



Volume 37, Number 2 Thursday, January 21, 2021

Stories From the Front Lines

by Kim Nowatzke

Editor's note — This is the first in a series of articles over the next few months exploring life in LaPorte County since the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we begin the new year, there's no denying how COVID-19 impacted, influenced and infiltrated 2020. The many ways it affected our everyday life, health and health care, economy, careers, family life and so much more.

The Beacher spoke with four area residents – all essential workers, three of whom contracted the virus – to hear their COVID-19 stories. With candid honesty, these locals shared their journeys and especially their hopes for 2021.

Senior Life During A Pandemic

In her job at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, Stefanie Olson, 50, can certainly be considered an essential worker, as COVID hit the senior population, particularly those in long-term care or assisted-living facilities, the hardest. In her past 10 years as a senior lifestyle counselor at Rittenhouse, and with 22 years of experience in marketing for assisted-living facilities, 2020 brought on novel challenges for the LaPorte resident.

Olson's job includes educating and informing po-

tential families and residents about Rittenhouse, including the benefits and features there.

"Limitations of one-on-one contact for on-site tours and keeping 6 feet apart have been challenging at times when many need to capture the whole feel of the package using all their five senses," Olson said. "However, with some creative juices and flexibility with shoppers, the job still gets done. We have been able to capture our culture with virtual videos,

Continued on Page 2



Santa visits with residents at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City.



Stefanie Olson, Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City senior lifestyle counselor, stops to take a photo with resident Dick Glassman in pre-COVID times (2019).

THE
Beacher

911 Franklin Street • Michigan City, IN 46360
219/879-0088
e-mail: News/Articles - drew@thebeacher.com
email: Classifieds - classads@thebeacher.com
http://www.thebeacher.com/

Beacher Company Directory

Don and Tom Montgomery
Andrew Tallackson
Drew White
Janet Baines
Becky Wirebaugh
Randy Kayser
Dora Kayser
Hope Costello, Jacquie Quinlan
John Baines, Karen Gehr, Dennis Mayberry

Owners
Editor
Print Salesman
Inside Sales/Customer Service
Typesetter/Designer
Pressman
Bindery
Production
Delivery



Published and Printed by
THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

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

Stories... Continued from Page 1

interviews with residents and team members.”

And, Olson and other Rittenhouse team members found new, innovative ways to carry out the social aspects of lifestyle programming.

“We simply get creative to bring joy and laughter to our residents no matter what is thrown our way,” she said “Since we could not bring in outside entertainers in our building, we have tapped into our talented team members to help fill in with some fun social activities. It’s been so successful. It’s now a normal practice, due to high demands, that our residents look forward to.”

Some of the new activities include: playing Competition Wii Bowling with the maintenance director; the chef creating easy and tasty snack demonstrations; game nights; crafts times; and fun discussions on a variety of topics by the managers.

Olson’s key to maintaining a positive outlook has been education and awareness.

“I have learned that knowledge, keeping positive and being creative are the key to success,” she said. “I also have learned that with the great team that we have at Rittenhouse, we can get through anything together.

“Thinking outside the box can be overwhelming at times with all the elements of balancing multiple needs; however, when accomplished, it’s very rewarding. It’s all about keeping our residents, family members and new residents safe, and keeping those around comfortable by meeting their immediate needs with a friendly smile or listening ear to show compassion during challenging times.”

The hardest part of her COVID journey, Olson admitted, has been “100 percent, both personally

and professionally, the isolation from family, friends and the scared feeling of knowing people who have suffered from the virus or even passed away.”

Olson contracted the virus at the end of July, developing a bad case of COVID pneumonia in both lungs.

“I was not hospitalized,” she said. “I actually was in the ER twice, but refused to be admitted. I really had bad anxiety being away from my husband (Christopher) and son (Grant, 16), who truly were my rocks and inspiration. It was truly a scary moment, and with the Grace of God I got through it!”

Olson considers herself “proud and humbled,” as an essential worker, to be grouped in with people considered medical heroes.

“I have always admired the medical field: doctors, nurses and CNAs. However, after being treated for a serious virus, and watching my mother go through it not once, but twice (the doctors were shocked), I will never forget the com-

passion that was given by the frontline heroes in the medical community, including the EMS to the ER,” she said. “Those in the medical field are seriously my heroes, champions and guardian angels.”

Olson received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Jan 7.

“I’m thrilled about the opportunity to make a difference to keep our community safer by doing my part,” she said. “This new development has given me hope that things can get back to a more normal basis.”

At Rittenhouse, Olson hopes 2021 will be about “getting back to some normal activities – opening back up with gathering, events, open houses, entertainers and on-site tours. Our building is known for the ‘fun’ place to live because we are always having fun events where we invite the community to join us, like our annual Antique Car Show and Valentine’s Bazaar.”



Stefanie’s family has been essential to her during COVID. Here, she is pictured with her husband, Christopher, and son, Grant.

Family Essentials

Life as essential workers is nothing new for Michigan City resident Kristi Paull and her family. For the past year, the 52-year-old family nurse practitioner has worked in a Westville internal medicine office as a primary care practitioner with the collaboration of a physician. Before that, she worked in intensive care as a registered nurse for 29 years. Her 25-year-old son, Scott, works as a volunteer firefighter and a police officer, while her 22-year-old daughter, Nena, is an essential worker at a grocery store. Both live with their mother. Kristi's significant other for the past three years, Greg McBride, is a registered nurse.



In 2019, Kristi Paull and her significant other, Greg McBride, enjoy time together at Devil's Lake in Oregon.

"I have worked in health care in a hospital my whole life. I have always known the sacrifice of working long shifts, night shifts, weekends and holidays. My children have been raised in this environment," Kristi said. "Being an essential worker meant a lot of things – it meant we were at risk, but it also meant we had jobs and still could pay our bills. It was now that I realized the community needed the essential workers more than ever. Not only had health care changed, but our world had changed."

At the start of the pandemic, Kristi faced day-to-day changes in treatment recommendations from the Indiana State Health Department and Centers for Disease Control.

"COVID-19 was something new to us. It was something we never had to worry about before. Since we are all essential workers, it was three times as challenging to not infect the whole house, especially with me being of the age group with asthma that seemed higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and having a poor outcome," she said. "We did what everyone else did – stocked up on food for two weeks, bought more cleaning supplies and made sure we had essentials. Cleaning and assessing for possible

Continued on Page 4

School of American Music Family Concert Series

"A Valentine Serenade"

Sunday, Feb. 14, 3 p.m. EDT

Converge Community Church

601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI

Free admission • Donations accepted

Facebook Live School of American Music

FEATURING



Kim E. Jones
Soprano
M.C. "Messiah"
and MCCMF
soloist



Matt Daniel
Tenor
M.C. "Messiah"
and MCCMF
soloist



Bill McMurray
Baritone
M.C. "Messiah"
soloist



Guest Artist:
Charles Steck
Trumpet, LCSO
and M.C.
"Messiah"



Lisa Kristina
Accompanist

Social distancing and Masking will be observed

Concert Co-sponsored by School of American Music and the Pokagon Fund

Visit schoolofamericanmusic.com for tickets

COMING UP:

SAM Family Concert:

"With a Youthful Spirit"

Sunday, March 14, 3 p.m. EDT

Converge Community Church

601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI

Featuring music for Flute & Harp, String Quartet and
Woodwind Quintet

Special Guests: Members of the Northwest Indiana Youth
Symphony Orchestra and guests

Visit schoolofamericanmusic.com for more details

Stories... Continued from Page 3

infection became a daily concern.

“Early on,” she continued, “I was providing care to COVID-19 patients on life support, and knowing they couldn’t have their families by their side broke my heart. I have always been supportive of families at the bedside to comfort their loved ones, and now, that has changed.”



Kristi Paull wears her Personal Protective Equipment as a family nurse practitioner.

Fortunately with today’s technology, she continued, cell phones and Facetime keep support groups strong. Kristi is grateful she can provide virtual appointments for her office patients.

“Back in the spring, I feared that my patients would get very sick from other health issues and possibly die at home because they refused to go to the hospital,” she said.

“They refused to get labs and tests performed out of fear of contracting COVID-19. Many of my patients just wanted to talk to someone so they knew they weren’t in this alone and could still get their medication in the beginning.”

Kristi said she stopped watching the news in April and would refer to the John Hopkins University website for numbers and facts.

“You have to keep a level head,” she said. “You can’t get caught up with the hype – you have to stick to the facts.”

She made it to May before she had her first PCR COVID-19 test. Unlike a rapid antigen test, a PCR test detects the presence of the virus’ genetic material using a technique called reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. Typically, these diagnostic tests are more accurate than an antigen test, provided they are administered properly.

When Nena came home from work one day saying, “I feel like I have a temperature,” Kristi confirmed she did, indeed.

“It all became real,” she recalled.

Fortunately, her daughter tested negative for the virus. But, Kristi would continue to have monthly or more PCR tests, as well as rapid antigen screening tests three times a week because of all the different areas she provides care to high-risk patients.

After her family “dodged the COVID bullet for nine months,” Scott contracted the virus. The same day he was exposed, he was notified of it and did a rapid test, which was negative. Knowing it was too soon, Kristi advised him to wait two more days. After the two days passed, he started developing

symptoms and tested positive. Although Scott was in isolation and they wore KN 95 masks, Kristi also tested positive.

“I really had not had close contact with him, but we live in the same house. I had been with Greg for five days and came home to an already infected house without knowing it,” she

said. “I had already been taking Vitamin D, Vitamin C, Zinc and B Complex. I had my first dose of the vaccine that they claim offers 50 percent protection even if you don’t go back for the other shot.”

Nena, who had been at her dad’s home the majority of the time, continued to quarantine there, had no symptoms and a negative PCR test.

Though still infected with the virus at the time of this writing, Kristi and Scott have experienced moderate symptoms, including low-grade temperatures, limited taste and smell, nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, cough, gastronomical symptoms, headaches and fatigue.

At the time of *The Beacher’s* interview, Scott had five days left of his quarantine and Kristi seven.

“I am keeping optimistic,” she said, “but mentally, it’s a challenge because I know so many people have lost their lives because of COVID-19.

“I had faith that we would have a vaccine out quickly, like back when H1N1 started,” she continued. “I am hopeful with the vaccine. I was one of the first to receive it back before Christmas. I received the Pfizer vaccine. I had a sore arm for less time than I did with the influenza shot. I am to receive the second injection after 21 days. I needed to do everything I could to protect myself and others. Just like the influenza, it’s not 100 percent, but it could increase my odds of survival. I foresee it becoming mandatory for flying, especially internationally, and it may become our standard vaccines for school enrollment. I remember when I had chickenpox and it was scary. I’m glad that because of vaccines, my children have never had the chickenpox.”

Kristi admits, “It’s hard to be optimistic and positive when it comes to COVID, but you try to be. So quickly, we forget how real it can be.”

Yet, she’s also aware how the pandemic made “you appreciate what we have. Sometimes – just like in the case of a tornado that hits an area – it takes a wake-up call for a community or a country to realize that we are going to get through. Just like the virus adapts, we can adapt. You have to have



Kristi Paull (right) and her 22-year-old daughter, Nena Paull, who is an essential worker at a local grocery store.



Kristi Paull with her 25-year-old son, Scott Paull, who is an essential worker as a police officer and volunteer firefighter.

faith that we can do this.”

Kristi is encouraged by how she’s seen others find ways to be creative and keep the normal in an abnormal situation. She’s grateful for the family support she’s witnessed when members can’t be together.

She won’t forget seeing her co-workers work harder than ever as they cover shifts for each other, providing emotional support during those challenging times and giving hugs at the end of a rough shift.

“It’s been nice to see the community restaurants bring food to the hospital for staff to help them get through these times,” Kristi said. “Many times, it’s those gestures that make a bad 12-hour shift a little more tolerable.”

Kristi knows the importance of “taking the time to discuss plan of care with my patients who have COVID and educating them about the illness. Many times, I check on them every couple of days to make sure nothing has changed in their illness.

“What I have learned from this last year with COVID-19,” she continued, “was the reinforcement that tomorrow is never promised, and many times it’s keeping the faith that is all we have to hold onto. I know I miss the way things were. I miss family gatherings, spending time with friends, traveling and being mask-free. For now, it’s one day at a time to get through this and, hopefully, one day, our lives will be back to the way things were.”

A Life and Death Situation

Area businesses felt the impact of 2020 and COVID-19 in many ways, and Root Funeral Home was no exception.

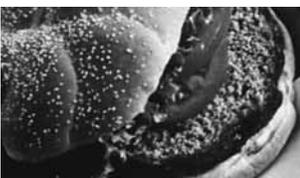
As owners of the 83-year-old local business, brothers Tom Root and Brian Root found themselves navigating through challenging, and constantly chang-

Continued on Page 6



GREAT MEATS YOU'LL LOVE!

Prices Good Wed. Jan. 20 - Tues. Jan. 26
All quantity rights reserved.

<p>SOLD ONLY IN VALUE PAKS AT THIS PRICE! Open Acres</p> <p>Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">99¢</p> <p>SAVE 30¢ LB. lb.</p>	<p>USDA Choice Angus Beef Min. 8 oz. Weight</p> <p>New York Strip Steak</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">\$5.00</p> <p>SAVE \$3.00 EA. each</p>	<p>USDA Choice Angus Beef</p> <p>Boneless Chuck Roast</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">\$4.99</p> <p>SAVE \$2.00 LB. lb.</p>	<p>For Perfect Pulled Pork! All Natural</p> <p>Boston Butt Pork Roast</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">\$12.99</p> <p>SAVE \$1.60 LB. lb.</p>
<p>In Our Service Meat Dept. Our Very Own Breaded</p> <p>Apple Sage Pork Steak</p> <p>SAVE \$1.70 LB. \$2.49 lb.</p>	 <p>Any Size Pkg. 85% Lean Certified</p> <p>Ground Chuck</p> <p>SAVE \$1.50 LB. \$3.49 lb.</p>		

KARWICK PLAZA PHONE 879-4671 OPEN DAILY 7 AM - 9 PM Visit us on Facebook!

Stories... Continued from Page 5

ing, state and local mandates as they continued to meet the community's needs.

Perhaps the biggest challenge was "the numbers game, so to speak," Tom, 58, said.



Last May, Tom gave virtual demonstrations for kids on bicycle safety and cooking through Queen of All Saints Church.

Over the course of the pandemic, beginning with the first March mandates, funeral homes were only allowed a maximum of 10 people inside the building. As the state adopted the current color-coding system, the maximum started at 25 and has not increased past 50 for LaPorte County. These numbers included everyone, including funeral staff interacting with guests, or working behind the scenes and those visiting the grieving family.

"Only having so many people in the building at one time is extremely challenging for a large family or a well-known person," Tom said.

Some families creatively sat up folding chairs on the lawn of the funeral home, visiting with their loved ones as they social distanced in the well-ventilated outdoors, all while the minimum number of people entered the funeral home to pay their respects to the deceased.

Other CDC guidelines included not only wearing masks and social distancing, as well as any skin-to-skin contact such as hugs or shaking hands.

"Elbow bumping" has become more popular, Tom noted.

Other recommendations include staff wearing gloves as they interact with the public. Some funeral homes have signed guest books for visitors to avoid sharing pens and spreading germs.

"A lot more people are having private visitations because they are leery," Tom explained.

He has heard of other funeral homes that had to turn families away and reschedule visitations, but thankfully, Root Funeral Home has not encountered this dilemma.

He has faced "having to counsel with the families and wanting to help them, but there's only so much that you can do."

Because of his career choice, Tom is keenly aware of the old adage of how short life really is, something many have been reminded of throughout the pandemic.

Not usually included as an "essential worker" with nurses, teachers and even grocery store staff, Tom appreciates how much his community counts on the vital services he provides, especially during a pandemic.

His attitude about the virus did change as time went on, though.



Tom Root and his late wife, Carol Root, at a Bike the Drive event in Chicago. Carol passed away suddenly in November 2019. They were married for 30 years.

"When this whole pandemic hit, I thought it would only last a season like the flu," he admitted. "My attitude changed when it started dragging on for six, eight and 10 months. I have more respect for it now."

On a personal level, Tom focused on "just staying positive because I'm out there helping people.

"It (the pandemic) affects different people in different ways," he continued.

With the sudden loss of his wife of 30 years, Carol, last November, going into the pandemic was a difficult time for him.

"I have a lot of books right now," Tom said. "I've been busy remodeling the house. I was cycling during the summer, and I've stayed active in my church, Queen of All Saints Church."

In fact, Tom participated in virtual programming his church provided in May. He enjoyed conducting presentations on bicycle safety and cooking for kids. He's active in the community as well, including holding the status of Grand Knight for the Queen of All Saints Council Knights of Columbus.

Continued on Page 8



NEW LISTING



4089 BIRCHMONT AVENUE • MICHIANA, MI

WONDERFUL RANCH in Michiana on a supreme setting with a private back yard overlooking the wooded dunes. This home has it all, an open floor plan with a huge deck leading out from the family room and roaring fireplace for the winter nights. This home has a wonderful main bedroom with large walk-in closet with the ability to walk out to the deck thru the patio door. There is also an additional 2 bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor, and an inviting foyer. The basement is fully finished with a full bathroom and room for all ages to have fun, with lots of storage as well. It is rare to find such a solid built ranch home with a 2-car attached garage. This home is surrounded by nature and a short stroll to the beach makes this the perfect getaway home. Don't wait this will not last long.

3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
Offered at \$725,000



LINE MULLINS
 708.790.3676
 line.mullins@cbexchange.com
 LineMullinsGroup.com
 10 N Whittaker Street
 New Buffalo, MI 49117



Follow us on Instagram:
 @linemullinsgroup

Looking forward to 2021, Tom predicts, “I think people will be more conscious about what’s going on around them, disinfecting and keeping things cleaner.”

As for Tom, he will continue to focus on serving his community the best that he can.

“Being in this business,” he said, “death and helping people are always out there.”

In it For the Long Haul

When 52-year-old Mary Smoker and her then 77-year-old mother, Loretta Gill, first contracted COVID-19 back in late summer, they weren’t prepared to eventually earn the distinction of “COVID long haulers.”



Mary Smoker with her cat, Ellis, who has been by her side throughout her COVID journey as a “long hauler.”

“I questioned it at the beginning like most of the people did,” Mary, a registered nurse from Michigan City, admitted. “I have friends in health care that also questioned it. And then, the more I researched it, the more I was learning about the virus and how it is so unpredictable. Now, I am trying to educate everyone on how this virus works,

and that it isn’t like the flu. And even though masks aren’t 100 percent, if everyone is wearing them, they will help cut down on the number of people that contract the virus, and that’s why we — my family — all wear our masks when we go anywhere now. I get upset now when I read posts saying the flu is worse, and that 99 percent survive, so it isn’t a big deal. I want to educate. I wish it would have stopped with me. I really do.”

Loretta was the first to be diagnosed with the virus on Aug. 8. Ironically, it was the same day Mary contracted it from her mom, then began exhibiting symptoms three days later.

“My 25-year-old daughter, Sam (Samantha Hellums, who is a private duty CNA/caregiver), was going in and making sure my mom was OK, but then one time, Sam became concerned with how pale my mom was and how low her oxygen saturation had become,” she said. “So then, I went in to take over care for my mom. I had on all the appropriate PPE, including two masks and a shield, but my mom wasn’t wearing her mask, and I didn’t think of telling her to put it on until it was too late. But I have no regrets and would do it all over again for her and my dad.”

Although Mary’s 78-year-old father, Richard Gill, also tested positive for COVID, he was asymptomatic. Samantha and her 23-year-old husband, Dakota Hellums, as well as Mary’s other children, 23-year-old Justin and 18-year-old Jacob, also contracted the virus, although their symptoms were mild, and all different.

Mary’s 54-year-old husband, Tom, was the only family member to remain COVID-free. He was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in September 2018. In June 2019, the Smokers were told it had progressed to Stage IV because it metastasized to his lymph nodes.

On Aug. 19, what should have been her first day as a health-occupations educator for second-year students at the A.K. Smith Center, Mary ended up in a local hospital emergency room with a chest X-ray that showed COVID-19 pneumonia. Today, she is still officially on a leave of absence.

Mary received her first positive COVID-19 test on Aug. 12.

As the weeks went by, Mary and Loretta’s symptoms of extreme fatigue, weakness, cough, shortness of breath, hallucinations, hoarseness, loss of balance and coordination, insomnia and “COVID brain” weren’t subsiding. Loretta was hospitalized three times for a total of 16 days; she also spent 3 1/3 weeks in rehab after her second hospital stay. Mary went to the emergency room twice and was nearly admitted.

“I was so extremely tired and fatigued, but couldn’t sleep,” Mary explained. “I don’t know how I managed to go on every day with only two to three hours of sleep every night. And I still struggle with the fatigue daily. I was so weak that I needed a walker when I first started ambulating again.”

Mary set up her “quarantine camp” in her bedroom, which has a private adjoining bathroom. She eventually had to move in a recliner because of how much time she was spending in bed and developing bedsores. As her masked family members could only stop in for “drive-by visits” to drop off meals or necessary supplies, Mary battled loneliness.

Mary has made it thus far on her COVID journey, she says, because of “faith, family and friends.”

Daily phone calls from Samantha and Mary’s sister, Juliane Giovannielli, who lives in Harwood Heights, Ill., helped connect her to the outside world. Sometimes, Mary was so weak, she could only listen in on a three-way conference call.

“Even though there were times I couldn’t talk, they would still talk and I would listen,” she said. “I felt like a part of life. They were my rocks.”

Family and friends who dropped off or mailed food, groceries, gifts and cards were vital to efforts to stay positive through her ordeal.

“They have been instrumental. I have a shoutout to so many people,” she emphasized. “I taped all the cards on my wall so I could see them.”

And, there was Ellis, her 2 ½-year-old cat.

“She became my shadow, my support,” she said. “Not having interaction with people was hard, but Ellis was right there with her face right next to me. Tom was worried because she wouldn’t eat. She was like the mother hen, always watching me. Really and truly, I think I lived because of her.”

Ironically, it was Ellis’ brother, Moe, that was a constant companion for Tom when he went through his cancer treatments during mid-summer to early fall 2019.

Mary remains forever grateful to her husband.



Mary and Tom Smoker enjoy vacationing together in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“Tom has taken over pretty much all the responsibilities at home: shopping, cooking, cleaning, dishes, laundry, all while working full time,” she said. “Tom and I have been married 27 years ‘in sickness and in health.’ I was

there for him during his cancer treatments, and now he’s been there for me during my health problems. He is right there for me, not pressuring me to work or to relieve him from some of the everyday duties around the house. He just wants me to be healthy again.”

To update loved ones of the conditions of her mom and herself, Mary created a special Facebook group called “My Prayer Warriors” on Aug. 14. She is still logging in entries.

“I documented everything my mom and I were going through, all while asking for those members to pray for us,” she said. “Without those prayers, I believe we wouldn’t be here. I know that prayer is so important, and by the grace of God we are still here.”

Mary took four COVID tests that were positive before finally receiving one on Day 95 that registered negative.

“The CDC stated that anyone with COVID would test negative after 90 days, so I knew this would be the case for me,” she explained.

Unfortunately, a negative test doesn’t mean Mary’s symptoms have subsided.

“I have good days and I have bad days. It’s still an ongoing battle for me daily. I now see a cardiologist and neurologist, and will soon see a pulmonologist,” she said. “I want my life back before COVID, but don’t know if I’ll ever really have it all back. We have lost friends and acquaintances due to COVID, and my mom and I now experience survivor’s guilt. My mom is now on oxygen and has to use a walker. She was very healthy before COVID. I, too, have a walker

just in case I’m having a really bad day. Physically, I can’t really do too much anymore. I don’t have the energy or capacity to do normal everyday tasks, and the smallest things take my breath away and I start coughing. I have to stand with both feet flat on the ground, or I will lose my balance.”

Cognitive frustrations are equally challenging. Mary struggles to find simple, common words, and stutters when trying to pronounce certain words.

“I have short term memory impairment and don’t remember conversations I’ve had with people, and shopping online for Christmas was fun because I forgot that I had ordered certain things already – Oops!,” she said. “I startle easily now, too, something I never had to deal with before, and I hate it. I jump if someone sneezes. And I still have hallucinations daily, mainly seeing bugs and people. But I’m alive!”

With suspicions she may have had a stroke, Mary sought treatment at the Neuro COVID-19 Clinic at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. On Jan. 5, doctors confirmed that she had, indeed, a stroke from a blood clot lodged in her brain. They could confirm it hadn’t been in the past two months. She believes it was Oct. 14.



Mary Smoker joins her parents, Richard and Loretta Gill, at their 50th wedding anniversary.

“It was late at night and I was messaging with a friend. I even said to her jokingly that I thought I was having a stroke because my entire face started to tingle, and I had a feeling that something wasn’t right,” she said. “I assessed myself, and everything looked good, so I continued to monitor my symptoms and figured it was my anxiety ramping up. The next few days following, I was so very tired, had blurry vision and extreme fatigue.

“Doctors don’t have answers for my mom,” she continued, “and I can only guess as to how long this will affect our lives. It’s frustrating not having answers. If we knew how long this would all last, it would make the recovery a little easier.”

Although it is hard to see the “light at the end of the tunnel,” Mary continues to persevere by searching for answers to her health questions, seeking out and clinging to the positives in her daily life, remaining grateful that “it could be so much worse,” and hoping for a better and brighter 2021.

“My husband and I are going to be first time grandparents to our grandson (from parents-to-be Samantha and Dakota) in June!,” she said. “And, I want to be able to play with him, so I need to get back to my old self soon!”

South Bend Blue Tributes Planned This Year



This photo, dated 1949, features the roster of players for the South Bend Blue Sox.

A historical marker and 100th birthday are two significant events honoring the South Bend Blue this year.

South Bend's The History Museum made the announcement about The Blue Sox, one of the original teams of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League established in 1943.

Planned in May is a historical marker placed near the site of the former Playland Park, an area now owned by Indiana University-South Bend, to mark the location where the South Bend Blue Sox played from 1946-1954. The History Museum learned of the decision from the Indiana Historical Bureau, Division of the Indiana State Library. A ceremony scheduled in May will commemorate the month the Blue Sox first played at Playland Park, following three seasons of play at Bendix Field.

The museum is accepting donations to the AAGPBL Historical Marker Fund to help defray the cost of the marker, and support improvements to the gallery that holds their exhibit.

In February, Betsy Jochum, a member of the original South Bend Blue Sox, celebrates her 100th birthday. On Feb. 6, The History Museum will unveil a new display of her memorabilia in the exhibit "Polished in Public, Fierce on the Field: The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League." Blue Sox score cards, photos from Betsy's personal collection and some of her Blue Sox gear will be featured in the new case. On Feb. 8, Betsy's birthday, a drive-through parade of cars is planned. In addition, a video of well-wishes is being created.

The AAGPBL was formed in 1943 by Chicago Cubs owner Philip Wrigley. With the U.S. entering

World War II, Wrigley was apprehensive that major league baseball would suffer due to the number of players being drafted into the Armed Services. In establishing the women's teams, he hoped stadiums would remain full and public support of major league baseball would stay active.

At Wrigley Field on May 17, 1943, 60 women were chosen for the four teams that played during the first season. In years to come, 11 more teams would be formed. The AAGPBL played 12 seasons, giving more than 600 women the chance to play professional sports. In mid-sized Midwest towns, there was significant support for the 15 AAGPBL teams, which included the Rockford Peaches, South Bend Blue Sox, Kenosha Comets, Racine Belles, Milwaukee Chicks, Minneapolis Millerettes, Grand Rapids Chicks, Fort Wayne Daisies, Muskegon Lassies, Peoria Redwings, Chicago Colleens, Springfield Sallies, Battle Creek Belles and Kalamazoo Lassies.

The AAGPBL was immortalized in the 1992 film "A League of Their Own." Uniforms, baseballs, gloves, photographs, a baseball signed by "A League of Their Own's" Tom Hanks, Geena Davis and Madonna, are some of the items on view.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. House tours are available daily. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors, \$6 for youth 6-17 and free for members. It includes tours of the 38-room Oliver Mansion.

Visit historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **“Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series” from 7-8 p.m. EDT Thursday, Jan. 21.**

The series kicks off with “Scott Mehaffey: The Farnsworth House Reconsidered.” The house, completed in 1951, is one of only three built in the U.S. by modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Located west of Chicago on the Fox River near Plano, Dr. Farnsworth preferred a natural and agricultural setting, while the property’s second owner, the British Baron Peter Palumbo, landscaped the property and added sculpture and visitor center.



Mehaffey

Farnsworth House is one of 28 historic properties owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mehaffey, the speaker, is the house’s director who began his career as a landscape architect at The Morton Arboretum.

Tickets cost \$25, or \$20 for members. The series package costs \$125.

• **Live Stream Yoga from 10-11:15 a.m. EDT Fridays and Wednesdays through February.**

Deirdre leads weekly sessions to bolster immunity through stretching and meditative movement set in Fernwood’s Winter Gardens. If unable to attend the live-stream session, email Deirdre (dguthrie@fernwoodbotanical.org) for a Zoom link.

Visit <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/> for more information and to register.

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



2021

ATLAS
Carpet Cleaning

Call Today to Inquire about Our New Year's Specials

Residential & Commercial
219.878.3227 • ATLAS-CC.COM
Family Owned/Operated • Eco Friendly Organic Products • Free Estimates
MEGAN FEGARAS • Carpet Upholstery Tile and Grout
Call Today to Inquire about Our Summer Specials



It's why I'm here.

Warren Attar, Agent
1902 E US 20, Evergreen Plaza
Michigan City, IN 46360
Bus: 219-874-4256
Fax: 219-874-5430
warren.attar.hawq@statefarm.com

Your home and car are more than just things. They're where you make your memories – and they deserve the right protection. I get it. It's why I'm here.
LET'S TALK TODAY.

State Farm

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
1706811 Bloomington, IL

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL AWNINGS



www.chesterfieldawning.com

FREE ESTIMATE
CALL NOW
219-809-1697

SINCE 1958
Chesterfield Awning Co.

“News of the World” Drags, But Delivers the Goods

by Andrew Tallackson



Capt. Jefferson Kyle Kidd (Tom Hanks) takes an orphaned German girl (Helena Zengel) to live with her only surviving family in “News of the World,” in theaters and View on Demand.

My first thought after finishing Paulette Jiles’ *News of the World* (2016) was, this will make a great movie. A western with echoes of John Ford’s “The Searchers” and healthy doses of the Coen brothers’ “True Grit” remake. Largely unsentimental, more interested in the dust, grit and harsh reality of the American Southwest.

Director Paul Greengrass – the hyper-kinetic force behind three Jason Bourne films – has said in interviews he always wanted to direct a western, and the beauty of “News of the World” is how perfectly he recreates Jiles’ novel. This is a rare case where the movie looks and feels just like the book.

It’s a mighty slow ride, though. Even with attempts to pack more oomph into the story, the sleepy pace tests our patience.

A perfectly cast Tom Hanks stars as Capt. Jefferson Kyle Kidd, a Civil War veteran traveling the country five years after the War Between the States, reading from newspapers to audiences with little to no access to them. His crowds are largely in Texas, and it is while en route to his next destination that he discovers an overturned wagon and signs of bloodshed. Hiding nearby is a young German girl, Johanna Leonberger (Helena Zengel). Turns out, she was abducted years ago by the Kiowa people. Her only remaining family are an aunt and uncle some 400 miles away. Ensuring her safe passage to them ultimately rests with Capt. Kidd.

Many modern westerns have a way of stripping



“News of the World”

Running time: 118 minutes. In theaters and VOD.

Rated PG-13 for violence, disturbing images, thematic material and some language

themselves of authenticity. By that, I mean their villages and encampments look like recently built sets, the costumes right off the rack from Westerns R Us. But in “News of the World,” Production Designer David Crank, who conceived that killer study/library in “Knives Out,” has done his homework...and then some. The locations in “News of the World” ring with truth. Muddy streets, buildings chipped and weathered by time. And at each of Kidd’s readings, Hanks invests great drama in the retelling of key events. We are reminded of how the spoken word can engage an audience. And how the crowds react with humor, shock and disbelief provide some of the film’s most engaging moments.

The 12-year-old Zengel is a real corker. Johanna resists all interaction with others, behaving like a feral animal. As she adjusts to Capt. Kidd, taking an intense liking to him, her big, blue eyes are like looking into pools of sorrow. Kidd’s bond becomes intensely paternal. He will protect her at all costs, particularly during a sequence, lifted directly from the book, in which three thugs follow the two, intent on “buying” Johanna from Kidd. Even if you’ve



Tom Hanks invests great drama in the retelling of key events through the public reading of regional newspapers.

read the book, the way Greengrass stages the action, which has Kidd and Johanna slipping through rocky formations, is invigorating, his camera peering at the action from high and low locations.

Greengrass, working with cinematographer Dariusz Adam Wolski (the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series), clearly is in love with the American landscape, offering long panoramic views of the terrain Kidd and Johanna cover.

There is too much of that, though. After a while, these shots, pretty as they might be, slow things down. The leisurely place strips the film of the danger, and fear for the safety of, Kidd and Johanna that existed on the page.

The introduction of a sandstorm – a threat not part of Jiles' original story – feels unnecessary, like visual effects padding, especially after the dramatic punch of that showdown between Kidd and the three thugs *and* a harrowing scene that shows buffalo being skinned. Another sign of "progress" stripping the American wild of its natural wonders.

But the finale, faithful to the book, achieves the emotional payoff. Hanks and Zengel have invested Kidd and Johanna with so much conviction, the bond between these two is palpable. The final shot of these two conveys what we suspected. For all intents and purposes, Kidd and Johanna...they are father and daughter.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Jim Eriksson, Agent
405 Johnson Road
Michigan City, IN 46360
Bus: 219-874-6360
jim.eriksson.gyxq@statefarm.com

Car and home combo.

Combine your homeowners and car policies and save big-time.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL ME TODAY.



0901133.1
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company
Bloomington, IL



Duneland Home & Pro Hardware

Duneland Home Design Center & Showroom
Duneland Home Remodeling
1018 N. Karwick Rd. "Karwick Plaza" • Michigan City, IN 46360
"Open 7 Days"
219-878-1720 Store • 219-878-9141 Fax
email: dunelandhome@gmail.com

**BEST FLOORING SALE EVER...
SAVINGS UP TO 60%**

WE INSTALL EVERYTHING WE SELL...

**SAVE NOW ON QUALITY NAME BRAND
CARPETING AND FLOORING...**



We Provide Free Estimates

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR FLOORING NEEDS

**Carpeting • Ceramic
Waterproof Flooring • Wood**

**SEE US FOR ALL YOUR HARDWARE & HOME
IMPROVEMENT NEEDS...**

**GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MONEY SAVING OFFERS ON
FLOORING AND HARDWARE... go to
dunelandhomehdw.com**



**DREAM HOMES
START WITH
DREAM SERVICE.**

Mary Vrska
Mortgage Advisor
(219) 929-8950

NMLS# 586279



HorizonBank.com

Davis, Boseman Give All They've Got in Powerful "Ma Rainey"

by Andrew Tallackson



Viola Davis stars in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," now streaming on Netflix.

The characters who inhabit the world of playwright August Wilson are souls broken by racism. The American Dream mocks them, flaunted in their faces like a cruel tease. Tragedy lingers in the wings.

The experience of a Wilson play invites comparison to that of Arthur Miller, particularly "Death of a Salesman." Actors pour their hearts out into sad, bruising material: Justifiable downers made watchable by actors giving you all they've got.

That is what we have with "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," the Netflix adaptation of Wilson's 1982 play that likely will go down in history as Chadwick Boseman's final performance after colon cancer took his life in 2020. But the movie, told in bold strokes by veteran theater director George C. Wolfe, honors the meat and potatoes of Wilson's work, tackling issues of race, art and religion. Every performance is on point. Only the climax feels incomplete.

The story unfolds over the course of a long afternoon in 1920s Chicago, a recording session where band members await the arrival of the "Mother of the Blues," Ma Rainey (Viola Davis), to lay down tracks for her new album. Ma is late as usual, which affords the band time to ruminate on their music,

★ ★ ★ 1/2

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"

Running time: 94 minutes. Streaming on Netflix. Rated R for language, some sexual content and brief violence

their talents and the way white society treats them like society's leftovers.

This is Davis' second film performance in a Wilson adaptation, having won an Oscar for 2016's "Fences." Her Ma is something else. A big woman. Bisexual. Eyes smeared with mascara. Reacting to everyone with hell-if-I-care indifference. Davis barks commands with jackhammer bluntness. She knows white record producers call her every name in the book behind her back, so she's going to milk the recording experience for all it's worth. It is her flirtation with power in the industry.

Ma's band is populated with sterling actors, including Colman Domingo as Cutler, the guitar and trombone player, Glynn Turman as Toledo, the pianist, and Michael Potts as Slow Drag, the double bass player. Good-natured men, thankful to be performing, resigned to accepting how whites treat



Chadwick Boseman (center) could receive a posthumous Oscar for his work in the film.

them. Their scenes are the “staggiest,” with screenwriter Ruben Santiago-Hudson (the remarkable “Lackawanna Blues”) lifting huge chunks of Wilson’s monologues. It could have been too wordy, but Wolfe’s camera is constantly moving: circling the actors, studying them, allowing their faces to convey a patchwork of emotions.

The all-consuming presence in the band is trumpeter Levee Green, played by Boseman. Knowing the actor was secretly undergoing treatments for colon cancer makes the role all the more astonishing. Even had he not been ill, though, the performance would have been a lock for an Academy Award. Heck, he likely *will* receive a posthumous honor. Boseman is like a tsunami. He consumes everyone in his path. Levee has witnessed humanity at its worst: acts of brutal racism and hatred. To keep his soul in tact, he carries himself as better than everyone else. Moving about as if coasting on his own greatness. That Boseman maintains the same fever pitch from start to finish, with moments of pent-up anger and resentment erupting out of him, all while privately battling a terminal disease, makes this performance the crowning achievement for an actor who was destined for even greater things.

“Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” builds to an act of shocking violence. Tensions within the band have escalated to this moment, and you feel the loss. But right as the shock settles in, the movie slips into a shot that conveys the crushing truths about whites exploiting black art and fades to black. The film feels like it’s missing something. A transition, maybe?

That is the only thing that strips “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” of perfection. Otherwise, it comes awfully close.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Centier BANK

Homeownership Begins Here

Since 1895, we've helped individuals reach their goals of **homeownership**. We are an award-winning bank with a reputation for **strong values** and **quality service**. We offer a variety of mortgage loan products with competitive rates and plans to help you achieve your goals.

Jennifer Smart
Loan Originator
NMLS# 277082
219-262-6028 X 4805
jennifersmart.com

Member FDIC | 219-262-6028 | Centier.com

POSH

Upscale Consignment Boutique
109 N. Barton Street
New Buffalo, MI 49117
269-469-0505
CLOSED TUESDAYS
OPEN 12-5PM

Clothes are Essential
Accessories a Treat

Put Them Together
Your Look is Complete!

We appreciate our Consignors and Customers
Posh is open all year for you!

Thank you for supporting Small Business
Premium Consignors

Michiana Mechanical

Heating & Cooling

Old Fashioned Quality & Service
with a Satisfaction Guarantee
All Service Techs Background Checked
and Drug Tested

Financing Options • Emergency Service Available
Call for Comfort
219-874-2454
www.michianamechanical.com

“The Flight Attendant”: A Rare Case Where the Series is Better Than the Book

by Andrew Tallackson

Chris Bohjalian’s *The Flight Attendant* (2018) arrived amid a surge of contemporary thrillers where the protagonists are reckless alcoholics. As a plot device, it works because the characters can’t remember key events, which repeatedly places them in harm’s way.

The champagne examples are Paula Hawkins’ *The Girl on the Train* (2015), Ruth Ware’s *The Woman in Cabin 10* (2016) and A.J. Finn’s *The Woman in the Window* (2018), whose film adaptation with Amy Adams arrives on Netflix later this year.

By the time *The Flight Attendant* debuted, the formula was starting to show wear and tear. Yes, the book entertained, but it felt like a slickly packaged rip-off, one without much sympathy for its title character.

Now, the book is an eight-episode series on HBO Max, and while lifting the basic story template, it shucks the rest of the book to reinterpret the tale as a dark comedy. And you know what? It works. In fact, I liked the series *better* than the book. It may be too hyper and spastic for some, but the wild tone dives into the mind of a careless woman whose bad choices come back to haunt her.

The setup: Flight attendant Cassie Bowden (Kaley Cuoco, of “The Big Bang Theory” fame) lives in the moment. Between flights, she parties until she’s fall-on-the-floor drunk or shacks up with a guy. Or both.

During her latest flight, she locks eyes with a handsome passenger, Alex Sokolov (Michiel Huisman, of Netflix’s “The Haunting of Hill House”). There is an instant attraction. The next morning, she wakes up in a hotel bed in Bangkok. No memory of how she got there, having drunk enough alcohol to make Keith Richards blush. And, she finds Alex next to her in bed. His throat slit. The sheets soaked in gore.

A classic Hitchcock premise: a hero inadvertently tumbling into cold-blooded murder. It worked for Cary Grant in “North By Northwest” and James Stewart in “The Man Who Knew Too Much,” and it works for Cuoco. Coworkers describe Cassie as fun in a “drunk, sorority girl kind of way,” which is accurate, but not exactly a compliment. Cassie is the life of the party, but now, the life has gone out of her. The series fleshes out her past in ways the book did not, so we understand what prompted her alcohol abuse years back, and what propels it in the present. And when Cassie slips out of her hotel room, trying to erase her presence, she finds herself in one hot mess after another.

In the book, once Alex is killed, he is out of the picture. The show, however, keeps Alex central to



Kaley Cuoco (right), seen here with Rosie Perez, stars as a woman thrown into a murderous conspiracy plot in “The Flight Attendant,” now streaming on HBO Max.

the story, with Huisman appearing as Alex’s bloodied corpse solely in Cassie’s mind, a way for her subconscious to attack the mounting layers of guilt. The approach misfires. It is a literary device that works fine in books, but doesn’t often translate well on film, and it does not here.

But in Cuoco, who also serves as executive producer, this is a fiercely funny performance, a woman grasping at straws trying to piece together why Alex ended up dead in her hotel room. That Cuoco maintains a fever pitch from start to finish is unreal. It is like watching a Barbie doll after five Red Bulls. And the show’s talented directors amp up her erratic mind with rapid-fire editing that, to some, may be

headache-inducing, but in the context of the story makes for a lively approach to Cassie’s frenzied life.

The show fleshes out the other flight attendants, all of whom transform rote characters into delicious comic elements. Shane Evans (a lively Griffin Matthews) and Jada Harris (gleefully bitchy Yasha Jackson) view Cassie as an endurable oddity: fun at a party, but wearisome. They tolerate her. Somewhat resembling a “friendship” is attendant Megan Briscoe (Rosie Perez), but the series introduces a series of complications for her that did not exist in the book, cluttering the storyline.

Where “The Flight Attendant” soars is in envisioning its largely female cast as smart, compli-



Michelle Gomez is deadpan genius as Miranda, a mysterious assassin.

cated thorns in Cassie’s side, specifically her best friend, struggling lawyer Annie Mouradian (Zosia Mamet), and the mysterious assassin, Miranda Croft (Michelle Gomez). Mamet and Gomez are dynamite comic actresses. Mamet (HBO’s “Girls”) wields snark with the sting of a Taser, dishing it out as a defense mechanism against Cassie’s erratic behavior. She’s weary of her friend’s recklessness, yet beholden to their enduring friendship. Watching the mental acrobatics of that tug of war for Annie again illustrates how finely tuned Mamet’s comedic chops are. And Gomez, a Scottish actress known for roles in “Doctor Who” and “Bad Education,” is savagely funny. Miranda is like The Terminator with a nagging conscience: swiftly dispatching her victims, but curiously finding herself sympathetic to Cassie’s plight. When the two inadvertently team up, briefly meeting with Annie for legal advice, the encounter is the comic highlight of the series, with Gomez in fierce deadpan form as Miranda opens up to all her criminal activity.

“The Flight Attendant” was supposed to be a limited series, but strong ratings and word of mouth prompted HBO Max to renew it for a second season.

That’s good news, because how the show deviates from the book leaves it open for more. In most cases, when film or TV deviate from the novel, it feels like a betrayal. But with “The Flight Attendant,” Cuoco and crew have taken an OK story and elevated it to black comedy heaven.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

INTERIOR DESIGN	
312.343.9143	Northern IN • Southwest MI • Metro Chicago
nplhinc.com	LAWRENCE ZIMMER

“The Midnight Sky” Treads Through Familiar, But Absorbing Territory

by Andrew Tallackson



Scientist Augustine Lofthouse (George Clooney) flees for the safety of himself and a mysterious young girl (Caoilinn Springall) in “The Midnight Sky,” now streaming on Netflix.

With “The Midnight Sky,” George Clooney has created a movie that is beautiful, sad, thrilling and uneven. But for all its imperfections, what is good about the film is so good, the images haunt you long after it’s over.

The movie is an adaptation of a 2016 book of which I am unfamiliar, Lily Brooks-Dalton’s Good Morning, Midnight. If what ended up on screen is faithful to the book, then the material is cobbled together from a wealth of science-fiction classics, from Nevil Shute’s On the Beach (which gets a nod here) to Andy Weir’s The Martian. But there is no denying that Clooney, both as the movie’s star and as the director, is a compelling storyteller. The visuals are gorgeous, the performances etched with empathy.

What I admire about “The Midnight Sky,” now streaming on Netflix, is that it expects a degree of intelligence from the viewer, that it can piece together gaps in the narrative, much like a good book can do. The story opens in 2049, three weeks after an apocalypse has wiped out most of Earth’s population, sending the remaining few scurrying into underground bunkers. At one point, the catastrophe is referred to simply as “a mistake.” Whatever the cause, the planet has been decimated by radiation.

Augustine Lofthouse (Clooney), a scientist at an Arctic Circle research base, is the only one remaining there. He’s chosen to stay because he knows he is dying, requiring dialysis to scrape by. But in some respects, he prefers solitude. In flashbacks, we see his affair with Jean (Sophie Rundle), who quickly realizes Augustine’s work takes priority over every-



“The Midnight Sky”

Running time: 118 minutes. Streaming on Netflix. Rated PG-13 for some bloody images and brief strong language

thing else. Long before the apocalypse, she left him, realizing he could never fully give himself to her.

One morning, Augustine finds a girl hiding at the facility. Iris (astounding newcomer Caoilinn Springall) doesn’t speak, but she understands everything Augustine says. And when it’s discovered the radiation has literally arrived at their doorstep, he realizes the only means for survival is making a precarious trek through a howling Arctic storm to reach the closest base north of them.

At the same time, a space mission investigating life on one of Jupiter’s moons is on its way back to Earth, unaware of the global cataclysm that destroyed the planet. The crew is populated by wonderful actors, including Felicity Jones (“Rogue One”), David Oyelowo (“Selma”), Demián Bichir (“A Better Life”), Kyle Chandler (“Friday Night Lights”) and Tiffany Boone (Amazon Prime’s “Hunters”). Augustine, who has been trying to reach space flights, realizes it’s imperative to head to the northern research base to let the crew know by radio the planet is not safe.

The production values of “The Midnight Sky,” rumored to have cost \$100 million, are impeccable, achieving a world that is starkly alluring and threatening. You marvel at the beauty of the frozen



Felicity Jones leads a wonderful supporting cast that makes up the crew of a spaceship return to Earth.

landscape, while the dangers for Augustine and Lily mount by the minute, the most unbearable being when the two awaken in a now flooded tent. Another agonizing moment arrives as the crew of the spaceship makes a precarious trip outside to repair damages caused by an asteroid field. The effects, the claustrophobic performances, Alexandre Desplat's pumped-up score – it is everything money can buy.

Clooney, who lost 25 pounds for the role, allows himself to look haggard, his face a road map of loneliness. Springall, in only her first movie, is a revelation: big, expressive eyes, and a smile that lights up Clooney's face. For a young actress to say nothing, but say everything with her face, is a remarkable achievement.

When the action shifts to space, "The Midnight Sky" stages one intense action sequence after another, but something unexpected happens. The movie all but forgets about Augustine and Lilly. The two are absent from so much of the film's second half, the characters may as well exist in another movie.

The balance is off. Once Clooney restores it, we've experienced acts of heroic sacrifice, difficult choices involving family over survival and a final twist I figured out long before its arrival. Nonetheless, the revelation is a moving one that pushes Augustine toward a powerful catharsis, one beautifully achieved by Clooney.

There is plenty to admire in "The Midnight Sky." Whatever frustrations we have with it, we set them aside to appreciate the intelligence, the heart, that Clooney and his cast invest into the story.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Virtual Wine Tasting

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County will host a Virtual Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11.

The cost is a \$25 donation. Participants can purchase featured wines at Al's Supermarkets in LaPorte and at Karwick Plaza. Visit tinyurl.com/y3sks22h for details. A virtual event link will be sent closer to the date.

 **BUCKLAND**TM
EXTERIORS 37 years!

**ROOFING
WINDOWS
SIDING**

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

SEAMLESS GUTTERS & MORE!

219.877.4515

*Roofing &
Seamless Gutters*

Leaf Guards Repairs Soffit Fascia
Residential Commercial Industrial
Flat Roof Specialist

Moore Construction

(312) 995-3994 and (219) 777-0423

Deal directly with owner Michael Moore

Celebrating 30 years in business

office@mooreconstruction-inc.com

Three Exhibits Debut at Midwest Museum of American Art

Three new exhibits are on display through March 7 at Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art.

The exhibits are:

- "The Blue Ribbon Collection: The Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival."
- "Adam Grant: A Holocaust Remembrance."
- "Gabor Peterdi: The Early Works."

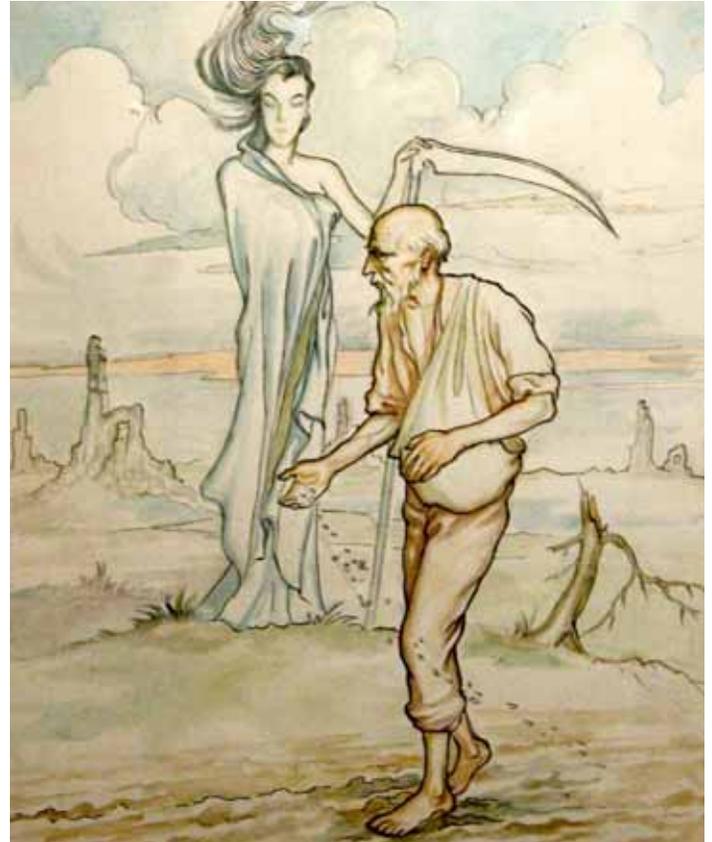
"The Blue Ribbon Collection" features work from more than 50 years of the Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival during its run under Richard Pletcher from 1965-2019. Reflecting on the history of the Elkhart County attraction, the 30-plus pieces are on loan from the Evelyn Lehman Culp Heritage Collection, Nappanee Public Library at the Nappanee Center. For 55 years, the festival acquired one artwork that highlighted the best of the event. First bestowed in 1965, it became known as the Blue Ribbon, Best of Show Award. The collection shows a fondness for realism, but does not shy away from the unusual.

The works resided in the Restaurant Barn at Amish Acres before it closed in 2019, then becoming part of the Evelyn Lehman Culp Heritage Collection. The current exhibit features artists such as Jacqueline Gnott, Steve Johnson and Lu Fuller.

"A Holocaust Remembrance" unveils three recent gifts to MMAA created by Holocaust survivor Adam (Grochowski) Grant (1924-1992).

Grant changed his name when he arrived in Detroit in 1951 from one of many displaced persons camps in Germany after having survived Auschwitz and Mauthausen. His resolve and talent as an artist literally saved his life. He went on to Toledo, Ohio, where he became a recognized and respected painter. He then continued to develop his skills as a Toledo-based fine artist, receiving many honors for his figurative works, particularly those of dancers and circus performers. Three of the works were donated by Robert Rice of Toledo and the Peggy Grant Estate represented by 20 North Gallery, Toledo.

Peterdi, born in Hungary, left Budapest as a young man to study in Rome, then moved to Paris, arriving in 1932. There, he met and studied with British chemist-turn-artist Stanley William Hayter at his Atelier 17. Surrealism began to dominate his imagination as he worked with some of the most famous European artists of the day, such as Joan Miro and Paul Klee. Upon leaving Paris, Peterdi arrived



Adam Grant's "Seeds of Destruction, Seeds of Rebirth."



Jacqueline Gnott's "Coffee Grinder" is included with "The Blue Ribbon Collection: The Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival."

in New York during the summer of 1939, fleeing the rise of the Nazis. Many of these never-before-seen etchings and drawings represent the artist's feelings of escalating violence in Europe beginning in 1935 continuing through World War II to 1948.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St. in Elkhart. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$10 per adult, \$6 for ages 8-12, and \$8 for ages 13-18 and college students with ID.

Visit www.midwestmuseum.us or call (574) 293-6660 for more details.

Ted Perzanowski, M.Div., B.A.

talk to ted inc

An effective alternative to
counseling and psychotherapy for
individuals, couples, and families

219.879.9155 Michigan City
312.938.9155 Chicago

www.talktotedinc.com
ted@talktotedinc.com

STYLES THAT SUIT YOU NATURALLY

Shop our showroom and manufacturer catalogs for Stationary and Power Recline/Lift Seating, Occasional Tables, Entertainment Units, Home Office, Accessories and more!



NATURALLY WOOD FURNITURE

VISIT US ONLINE!

www.naturallywoodfurniturecenter.com

MORE THAN JUST A FURNITURE STORE!

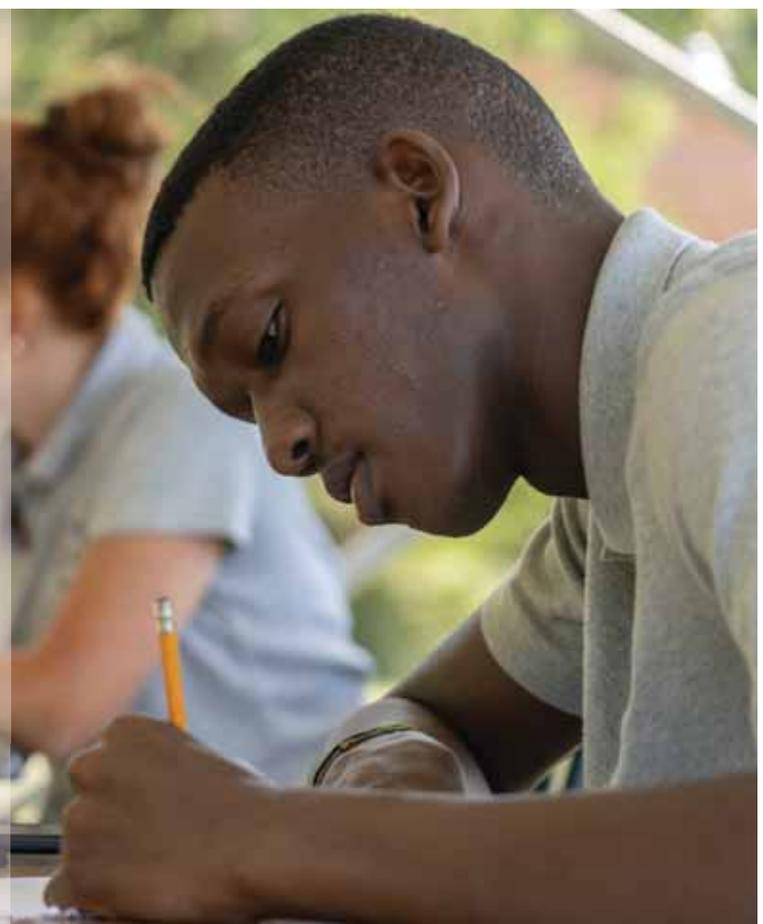
6 MONTHS SAME AS CASH FINANCING AND 90 DAY LAY-AWAY AVAILABLE!

1106 E US HWY 20, Michigan City • (219) 872-6501 or 1-800-606-8035 • OPEN Monday thru Saturday 10AM - 6PM, Sunday 12PM - 4PM

A safe, no pressure shopping experience

THE BEST LEARNING HAPPENS IN PERSON

Learn more about our 190-acre campus, small class sizes, and in-person learning at lalumiere.org



Unity Receives \$150,000 Grant

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has received a \$150,000 Community Leadership Grant as part of the seventh phase of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow initiative.



Unity Foundation
of LaPorte County

With the grant, Unity can continue the Vibrant Communities of LaPorte County Initiative. Next steps include sharing the Action Agenda with LaPorte County communities, the goal being to implement parts of the plan deemed important. The funds also aid implementation of the two top issues: Conduct a housing study to create a housing action plan and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Unity is one of 87 foundations in Indiana receiving grants through this round of GIFT VII grant-making. Lilly Endowment created GIFT in 1990 to help local communities develop the philanthropic capacity to identify local needs and challenges.

As part of GIFT VII, Unity received a \$75,000 planning grant in 2019 to convene nearly 1,000 local residents to identify, prioritize and assess opportunities and challenges in LaPorte County. Unity teamed up with the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau to lead the effort. Through a series of Vibrant Communities town hall meetings and community conversations, lack of quality housing and tangible resources for entrepreneurs to start and expand businesses quickly emerged as top priorities.

Unity also partnered with the Lake County Community Foundations, Legacy and Crown Point to explore how philanthropy can foster economic and entrepreneurial development in the region. As a result, a new entrepreneurial resource tool, NWI Biz Hub was launched on Nov. 12 at the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center's Annual E-Day Awards event, with nearly 60 regional resource partners. About \$30,000 of the \$150,000 will be used to bolster regional small business supports, particularly important during the pandemic.

Chesterton Art Center

Deb Armstrong will teach a live Zoom Beginning Cell Phone Photography Class from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at Chesterton Art Center.

The session covers basic camera settings, shooting tips and techniques, and simple rules of composition for better shots. The class is suitable for iPhone and Android users. Participants should follow along with their phones.



Armstrong

The cost is \$40, with members receiving a \$10 discount. An additional Intermediate/Advanced Cell Phone Photography class is from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8. It covers work flow: editing photos with popular apps, backing up photos, sharing/social media, printing/prints, books, decor and gifts.

After registering, a Zoom link for each class is sent to participants.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com or call (219) 926-4711 for more details.

LCA Receives Lilly Grant

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has received a \$12,000 grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Youth Program Resilience Fund.

The money will support after-school arts education and outreach programs, including partnerships with the Boys & Girls Club and Safe Harbor in Michigan City, and the LCA Teen Arts Council.

"This grant support will help assure that our virtual programming continues to be of the highest quality...especially at this time when many social spaces and opportunities for creativity have been lost due to important COVID-19 safety measures," Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman said in a press release.

The grant is one of 297 that Lilly has made through the Youth Program Resilience Fund.



LEEDS PUBLIC HOUSE

401 Franklin St., Michigan City

219-814-4530 • leedspublichouse.com

Monday & Tuesday - Closed • Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Now offering online ordering through our website,
and catering for lunch or dinner!

Legacy Gallery Installation



Dale Cooper hangs her 3-D paper flowers on the walls of The Legacy Center Gallery.

The Legacy Center Gallery, located at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, will host work by Dale Cooper as its next installation through March 31.

Cooper, who will display 3-D paper flowers, has worked at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau for 19 years. As curator, she created space that not only serves visitors, but also serves local artists. She has taught art classes in the community as well.

Cooper taught herself how to make paper flowers after seeing one for sale in a store. Now, she custom designs them for friends and family members

The Legacy Center serves as multi-use gathering space for community and parish functions. The public can view Cooper's artwork during regular center hours from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The building is located at 1719 E. Barker Ave. Visitors should enter through the doors off Esther Street.

Email jessicar@qas.org for more details.

CLEAN & SHINE SERVICES

Cell 574-440-4816

Office 219-809-9359

Experience the Difference
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
300 Arthur Street D
Michigan City, IN 46360
Fully Insured

- Professional
- Experienced
- Weekly - Monthly
- Bi-Weekly - One Time

SERVICES: Carpet & Upholstery
Tile & Grout & VCT • Windows & Gutters
Pressure Washing • Dryer Vent • Wood Floors
Area Rugs • Mattresses • Boat & RV
Hard Floors • Carpet Stretching • Janitorial
Home & Building Maintenance



beach bum jewels

Creating Authentic Beach Glass Jewelry for 15 Years

622 Franklin St.
Michigan City, IN

219-743-9595
www.beachbumjewels.com

Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. • By Appointment



Indiana Farmers MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Wayne A. Dolson
Dolson Insurance Agency Inc.
219.879.4524

De Vries Tire Co.

1260 E. Michigan Blvd.
Michigan City, IN

Serving the Michigan City Area since 1968

219 874-4261

Firestone Tires

specializing in:

- Computerized Alignments
- Air Conditioning Repairs
- Mechanical Repairs



• COMPLETE REMODELING

• ROOM ADDITIONS

• SIDING

• DECKS

• GARAGES



219-861-6341

www.hullingsconstruction.com

• NEW CONSTRUCTION

• 4 SEASON ROOMS

• CONCRETE

• MASONRY

• FLOORING



MACU Donates to Steady Stitchers



Members Advantage Credit Union has donated \$500 to The Steady Stitchers, a Michigan City nonprofit where volunteers sew and knit to create projects helping local residents. Donated finances and fabric are used to make: afghans and hats for preemies; backpacks, hats, scarves and mittens for the homeless; walkers and wheelchair totes. Pictured is MACU President Frank Beachnau making the donation to the group.

Art Barn School of Art

Art Barn School of Art's student exhibit runs Jan. 22-March 12 at its Valparaiso site, 695 N. County Road 400 East.

Any student who has attended a class or workshop — in person or virtual in 2019 and/or 2020 — can participate. Media includes 2-D and 3-D works. Anyone who did not receive an invitation should email info@artbarnschool.org

Works can be viewed during gallery hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

DYE PLUMBING & HEATING

1600 Lake St., La Porte

219-362-6251

Toll Free 1-800-393-4449

Specializing in Plumbing, Heating,
Air Conditioning, Heat Pumps,
Radiant Heat Boilers, Water Heaters,
& Sewer Services

Serving
You Since
1939

• Residential • Commercial • Industrial

*"Big Enough To Serve You...
Small Enough To Know You..."*

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.

The following virtual programming is scheduled:

- The Online Graphic Novel Club returns with Alex Sanchez's You Brought Me the Ocean. The Podcast release is Jan. 21 and the Zoom meetup is Jan. 28. Contact Jonathan at (219) 873-3045 or email YOnline@mclib.org to register.
- A Zoom session of the Dungeons and Dragons group from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27. Register at YOnline@mclib.org or call (219) 873-3045.
- Craft kits are available weekly. Children can make a photo album, with all supplies available. Children also can pick up a "Crow Kit." Available now is "Cool Critters and Waddling Penguins."

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



Duneland Home & Pro Hardware

WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

1018 N. Karwick Rd. "Karwick Plaza" • Michigan City, IN 46360

"Open 7 Days"

219-878-1720 Store

email: dunelandhome@gmail.com



American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.
- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

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

Dunes Summer Theatre

Dunes Summer Theatre is gearing up for its 2021 summer season, with audition submissions due by Monday, March 1.

Those interested should send an email with "Audition" in the subject line, with a head shot and resume in PDF format attached. Dunes staff will respond with further instructions on how to submit an audition. Be prepared to send materials that demonstrate singing range and/or one short Shakespeare comedic monologue.

Rehearsals begin May 18-June 8, depending on the performance. Visit www.dunesarts.org/theatre for details, including the email address.

Season tickets will be available soon, with updates available on the website.

The theater is located at 288 Shady Oak Drive in Michiana Shores.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops on Saturday, Jan. 23.**

The first session is from 10:30 a.m.-noon and the second from 1-2:30 p.m. Participants learn the art of wire wrapping and make beach-glass jewelry. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$7 per person.

- **Snowshoe Rentals are available at the Nature Center.**

Snowshoeing is offered as long as 6 inches of snow is on the ground. A driver's license is needed, and the cost is \$5 for the day. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) Call the Nature Center to ask about snow conditions.

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.

Curtis Flooring



Free Estimates
Install Hardwood, Vinyl & Engineered Flooring
Refinish Hardwood
Install Tile

(269) 449-3404
curtisflooring@icloud.com

Michiana's Yoga Oasis

Classes Everyday
Drop Ins Welcome
Student/Senior Discounts
Private Instruction
Teacher Training

Visit our website for class times and events at DancingFeetYoga.Com

19135 West US Highway 12
New Buffalo, Michigan
269-469-1966



Giving Furniture New Life Since 1939



Lou Butcher's FURNITURE WERKS

— INC —

Refinish • Upholster • Restore
Guaranteed Craftsmanship
Pick-Up & Delivery in IL, IN, MI

219-872-1700
4980 W. Hwy 20 • In "The Pines" • Michigan City, IN 46360
www.furniturewerks.com

LIVE TALK RADIO
CALL IN LINE
219-861-1632
DURING LIVE SHOWS



The Talk of the South Shore

Office: 219-809-0445 • Fax: 219-879-9813

We Stream Live 24/7 All Over the World!

wimsradio.com

Deep Impact



Erin Lozano, a Lake Hills STEM Elementary School Student Support Services teacher, has received \$500 from the nonprofit Legends Leaving Legacies. She is pictured with former NBA basketball player and coach Cliff Levingston, who organized a charitable event with I Street Meats in LaPorte last October. "The Legends Foundation has noticed the impact Erin has had on her kids during this time of distance learning and would like to make a small donation to aid her in the continual battle to educate," Levingston said in a letter. Funds will be used for a future "virtual field trip" (possibly to the Challenger Center) and other projects.

Museums Offer VIP Visits

South Bend's The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum are offering VIP Visits for groups of 20 or less that include exclusive two-hour access to their galleries.

Available times are (all times Eastern) from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 to 10 a.m. or 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to noon Sundays. Reservations can be made by calling The History Museum at (574) 235-9664. The cost is \$100, or \$80 for members, and payment is required to reserve a time.

Studebaker National Museum exhibits include "South Bend: Then and Now, Part III" and "Disco Decade Rides: Cars of the 1970s."

History Museum exhibits include "World Famous: The Olivers and the American Dream," "Votes for Women, Ticket to Run: Campaigns in History" and "Full Circle: Shakespearean Culture at Notre Dame." Tours of the Oliver Mansion are not included in the offer, nor are the museums' children's areas, which remain closed because of CDC guidelines for social distancing. In accordance with the St. Joseph County Ordinance, all guests are required to wear masks while visiting the museums. Catered meals or other similar events are not permissible.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or www.studebakermuseum.org for more details.



- Collision Repair
- Frame & Unibody
- Custom Painting
- Detailing
- Glass Replacement
- Custom Add-Ons
- Body Kits
- Restorations

Family owned business with over 25 years experience.



"The Beacher is local, and we like that. And, it gets good results!"

Rocky Gray
Rocky's Body Shop, 3611 E. U.S. 12

Everyone loves

Contact us today!

THE Beacher
Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 4636

Place your ad!

(219) 879-0088 • drew@thebeacher.com

Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 21 — Michigan City Public Library Online Graphic Novel Club, Alex Sanchez's *You Brought Me the Ocean*. Podcast release: Jan. 21. Zoom meetup: Jan. 28. Registration: (219) 873-3045, YOnline@mclib.org

Jan. 23 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. First session: 10:30 a.m.-noon. Second session: 1-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$7. Info/registration: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 27 — Michigan City Public Library Zoom session, Dungeons and Dragons group, 3-5 p.m. Registration: YOnline@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Through March 31 — Dale Cooper installation (3-D paper flowers), The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: jessicar@qas.org

In the Region

Jan. 21 — "Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series," 7-8 p.m. EDT. Through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$25, \$20/members. Info/registration: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Jan. 22-March 12 — Student exhibit, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue., Thur., Fri./10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 462-9009, www.artbarnschool.org

Through Jan. 31 — "Series 6," annual holiday Berrien Artist Guild exhibit, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Viewing hours: noon-4 p.m. EST Fri.-Sun. Info: (269) 449-2167, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Fridays and Wednesdays through February — Live Stream Yoga, 10-11:15 a.m. EDT. Through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: https://spore-studios.com/yoga/

Through March 7 — New exhibits, Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Exhibits: "The Blue Ribbon Collection: The Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival"; "Adam Grant: A Holocaust Remembrance"; "Gabor Peterdi: The Early Works." Info: www.midwestmuseum.us, (574) 293-6660.

Want your event listed in Activities?

The weekly deadline is noon Thursday
(219) 879-0088 • drew@thebeacher.com

Business Cards



the **Beacher Business Printers**

911 Franklin Street • Michigan City
(219) 879 0088 • Fax (219) 879 8070

emil@beacher.com • <http://www.thebeacher.com>

CLASSIFIED**CLASSIFIED RATES - (For First 2 Lines.)**

1-3 ads - \$8 ea. • 4 or more ads - \$6.50 ea. (Additional lines- \$1 ea.)

PHONE: (219) 879-0088 • Email: classads@thebeacher.com**CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY****10 a.m. FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF PUBLICATION****PERSONAL****Local family trying to find their forever home!**

We grew up in the area and want to become part of the beach community again. Seeking 2,500+ square feet, 3BR+ home with two-car garage. Call (765) 560-3293 if you are thinking about selling your house.

PERSONAL SERVICES

THE LAUNDRY DROP. A wash-dry-fold service for your busy lifestyle. Dry cleaning accepted. Located at 16170 Red Arrow Highway, Suite C5, Union Pier, Mich. Call (269) 231-5469.

BUSINESS SERVICES

CLOROX WIPES, INFRARED THERMOMETERS – FIRME'S
U.S. 12, Beverly Shores - Just West of Traffic Light – (219) 874-4003.
Michigan City store temporarily closed – (219) 874-3455.

8-10-12-15 & 20 yard dumpster rentals

Lakeshore Rolloff and Demolition • (269) 426-3868

THE BOOKWORM, 11576 W. U.S. 30, Suite B, Wanatah

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Daily/Closed Thurs. & Sun.

New Special: presidential, political and biographical books, 50% off. Also, check our weekly in-store specials.

(219) 733-2403 • www.bookwormwanatah.com

Reprographic Arts Inc. Signs, banners, posters, custom T-shirts, decals, presentation boards, lamination, vehicle graphics, vinyl lettering, embroidery. Founded in 1970. Locally owned and operated.

www.reprographicarts.com**HOME HEALTH – CAREGIVERS****COMFORT KEEPERS****Providing Comforting Solutions For In-Home Care**

Homemakers, attendants, companions

From 2 to 24 hours a day (including live-ins)

Personal emergency response systems

All of our compassionate caregivers are screened, bonded, insured, and supervised.

Call us at (877) 711-9800

Or visit www.comfortkeepers.com

Michiana Stay At Home Services provides the community an invaluable service. Your well-being and health are our priority. During this time of uncertainty, everyone could use extra care. We go beyond delivering perishables. We offer an array of services for you and your loved ones, such as shopping, food and supply delivery, errand running, cleaning and organizing, as well as art therapy. Fully insured. Please contact us today! Call (219) 379-6189 or email michianservices219@gmail.com

CLEANING - HOUSEKEEPING

CLEANING SOLUTIONS. Home & office cleaning services, 24 yrs. exp. Insured, free estimates. Call (219) 210-0580

FINISHING TOUCH: Residential/Commercial/Specialty Cleaning Service
Professional - Insured - Bonded - Uniformed

#1 in Customer Satisfaction. Phone (219) 872-8817.

OLD FASHIONED WINDOW CLEANING • (219) 945-9520

Full-time professional window & gutter cleaning. FREE screen & sill cleaning! Affordable. Check out my 5-Star Ratings & awards online or ask your neighbors!

ProElite Window Cleaning • (800) 228-3928/(317) 727-2361 (cell)

Lakefront-Residential-Commercial • Free Estimates**Window Cleaning, Gutter Cleaning, Pressure Washing****HOME DETAILED CLEANING SERVICE.**

Affordable, reliable, experienced. Flexible hours. We do routine cleaning, deep cleaning, cleanouts. All supplies included.

Call Valerie for free estimate. (219) 229-0034

A Touch of OCD House Cleaning is ready to fill your cleaning needs 24/7. We understand it is difficult to hire services that are usually only active during the normal business hours when you are working second- and third-shift hours. We would love to accommodate you at your convenience. We do rentals, deep cleans, standard routine cleans and move-ins and move outs. We have references upon request. Please visit our facebook page @OCDHouseClean and call us at (219) 380-7688.

BRIDGET'S QUALITY CLEANING • Satisfaction Guaranteed!!

Serving the community for over 14 years. Bonded and Insured
Homes • Rentals • Offices • Receive your free estimate today!

Bridget 219-241-9341

or email BridgetsQualityCleaning@yahoo.com**HANDYMAN-HOME REPAIR-PLUMBING**H & H HOME REPAIR • skipnewman4444@yahoo.com

We specialize in: • Carpentry • Finished Basements • New Baths • Decks •
• Electrical • Plumbing • Flooring • Ceramic Tile • Drywall/Painting
• Power Washing. **Jeffery Human, owner – (219) 861-1990.**

HP Electric LLC

(219) 363-9069

Licensed/Bonded/Insured

Residential • Light Commercial • Whole House Rewires • New Construction

Small Jobs — Big Jobs

Free Quotes

VISA/MC/AMEX

HANDYMEN AT YOUR SERVICE. We can do most anything. Serving Northern Indiana since 1989. Call **Finishing Touch, Inc. (219) 872-8817.**

STANDRING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION. Full roof projects only,

vinyl siding, soffits, fascia & gutters, vinyl replacement windows.

Fully insured. (630) 726-6466. Ask for Terry. 40+ yrs. experience.**LLOYD'S – DUNES SERVICES**

Roofing • Painting • Tree Removal • Stump/brush removal

Gutter guards-cleaning • Power washing • Raking • All home repairs

Guaranteed work. 30+ years experience. Locally owned.

Fully Insured • (219) 229-9387

APPLIANCE REPAIR: CALL PAUL (219) 465-0267, (219) 785-4321
WASHERS • REFRIGERATORS • OVENS • DRYERS • DISHWASHERS
See me in the MC Yellow Pages. Say "I'm referred" after repair. \$20 off.

Email callpaul4321@gmail.com for more details.**BILL SMART • (269) 231-0599**

Carpenter • Electrician • Plumber • Painting & Tile • Renovation

SERRANO HANDYMAN SERVICE

• Power Washing • Window Cleaning • Gutter Cleaning • Garage Organizer
• Painting • And Much More • Free estimates. 20 years exp.

We are not the only ones, we've decided to be the best ones...

Recommendations available. Insured. Call (574) 855-0666**B&B Handyman Services****Brandon Beyer • (219) 243-3873****Fully Licensed and Bonded**

Kitchens, bathrooms, drywall, flooring, roofing, painting, decking. Can do anything. No job too big or too small!

KIP HOLLINGSHEAD

Get your winter projects done so you're ready for summer!

All your construction needs

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • Contractor in your area.

Call: (219) 210-8499 • Email: kjh.5@sbcglobal.net**Interior & Exterior Repairs**

Painting, staining, guaranteed roof repairs, deck & fence repairs.

30-years experience. Bob: (219) 400-0455

Text for fastest response**PAINTING-DRYWALL-WALLPAPER****JEFFERY J. HUMAN INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING & STAINING**

Custom Decorating - Custom Woodwork -

Hang/Finish Drywall - Wallpaper Removal

Insured. Ph. (219) 861-1990. Skipnewman4444@yahoo.com**DUNIVAN PAINTING & POWERWASHING****Interior/Exterior • Deck washing/staining • Drywall Patch & Repair**

Local. Exp. Insured. Reasonable Rates. Call Brian at (219) 741-0481.

A&L PAINTING COMPANY – INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE. Also Power Wash, Seal & Paint Decks.

10% off for 65 and older. Call (219) 778-4145

WAYNE'S PAINTING. Closed Until March 1.

Call (219) 363-7877.

C. MAJKOWSKI: Plastering & Drywall • Eifs • Stucco • Stone.

Commercial/residential. Chimney restoration. Licensed/bonded.

Call (219) 229-2352.

Bracken Painting: Residential & Commercial Painting and Staining,
power washing. Insured. Free Estimates. Call (219) 402-6389 or
email: bracken.paintingllc@gmail.com

 **LANDSCAPE-Lawns-Clean Up, Etc.** 

HEALY'S LANDSCAPING
(219) 879-5150 • dhealy5150@gmail.com

218 Indiana 212, Michigan City, IN
Visit Healy's Landscaping & Materials on Facebook

RENT-A-MAN MAINTENANCE INC.

Power Washing (decks, houses, concrete) – gutters – yard work – mulching – trim bushes – deck staining – moving/hauling
Serving your community since 2003.

Free estimates – insured, bonded, licensed

Call us at (219) 229-4474

Gutter cleaning, snow removal. Lawn mowing, yard work, mulching, weeding, odd jobs! Call ABE at (219) 210-0064.

[Facebook.com/abeslawncare](https://www.facebook.com/abeslawncare)

CONSCIENTIOUS HOME & GARDEN

A service company for homeowners who seek help in **RESTORING, SUSTAINING &/or MANAGING** the beauty of their outdoor design.

Spring Summer Fall Schedules

FOR INQUIRIES / (219) 229-4542 /

dawn@conscientioushomegarden.com

MOTA'S LAWN CARE LLC. • Full Landscape Services

Tree service. Fully Insured. (219) 871-9413 or

motaslawncaresllc@gmail.com

MAINSTREET LANDSCAPE SERVICE

Spring Cleanup and Planting. Mowing, edging, trim, hedging, small tree removal, mulch, weeding. Haul away debris. Power washing. Tine dethatching. Spike aerating. Free estimates. Insured. (219) 336-4569,

mainstreetlandscapeservice@gmail.com

EUSEBIO'S LANDSCAPING: Mowing, planting, mulch, weeding, tree trimming/removal, leaf removal, flower beds, any yardwork. Free estimates. Insured. (219) 229-2767

Avila's Lawn Care • (219) 210-9752 • avilaslawncares16@gmail.com

Mowing, mulching, trimming, cleanups, snow removal. Fully Insured.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applications for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

FOR SALE

Lovable Siberian male/female pups: born 12/11/20.

Please call (219) 879-2364 if seriously interested.

Rarely used, no-longer needed HP 5600 fax and color printer. Asking \$60. Call (269) 469-3097

WANT TO BUY

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS INDIANA

1BR apt. at the beach, 3BR home near beach, 3BR open-layout home near beach: available daily, weekly, monthly. Furnished.

Available Jan.-May. Call Barry Tharp at (312) 593-1861.

Stop 27 Rental available February-March 2021. 3BR/2.5BA. A/C, W/D, library, sunroom, fully furnished. \$2,200/mo + utilities + deposit. 30-day minimum. No pets/smokers. View at bit.ly/lb_rental.

Email LBrental@snouffer.net

Room for rent (near Ames Field).

We prefer elderly tenants. Shared bedroom: \$150/week.

Private room: \$200/week. Rent includes:

- room and board.
- all utilities, water, cable.
- most meals.
- on-site laundry facilities.

Common areas are shared with two other elderly people. \$400 deposit required. Must have good references. We will do a background check.

Call Sue at (219) 874-4891.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Greenwood Cemetery plots for sale. Northwest corner, Section C, block 15, plots 1-6. Upon entrance to cemetery, turn left at circle, first left, plots are in the section on the right. \$1,500 per plot. **If interested, call (708) 269-9717.**

Cemetery plot at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens. \$800. Call (219) 778-2793

Beacher Delivery

Any time you do not receive your *Beacher* or have issues with delivery, please contact us immediately so we can take care of the problem.

You can reach us by phone at (219) 879-0088, or visit www.thebeacher.com, then click the "delivery" link on the top black bar. From there, you can let us know any issue or concerns.

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

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

Become a Patron!

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 **Hal and Rose Higdon, George and Ann Dobie, and Cinda and Theodore Rierson.**



Visit patreon.com/thebeacher to make a contribution



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Talented Miss Farwell by Emily Gray Tedrowe (hardcover; \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 335 pages.)

Greed? Ambition? The thrill of the hunt? What makes some people throw caution to the wind and wade into situations they probably, back in the recesses of their mind, realize they can't get away with? Those questions are above my pay grade, but this week's recommendation tries to explain the difference between a go-getter and a felon...

Inspiration for this story came from a news release the author heard while driving. What she heard made her wonder — how did this person's downfall come about? What motivates a person to take a good job and abuse it to the point of no return? How far can you push the envelope before it pushes back?

This story takes a look at obsession, and how it twists one woman's thinking into believing the end will justify the means. It's a fascinating plunge into the mind of a smart woman whose rationale gets skewered with her ambition. I introduce you to Becky Farwell of Pierson, Illinois...

We meet Becky in 1979 at age 14, living with her father in this small community in the southwest agricultural part of the state. Her dad sells agricultural equipment, but his bookkeeping skills are non-existent. Becky, on the other hand, is a math wiz. Her teacher takes her around the state, where she wins numerous math competitions.

By 1981, Becky takes charge of her dad's books and the business finally starts to grow. After high school graduation, Becky takes a job at City Hall in the bookkeeping department. She enjoys the work, and as I said, she is smart...

In 1983, she finds a discrepancy in a refund from a fuel and oil company. That's where our story really begins...with a \$542 check no one wants to hear about, so it ends up in Becky's drawer, hidden from view — she'll think about what to do with it later.

A trip to Champaign-Urbana finds Becky at a local museum, staring at a painting marked "for sale." She is mesmerized. *"I've seen paintings before, Becky argued to herself. But it didn't feel true, compared to being in the presence of **this** painting."* The price sticker on the back says \$540. Hmm. Uh-huh, she buys the painting with the refund check. After all, she will replace the check as soon as she can, right?

As mistakes and discrepancies show up in the

town records, Becky notices no one wants to hear about problems or fixing mistakes, so she makes herself indispensable. She is so helpful, even picking up the mail every morning so she can see what is in it before anyone else. She earns the respect of everyone in the office for her due diligence and eagerness to take on more and more responsibilities. And what an eye-opener for Becky!

It doesn't take long for her to become addicted to art: the owning and selling of it. Yes, it is easy to cover up the money she "borrows" as soon as she repays them; however, the whole scheme eventually becomes out of control...

This is a whole new world of promise and adventure! She absorbs all the information she can about art, artists and the movers and shakers of the art world whose acquaintance she works hard at obtaining, first in Chicago, then in New York City. Setting up bogus accounts at different banks, buying and selling art, becomes second nature to her. And, she convinces herself that paying back what she takes from the town makes it all OK. But what happens when the "borrowing" outnumbers the paying back?

She soon spends all her weekends out of town, observing, learning and stacking up a respectable amount of artwork.

Becky has a natural instinct for seeing what will become highly desirable and what is trash. She builds a reputation among art collectors, while back in Pierson, no one has a clue as to what is going on with faithful Becky Farwell.

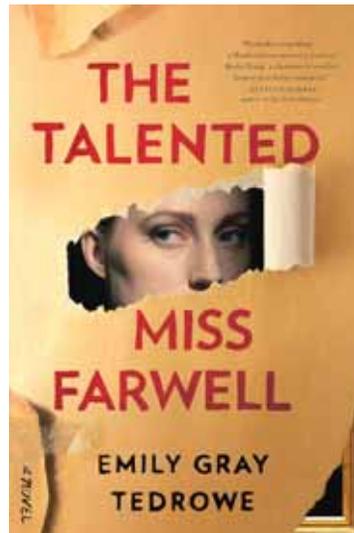
While the story is not historical fiction, Tedrowe has taken a news story and turned it into a page-turning novel that brings up all kinds of possibilities about the way we rationalize our actions. Can someone be good and bad at the same time? Because Becky does manage to help the town over the years.

So-o-o, she **takes money** from the town with one hand while the other hand **raises money** for needed projects. A conundrum, for sure!

The interesting part of this story is not just the way Becky learns to manipulate the financial records, but the fact that, as you read and learn more about her, the more you realize you really don't hate her for what she has done. But how long can this go on undetected? You might say the climax is karma or something akin to envy. Your choice.

Tedrowe has quite a resume — a doctorate in English Literature from New York University, an Illinois Arts Council award and numerous fellowships. She lives in Chicago.

Till next time, happy reading!



@properties®
INDIANA



MICKY GALLAS GROUP



1660 N 500 EAST

MICHIGAN CITY, IN
3 BED / 2.1 BATH • 2,762 SF



UNDER CONTRACT

202 CARTER ROAD

MICHIGAN CITY, IN
3 BED / 1.1 BATH • 1,152 SF



UNDER CONTRACT

405 E COOLSPRING AVENUE

MICHIGAN CITY, IN
4 BED / 3 BATH • 3,671 SF



1809 LAKE SHORE DRIVE

MICHIGAN CITY, IN
4 BED / 2 BATH • 2,150 SF

To see more of these listings, please visit atproperties.com

Follow Us On Social!

@mickygallasgroup

/mickygallasgroup



MICKY GALLAS

ABR, CRB, CRS, E-PRO, GRI, SRES

219.861.6012

David Albers.....219.728.7295
Katie Boscacccy.....219.929.8875
Judi Donaldson.....219.879.1411
Jamie Follmer.....219.851.2164
Braedan Gallas.....219.229.1951
Jordan Gallas.....219.861.3659

Giorgios Karayannis...219.805.6754
Kaileyne Krask.....219.851.7290
Karrie McCorkel.....219.898.1009
Daiva Mockaitis.....219.670.0982
Sofia Mockaitis.....219.670.0902
Karen Pavy.....219.210.0494

Barb Pinks.....574.876.5967
Anna Radtke.....219.221.0920
Pat Tym.....219.210.0324
Jack Zahrdt.....219.873.4377

2411 ST. LAWRENCE AVENUE · LONG BEACH, INDIANA · 219.874.7070



Stop looking, start finding® atproperties.com

*Licensed in Indiana & Michigan | At World Properties Michigan, LLC / At World Properties Indiana, LLC, subsidiaries of At World Properties, LLC.



100 years - we speak from experience.



N 950 W, Michigan City

\$150,000

Zach Baker 219-878-3325

3.65 acres

More Info: <https://bit.ly/35yTby8>

MTM welcomes
Meghan Maddox
to our team!

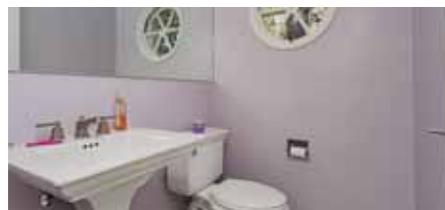


meghane75@yahoo.com

219-877-5795

We have investment properties!

Call us to hear about investment opportunities for you today!



2319 Florimond Dr, Long Beach

Price Reduction! -\$10,000

Long Beach Home!

NOW \$485,000

Listing #483604

3 beds, 1.5 bath | 1,650 sq ft

Sandy Rubenstein 219-448-0249

"Knowledge and Integrity."

More Info:

<https://bit.ly/3mraW8A>

This 1936 Art Deco home is on a large corner double lot around the corner from the Long Beach Country Club. Featuring 3 bedrooms and 1.5 new bathrooms, this home offers hardwood floors that are placed throughout the rooms. Other desirable features include brand new windows and plumbing updates along with other upgrades. This property has a new water line from the street and has 2 gorgeous fireplaces perfect for social gatherings. The large 3 seasons room gives a country feel with the greenery and nature views. There are also several balconies overlooking the terraced lots and nature surrounding the home. Call today for a private showing!

1401 Lake Shore Drive | 219-874-5209.

3100 Lake Shore Drive | 219-872-1432

Follow us!



@MTMRealty

www.makethemovegroup.com

