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# “Civic” Duty

by Kim Nowatzke

**A**s with so many aspects of 2020, COVID-19 presented an unprecedented quandary for Long Beach Civic Association. Rising to the challenge, its subsequent efforts confirmed the Long Beach community’s commitment to each other and those impacted by the pandemic.

The non-profit volunteer group, more commonly known as “Civic,” began in 1970 by Long Beach residents Stan Kowalski and his late wife, Sandy. After the town lost previous funding for its annual Fourth

of July fireworks display, Civic stepped in to continue this long-standing tradition.

Civic President John Mengel estimates about 5,000 people each year attend the annual fireworks display held on the grounds of Long Beach Country Club at sunset on the Fourth of July. He noted the quality of the display for a town Long Beach’s size.

Over the years, the group’s involvement grew into supporting other aspects of the town’s Independence Day celebration, including a Fourth of July

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One beautification project by Long Beach Civic Association included this area at Oriole Trail and Moore Road.

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## “Civic” Duty Continued from Page 1

parade, a Brat Fest that has served as a fundraiser for the fireworks and other community projects designed for the town’s beautification and betterment.

Mengel said Civic volunteers serve up 2,500 bratwursts and hot dogs at the cookout, which also includes ice cream, popcorn and soft drinks/water, a beer tent and live entertainment. Special holiday T-shirts are sold to raise additional money for the festivities.

He described the popular Independence Day events as “a rare slice of Americana in today’s day and age.

“We were just getting around to the planning stage in 2020 when COVID hit and no one knew what to expect,” Mengel continued. “We did understand the potential for cancelling, and that heightened the dilemma.”

Civic volunteers knew they needed to solicit the money, he said, because without it, the decision to cancel essentially would’ve already been made. So, they continued with solicitation efforts by mail.

“We used to go door-to-door, dividing the town into sections,” Mengel recalled. “It was fun – you were able to visit with others.”

Over time, however, Civic found it necessary to change fund-raising efforts to direct mail. The 2020 solicitation letter explained, “*Sadly, this year we will forgo the annual July 4th celebration. Members of the Long Beach Civic Association feel the risks are*

*just too great. However, the Association is still here and looking to benefit the community.*”

Supporting the community has been Civic’s goal since its start, and it continues to be. As the letter noted, “*All proceeds are given back to the community.*”

Mengel added, “We spend all the money we get – one way or another to benefit the town.”

Seventeen volunteers comprise Civic and attend nine meetings a year.



Scout BSA Troop 802 marches in the Long Beach Fourth of July parade. Pictured are (from left, front) Landon Lawrence and Ricky Williamson. Roberto Smiertelny is in the middle. The back is Maggie Burton and Troop Leader Kim Gondeck.

“The requirement is to understand the commitment of donating your Fourth of July to the organization,” Mengel said.

Over the 51 years Civic has existed, volunteers racked up a long list of accomplishments in addition to Fourth of July activities.

“The Long Beach Civic Association exists for the July Fourth celebration,” Mengel said, “but along the way tries to be of a bit more value and often takes up small town projects for aesthetic or functional value.”

In a detailed list dating back two decades through 2019, these include outdoor enhance-

ments such as new playground equipment at the town center in 2005/2006, then at Duneland Beach in 2009, as well as underwriting the Duneland Beach Park walkway in 2019.

Civic has donated funds to Long Beach Summer Camp, Long Beach Historical Society, the Dunes Restoration Project at Duneland Beach and “Movie in the Park.”



These are a few of the historical pillars along Lake Shore Drive that the Long Beach Civic Association restored in 2012 as one of its projects.

One of its most significant undertakings included restoring historical pillars along Lake Shore Drive in 2012. The group then purchased red and green light bulbs for holiday lighting on them for eight years afterward. Civic also refurbished “Stop” signs along Lake Shore Drive in 2010.

Civic has supported the Long Beach Fire Department by purchasing two-way radios, fire hydrant equipment and other fire-fighting equipment, fire hydrant markers and beach “Ice Warning” signs. The group has supplied First Responders’ radios and Automated External Defibrillators.

For the Long Beach Police Department, Civic has been instrumental in purchasing two ATVs to patrol beaches and a Long Beach monument in 2018 to honor officers Ephraim Reid, Earle Platt and James Kautz — Long Beach police officers killed in the line of duty.



In 2012, the Civic erected this monument to honor officers Ephraim Reid, Earle Platt and James Kautz, who were killed in the line of duty.

In addition to all of these, Civic made 34 years of monetary contributions to the Long Beach police and volunteer fire departments.

Once fundraising efforts were complete in 2020, Civic members decided the most prudent use of funds was to aid local organizations “to be expressly used in COVID-associated relief,” Mengel said.

Continued on Page 4

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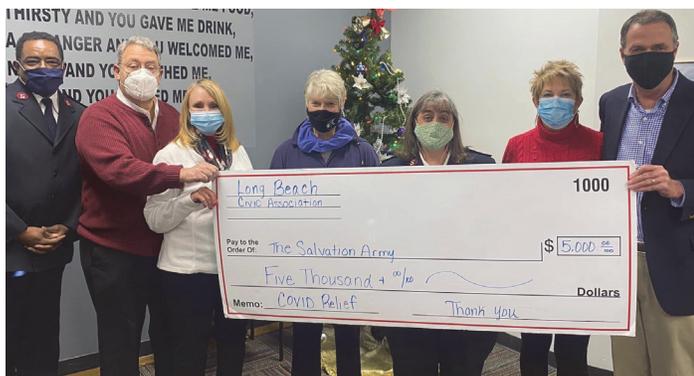
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Checks for \$5,000 each were sent to The Salvation Army of Michigan City, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County and United Way of LaPorte County.

“United Way of LaPorte County has been on the front lines of community support throughout the pandemic,” Kris Pate, United Way of LaPorte County executive director, said. “It’s been the kindness and generosity of local groups and individuals that have made this possible. The members of the Long Beach Civic Association have set a beautiful example of what it means to Live United.”



The Salvation Army of Michigan City received \$5,000 from the Long Beach Civic Association for COVID-associated relief last year. Pictured are (from left) Maj. Dale Simmons, Civic President John Mengel, Civic Member Debbie Mengel, Civic Member Cherie LeFevre, Maj. Becky Simmons, Civic Member Sharon Applegate and Civic Treasurer Paul Applegate.

The Salvation Army of Michigan City, since the onset of COVID-19, has continued to help provide basic family needs, including food, hygiene products, diapers and utility assistance, Maj. Becky Simmons said.

“As the pandemic continued, and we saw increased unemployment and need, we had faith that the community would support our response efforts — and they truly did,” she said. “This donation from the Long Beach Civic Association helped us continue meeting needs during this challenging time. We are so grateful for the generosity and selflessness of this donation, and for all of the support we receive.”

Mengel said Long Beach residents donate each year with the expectation of a parade, a brat cook-out and fireworks. In 2020, knowing that wasn’t possible, they still gave commendably with faith in how the Civic would use the funds.

“People gave to help others...rather than a party — which is truly commendable to the Long Beach citizens,” Mengel said.

Support to Unity Foundation of LaPorte County helped it assist frontline organizations during the pandemic, Unity President Maggi Spartz said.

“Unity has a pulse on what’s needed,” she said, “and we didn’t have a grant budget for a pandemic, so gifts like these really matter.”

Civic’s donation went to the LaPorte County Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund through Unity.



The Unity Foundation of LaPorte County was one of three area non-profits that received \$5,000 donations from the Long Beach Civic Association for COVID-associated relief. Pictured are (from left) Civic President John Mengel, Civic Member Debbie Mengel, Unity Development Officer Jamie Miller, Civic Treasurer Paul Applegate, Civic Member Sharon Applegate and Civic Member Cherie LeFevre.

Since March 2020, it has made grants for food and local shelters to buy foggers and sanitation tools to prevent virus spread among the most vulnerable. Donations to this fund were granted to Franciscan Health, HealthLinc and LaPorte County Health Department for COVID testing and vaccination needs to speed things up. The fund helped Dunebrook with technology to support Home Visitors who work with families directly to prevent neglect and abuse. Unity also has pledged \$25,000 towards rental and utility assistance for the new Homelessness Prevention Program, which matches township trustee taxpayer dollars and keeps families from becoming homeless.

Moving forward to this year’s Fourth of July celebration, Civic members at press time anticipate the return of the festivities with cautious optimism and COVID-safety precautions recommended, such as masks and social distancing.

Long Beach also has something special to celebrate this year — its 100th anniversary. To commemorate this special occasion, the Civic has commissioned local artist Mitch Markovitz to create a special South Shore-style painting revealed at the Fourth of July celebrations. Plans are to provide poster prints for purchase, with proceeds supporting the Civic and its projects, including future Fourth of July events in Long Beach.

*(Our coverage of Long Beach’s centennial anniversary will continue over the next few months.)*



Tom Stokes, former Civic member and Fourth of July celebration volunteer, and Civic President John Mengel enjoy helping at the annual Brat Fest.



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Thank you, Mom (Micky Gallas)! The best way to be successful is to learn from successful people. Thank you for teaching me this business, the right way. I learn something new from you each and every day. I am blessed to learn from the best.

Lastly, thank you to my wife, Bridgette, and daughter, Griffin. This is a long hour, impromptu schedule, 24/7/365 career. Your constant support, understanding, and encouragement means more than you'll ever know. I wouldn't want to do this without you!

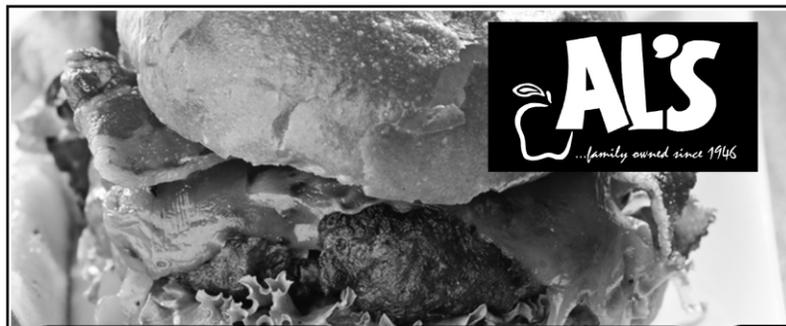
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## Festival Musicians to Present “Music by All Americans!” Concert

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present “Music by All Americans!,” three free virtual concerts, on Friday through Sunday, April 23-25.

To view the programs, tune in at concert time to Facebook (MC Chamber Fest) or YouTube (Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Orbovich). The programs will highlight presentations by black and women composers.

Concert pianist Robert Auler will present “Progressive Pops Piano” at 7 p.m. April 23. The program will showcase use of the keyboard in cross-over techniques such as Jellyroll Morton, ragtime, jazz and modern compositions. Auler’s playing has been described as “beautiful” (*Fanfare*), “superb” (*Ann Arbor News*) and “a knockout” (*Syracuse Post-Standard*).

Violist Rudolf Haken will present “Viper Viola Voltage!” at 7 p.m. April 24. The program will feature a musical passion of Haken’s: electric-bowed stringed instruments. Included are pop, rock, jazz and other modern stylings. Also planned is a tribute to Stuff Smith. Haken is known for melding disparate musical styles and genres and extended-range violas. He is on the music faculty of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as professor of viola, as well as the founder and director of the University of Illinois hip-hop collective and electric strings program.

Finally, Zofia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich will present “American Violin” at 3 p.m. April 25. The recital will showcase arrangements of “The National Anthem,” American violin works, slave-era songs, works by American women and “Stars & Stripes Forever!”

Glashauser has been the concertmaster of South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Lira Orchestra of Chicago. With these orchestras, she has soloed on violin concertos by Tchaikovsky, Vieuxtemps, Mozart, Wieniawski and Kreisler. Orbovich, in 1987, received the Bronze Medal at Her Royal Majesty’s International Festival Competition in Aberdeen, Scotland. In 2001, he was featured as a soloist on the Grammy nominated “The Hot Springs Music Festival: Louis Moreau Gottschalk” (Naxos). That same year, he was a prominent figure in the Emmy winning documentary, “The Sound of Dreams.”

Visit [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org), call (219) 561-1939 or visit “MC Chamber Fest” on Facebook or “Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Orbovich” on YouTube for more information.



### About the Photos

Pictured are Rudolf Haken (top), Robert Auler (center), Zofia Glashauser (bottom left) and Nic Orbovich (bottom right).

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**Legacy Center Gallery**



Kadie O'Connor's "Hummingbird in Flight."

Organic art and watercolors by local artist Kadie O'Connor mark the next installation at The Legacy Center Gallery.

O'Connor's experience in the arts began while living in Naperville, Ill., where she created custom pen-and-ink drawings of local landmarks. After moving to Northwest Indiana, she attended a plein air painting event sponsored by Michigan City Art League, adding this form to her portfolio.

Her Legacy Center exhibit, "Organic Art," involves rocks, beach glass, driftwood and other items picked up along the beach. It runs through June 30.

Located on the Queen of All Saints Catholic Church campus, 1719 E. Barker Ave., the center is multi-use gathering space for community and parish functions. Public viewing hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visitors should enter through the Esther Street doors.

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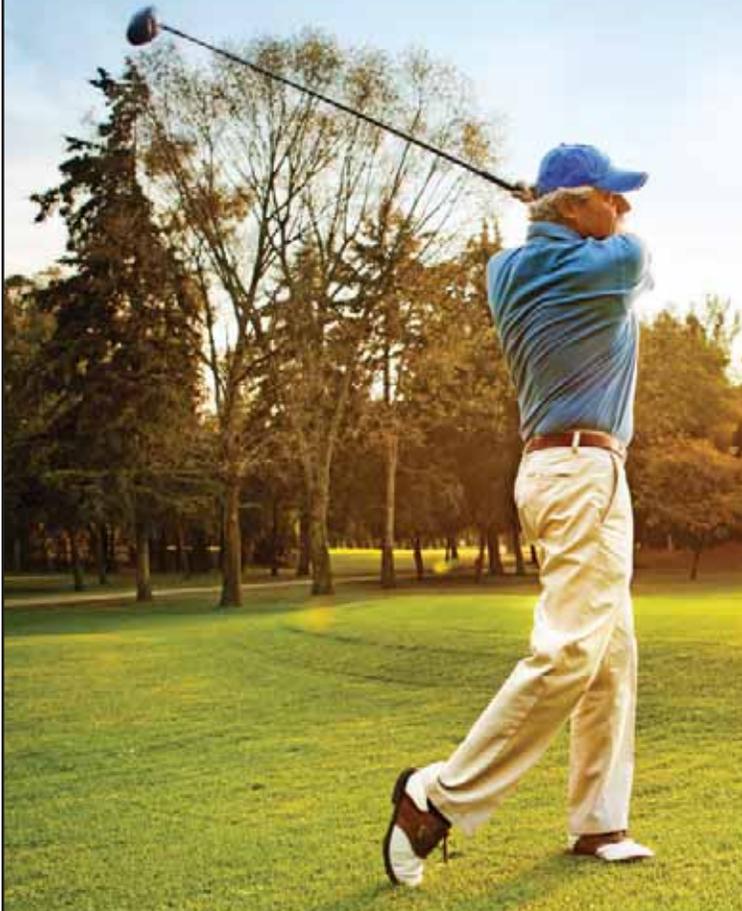
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### Purdue Women's Conference

Purdue Women's Network will host "Design Your Journey," the 2021 Purdue Women's Conference, as a virtual event Monday through Thursday, May 3-6.



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The conference will highlight personal and professional journeys, shared from the main stage and through numerous breakout sessions and facilitated conversations. Former Purdue women's basketball coach Carolyn Peck is the closing speaker.

Attendance is \$50, with half the fee going to the Purdue Women's Network scholarship fund. Visit [tinyurl.com/njhn94kf](http://tinyurl.com/njhn94kf) to register.

### Museum "Artifactoids" Program

The Region of Three Oaks Museum has created a new program called "Artifactoids" in which community members tell stories behind unique items of local interest.

The first edition, planned virtually, is at 7 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 21. Judy Jackson will tell how her father discovered what he later determined was a mammoth tooth in Harbert, Mich., in the 1970s. Suzanne Levy will describe how a yellowed newspaper clipping led her down a trail left by a missing Three Oaks village treasurer in the 1920s. Randy Miller will set the scene created around a powder case carried by a Civil War soldier from Three Oaks. Dave Mannia will discuss the history of dental tools and equipment in the museum's new exhibit. Nick Bogert will introduce another new exhibit with gear from the Tempest Co., Three Oaks' first fire department.

Each item, with illustrations, will be covered for about five to 10 minutes with accompanying PowerPoint illustrations. Email [trotommuseum@gmail.com](mailto:trotommuseum@gmail.com) for the link.

The museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. (next to The Acorn), is scheduled to reopen Saturday, May 1, assuming public health rules allow. Museum hours are noon to 5 p.m. EDT Friday through Sunday.

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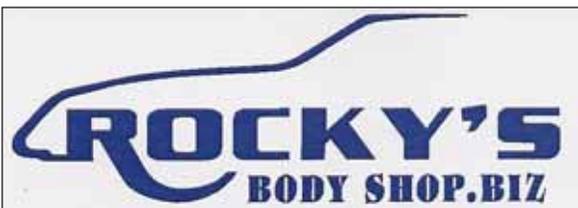
Lincoln Rhoda poses by some of his work in "Through the Screen."

• **"Through the Screen: The Works of the Children's Art Education Program" runs through April 30.**

The exhibit pays homage to the students' work beginning last September through the present. With lessons taught exclusively on Zoom, the exhibit title emerged as "Through the Screen." The focus was modern art movements, starting in September with Impressionism and moving through the western-art history timeline each month to Pop Art. Students from preschool through high school logged on each day from home for live instruction with Jennifer Aitchison. Parents picked up their red bag of art supplies at the beginning of each month. Some students attended for a couple months; many stayed through most of the year.

Each week, children discussed artwork, trends, news and personal accomplishments. Emphasis included paint strokes of the masters, photos of the places great artists come from, virtual online galleries and drawing.

□  
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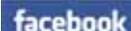
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## McCarthy's Director Husband Yields Another Stinker

by Andrew Tallackson



Octavia Spencer (left) and Melissa McCarthy play childhood friends turned adult super heroes in "Thunder Force."

"Thunder Force" is the type of comedy you'd like to love because of who is in it. Melissa McCarthy and Octavia Spencer as childhood friends-turned super heroes. Bobby Canavale, Jason Bateman and "Guardians of the Galaxy" fan favorite Pam Klementieff as the villains. Toss in Oscar-winner Melissa Leo for good measure. Six talented people who know how to wring a laugh or two out of a script.

And with "Thunder Force," they do. A few smiles here. Some chuckles there. But the movie, which just debuted on Netflix, is a missed opportunity, another squandering of McCarthy's talents by her writer-director husband, Ben Falcone. As a comedy, it doesn't know what to do with half the cast, especially Spencer. As a super hero flick, it adds nothing to an already crowded arena of entertainment.

The premise is tempting. Lydia and Emily become friends in school, despite being polar opposites. Lydia is crass, not the sharpest tool in the shed. Emily is a booksmart introvert. Somehow, they click in a series of charming scenes. But by high school's close, an argument about their future leaves the friendship in limbo.

Now adults, Lydia (McCarthy) does manual labor, Emily (Spencer) is a scientist trying to create super heroes to battle mutated bad guys called miscreants. When Lydia stops by Emily's lab, she's accidentally injected with serum that will transform her into a super hero. Emily reluctantly agrees to follow the same path, the two taking on the bad guys themselves.



### "Thunder Force"

*Running time: 106 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for some action/violence, language and mild suggestive material*

What I love about McCarthy is, she isn't afraid to make herself look silly. In terms of physical comedy, she is this generation's answer to Abbott & Costello. The way in "Thunder Force," for instance, that she tries to slip into a sporty vehicle that's too tight for her. And Bateman (McCarthy's "Identity Theft" co-star), a deadpan genius, can goose a scene for laughs with snark, and he does so here when his character, who is half-human/half lobster, is buttered up by Lydia for information. Literally.

Teaming McCarthy with Spencer, as a concept, is a stroke of genius. When the Oscar winner dishes out sass, there is no one better. But Falcone's screenplay does not know what to do with her. It strips her of funny dialogue, nor a super power ripe for laughs. In fact, it does something I thought impossible. It turns the perennial scene-stealer into a stiff bore.

She's not the only one. Leo's appearance as Spencer's right-hand gal is dead weight, the actress slumming in what may be a paycheck-cashing performance. Canavale was a delight – McCarthy's sweet-hearted equal – in his last picture with her (HBO Max's "Superintelligence"), but here, he's neither campy enough as the main bad guy, nor inter-

esting enough to give a care.

And by setting "Thunder Force" in Chicago, the film makes practically no use of its iconic locations. Think about it. A Cubs game. Navy Pier. Deep-dish pizza joints. These sights could have added local flavor to the laughs, fueled spectacular, and spectacularly funny, sequences. Instead, the streets of Chicago could be interchangeable with any location here.

Again, a missed opportunity.

The only one who seems genuinely happy to be there is young Taylor Mosby as Spencer's daughter. She is filled with so much good cheer, she contains a life force all to herself.

I didn't loathe "Thunder Force." It's good for a laugh or two. But consider that the film marks the fifth collaboration between McCarthy and Falcone. He also had a hand in "Tammy," "The Boss" and "Life of the Party." These are not her best efforts. Maybe, just maybe, it's time for McCarthy to have a heart to heart with her husband. Sit him down, tell him she loves him, but suggest it's time for more polished



Jason Bateman is good for a few laughs as one of the film's villains.

pros to guide her career.

"Thunder Force," sorry to say, ain't gonna cut it.

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

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## Here's One You Might Have Missed: "The Professor and the Madman"

by Andrew Tallackson



Professor James Murray (Mel Gibson, left) offers William Chester Minor (Sean Penn) a peek at their hard work in "The Professor and the Madman."

When one friend tells me about a movie on Netflix, it gets clicked into my queue, with the best of intentions to watch it. When *five* friends say how much they enjoyed it, well, it's best to get on it. Pronto.

"The Professor and the Madman" has a rather notorious history. Based on Simon Winchester's 1998 book and drawn from fact, it was completed in 2016, then succumbed to a nasty legal battle forged by its star, Mel Gibson, and director, Farhad Safinia, the two disgusted by how the studio, Voltage Pictures, handled it. The end result? Scant theatrical release in 2019. The final nail in the coffin? Scathing critical notices.

Its Netflix debut, however, seems to have given it a new life: It found an audience. The biographical period-piece drama is far from perfect, with a performance by Sean Penn that's all over the map. But it's also handsomely shot, persuasively acted by Gibson and a prime example of investing a dry subject with humanity.

We tend to forget how good an actor Gibson can be because of all his contentious personal scandals. But he's in fine form here as Professor James Murray. In 1879, he became director of the project to create what became known as the Oxford English Dictionary. How do you go about filling a book with every possible word known to man? Murray issues



### "The Professor and the Madman"

*Running time: 124 minutes. Netflix. Not Rated.*

an appeal to English-speaking folk everywhere asking for contributions. Those getting the word out? News agents, librarians and booksellers.

As cinema, creating a dictionary is not exactly an edge-of-your-seat nail biter. But here's where it gets interesting. The most significant contributor to the project's earliest phases is housed in the local mental hospital. He's American Civil War veteran-surgeon William Chester Minor (Penn), who is found not guilty by reasons of insanity after killing an innocent man he believed was pursuing him. Minor would go on to submit more than 10,000 entries to the Oxford project.

Playing someone psychologically unhinged is a precarious trap for an actor. Push it too far, and the performance teeters into an abyss of camp and garish overacting. Early in the film, Penn seems to method act his way into campy excess. With a curious accent — he's supposed to be American, remember? — bulging eyes and frantic hand gestures, it's like watching a Fagin impression. We get caught up in the theatricality of it, where we are aware of



Natalie Dormer (right) is moving as the widow of a man killed by William Chester Minor.

watching a performance, not an actor disappearing into character.

Thankfully, director Safinia (credited under the pseudonym P. B. Shemran), who cowrote the script with Todd Komarnicki, does not sentimentalize Minor. And he prevents the tone of the picture from collapsing too far into the stuffy mothballs of period-piece Oscar bait.

In fact, the more "The Professor and the Madman" progresses, the more it emerges as a plea for tolerance in an intolerant time toward the mentally ill. Of treating the whole person instead of casting them away. Gibson is impressively restrained here, allowing the emotions to trickle through his eyes, but little else. And by introducing Natalie Dormer, in a beautiful performance as Eliza Merrett, the widow of the man Minor killed, the movie becomes a tribute to the power of forgiveness. Dormer, all tremulous rage at the start, softens as she forges an unexpected friendship with Minor. In so doing, she manages to subdue Penn, who discards all the showy acting tricks in favor of scenes of quiet grace.

At the end of "The Professor and the Madman," we learn more about the final stages of Murray's and Minor's lives, as well as how the dictionary project progressed over the decades. But what stays with us is two men, words being their common ground, whose lives are changed because of their friendship.

You may be surprised by how much you like "The Professor and the Madman."

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# And the Oscar Goes to...

by Andrew Tallackson

The 93rd Academy Awards are Sunday, April 25, and to crib from Rhett Butler, people simply don't give a damn.

Blame COVID-19.

Last year saw countless big-ticket movies shelved to sidestep the pandemic. Or, studios took the streaming route. Thing is, they didn't settle on one or two options to make it simple. They chose whichever service made the biggest offer. And as we know, new streaming networks seem to pop up weekly.

That may be why, the day Oscar nominations were revealed, social-media posts made by friends of mine ranged from "haven't seen most of these movies" to "don't really care about these films."

That indifference typifies the general public. Predictions are that this year's Oscar ceremony may be the lowest rated ever.

Being a card-carrying movie dork, and having lavished considerable disposable income on streaming services, accessing these movies wasn't an issue. I would argue that with studios stalling their slate of Oscar heavyweights, smaller independent fare finally got to shine. How else, then, to explain a jewel of a movie like "Sound of Metal," which in a non-pandemic year *might* I have found an audience through word of mouth, garnering six Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, thanks to its Amazon Prime release.

In terms of the eight categories in *The Beacher's* annual "Beat the Editor" contest, four are unpredictable: Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Adapted Screenplay. There's been no consistent awards-season champ. That could make for an exciting night.

Other than that, many top fields have their victors locked into place. My choices fall into two categories: "Who Will Win," the official prediction I will compare to reader ballots, and in some cases, "Who I'd Pick," my personal preference.

The ceremony is Sunday, April 25, on ABC. Our first- and second-place contest winners will be announced in the May 6 edition. Thanks, as always, to our wonderful contest sponsor, Fiddlehead, which will provide a \$25 gift certificate to the first-place winner. First- and second-place winners also receive an AMC gift card.

So, without further ado, let's get rolling:

## **BEST PICTURE**

**The nominees:** "The Father"; "Judas and the Black Messiah"; "Mank"; "Minari"; "Nomadland"; "Promising Young Woman"; "Sound of Metal"; "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

**Who Will Win:** Up until two weeks ago, I would have called "Nomadland" the victor. But a recent



"Nomadland" pretty much has a lock on Best Director. Will it take Best Picture? Hmmmm...

trend — think "La La Land," "Gravity" — is that the film with the most wins stops just shy of the top prize. That's why "The Trial of the Chicago 7" may be the big upset. I'm fine with that. The movie is an intellectual adrenaline rush.

## **Best Director**

**The nominees:** Lee Isaac Chung, "Minari"; Emerald Fennell, "Promising Young Woman"; David Fincher, "Mank"; Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland"; Thomas Vinterberg, "Another Round."

**Who Will Win:** What award hasn't Zhao won? The delicate tone of her film borders on poetry. It's a love letter to the American landscape as a symbol of restless freedom. While a good chunk of those who saw the film considered it a snooze, I found it gor-

geous and affecting.

## **Best Actor**

**The nominees:** Riz Ahmed, "Sound of Metal"; Chadwick Boseman, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Anthony Hopkins, "The Father"; Gary Oldman, "Mank"; Steven Yeun, "Minari."

**Who Will Win:** Boseman's guaranteed win will mark the first posthumous honor since Health Ledger's 2008 Best Supporting Actor win for "The Dark Knight." Thirty minutes into the picture, you knew he'd clinched it, the actor channeling an astonishing level of anger and false bravado, a feat all the more remarkable knowing he was dying of cancer while filming. There are many who argue a posthumous honor is a mistake, that they belong to the living.

To me, the legacy of a performance, regardless if the performer is alive or dead, warrants recognition.

## **Best Actress**

**The nominees:** Viola Davis, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Andra Day, "The United States vs. Billie Holiday"; Vanessa Kirby, "Pieces of a Woman"; Frances McDormand, "Nomadland"; Carey Mulligan, "Promising Young Woman."

**Who Will Win:** Here, we have a two-horse race between Davis and Day. Kirby, McDormand and Mulligan each did fine work, but not to the extent that they're a sure bet. After her surprise Best Actress win at the Golden Globes, one might have claimed Day as the frontrunner. But that momentum stalled soon after, likely from the cool reception to the movie itself. That leaves Davis, who in her second August Wilson film ("Fences" scored her first Oscar in 2016) was ferocious as a woman who knows exactly how the world views her.

**Who Should Win:** Day still could be the upset. Oscar voters love an ingenue, and the singer-turned actress was a force of nature, balancing the act of recreating Holiday's music with darker moments that pushed her to exhaustive extremes.

## **Best Supporting Actor**

**The nominees:** 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 the Black Messiah."

**Who Will Win:** The Oscar race ended when Kaluuya stepped onto the screen as Fred Hampton, Illinois Party Chairman of the Black Panther Party. He was electrifying, hypnotic. We couldn't take our eyes off of him.

## **Best Supporting Actress**

**The nominees:** Maria Bakalova, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"; Glenn Close, "Hillbilly Elogy"; Olivia Colman, "The Father"; Amanda Seyfried, "Mank"; Yuh-Jung Youn, "Minari."

**Who Should Win:** Thing is, Colman gave one of the year's best performances. *Period.* Holding her own against an acting heavyweight like Hopkins. More to the point, anyone in the unenviable position of watching a loved one fade away from Alzheimer's disease will relate to her performance. Unfortunately, Colman won two years ago for "The Favourite." Unless you're Tom Hanks, Spencer Tracy or Jodie Foster, actors and actresses tend not to score another win so quickly. That means...

**Who Will Win:** ... Youn's recent SAG upset

Continued on Page 22

Continued from Page 21

makes her the likely victor. And I'd be OK with that. She did what a scene-stealer is supposed to do: steal scenes from her costars. She was the heart of "Minari": a gentle presence for her grandchildren as their parents lose their footing with each other.

**Best Original Screenplay**

**The nominees:** "Judas and the Black Messiah"; "Minari"; "Promising Young Woman"; "Sound of Metal"; "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

**Who Will Win:** Aaron Sorkin could belch and the expelled gas would secure a trophy. He is a rarity: a screenwriter whose words *are* the star. His name, alone, can sell a film. With "The Trial of the Chicago 7," he was in top form. His film zips by *because* of the dialogue.

**Best Adapted Screenplay**

**The nominees:** "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm"; "The Father"; "Nomadland"; "One Night in Miami"; "The White Tiger."

**Who Will Win:** The evening's third wild card. If Oscar voters are feeling the love for "Nomadland," then a win is all but assured. However, good chunks of the film either were improvised or featured real people speaking whatever is on their minds. Oscar voters tend not to be wowed by improvisation, which is curious. That's why I'm going with "The Father," which debuted as a stage play, but through creator Florian Zeller and the world-class



"The Trial of the Chicago 7" is the likely Oscar winner for Best Original Screenplay.

Christopher Hampton ("Dangerous Liaisons"), the film honors the stage origins while emerging as brilliantly cinematic.



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

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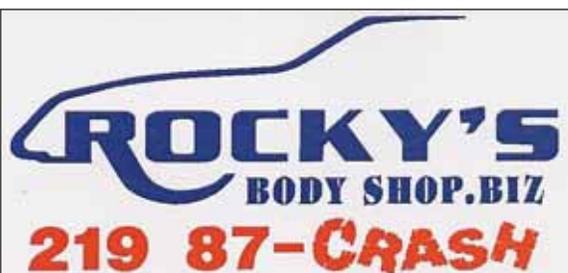
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### Travel By Air

My parents first took me aloft when I was all of 15 months old, in August 1951.

We flew from our home in Chicago to their native Philadelphia on a Douglas DC-3 propeller-driven airliner. If memory serves, we flew United.

And, yes, I do have a murky recollection of that seminal, gravity-defying flight in an aircraft known to you Band of American Brothers from World War II as the C-47 Skytrain, and to you Royal Air Force cousins from across the pond as the Dakota.



I first flew on a DC-3 just like this.

Speaking of that Band of Brothers, the Skytrain had a starring role in the 2001 HBO series of the same name. Remember those brave paratroopers filing grimly aboard so they could be dropped behind German lines in June 1944? How could you forget, if you watched the series? And, if you didn't see it, I am sure you can find it online or at your local library. I know my home library — Three Oaks Township Public Library — has the whole shebang on DVD for free lending.

So, back to my first flight, to my introductions to a lifelong love of flying.

We lived in an apartment in Chicago's eponymous South Shore neighborhood, and a family friend drove us over to Midway. My parents carried me across the tarmac to that elegant aircraft, that Douglas DC-3. Again, I think we flew United, but we just as well might have flown TWA. No matter. All that mattered to my developing brain was that I was about to undertake something truly amazing. And I did.

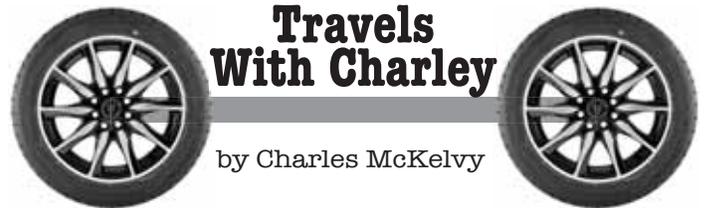
And I know you childhood development professionals are probably questioning my memory at this point in the narrative.

I know, I know. It seems quite incredible that a 70-year-old would remember something that happened to him, well, more than 68 years ago.

Yes, but I was taking flight for the first time, and I was going aloft on an iconic aircraft.

I certainly must have sensed that at the time from the way my parents and the crew spoke in reverential tones of the aircraft, thanking it for its service in a war that ended only six years prior to that momentous day.

And I most certainly remember my first look at the airplane that was poised to take me on my first flight. It was, I clearly recall, sitting on its tail and sporting a pair of mighty Wright R-1820 Cyclone, radial piston engines. (OK, I looked up that last bit as a 70-year-old, but you get the point).



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Small Enough To Know You..."*

I boarded in my mother’s arms, and I remember the cabin was dimly lit and cozy. Quite cozy, thank you very much.

As for that first flight — it was loud. I do remember that. And I remember a solicitous stewardess (yes, that’s a politically incorrect blast from the past). I later was informed we made an intermediate stop or two, and that we arrived safely in Philadelphia in plenty of time for my baptism at All Saints Episcopal Church on the Main Line.

Beyond that?

Well, I was hooked on flying, and flying our family did, mainly between Chicago and Philadelphia. Our most memorable flight was aboard a TWA “Constellation” that lost one of its four engines as we hit some nasty weather on our approach to Philadelphia. This was in the late 1950s, and we were informed the pilot and co-pilots were up for the challenge, as they had flown more than a few missions during World War II. Two memories from that flight when I was all of seven or eight:

- Being invited into the cockpit to watch the crew fly the “Connie” with that signature triple tail and receive a *junior pilot* pin.
- Looking out the window over the wing at that crippled engine. Yes, flames burst out before they shut it down. But that tried-and-true crew brought us safely to ground in Philadelphia through what all the adults described as “pea soup.”

I have since flown through plenty of pea soup and, yes, I flew across the International Date Line twice: once eastbound from Oakland to Tokyo, then returning westbound from Tokyo to Oakland, both in 1969. We flew non-stop both ways, and the eastbound flight was sunny and bright the entire way. The return flight was mainly under the cover of darkness, with the dawn breaking just as we crested the West Coast.

I flew a fair amount in the U.S. Navy, once hav-



Me at age 6, trying to ride a two-wheeler, but with some help from training wheels, in Chicago’s Beverly neighborhood. Also in the picture are my father, James, and brother, Donald.

ing the dubious pleasure of taking off from the flight deck of a Tank Landing Ship in a helicopter. I was a seasoned flyer at that point, but nothing prepared me for the stomach-dropping sensation of immediate lift-off from a ship at sea. That mighty ship soon became a postage stamp on the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean, and the seasoned Marines who shared that ride with me had a good chuckle at this “Swab Jockey’s” visible discomfort over what they considered a routine flight.

I have other harrowing helicopter misadventures to share and some particularly memorable flights in single-engine aircraft with family and friends, but I’ll leave those for another time.

And, yes, I know the time will come again when I am required to defy the laws of gravity and leave the comforting curves of Mother Earth. But I will be prepared because I first took flight — on a DC-3 no less — as a 15-month-old who was too young to know any better.

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### A Teachable Ride

Students in A.K. Smith Career Center's Automotive Technology program have a "new" vehicle to work on, thanks to a donation from LaPorte's Auto Park Ford.

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Program received the 2013 Ford Focus through Ford's Automotive Career Exploration program, which provides re-purchased vehicles to automotive-education programs through dealer partnerships.

Auto Park Service Manager Joe Gannuscio and Chris Lowe, Ford Motor Co. field-service engineer, stopped by the Career Center on April 13 to present the keys to instructor Steve Barnes.

"We'll end up taking this entire car apart and putting it back together," said Barnes, noting the dual-clutch transmission will offer practical experience on a system unlike other vehicles in the school automotive lab.

According to Lowe, Ford's ACE program not only



Checking out the donated Ford Focus are (from left) Auto Park Ford Service Manager Joe Gannuscio, A.K. Smith Automotive Instructor Steve Barnes (seated, in car), and Ford Motor Co. Field Service Engineer Chris Lowe.

facilitates such donations, but also connects dealerships with career-tech automotive programs for student internships, and provides the same web-based training for CTE students that is required of Ford technicians. This can lead to future job opportunities for students.

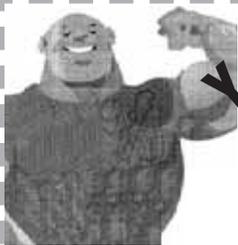
Gannuscio serves on the A.K. Smith automotive program advisory board, and Barnes performed an externship at the Auto Park dealership in 2019, part of a requirement to renew his CTE teaching credential. The dealership also assisted with the recent re-accreditation of the A.K. Smith program.

Follow the A.K. Smith Career Center Automotive "Wolf Automotive" Program on Facebook @aksmith-auto. Visit <http://educateMC.net/careertech> for additional information.



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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](http://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.

### 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.

### Pinecone Bird Feeders Make and Take Craft

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. The craft will be available while supplies last. No pre-registration is required. Masks must be worn.

### 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.

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## LCSO in the Spotlight



Brennan Reid.

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

Now in his fifth year with LCSO, playing the flute and piccolo, Brennan Reid is a success story from the Drayton Family Children's Educational Concerts. He attended as a fourth-grader after hearing the flute section play the theme to "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Reid started learning music at 2 while enrolled in Kindermusik.

Today, he maintains a busy schedule between being a network training and hiring manager for the Dunkin' Donuts franchise in Valparaiso/Chesterton and a bartender at Up Your Alley, a deluxe entertainment facility in Schererville.

## Indiana Dunes National Park

**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](https://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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) or [www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS](https://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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

## Virtual Preview PNW

Purdue University Northwest will hold virtual "Preview PNW" events from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 24.

The live session, held in a webinar format, allows prospective and transfer students to learn more about the Hammond and Westville campuses. Registration is at [www.pnw.edu/preview](http://www.pnw.edu/preview). Attendees also can learn about undergraduate academic programs, student life and campus housing, financial aid and scholarships, and the freshman admissions process. Current students, faculty and admissions staff will speak, with Q&A sessions available through an interactive chat feature.

The \$25 application fee will be waived for students who apply during the event.

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## 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.).

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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details.

## Salvation Army Webinar

The Salvation Army Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division will host a free Zoom webinar at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 21.

The event, presented by legal and financial experts, will provide planning tips, such as how to select advisors, basic tax considerations and legal documents, including wills, trusts, power of attorney and living wills.

Register at [www.samichigancity.org](http://www.samichigancity.org) if interested.

“This is one more way that folks can support their local Salvation Army, but also protect their loved ones and their future finances,” Maj. Dale Simmons of The Salvation Army of Michigan City said in a press release. “It is crucial to get the facts and put planning in place.”

Those unable to attend, but still interested in receiving information may contact The Salvation Army at (219) 874-6885 to schedule a meeting in-person or by telephone or video conference.

## Friendship Botanic Gardens

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, officially open to the public Saturday, May 1.

Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. six days a week. Call (219) 878-9885, email [info@friendshipgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipgardens.org) or visit [www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org](http://www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org) for details.

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## DAR Awards

The Rebecca Dewey chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in Three Oaks, Mich., presented community awards March 21 at Three Oaks Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St.

Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry was recognized for outstanding community service. Linda Mangold, Three Oaks, accepted the award on its behalf.

Other awards included Good Citizens Essay Scholarship winners, while Sandra Wilhoit was named the 2020 Outstanding Chapter Member.

## Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage

The 12th Annual Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage is Sunday, May 2, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine (Salvatorian Fathers Monastery), 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) is at noon, followed by the Blessing of Motorcycles and a picnic on the shrine grounds (menu items and prices vary).

Those attending are asked to wear masks. Call (219) 884-0714 for more details.

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## Garden Hotline

LaPorte County Master Gardeners are available through a free Garden Hotline to help the public with home-gardening questions.

The hotline is available from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through Sept. 29.

Master Gardeners will answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. The answers are provided with research-based materials produced by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other regional land-grant universities.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2010. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions also can be emailed to [lpmastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:lpmastergardener@gmail.com)

## Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Outdoor Yoga from noon to 1:15 p.m. EDT Friday and Saturday, April 23-24.**

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 24.**

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.



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

## 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.**

*Thank you for your patience  
during the COVID-19 pandemic*

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## Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will offer an insider's view of spring at Love Creek County Park at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, April 24.

Berrien County Parks' Chief Naturalist Derek Pelc will lead hikers through what he considers the park's nicest wildflower trail. In addition to its Nature Center, Love Creek offers mountain bike, cross-country ski and fat-tire bike trails. Natural features include around 200 acres of meadows, forests, marshes and creeks.

The hike is moderately difficult and will last about two hours. HCH observes social distancing guidelines, and face masks are required.

Love Creek is located at 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center. Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) for more details.

## 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](http://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](http://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" through April 25, followed by "Coins & Numbers" starting April 26.
- 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/](http://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](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.*



## American Red Cross

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

- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 24.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25.
- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, April 26.
- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 27.

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

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For more than 36 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 **Courtney Nzeribe**.



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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**April 23-25** — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival free virtual concert series, “Music by All Americans!” Times: 7 p.m. April 23-24, 3 p.m. April 25. Access: Facebook (MC Chamber Fest), YouTube (Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Orbovich).

**April 24** — Full Moon Hike, 7:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

**April 25** — Wildflower Wander, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

**Through April 30** — Exhibit, “Inspired/Inspire,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://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](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**Through June 30** — “Organic Art,” The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church campus, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Viewing hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: [jessicar@qas.org](mailto:jessicar@qas.org)

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

### In the Region

**April 21** — Virtual program, “Artifactoids,” 7 p.m. EDT, through The Region of Three Oaks Museum. To request link: [trotommuseum@gmail.com](mailto:trotommuseum@gmail.com)

**April 23-24** — 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 24** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**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: [galleries@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:galleries@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](mailto:info@artbarnschool.org)

**Through April 30** — “Through the Screen: The Works of the Children’s Art Education Program,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri./10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/8hmejvp9)

### Virtual Community Forum Program

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](http://www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org). Email [new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Author Plans Virtual Program

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.

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.

Registration is required to attend. Visit [pnw.edu/one-book](http://pnw.edu/one-book) for more information.

### Meals on Wheels Shoe Drive

Meals on Wheels LaPorte County will collect new, used and gently worn shoes through May 31.

Michigan City locations include: St. Joseph Young Men's Society, 2001 Franklin St.; St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road; Walgreens, Barker Avenue and Franklin Street; and LaPorte Community Federal Credit Union, 1315 Southwind Drive. LaPorte locations include: Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St.; LaPorte Community Federal Credit Union, 1800 E. Lincolnway; and Tractor Supply, 71 Pine Lake Ave. Contact Amanda Fowler at (219) 872-9117 for more details.

# ENVELOPES



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# BROCHURES



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On April 22, 1348**, at a royal ball in England, the Countess of Salisbury was dancing with King Edward III when one of her garters slipped off. The king retrieved it and put it on his leg. This was the beginning of the Order of the Garter, the highest order of English knighthood.

**On April 22, 1889**, the Oklahoma Land Rush began as thousands rushed to stake claims on land the federal government had not assigned to Native Americans. Those claimants who “jumped the gun” (entering the “territory” a little sooner than the rules allowed) were referred to as “Sooners.”

**On April 22, 1937**, thousands of college students in New York City staged a fourth annual “peace strike,” vowing to “refuse to support the government in any war.”

**On April 22, 1952**, the actual explosion of an atomic bomb, for the first time, was shown on TV.

**On April 22, 1970**, millions of Americans, concerned about the destruction of the environment, observed the first “Earth Day.”

**On April 23, 1564**, William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon, an English market town about 85 northwest of London.

**On April 23, 1838**, the first transatlantic steamship service began as two ships arrived in New York from England.

**On April 23, 1896**, in New York, the first public showing of a motion picture took place.

**On April 23, 1985**, Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the formula of the world’s best-selling soft drink. The public’s refusal to accept it forced the company to resume selling the original formula.

**On April 24, 1704**, *The Boston News Letter* commenced publication. It was the first American newspaper to be printed on a regular basis over an extended period of time.

**On April 24, 1800**, with a start-up fund of \$5,000 “for the purchase of such books as may be necessary,” and with the books from Thomas Jefferson’s entire library, the Library of Congress was officially established.

**On April 24, 1897**, William Price, reporting for work at *The Washington Star*, became the first journalist to have the title “White House Reporter.”

**On April 24, 1942**, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley was born.

**On April 24, 2001**, the Supreme Court ruled that

police can arrest and handcuff people for minor traffic offenses.

**On April 25, 1719**, Robinson Crusoe, a novel by Daniel Defoe, was first published.

**On April 25, 1859**, Chicago's first horse-drawn street railway begin operation on State Street between Lake and 12th streets (Roosevelt Road).

**On April 25, 1901**, New York became the first state requiring automobile owners to have license plates for their vehicles; the fee was \$1. The plates, for all 954 registered cars, carried their owners' initials.

**On April 25, 1983**, the Pioneer 10 spacecraft crossed Pluto's orbit, speeding on its endless voyage through the Milky Way.

**On April 26, 1607**, colonists from England, led by Capt. John Smith, landed at Virginia's Cape Henry to establish the first permanent settlement in America.

**On April 26, 1865**, John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was found dead in a Virginia barn.

**On April 26, 1961**, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of a record 61 home runs in a single season.

**On April 26, 1986**, at least 31 were killed as the worst nuclear accident in history occurred at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet republic of Ukraine.

**On April 27, 1875**, New York's Roman Catholic Archbishop John McCloskey was installed as the first American cardinal.

**On April 27, 1906**, U.S. Steel broke ground for their new steel mills, and a city named Gary was born along Lake Michigan.

**On April 27, 1937**, the nation's first Social Security checks were distributed.

**On April 27, 1972**, after an exploratory mission to the moon, Apollo astronauts John Young, Thomas Mattingly and Charles Duke, made a safe splash-down in the Pacific.

**On April 28, 1789**, while sailing in the South Pacific, the crew of HMS Bounty took over the ship, casting Capt. Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in a lifeboat.

**On April 28, 1947**, a six-man expedition sailed from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the Kon-Tiki, the beginning of a 101-day journey that would take them across the Pacific Ocean to Polynesia.

**On April 28, 1967**, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali (Cassias Clay), refused induction into the United States Army.

**On April 28, 1982**, the U.S. registered an official protest regarding the censoring of President Ronald Reagan's remarks broadcast on Chinese television.

**On April 28, 1990**, after 6,137 performances, the musical "A Chorus Line" closed on New York's Broadway.

NEWSLETTERS



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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Shadow Box by Luanne Rice** (hardcover, \$24.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 352 pages.)

*“Terrified and half-dead, I choke on a sob. I had loved my husband more than anyone, this man who now wanted me dead...I am dizzy, can barely stand.”*

Be careful what you wish for...if anyone should heed these words, it's Claire Beaudry...but then, we wouldn't have a story to tell.

Right from Page 1, we have one woman's horror of being accosted in her own garage by a man with a mask, slashing at her with a knife, hanging her from the beam...then abruptly leaving. Did he think she was already dead? Luck is on Claire's side, but who wants her dead? It won't be an easy thing to prove...but first there's a need to go back in time...

Claire first fell in love with rich kid Griffin Chase in eighth grade. Griffin came from old money, Claire, not so lucky. School years flew by, finally college came and went. Claire married Dane, a Yale professor, and Griffin, fresh out of law school, became engaged, then not engaged to Ellen Fielding, another local rich girl. Wasn't long before Griffin moved on and married Margot, who soon presented him with twin boys.

Busy couple — Griffin rises from prosecutor to state attorney, while Margot develops a drinking problem that leads to many rehabs and finally a divorce from Griffin, who gets custody of their sons.

Claire and Griffin eventually come face to face at a cocktail party. Serendipity? Claire thinks so. She tells him she is separated from Dane and filed for divorce. No surprise, Chase and Claire soon marry. Dreamy honeymoon, back to the Connecticut coast and the Griffin mansion where he sets up artist Claire with her own studio on the grounds overlooking the Long Island Sound. Life in paradise, right? Wrong.

It doesn't take long for Claire to find out how controlling Griffin can be, and how his every word is law and must be agreed with and obeyed. Both mental and physical abuse are his way of controlling Claire. But in public, Griffin is smooth as silk: a great actor making everyone believe he is hanging on their every word.

Now, Griffin is running for governor. His two grown sons and close neighbors in their posh neighborhood are behind him. Claire has to present the picture of marital bliss before the cameras. What

else can she do?

Claire's artistic talent is making shadow boxes out of materials found on the beach and in the woods around their home. An upcoming show is planned at the Woodward-Lathrop Gallery, owned by friend Kate Woodward.

The evening of the show, Claire is MIA. It's not like her to be late for anything.

Worried something has happened, Kate sends her boyfriend, Conor, a detective with Connecticut State Police, to check on her. Griffin, who has come early and alone, insists on going back with him. At the house, they find the garage door open...lots of blood all over, but no Claire. An obvious struggle. Did the killers take the dead body away? Or maybe they're keeping her for ransom? No call has been received. Griffin is heartbroken...really?

Part of the story is told in Claire's own voice. She reminisces about her own upbringing, her naiveté in worshipping Griffin and her awe at his hard line prosecuting the bad guys. It doesn't take long for that hero worship to fly out the window.

Claire starts thinking about the other women in Griffin's life before her: Why did Margot become an alcoholic? Maybe she was driven to it. And what about two of Griffin's girlfriends before

Margot? Both died, and both were declared accident or suicide. Was there more to their stories?

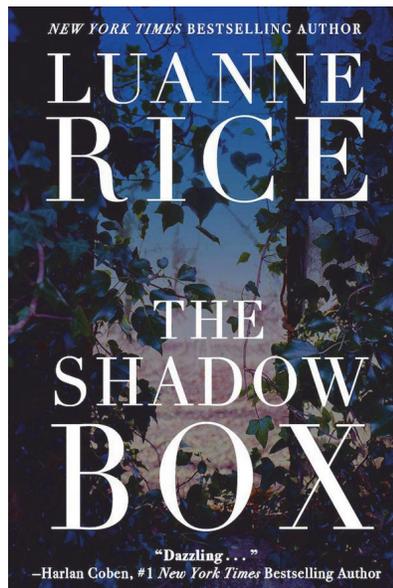
This is a psychological thriller that makes your skin crawl. Family secrets have a way of coming out, sooner or later, especially when someone like Claire has had enough and decides to fight back her own way. She can't go to the police. They have made it clear they are behind Griffin all the way to the statehouse. What about Conor and his brother, Tim? They seem OK, but...she can't take a chance they might be on Griffin's team, too — so she stays in hiding.

Shadow boxes can be lovely, but they also can be revealing. Maybe Griffin doesn't want anyone at the gallery to see this latest one, named “Fingerbone,” because like all her work, this one tells a story best left unsaid.

What other dark secrets does the Chase family hide? And what about the neighbors in this old money area who treat the Chase family as royalty? Perhaps the beautiful mansions of Catamount Bluff hide some dirty dealings.

An engaging read, worth every bit of two enthusiastic thumbs up!

Till next time, happy reading!



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