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Joyful Noise

by William Halliar

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well, as if a manor of thy friend’s or of thine own were: any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.” John Donne 1572-1631

When bells ring, they demand our attention. Their sound is bold, their stentorian message stirring emotions deep within the heart, whether they be fear, pride, celebration or mourning.

When you hear bells ring out from a high tower, what feelings stir within you? What memories are aroused or heartstrings touched? Do you remember a joyous wedding day or the funeral of a dear friend or relative? Have you heard the bells ring to celebrate a holiday or as a call to action or warning, a fire perhaps or a tornado sighting?

Michigan City has a rich tradition of bells ringing out from high church steeples, jubilantly announcing and celebrating events of the liturgical calendar, as well as ringing on occasions such as funerals and joyous wedding days. From the Franklin Street bridge crossing Trail Creek looking south, you can see many of the city’s bell towers standing high above the bustling streets.

For millennia, bells have been used to call people to worship, to warn of danger, to strike the hour of the day or announce the opening of a school day.

The earliest evidence of clay bells found by archeologists in China dates back to the Third Millennium B.C. The first metal bells discovered date back 4,000 years. People who study the history of bells (and yes, there is a name for every occupation) are called campanologists.

On Aug. 1, 2014, the Rev. Dan McDowell wrote of the history of bell ringing in *The Olean Times Her-*

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The view looking up at the tower chimes at Trinity Episcopal Church.

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Joyful Noise

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ald, a newspaper based in Olean, N.Y., *"The Bible neither promotes nor forbids the ringing of church bells but, for many Christians, the ringing of bells from a church tower is certainly a 'joyful noise' reminding them of God's presence in the world."* He continues. *"The tradition of ringing church bells dates back to 400 A.D. when Paulinus of Nola first introduced bells in association with a church. In 604, Pope Sabinianus officially sanctioned their use. By the early Middle Ages, church bells had become common in northern Europe."*

Some ancient mysticism seems to be connected with the ringing of bells, as McDowell records in the same article, *"The idea that the sound of bells ringing has spiritual value is thought to have originated with ancient winter celebrations in which bells were rung to drive out evil spirits."*

Before clocks or wrist watches were commonplace (personal time pieces were invented in the mid 1600s), bells

were used as timekeepers, set high in the village hall or church. Bells would ring out on the hour telling villagers when to eat and sleep, when to go to work and go to bed. Bells alerted villagers to dangers such as enemy invasion, and tolled for someone near death to remind the community to pray for the sick. Upon death, bells tolled the age of the deceased.

Today, in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District, the city's oldest churches stand. Each has at least one bell, a few several bells. Some are still in regular use. Some are rarely run, but all hold the memory within their gently curved brass walls of singing out in celebration of the area's history.

A friendly rivalry exists between Michigan City's two oldest congregations: First Congregational Church (Christ Church), 531 Washington St., and Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Which can lay claim to being the community's first Christian congregation? Both founded in the early 1830s, each has bell towers and bells that were the first to ring out over the streets of the pioneer town.

Pat Harris is the historian of St. Mary's Church on 11th Street. The oldest Catholic church in Michigan City, it was founded in 1867. St. Mary's has three different-sized bells in its bell tower. The combined weight is 5,300 pounds. The oldest and mid-sized of the three weighs 1,500 pounds and was

purchased by funds raised through the parish Rosary Society in 1887. It was consecrated on Oct. 9, 1887, amid the opening of the parish mission.

The congregation's pastor, Father John Bleckmann, dreamed of having three bells in the tower to create a peal of bells to celebrate Mass. In 1895, this dream came to fruition with the blessing of two additional bells to the tower: one of 3,000 pounds and a

smaller one of 800 pounds. The bell tower had to be reinforced to bear the weight. These two bells were blessed and dedicated March 31, 1895, before a large congregation.

Notice that these church bells, as with all such bells, were consecrated, blessed or dedicated to a sacred purpose, which attests to their importance to the congregation. Each was inscribed with a specific blessing. The inscription on the smallest bell reads, *"St. Michael and St. Elizabeth pray for us."*

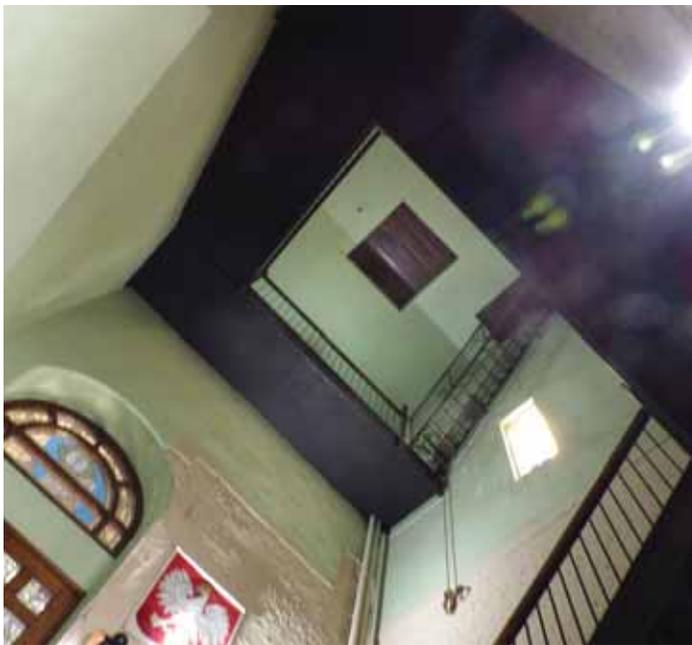
St. Mary's has a fourth bell rediscovered quite by accident during an 1885 remodel of the 10th Street grade-school stairway. After the ceiling fell



The original Trinity Episcopal Church bell.

in, a worker discovered an old bell in the attic. After some investigation, it was determined it belonged to St. Ambrose church. The 175-pound bell was installed at St. Ambrose in 1859. When the congregation joined with St. Mary's, the bell began a journey from its original location at Second and Washington streets at St. Andrew's School to Fourth and Washington streets in 1870, then again when the school moved to the new St. Mary's Grade School in 1886.

Here, it remained until 1932, when the bell tower was taken down and it was placed in the attic of the 10th Street grade school. There, it remained until its rediscovery. The bell was rung during the church's 1985 centennial year. To this day, it remains in the attic. Perhaps someday, it will be removed from its resting place and restored to its original purpose of celebrating the beginning of each school day.



The stairs to the St. Stanislaus bell tower.

In the mid 1800s, many people began emigrating from Poland to LaPorte County and Michigan City. They left their homeland to escape political oppression and find their fortunes in the new world. Many worked at the Haskell and Barker freight-car manufacturing plant. St. Stanislaus Church, 1506 Washington St., was founded in 1890 by the Rev. Emmanuel Wrobel, who started the parish for the Polish-speaking people of Michigan City.

A bell was purchased even before construction of the present church was completed. It was housed in the basement, where the congregation held Mass until the bell tower was completed in 1923.

Today, the congregation is called to worship by the sounds of an electronic carillon that realistically reproduces the sounds of many large and heavy bells. The Rev. Walter Ciesla proudly displays the electronic console of the electronic carillon, which was invented by the Verdin Bell Foundry in 1946.

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By inserting various electronic “chips,” hundreds of songs and hymns can be played from large speakers hidden in the bell tower.

The original bell still hangs in St. Stan’s tower, but it is seldom played. The rope attached to its ringing mechanism is tied high in the air to escape the curious hands of the youth at St. Stan’s neighboring school.

Purchasing a bell for a church, along with its maintenance and the construction of a suitable bell tower, always was an expensive proposition. Unless the church had a wealthy sponsor(s) as congregation members, it might take years to raise the money. A brass bell today would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, while an electronic system would cost tens of thousands of dollars. The electronic version has the advantage of producing the sound of a carillon.



The Verdin electric bell controller at St. Stanislaus.

A carillon is an instrument made up of a series of bells, often arranged chromatically, that is usually played by a keyboard and can be used to play any tune or melody, including, but not limited to, hymns, show tunes or popular music.

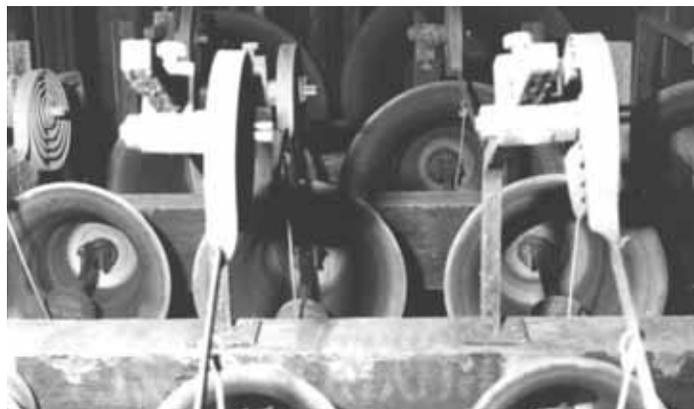
The idea for such an instrument, which, by the way, is the heaviest instrument in the world, weighing multiple tons, can be traced back to the 16th century in the Netherlands when one Jacob van Eyck cast the first set of tuned bells in 1644. Today, there are more than 600 hundred such instruments in the world. The United States lays claim to 200 carillons. Several of these amazing instruments are near enough to us in LaPorte County that we could take a short drive and listen to a bell concert.

Near the chapel at Valparaiso University stands a 143-foot-tall tower containing a chime with 12 bells. The largest of these, each of which was cast in Holland, weighs 17,082 pounds and the smallest just 264 pounds. The tower and bells were a gift from the VU Guild in 1980. Although originally played from a keyboard by some talented musician, today it is controlled by preprogrammed electronic chips.

This instrument is dedicated as the “August H. & Ella Louise Brandt Campanile and Guild Carillon.” A Campanile — yes, everything has a name — is a free-standing bell tower, rather than a tower built as part of a building such as a church steeple. The Leaning Tower of Pisa originally was intended as a Campanile.

According to the VU website, “The bells ring every 15 minutes and are capable of playing hymns, which they do for 10 minutes before Morning Prayer begins Monday through Friday, weekly.”

At Culver (Ind.) Academies, there is an instrument consisting of 51 bells. The heaviest is 6,200 pounds, while the smallest is 18 pounds. The instrument is housed in the Memorial Chapel, where it is played by a keyboard mechanically linked to the bells. The keys are struck with the fist or palm instead of being played with fingers like a piano keyboard. The larger and lower bells are struck by clappers controlled by foot pedals.



The view depicted in this undated photo is of looking up within the bell tower at Culver Academies.



Repair work commences on the bell tower at Valparaiso University.



This undated photo shows the 6,200 pound low B bell at Culver Academies.

According to Kristen Counts, Culver’s administrative assistant, Spiritual Life, these days, there is no official “carillonneur” (a person specializing in playing the instrument), so there is no schedule for upcoming performances. But the Culver carillon does play music each day, its clappers controlled by electric actuators. The 51 bells were installed in the Memorial Chapel bell tower in 1950, as the chapel tower was literally built around them. It has played hymns and the school song each day since its

dedication. Former students fondly recall how the ringing of those great bells brings back memories of wonderful days.

A magnificent instrument consisting of 72 bells containing 100 tons of bronze is proudly housed at the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago. The instrument was built in the 1930s at the same time as a sister instrument that is at Riverside Church in New York. Instruments of this size had never been made before and have not been produced since. It is the single largest instrument ever built. The largest bell weighs 18.5 tons.

About 235 stairs lead up to the bell tower where a climate-controlled cabin, which sits in the middle of the 72 bells, houses the keyboard and pedal board used to play the instrument. The higher-sounding bells are above and the lower sounding bells below the cabin. Great care was given to the design of the instrument and the placement of the bells so the carillonneur would not be deafened by the low bells. The cabin also was placed in the middle because all of the bell clappers are connected directly to the keyboard through levers and cables, through a complex arrangement of pulleys and springs. This direct connection between the keys and bell clappers, rather than using an electronic interface, allows the carillonneur to strike each bell with varying intensity, adding “color” to the music played.

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The bell clappers are made of a softer material than the bells and flatten on the striking side over years of use. Thus, the clappers, rather than the very expensive bells, wear over time. This being the case, the clappers must be rotated occasionally as they wear so the sound is not compromised.

The carillonneur at The Rockefeller Chapel is a young man named Joey Brink. He has been official carillonneur for seven years and teaches apprentices to play the instrument on a practice keyboard on the lower level of the chapel.



Joey Brink is the carillonneur at The Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago.

Tours of the chapel and carillon generally can be scheduled, although they have been suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The chapel, itself, is closed; however, concerts can be heard on this amazing instrument situated high in a bell tower of Rockefeller Chapel. As can be imagined, the sound of the great bells carries great distance throughout the neighborhood.

Michigan City is blessed to have its own carillon on a smaller scale. Technically, by the definition of campanologists and carillonneurs, and who would know better, a carillon must be comprised of at least 23 tuned bells. The instrument in the bell tower of Trinity Episcopal Church has but 12 bells. But, oh, can it make music.

Originally, Trinity had a single traditional bell cast in 1876 and bears the inscription, *"Feast of S. Andrew MDCCCLXXXVI, Come, Let us Worship."* In 1929, the bell was removed to the vestibule of Barker Hall. A set of 12 bells designed and manufactured by Chicago's J.C. Deagan Co. was installed in the bell tower.

The bells, described as a "giant doorbell" at the time of installation, were donated by parishioner Harriet van Pelt in 1929. They are unique in that instead of being cast bronze bells of the traditional bell shape, the Deagan bells are tubular. The largest tube is the size of a small telephone pole and is 7 inches in diameter by 12 feet long.

The Trinity chimes also are unique in that

they can be played from a mechanical player that works like an old-time player piano, using paper rolls with holes punched in them to activate the mechanism. Or, it can be played manually by a musician from a keyboard connected to the



bells through relays. Matt Kubik loads a roll on Trinity's automatic player.

According to Matt Kubik, who has taken it upon himself to keep this little instrument in playable condition, "the chimes require semi-annual maintenance and repair. This requires climbing to the top of the Romanesque Revival-style bell tower through three levels of hatches and ladders. The chimes are hung from a heavy timber frame 50 feet above the street. Maintenance of the electrical components requires an additional climb to the top of the 15 foot tall chimes frame."



The Trinity Episcopal Church bell tower.

When all is working in proper order, the 12 tubular bells can play hundreds of hymns and songs. Trinity's bells have played every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. throughout COVID-19. A chorus of "God Bless America" is added on special occasions to remind all of our special blessings.

For more than 150 years, Michigan City's chorus of historic bells has accompanied the lives and history — joyous and sad — of the people of our lakeside community. They rang out for our great-grandparents, and they will do so for future generations.

(Trinity Episcopal Church will ring on July 4th (a Sunday). Contact Matt Kubik at trinity-church@sbcglobal.net or Bill Halliar at william.halliar@gmail.com for more details.)



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World Creativity and Innovation Week

Northwest Indiana will join 80 countries to celebrate this year's World Creativity and Innovation Week on April 15-21, the theme being "2021, Year of the Creative Economy."

The center, along with WIMS radio, are the sponsors. Other community partners include: The Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest; "Art on the Air" broadcast on Lakeshore Public Radio; LaPorte County Public Library; The Nest of Michigan City; Lubeznik Center for the Arts; A.K. Smith Career Center; and Michigan City Public Library.

WIMS will host a community conversation with area innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders starting at 7:45 a.m. The lineup is:

- Wednesday, April 14: "The Creative Economy" with Jason Williams, Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest managing director, and Cynthia Hedge, Center for Creative Solutions CEO.
- Thursday, April 15: "Spotlight on Creatives" with CREO! recipient and student poets.
- Friday, April 16: "Innovations in Medicine" with Dr. Kuhn Hong, physician and local artist.
- Saturday, April 17: "Student Poetry Contest Winners."
- Monday, April 19: "Creativity in Religion" with the Rev. Dennis Meyer and Outreach Director Carey Garwood from Bethany Lutheran Church, LaPorte.
- Tuesday, April 20: "Innovation, Economic Development and the Arts" with Jalen Boney, Economic Development Corp. business development

manager, and Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Lubeznik Center for the Arts education director.

- Wednesday, April 20: "High Impact Creativity in the Non-Profit World" with Michelle Shirk, Boys



During a previous World Creativity and Innovation Week, LaPorte County Public Library staff member Susan Bannwart highlights a 3-D printer to patrons Ian Siefker and his father, Scott.

and Girls Club in Michigan City executive director, and Kris Pate, LaPorte County United Way executive director.

- Thursday (Earth Day), April 21: "Innovations in Environmental Affairs" with Clay Turner, LaPorte County Solid Waste District director, and Keri Marrs-Barrón, Porter County Recycling & Waste District director and Center for Creative Solutions board member.

WIMS can be found at 1420 AM, 95.1 FM and 106.7 FM Valparaiso, or at [facebook.com/WIMSRADIO](https://www.facebook.com/WIMSRADIO) plus the tunein app.

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., is sponsoring "Aerodynamic Activities" throughout World Creativity and Innovation Week (April 15-21). While supplies last, children can pick up a kit to build a paper helicopter and race car.

On Thursday, April 22, a guided tour of the "Lost and Looking" exhibit is at 4 p.m. at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Throughout the week, the center will award area students and poets for innovative projects, products and poems. Also, in conjunction with Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta and the B.R. Foundation of Michigan City, the center will present the Tej Ram Gupta scholarships to three A. K. Smith Career Center students. Recipients of the CREO! will be announced.

Contact the center at creativity52@comcast.net, (219) 326-7259 or www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com for more details.

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Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. There is no public seating. The library also follows LaPorte County Health Department's Public Health Order Face Covering Mandate by requiring masks inside the building. Every individual must wear a face covering over his/her nose and mouth at indoor areas open to the public. The circulation and reference desks will have masks available for \$1.

The following services are temporarily suspended: 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 accepting donations.

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.

Two new databases are available. Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.

In addition, Fold3, a military records database powered by Ancestry.com, is available. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

The following virtual programming is scheduled:

- Take-and-Make Crafts for Kids: "Rain & Sun" starting April 19. This month celebrates poetry and highlights Shel Silverstein with displays and activity packets available at Youth Services.
- Dungeons & Dragons from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 21. The monthly campaign hosted on Zoom is for players ages 13-18. Characters and dice will be available at Youth Services for those who register, while supplies last. Registration is required by contacting Jonathan at (219) 873-3045, ysonline@mclib.org or jlovett@mclib.org.
- Great Decisions returns through Zoom. Limited discussion booklets are available at the circulation desk. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- Virtual Story Time. A new video will be posted to the website, Facebook page and YouTube channel at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Each video will be available for two weeks at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. Stop by Youth Services to receive the craft project for the week.

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

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PNW Virtual Discussion With Author

Anthony Ray Hinton, author of The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row, will deliver a virtual talk at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22.

The event is part of the “One Book, One Community” open to the public.



Hinton

Hinton, a *New York Times* best-seller and winner of the 2019 Christopher Award, 2019 Moore Prize and an Oprah’s Book Club selection for 2018, will speak on criminal justice reform. His book is considered “a powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice and the power of reading by a man who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit.”

This year, PNW partnered with Hammond Public Library for Hinton’s book, which also served as a common text for all first-year students.

In 1985, Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused and only 29, he knew it was a case of mistaken identity and believed the truth would prove his innocence and set him free. Sentenced to the death penalty, he spent the next 30 years on a quest for justice. Bryan Stevenson, a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer, and the Equal Justice Initiative defended him. With Stevenson’s help, Hinton won his release in 2015. For his work, Hinton received the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in the category of nonfiction. Since his release, Hinton has devoted himself to criminal justice reform.

Registration is required to attend. Visit pnw.edu/one-book for more information.




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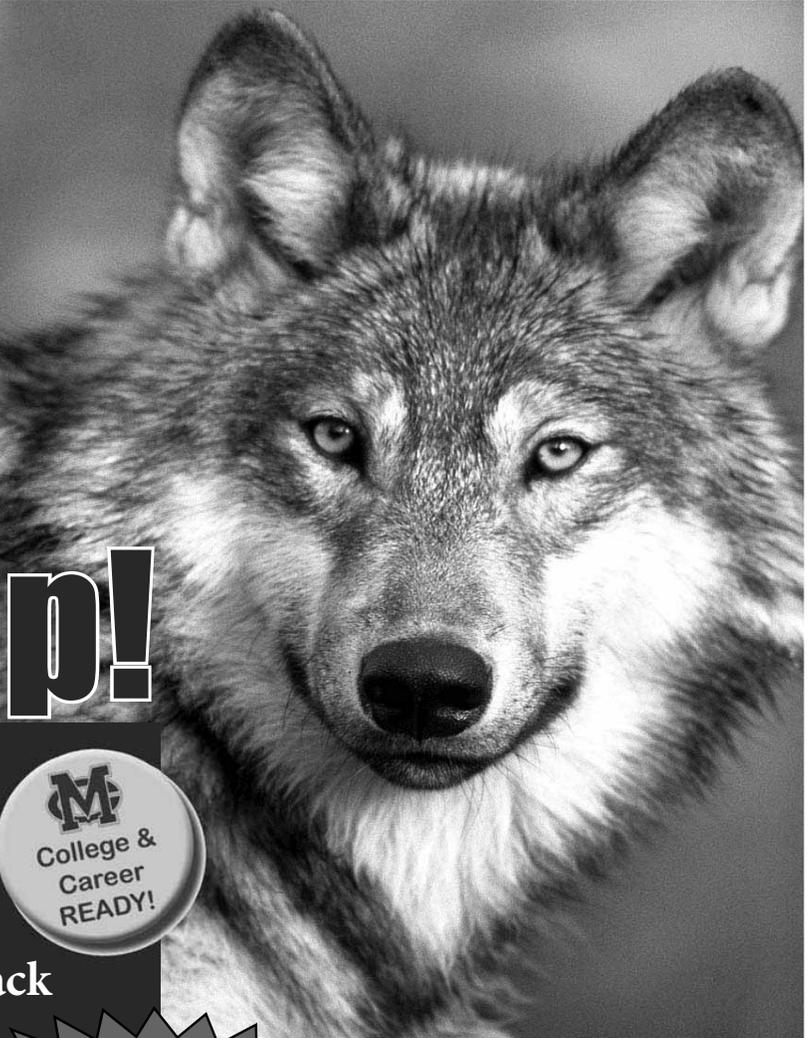
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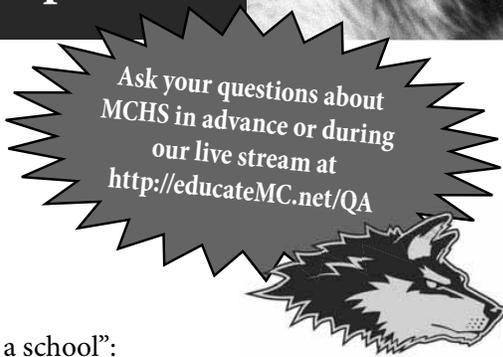
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District Office for Title I Services

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Indiana Dunes National Park

• April 30 is the application deadline for four summer jobs for teens through Indiana Dunes National Park.

The Youth Conservation Corps is a work-learn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for a 40-hour week. The program runs June 6-Aug. 14, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire length of the program. Jobs include working with a crew to do manual labor tasks, normally outdoors, including: staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings, and grounds maintenance (mowing grass, trash pickup, cleaning restrooms and trail rehabilitation).

No experience is necessary. Participants are selected by random draw from the pool of applications.

Participants must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 6, but not turn 19 before Aug. 14, the program's ending date. The application form is available through high school guidance offices, the IDNP office at (219) 395-1772 or at tinyurl.com/2tbr4rma

• Registration is open for the first Indiana Dunes Trash Trekkers Earth Day Cleanup.

The event, set for 9 a.m.-noon Thursday, April 22, is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes Tourism and Indiana Dunes National Park Volunteer Office.

Volunteers and park employees will collect a

winter's worth of trash and debris from roadsides, beaches, Little Calumet River and trails. IDNP maintenance crews will pick up the bagged debris.

Register with the volunteer office before Sunday, April 18, to be assigned a cleanup location. Call (219) 221-7098 or email parkconnection@gmail.com

The National Park Service has implemented a mask requirement for employees, visitors, partners and contractors.

The move supports President Biden's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, aiming to protect those who live, work and visit national parks.

At Indiana Dunes National Park, face masks are required in all park buildings and facilities, including the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk pavilion. Masks also are required on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, including on narrow or busy trails, overlooks and in historic homes.

As conditions are subject to change, visitors should check the park's website and social media channels for updates before a visit. Visit tinyurl.com/2r86ch6e for details.

Park rangers are on duty to provide information, protect visitors and park resources and uphold the requirement.

The park is offering virtual ranger chats for teachers and students through a variety of media.

The programs can cover a wide range of topics and grade levels. IDNP educators can customize programs to meet teacher preferences. For example, the park can bring Max, the milk snake, into a virtual classroom to teach about animal adaptations.

Visit www.nps.gov/indu or www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS for a list of programs, then call the scheduling office at (219) 395-1885 for details.

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 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.



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“Concrete Cowboy” Offers a Few Powerful Moments Amid Sluggish Pace

by Andrew Tallackson

As the end credits roll in “Concrete Cowboy,” we see interviews with cast members who, it turns out, are not actors, but real members of Philadelphia’s Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club. Their conversations are so refreshingly honest, they upstage the movie itself, which works in fits and starts.

The Netflix film, based on Greg Neri’s 2009 novel *Ghetto Cowboy*, takes a fictional look at a world rarely explored on film: the urban black horse-riding culture. There are individual moments of quiet power, and “Stranger Things” star Caleb McLaughlin finally has a role that suggests great things await. But the movie is sluggish. It feels like a first edit, where the filmmakers haven’t shaped their tale enough so it has focus, a sense of urgency.

McLaughlin plays Cole, a 15-year-old boy from Detroit who, in the opening scene, is expelled from school again for his behavior. His mother, exasperated, tosses all his clothes into garbage bags, hauls him off to Philadelphia, drops him off on his father’s front steps and bolts. This is a side to Philadelphia we don’t see often. The “Rocky” franchise may explore working-class neighborhoods, but Fletcher Street is all but abandoned by time. Crumbling buildings that seem to close in on their residents. Streets blanketed with litter. Lots barren of life. And it is here that Cole is introduced to the unusual existence of his father, Harp (Idris Elba).

I was not familiar with The Fletcher Street Urban Riding Club. It’s a non-profit, run by men and women who not only care for their horses, but teach riding to local youth, stressing the importance of doing well in schools and spending leisure time outdoors, not glued to their phones. My favorite is the no-nonsense Nessie (Lorraine Toussaint, wonderful). She’s not very maternal. When Harp throws Cole out for hanging with Smush, a drug dealer played by the superb Jharrel Jerome (“When They See Us”), Nessie does not take him in, saying she’s tired of caring for all the “prodigals.” Later, she galvanizes the movie’s first great scene: a campfire gathering — a staple of the Old West — in which everyone laments the way history has whitewashed African Americans in the nation’s past. The parallels between trying to “break” a horse and slavery are succinct and heartbreaking.

We meet others in the club. Like Paris (Jamil Prattis), paralyzed from a shattered spine caused by bullets that took the life of his younger brother.

Again, there is power in the scene where fellow club members transport him to an open field and help him onto his horse, if only for a few minutes.

McLaughlin, who frequently gets upstaged by Priah Ferguson as his mouthy sister in “Stranger Things,” is raw and angry here. Constantly retreating from life when it gets rough. He and Elba have



Idris Elba (left) and Caleb McLaughlin star in “Concrete Cowboy.”

★ ★ 1/2

“Concrete Cowboy”

Running time: 111 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language throughout, drug use and some violence.

a tremendous scene in which the latter finally owns up to being a poor excuse for a father.

But what I’ve mentioned here are individual scenes that hit home. Not the movie itself. Director Ricky Staub hasn’t given the story any immediacy. A chunk of the film devoted to Cole shoveling manure, for example, takes too long to get to the point. Cole’s friendship with Smush distracts from the riding club, arriving at a conclusion we see coming an hour before it arrives. And the relationship between Harp and Cole feels shapeless. It seems the movie is headed toward a reconciliation between father and son, but that does not happen. More, it’s an acceptance of who they are. The script never gives Cole his chance to open up, to reveal his hurts and resentments. So, the happy resolve at the end feels tacked on.

“Concrete Cowboy” should have been tighter. Packed more punch. Instead, it’s mildly good.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

And the Nominees Are...

PICTURE

- "The Father"
- "Judas and the Black Messiah"
- "Mank"
- "Minari"
- "Nomadland"
- "Promising Young Woman"
- "Sound of Metal"
- "The Trial of the Chicago 7"

DIRECTOR

- Lee Isaac Chung, "Minari"
- Emerald Fennell, "Promising Young Woman"
- David Fincher, "Mank"
- Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland"
- Thomas Vinterberg, "Another Round"

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- "Judas and the Black Messiah"
- "Minari"
- "Promising Young Woman"
- "Sound of Metal"
- "The Trial of the Chicago 7"

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

- "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"
- "The Father"
- "Nomadland"
- "One Night in Miami"
- "The White Tiger"

ACTRESS

- Viola Davis, "Ma Rainey"
- Andra Day, "The U.S. vs. Billie Holiday"
- Vanessa Kirby, "Pieces of a Woman"
- Frances McDormand, "Nomadland"
- Carey Mulligan, "Promising Young Woman"

ACTOR

- Riz Ahmed, "Sound of Metal"
- Chadwick Boseman, "Ma Rainey"
- Anthony Hopkins, "The Father"
- Gary Oldman, "Mank"
- Steven Yeun, "Minari"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Sacha Baron Cohen, "The Trial of the Chicago 7"
- Daniel Kaluuya, "Judas and the Black Messiah"
- Leslie Odom Jr., "One Night in Miami"

- Paul Raci, "Sound of Metal"
- Lakeith Stanfield, "Judas and..."

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Maria Bakalova, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"
- Glenn Close, "Hillbilly Elegy"
- Olivia Colman, "The Father"
- Amanda Seyfried, "Mank"
- Yuh-Jung Youn, "Minari"

1st & 2nd Place Prizes

Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by email to drew@thebeacher.com. The deadline is noon Friday, April 16. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the April 22 edition, before the April 25 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. First place receives a \$25 Fiddlehead gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass. If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the May 6 edition.

Name:

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“A Discovery of Witches” is



Diana (Teresa Palmer) and Matthew (Matthew Goode) explore the streets of 1590 London in “A Discovery of Witches.”

The “*Twilight*” comparisons kept me at bay. “*It’s like ‘Twilight’ for grownups,*” “*Like ‘Twilight,’ but better,*” screamed each new social media post. “*Twilight,*” for me, is about as much fun as the prep for a colonoscopy. Everything that’s dark and sexy about vampires gets diluted into a teen Harlequin romance. Where a pale vampire who glitters and drives a crappy car falls for a Debbie Downer: A girl who flips feminism the bird by discarding her own individuality so she can be with the boy she loves.

Come to think of it, maybe I wasn’t the intended audience for “*Twilight*.”

“*A Discovery of Witches,*” though, *that* is my cup of tea. A good friend persuaded me to watch the show, which just wrapped its second season, and it is television of the highest order. A literate, classically structured tale based on Deborah Harkness’ All Souls Trilogy. A cast that disappears into the characters with conviction. Production values so sumptuous, they rival most prestige pictures.

This is what bingeable television for adults *should* be.

Both seasons are available through AMC’s subscription services: AMC Premiere, Sundance Now and Shudder. What the series does is strip vampires, witches and demons of all the Hollywood

clichés, the classic archetypes cemented by 20th century horror. No bats, garlic, coffins or nighttime haunts for the vampires. No green skin or pointy hats for the witches. And no tails or pitchforks for the demons. The characters are so matter of fact, their “conditions” are more a metaphor for life’s persecuted. They live in relative harmony, in secret, controlled by a group known as the Congregation, which keeps them on a tight leash.

In Season 1, we meet Diana Bishop, a respected historian and Yale professor whose parents died when she was young, leaving her with her aunts, Sarah and Emily. She’s a reluctant witch, hesitant at embracing her powers.

Diana is played by Teresa Palmer, an Australian actress I’ve enjoyed in films like “*Warm Bodies,*” “*Lights Out*” and “*Hacksaw Ridge.*” She’s a natural beauty, but her eyes suggest someone with more on her mind. A sharp intelligence that won’t be limited or confined by others. And that is what she brings to Diana: a highly educated woman coming into her own as a witch.

Studying her, watching her closely, is a vampire, Matthew Clairmont (Matthew Goode). He’s also a scientist, joined by two others, Marcus Whitmore (Edward Bluemel) and Miriam Shephard (Aiysha

Lavish Fun for Adults

by Andrew Tallackson

Hart), in trying to study their kind, their origins. Why they seem to be dying off. And why an ancient book known as the Book of Life is crucial to their future. Diana, it seems, is the only one the book responds to, allows access to it.

That Matthew is a vampire and Diana uninitiated to the supernatural world is where the “Twilight” comparisons begin and end. By setting the tale in contemporary London, with characters who are academics or scientists, the world of “A Discovery of Witches” is populated by smart people in an increasingly dangerous setting. Inciting most of the trouble is the Congregation itself, whose grand meeting hall is the show’s first dynamite effect. Inspired by Rome’s Pantheon vault and the *Palazzo Contarini Polignac*, it floats on rough waters and is visible only to Congregation members, folding into view with dazzling effect. Everyone it seems, wants the Book of Life, which prompts Matthew and Diana to flee for their own safety.

Goode, who’s been in everything from Zack Snyder’s “Watchman” to “Downton Abbey,” carries himself with an aristocratic air designed to convey exotic appeal for Diana. With her interest in alchemy, he is everything she’s studied. And, he’s everything the show’s female viewership wants in a vampire lead: tall, pale and handsome. The reassuring news is, Goode and Palmer have strong chemistry. The attraction between the two is legit. They engage in plenty of heavy breathing and panting midway through Season One, complete with Goode appearing in boxer shorts so crushingly tight, I feared it might cause irreparable damage to his circulatory system.

But “A Discovery of Witches” keeps the gooey stuff to a minimum. Instead, it surrounds Palmer and Goode with a dynamite supporting cast, my favorite being Lindsay Duncan (“Under the Tuscan Sun”) as Matthew’s mother, Ysabeau de Clermont, the actress delivering a poised, icy glare with the best of them. Diana’s eccentric aunts, played by Alex Kingston and Valarie Pettiford, are a hoot, although Kingston, best known to American audiences for her ’90s stint on “ER,” overacts, shouting most of her dialogue. The darker members of the Congrega-

tion, however, are populated by actors who balance menace with dry wit.

It is Season 2, though, when “A Discovery of Witches” outdoes itself. Fleeing in time to 1590 London to avoid being caught, Matthew and Diana desperately search for the Book of Life. The show becomes a triumph of production design, with his-



The Season 2 standout is Barbara Marten as Queen Elizabeth. The actress is a force of nature.

torical details that recreate London as it likely was. Not a romanticized vision, but claustrophobic streets packed with people. Grimy to a fault. The costumes range from the subdued to the spectacularly elaborate. The special effects are a marvel. TV shows tend not to have the budget for movie-quality visuals, so the effects come across as just that. Effects. But here, whether it’s words moving across pages of the Book of Life, or Diana harnessing her powers through training by a local coven, the visuals seamlessly blend into their environment. They are so confidently introduced, we are never aware of them as effects, but part of a fully realized world.

The standout in Season 2 is Episode Six, which features the swoon-worthy wedding of Matthew and Palmer. The period-appropriate costumes

are lavish, while Rob Lane’s music beautifully underscores the ceremony. We also meet Matthew’s father, Philippe (James Purefoy), and the relationship between father and son climaxes with lump-in-the-throat understanding and forgiveness.

The most memorable performance hails from Barbara Marten as Queen Elizabeth I. The ornate costumes, the severe makeup, the attention to detail with her rotted teeth, it must be seen to be savored. But it is the subtle change in character Marten lavishes on the queen that makes her final exchange with Matthew hypnotic. A monarch treated to a glimpse of her legacy, conveyed in a moving change in temperance to her vampire subject.

Season 2 ends with a cliffhanger. AMC already greenlit a third season, which means we won’t be kept in limbo. Now is the time to get acquainted with these characters. Believe me. They, like the show itself, do not disappoint.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Bunny Hop

More than 1,000 adults and children attended the free Bunny Hop on Easter Sunday, April 4, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. The event kicked off springtime at the Gardens, where families strolled along the Bunny Hop Trail and counted the hidden bunnies for free bags of candy. They also could take a photo with the Easter Bunny,



Good Citizen Awards

The Daughters of the American Revolution Rebecca Dewey Chapter recognized six high school seniors who qualified for the DAR Good Citizen award.

A ceremony was held March 21 at Three Oaks Heritage Hall. The students were: Taylor Volstrof, River Valley High School; David Ntsiful, Niles High School; Serynn Nowlin, Buchanan High School; Cole Haskins, New Buffalo High School; Caleb J. Byrd, Brandywine; and Natalee McNeil, Bridgman High School. Each received a check. Nowlin was the winner, her essay heading to the state DAR.

State Rep. Brad Paquette attended with a Declaration of Tribute for each student signed by himself, State Sen. Kim LaSata and U.S. Sen. Fred Upton.

The DAR Good Citizen program recognizes young people who exhibit good citizenship in their homes, schools and communities. It is open to high school seniors enrolled in public or private schools accredited by their state board of education. Each school may honor only one senior class student per year.

Public Art Committee

Michigan City Public Art Committee will meet through Zoom at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 15. Visit tinyurl.com/3bj6ad5h for the link.



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Treasures in the Water



Nearly 75 youngsters participated in the LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch's Underwater Easter Egg Hunt on April 1. YMCA staff and members, along with the Michigan City police and fire departments, sponsored the event. Divided into three age groups, the youngsters gathered eggs from the Y's pool and redeemed them for prizes.

All photos by Bob Wellinski



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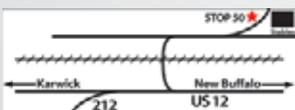
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Westchester Public Library

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

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

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

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

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

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TimberNook Camp at Arboretum



An example of activities through the TimberNook "Going Wild" week.

TimberNook, a summer day camp that incorporates traditional experiences with immersive sensory opportunities, kicks off in early June at Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest.

The camp debuted in 2009 through pediatric occupational therapist Angela Hanscom. Groups of up to 20 children, ages 4-12, engage in activities that promote problem solving, self-reliance, greater social-emotional learning and fine and gross motor skills. The schedule is:

- June 7-11: Storybook: Dr. Seuss Adventures, ages 4-8, weekly fee \$220.
- June 14-18: Sensory Adventures: Sensational Challenges, ages 7-12, weekly fee \$325.
- June 21-25: Going Wild: A Week of Wild, ages 7-12, weekly fee \$325.
- June 28-July 2: Friends in the Wild: Woodland Friends, ages 4-8, weekly fee \$220.
- July 12-16: Extreme Art: Creative Cottages, ages 7-12, weekly fee \$325.
- July 19-23: Wild and Whimsical, ages 4-8, weekly fee \$220.

Gabis is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Registration and more information are available at tinyurl.com/2r79jtcf

LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pickup from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance.

A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- 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.).

The following program is scheduled at the main branch:

- "Cloudy With a Chance of April Showers" from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17. The program celebrating the classic book also will emphasize information on weather, how to prepare for severe weather and imagining what life would be like if actual food fell from the sky.

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.

Correction

One of the individuals interviewed in our April 8 cover story about Gary Wedow should have been identified as Judi Ridley.



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La Porte County Parks

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

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- April 28 — Flower Power.
- May 12 — Timber.

Rock Painting Craft Make and Take

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Take two favorite rocks to paint. All ages are welcome, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies are available while they last. No pre-registration is required. Masks must be worn.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 26 and May 3 at Luhr County Park. Call at least one week in advance to register.

Diabetes Education Q&A

A free Diabetes Education Q&A session is from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 28, at Luhr County Park. Certified Diabetes Educator Clarise Largen will discuss making smart choices.

Masks are required.

Healthy Lifestyles

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

- May 12: "Soil Health, Garden Tools and Pruning 101" by Sacha Gee-Burns.
- June 9: "GERD — New Treatments for Relief of Heartburn & Acid Reflux," Dr. Conn.
- July 14: Nutrition, food groups and labeling, Stephanie Thomas.

LCSO Concludes Latest Season

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra concludes its 48th season with LaPorte native-guest conductor Gary Wedow leading an in-person concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.



Motter



Graves

Joining Wedow are soprano Kellie Motter and tenor Edward Graves. The program includes Mozart's "Symphony No. 36 in C Major, 'Linz' KV 425," Händel's "Water Music" excerpts and two English oratorio arias, Aaron Copland's "Old American Songs" and "Wheels of a Dream" from the Tony-winning musical "Ragtime."

Adult balcony tickets for ages 13 and older are \$20, while senior tickets are \$18. Tickets are available at www.lcso.net, by calling the LCSO office at (219) 362-9020 and at Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte.

NB Library Community Forum

Making a yard bird-friendly, and how to identify different species, is the subject of the next Friends of New Buffalo Library's virtual Community Forum at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 22.

Naturalist Wendy Jones will discuss the benefits of backyard birding, and how to easily attract birds such as woodpeckers, finches, bluebirds, hummingbirds and orioles. Tips will cover providing food, water and shelter.

Jones, known to many as the "Chickadee Naturalist," has lived in the Michiana area since 1991 and worked at Fernwood Botanical Gardens and Nature Preserve until last summer.

The Zoom link is found under Activities/Events on the library's Facebook page or its website at www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org. Email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for more details.

The next Zoom program is Nick Bogert's "Lifestyles of the Mich(iana) and Famous" on Tuesday, May 18.

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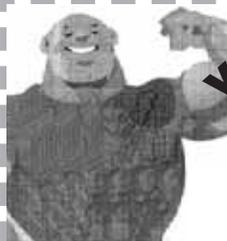
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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

• **J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17.**

The one-mile flat accessible hike describes one of Lake Michigan's shipwreck stories.

• **Reptile Rendezvous from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 17.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to see live turtles and snakes, the emphasis being how they survive the cold winter months.

• **Morning Bird Walk at 10:30 a.m. Sunday April 18.**

Meet at the Nature Center for an easy stroll searching for different bird species and other wildlife. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the park. Registration is required.

• **Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshop from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18.**

Learn the art of wire wrapping to make beach-glass jewelry. The cost is \$7, and pre-registration is required.



• **COVID-19 program safety precautions.**

Pre-registration is required for all programs to properly meet gathering guidance restrictions. Social distancing must be practiced by staying at least 6 feet away from others. Masks or other face coverings of the nose and mouth are required.

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.

Post-COVID World Virtual Series

Purdue University Northwest continues its series of virtual conversations with PNW scholars and community experts on the subject "On the Other Side: PNW Examines the Post-COVID World."

The next program, "Social Media," is from noon to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 20. Living in the "new normal" of a COVID world, social media has become an outlet to shape views of the outside environment. The discussion will touch on the positive and negative repercussions. Panelists include: Matt Hanson, PNW clinical assistant professor of marketing, Rhon Teruelle, PNW assistant professor of mass communication and social media, and Jim Dedelow, owner of WJOB-AM 1230.

The free event is through Zoom, and registration is encouraged. Full details and the link are at www.pnw.edu/other-side. Rachel Clapp-Smith, academic director of The Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest and interim associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at PNW, will moderate. The program also is livestreamed by WJOB through Facebook Live at @WJOB.1230.

Chesterton Art Center

Dale Popovich will offer a two-day Beginning/Intermediate Zoom Watercolor Workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24 and May 8.



Instructor Dale Popovich.

The workshop gives students a better understanding of transparent watercolor. Popovich will teach his step-by-step process of how to start and finish a watercolor, and concentrate on reflections of water. Students will learn how reflections of shorelines reflect into the water, and how to interpret them. He also will provide an understanding of the values, temperatures, intensities and hues, and how they react as a reflection.

Another demonstration focuses on how to cross mixed colors that best capture reflections in the water. That includes how to block-in and build a painting properly. Students will experience various applications of watercolor, color palette, properties of watercolor, tools and techniques.

Workshop 1 on April 24 lasts 2 1/2 hours. Popovich will stop between steps and answer questions. Photos will be taken of each step and added to the original packet creating Popovich's Start-to-Finish packet.

Workshop 2 on May 8 will involve a Zoom Group Critique. Popovich will walk artists through each student's finished piece, plus an additional one if he/she chooses.

Tuition is \$115 for members and \$135 for non-members. Supplies are not included. A supply list is provided after payment is made. A full reference packet will be sent prior to the workshop.

The Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. 4th Street in Chesterton. Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com or call (219) 926-4711 for more information.

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American Red Cross

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

- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, April 16.
- IBEW 531, 2751 N. Old Indiana 39, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17.
- Anytime Fitness LaPorte, 59 Pine Lake Ave., noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 20.

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

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A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher will continue the following office hours for now

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

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MCHS Senior Named "All-Star"

Michigan City High School senior Josiah Miller has been named a 2021 Indiana Academic All-Star.

Miller is one of only 40 Indiana seniors to receive the honor sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals. Students were selected from 270 nominees from the state's private and public accredited high schools.



Miller

The distinction recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom and are actively involved in their schools and communities, taking on leadership roles. The program is supported by DePauw University, Indiana University, Purdue University and corporate partner Herff Jones. Student awards will be presented in May.

Miller is a top honor student at MCHS with a 4.68 grade-point average. He has earned numerous college credits through AP and Dual-Credit courses.

A multi-sport athlete, he advanced to the IHSAA State Diving Finals in 2020 and 2021. In addition to diving for the Wolves, he participated in boys swimming, tennis and track. He is an assistant dive coach for the MCHS team and Michiana Dive Club and was MVP for boys tennis. He also is involved in MCHS Student Council, National Honor Society, the Rho Kappa Social Studies honor society, the Envirothon team, Mathletes and the Chemistry Olympiad. He has held leading roles in several MCHS Theatre productions and serves as a peer tutor.

Miller helped found a service club last year at school called "Helping Hands." The club, which has grown to 32 members, performs service projects. Among them are garbage cleanups, volunteering at soup kitchens, peer tutoring, making facemasks for children, making blankets for senior citizens and assembling and delivering care packages for seniors. He works part time as a teller at Horizon Bank's Wolves Branch, located at MCHS, and at Chipotle. Next fall, he will attend The University of Notre Dame University to major in science business.



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LCSO in the Spotlight



Mike Scheck.

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights its talented musicians.

Originally from northeast Ohio, Mike Scheck studied music at Bowling Green State University, earning a Bachelor of Music in 2007, with a triple major in music education, trumpet performance and music composition. He then earned a Master of Music in trumpet performance from Western Illinois, where he met his wife, Carey.

(She was LCSO's piano soloist on the recent performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue.")

Scheck has been with LCSO and LaPorte City Band since 2013. He also has been the band director at South Central Community Schools since 2011. Mike and Carey live in LaPorte and have one son, Rowan. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, hiking, rooting for Cleveland sports teams and playing the guitar.

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As you may know, renting your home for fewer than 30 days is prohibited in the Town of Long Beach. To ensure compliance with this requirement, the Town has contracted with a company called Granicus to assist us with research, data collection and enforcement of this ordinance. Property owners are reminded that violations of this ordinance will result in substantial fines and may lead to additional actions by the Town, including, but not limited to, the initiation of legal proceedings to seek injunctive relief and recovery of costs of enforcement, as well as reporting violations to the appropriate governmental bodies for review of compliance with innkeeper's, real estate and income tax obligations. If you are renting or plan to rent your property for fewer than 30 days, be aware it violates Long Beach Ordinance #2017-01. Questions related to the ordinance or neighbors wishing to report suspected short-term rentals at a nearby property are encouraged to contact the police department at (219) 874-4243 or email Chief Mark Swistek at chief@lbpdin.com.

Robert LeMay, Long Beach Town Council President
Mark Swistek, Long Beach Police Chief



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Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Outdoor Yoga from noon to 1:15 p.m. EDT Friday and Saturday, April 16-17.**

Join instructor Deirdre Guthrie for the all-levels class. Visit <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/> for details or to register.

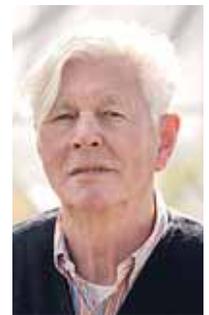
• **Member Dog Days from 8 to 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, April 17.**

Exclusive to members, dogs must be on a lead, and owners must clean up after them. Check Fernwood's Facebook page for a weather status update the Friday before.

• **"Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series" from 11 a.m.-noon EDT Saturday, April 17.**

The series continues with Piet Oudolf's "Oudolf Garden Detroit: Belle Isle."

A Dutch landscape designer and author, Oudolf will discuss his recent project. Inspired by Detroit, he completed the initial planting of a naturalistic public garden on Belle Isle in late summer 2020. Artistic and ecological, he chooses perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees for their hardiness, durability and changing textures and colors.



Oudolf

Oudolf is a leading figure of the New Perennial movement, using herbaceous perennials and grasses chosen as much for their structure as for their flower color.

Oudolf will speaking from his home in Hummelo, The Netherlands.

Tickets cost \$40, or \$32 for members.

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

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Art Barn Faculty Exhibit

A special exhibit by Art Barn School of Art faculty is on display through Thursday, April 29.

Works include paintings, photographs, ceramics and glasswork. Participating faculty include: watercolors by Julia Holmaas (LaPorte) and Lisa Slau-son (Hebron); ceramics by Samantha Purze (Chesterton) and Gail Woolever (Wheatfield); pastel paintings by Mary Ann Pals (Chesterton); photography by Deb Armstrong (Valparaiso); fused glass by Mindy Milan (Chesterton); and oil paintings by Mark VanderVinne (Porter).



"Orange Belly" by instructor-ceramic artist Samantha Purze.

Artists from throughout the U.S. who conducted workshops also are exhibited, including: Tom Francesconi (Homewood, Ill.); Ratindra Das (Las Vegas); Ken Hosmer (North Platte, Neb.); and Lesley Rich (Palo Alto, Calif.). Pieces by the late Marlies Glickauf and Gordon Ligocki also are on display.

Exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East in Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 or email info@artbarnschool.org for more details.



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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

April 15 — Rock Painting Craft Make and Take, 1-4 p.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

April 17 — J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

April 17 — “Cloudy With a Chance of April Showers,” 11 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 17 — Reptile Rendezvous, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

April 17 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra season finale, 7 p.m., La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Adult balcony tickets: 13 & older/\$20, seniors/\$18. Reservations: www.lcso.net, (219) 362-9020, Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte.

April 18 — Morning Bird Walk, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

April 18 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshop, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: \$7. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

April 21 — Dungeons & Dragons, 3-5 p.m., Zoom, through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info/registration: ysonline@mclib.org, jlovett@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Through April 30 — Exhibit, “Inspired/Inspire,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through June 5 — New exhibits, “Lost and Looking” & “Pipelines and Borderlines: The Art of Survival,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Wednesdays — Virtual Story Time, 10 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/

In the Region

April 16-17 — Outdoor Yoga, noon-1:15 p.m. EDT, through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: <https://spore-studios.com/yoga>

April 16-18 — “(title of show),” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (all Eastern): April 16, 17 — 7:30 p.m./April 18 — 3 p.m. Tickets: (in person) students/\$16, seniors 62+/\$20, adults/\$22; (streaming) \$19. Reservations: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/tix, (574) 848-4116.

April 17 — “Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series,” 11 a.m.-noon EDT, through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Topic: Piet Oudolf,

“Oudolf Garden Detroit: Belle Isle.” Cost: 40, \$32/ members. Info/reservations: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

April 17 — At Home with Corky Siegel and Randy Sabien Watch Party!, 8 p.m. EDT, through The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Link: tinyurl.com/7d9et2d5

April 20 — Purdue University Northwest Zoom series, “On the Other Side: PNW Examines the Post-COVID World,” noon-1:15 p.m. Topic: social media. Info/Zoom link: www.pnw.edu/other-side

Through April 25 — Pop-up Exhibit (artists, business tenants, board members, volunteers), The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours (Eastern): noon-4 p.m. Fri.-Sun. Info: gallery@boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through April 29 — Art Barn School of Art faculty exhibit, Art Barn, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue., Thur., Fri./10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 462-9009, info@artbarnschool.org

Through June 6 — New exhibits, “Boom Bloom” & “The Undetectable Presence: A Selection of Sculpture,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

Tuesdays/Fridays — Open Studios for 18 and older, 1-4 p.m., Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Cost: \$5/day. Registration: tinyurl.com/8hmejvp9

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 15, 1817, the first American school for the deaf was opened in Hartford, Conn.

On April 15, 1865, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln died in a Washington boarding house, at 56, several hours after being shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

On April 15, 1912, 1,513 people died when Titanic ("the ship that water could not go through") struck an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage from England to New York. Titanic, with a displacement of 46,328 tons, was the world's largest ship.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became baseball's first black major-league player when he debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day.

On April 15, 1953, insulin, discovered the year before by Dr. Frederick Banting of Toronto, became available for the general treatment of diabetes.

On April 16, 1787, "The Contrast" (by Royal Tyler), the first play written by a U.S. citizen, was produced in New York.

On April 16, 1900, U.S. post offices began selling books of stamps.

On April 16, 1940, Cleveland Indian's pitcher Bob Feller pitched an opening day no-hitter against the White Sox in Chicago.

On April 16, 1948, WGN-TV broadcast its first big-league game, with Jack Brickhouse calling the White Sox's 4-1 win against the Cubs at Wrigley Field.

On April 16, 1962, Walter Cronkite made his debut as anchor of "The CBS Evening News."

On April 17, 1492, Spain's King Ferdinand agreed to finance Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World.

On April 17, 1961, operating on orders from President John Kennedy, about 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the poorly-planned "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba. The invasion failed, and most of the survivors were captured.

On April 17, 1964, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Mustang.

On April 17, 1964, Jerrie Mock of Columbus, Ohio, became the first female pilot to make a solo flight around the world.

On April 17, 1970, the astronauts of Apollo 13 landed in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their craft.

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride between the Massachusetts towns of Charlestown and Lexington, warning the American Colonist of the approach of British troops.

On April 18, 1923, the first game was played in Yankee Stadium.

On April 18, 1924, the first crossword puzzle book was published by Simon and Schuster.

On April 18, 1925, Chicago hosted the first Women's World Fair.

On April 18, 1934, the era of the "Laundromat" began when the first Washateria, with four electric washing machines for rent, opened in Fort Worth.

On April 18, 1977, author Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel Roots.

On April 19, 1775, the Revolutionary War began in Massachusetts as British and American forces began fighting at both Lexington and Concord.

On April 19, 1865, the funeral for President Abraham Lincoln was held in the White House.

On April 19, 1892, in Springfield, Mass., Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage — the first American-made automobile — out of his shop for a successful drive.

On April 19, 1897, the first Boston Marathon was run from Ashland to Boston. Winner John McDermott ran the course in 2 hrs., 55 min., 10 sec.

On April 20, 1857, Chicago Mayor John Wentworth personally led a raid on the "Sands," a notorious North Michigan Avenue vice district.

On April 20, 1902, scientists Marie and Pierre Curie succeeded in isolating the radioactive element radium.

On April 20, 1948, Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, was wounded when he was shot while sitting in his Detroit home.

On April 20, 1949, Mayo Clinic scientists revealed they had synthesized a hormone to treat rheumatoid arthritis — named "cortisone."

On April 20, 1955, Richard Daley began his first term as mayor of Chicago. He was re-elected five times.

On April 21, 1836, at San Jacinto, with the battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" an army of Texans, led by Gen. Sam Houston, defeated a Mexican Army led by General Santa Anna.

On April 21, 1843, Chicago passed an ordinance prohibiting pigs from running free on city streets.

On April 21, 1925, the Chicago neighborhood of Streeterville got its name when Elmo Streeter was arrested for "squatting" on the land.

On April 21, 1926, England's Queen Elizabeth II was born in London.

On April 21, 1977, the musical play "Annie" opened on Broadway.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Love & Stardust by Paul Marshall (Available in hardcover, paperback or eBook through Amazon; hardcover only through Barnes & Noble. 246 pages)

Love.

We write stories and poems about it, sing about it, analyze it, philosophize it, try to tear it apart. In the long run, it's impossible to fully comprehend. It simply is.

Yes, this is a love story, a true story coming from a place so deep inside, at times, it almost hurts to read it.

Paul has opened his heart in this book to pay tribute to his late wife, and to a way of life that no longer exists, but still holds a special place in his heart. Memories and love. The heart and soul of a life.

Paul and Dolly Marshall found that special connection called "love at first sight" when they met as teenagers in high school in 1959. And that love lasted for more than half a century.

A perfect life? Of course not. There will always be hurdles. Bad things happen to good people, but a couple so committed to each other will find a way around or through their obstacles. Let me give you a glimpse...

Paul paces his story wanting the reader to take in how life was in the 1950s and 1960s, showing that while times may change, love is the one constant that never goes out of style.

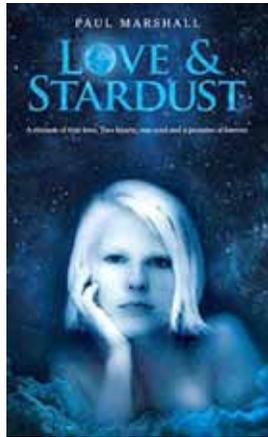
In 1966, Percy Sledge sang — "*When a man loves a woman, can't keep his mind on nothin' else...*" Every step Paul took as a young man was toward a never-in-doubt-goal — marry Dolly. But there are other goals to be met along the way. Namely, education and a career path. And it didn't take long for him to realize photography would be his life's work.

Paul invites us into his life: a compendium of high school and college years, to their marriage in 1964 and on to the present. Paul crewing a boat racing team, he and Dolly working with Dunes Arts Foundation are just two of their many projects.

The house in Michiana Shores he and Dolly lived in for 43 years holds many memories: the joy of fixing up the house while commuting into Chicago jobs, ultimately leading Paul to open his own photography studio in Michigan City.

And then, the trauma of Dolly's five pregnancies — two miscarriages, three C-sections and two children, Gabrielle and Tyler.

Paul is open about suffering from acute anxiety



Upcoming Reviews

The Shadow Box by Luanne Rice (April 22).

Now that she knows she made a big mistake marrying rich guy, Chase Griffin, what will Claire do?

The Four Winds by Kristen Hannah. Starting in 1921 Texas, a woman marries to avoid being a spinster. A mistake? By 1934, that question has been answered.

Rhapsody by Mitchell James Kaplan. Historical fiction about a 1924 love affair between American composer George Gershwin and a gifted musician and society wife, Kay Swift.

We Begin at the End by Chris Whitaker. Walk is a sheriff who put his best friend, Vincent, in jail years ago. Now he's out, and 13 year-old Duchess, whose mother grew up with Walk and Vincent, shows up to further complicate life.

The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict. Historical fiction takes us to December 1926 when Agatha Christie disappears for 11 days, only to mysteriously come back.

Who is Maud Dixon? by Alexandra Andrews. A low-level publishing employee knows she should be a famous writer. Maybe her day has come after a more than fortuitous event throws her into the shoes, and books, of enigmatic bestselling author Maud Dixon.

disorder, which held him down for five years, until he decided not to let it win and fought back — successfully.

Of course, he never thought his Dolly would get sick until one day...

Symptoms were unusual, doctors not knowing how to treat her. Sadly, she died in her sleep in 2013. Paul admits he shut down. He railed against the doctors, the God he found hard to address and finally, the most blame he laid at his own feet.

There is an honesty to Paul's writing that can't be denied. That honesty stands out from Page 1 — His realization that we must take the good with the bad, that we learn as days and years go by, because it is how we prevail that counts in the end. And to have taken that road together with one special person makes life all worthwhile.

The fact that Paul could find such bliss and happiness from one person, his Dolly, is a joy to behold in his writing. I can't think of a better ending than this quote from Paul himself —

"What could possibly be better? Absolutely nothing, for I had found my Nirvana, my heaven on earth, and she was sublime and a perfect completion of me."

Thank you for sharing with us, Paul.

Till next time, happy reading!



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