a bed, the door locked, the family clearly afraid of him. Why? No one will speak.

Solomon doesn't come alone to the Delta — beside him stands a tall, pale, thin, white man with an English accent. His name is Hugo Blackwood. What's his connection to Solomon? And that brings us to the third part of the story — Mortlake, Greater London in 1582...

Inside a large, eerie mansion a ritual séance begins that sets off events with far-reaching effect. *"In the act of experimenting with spheromancy in order to summon an archangel to divulge its divine knowledge, a line was crossed. A natural law was broken. A dark boundary was trespassed."* It was all downhill from there...

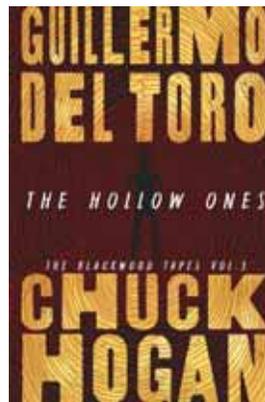
Back in the present, Solomon tells Odessa to write a letter to a Hugo Blackwood, who will know what to do. Again, for some unknown reason, Odessa writes a letter and Blackwood appears several days later. She doesn't know what to make of him. Her common sense tells her he is a charlatan at best, while his "pied piper of Hamlin" charisma has Odessa unwillingly following him while thinking that at any minute, she will wake up from a very bad dream.

Here's where we learn about "The Hollow Ones" and how they came to be... a part of the story best left to your reading.

All the elements of a good horror story meet here — a certain amount of believability (an essential element), a bucketful of scare tactics, throw in some mysticism and centuries-old folk tales and you have a winner in the horror story column. There's no doubt, del Toro knows how to scare the wits out of you while you're furiously turning pages to see what happens next!

Del Toro is best known for the Oscar-winning "The Shape of Water" and "Pan's Labyrinth," as well as "Hellboy" I and II and "Pacific Rim." Hogan's 2004 novel Prince of Thieves was the basis for Ben Affleck's "The Town."

Till next time, happy reading!



last call for summer.

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