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# *A Kind Heart*

by Connie Kuzdym



Fred DeVries is photographed by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski relaxing at DeVries Tire Co., petting a rescue cat by his side.

The “Silent Generation,” also known as “Radio Babies” or “Traditionalists,” were born within a couple years before the Great Depression and through the end of World War II. These children began life in difficult times. Reaching adulthood in the 1950s and 1960s, they are characterized as hard working, loyal, determined, having respect and valuing tradition.

Fred DeVries, owner of DeVries Tire Co., is part of that generation. He appreciates growing up and living in what he considers this country’s most ex-

iting and interesting historical era.

“From 1936 when I was born right on through the second World War, it has been the most advanced time in this country,” Fred said.

He exudes his generation’s traits, plus more. A successful businessman, he is a gentle giant with a kind heart, and with strong religious and political convictions. Throughout his life — willingly and quietly — he helps those in need, including animals.

Within a few moments of speaking with him,

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## A Kind Heart Continued from Page 1

one senses his humor. Asked if that helped get him through life, there is a twinkle in his eye. His quick-witted response: "I've been told I'm a little crabby by my wife once in a while." Then, on a more serious note, he learned "if you cannot change what is happening, then learn to not worry about it."

Fred and his wife, Barbara, seemed destined to meet, as these high school sweethearts did not attend the same school. The day they met, both were skipping school.

"What can I say about that," Fred says. "If you get along, you get along... We knew each other at 16. You're not grown up at 16, you're just starting to get there... we basically grew up together."

Fred and Barbara have been married for 66 years. He learned the magic of a successful marriage is in learning to say "yes dear" and "keeping your mouth shut."

In the softening of his voice, the look on his face, you can feel the love and respect for his wife. He finished his thoughts by saying, "There were some rough times in there, but not many. We get along. She's good."

They raised three sons, Daryl, Bruce and Davey, in Portage, where they lived for 35 years. Fred has always loved Lake Michigan, so after their youngest graduated high school, they moved to their newly built home in Duneland Beach, with views of the lake, in 1987.

He understands why people make Michigan City their home. For him, the city still maintains a small-town feel, even though it is not.

"It's a nice town," he says. "Everything is here, and I love Lake Michigan. I've always lived around Lake Michigan, and I won't leave it."

Fred balanced his work schedule with leisure-time activities. The family enjoyed many days boating, fishing and relaxing on the shores of Lake Michigan. Hunting was another pastime. These days, he occasionally goes to the shooting range.

One activity that brought him joy was the total restoration of a 1954 Shepard wooden boat, which took him two years to complete.

"It's the type of boat that Whiskey runners used back in the Prohibition days in the '30s," he explains. "That's basically where that boat started and got its reputation, because it was quite fast for a heavy boat."

He also enjoys fixing cars.

"You get something in that doesn't run, you fix it and it goes out and it's running right," Fred said. "That's satisfaction."



Fred and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 66 years.

Fred was born and raised with his older brother John, younger brother Paul and little sister Edith in Roseland on Chicago's far south side. He recalls how wonderful and easier things were back then, like hopping on their bikes and heading towards Lake Michigan to spend time at the beach.

In the mid-1930s, Pepsi came to Chicago. Fred's father acquired a territory in the area of 79th Street South and Vincennes. Over time, the business expanded from four to 10 routes. At 18, Fred had his own route.

"In those days, we were called driver/salesmen," Fred said.

"We'd go out in the morning, we'd load the product and we would sell it... Back then, a mom-and-pop shop would take care of a four-block area. They were all small stops."

Soda was packaged in 8-, 12- and 16-ounce glass bottles. On top of that, the bottles were returnable. Part of the driver's responsibility was not only to deliver, but also to take them back, then sort the bottles into bins on their truck. Imagine the weight they moved throughout the day.

"Nowadays, there's no returns," Fred said. "Everything goes out and never comes back. So, the business has changed. Back then, it was a lot of work."

Eventually, the parent company — Pepsi Cola General Bottlers — bought his dad out. Fred and John continued working for them, but they knew

it would not be their forever job. They toyed with ideas of what to do.

Having seen their father owning his own company, it made sense that John came up with the idea of opening a tire business. He secured a Firestone dealership in Michigan City. In 1968, as Marquette Mall opened on the south end of town, John and Fred opened DeVries Firestone on the north end on Michigan Boulevard. They sold a variety of tires, including earth mover, truck and car. They did front-end alignments and brakes.

Fred was the main mechanic, having gained valuable experience working with mechanic John Calvetto, who rented space in his dad's garage. They not only worked on the fleet of delivery trucks, but also on other customer vehicles.



Fred is honored for his support of the Old Lighthouse Museum/Michigan City Historical Society by Jim Retseck.

“It’s (being a mechanic) a knack. You have to have the aptitude for it. It’s easy,” Fred said. “Back then, the engines were simpler. Everything was very, very simple.”

The biggest industry change arrived in 1980 with the evolution of computers in vehicles. This allowed them to be finely tuned, which in turn reduced exhaust emissions.

As cars have become mostly computerized, the process of working on them has changed as well.

“You have to have a lot of equipment to run a business like this,” Fred says. “Every tire is different...The newer cars are going out with bunches of computers. It’ll tell you what code comes up, and you start looking for the problem. You have got to be computer savvy now to do any mechanical work.”

Today, DeVries Tire Co. is a full-service shop, with the exception that they do not change transmissions or engines. Large tires are no longer sold, as those are considered a specialty item. They work on most makes and models of cars, with the exception of Rolls Royce, Jaguars and the exotic ones, like Ferraris. The German-made cars such as Mercedes and BMW are worked on to an extent.

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“The dealerships/companies that make cars want the people to go back to them, so there’s a lot of information they won’t release,” he explained. “We can only go so far, and then we tell them you have to go to the dealer for this.”

Ninety percent of their business is by word of mouth. They have withstood the test of time by doing good service, standing behind their work, honest pricing and understanding the meaning of customer service.

“Everybody makes mistakes, but if you make a mistake you take care of it, then it’s no longer a mistake. It just happens,” Fred said. “Nobody is perfect, and things do happen. Sometimes, things get overlooked and that kind of stuff, but we take care of what doesn’t go right. That doesn’t happen very often, but we do.”

Anyone who has owned a car long enough likely has had an unfavorable experience with repairs. Fred and his staff have heard those stories.

He responds earnestly, “If you were not honest, you could cheat a lot of people. That will only last so long, and word gets around and it will come back and bite you... sooner or later, people will be passing your door by going someplace else.

“If you don’t need it, we won’t sell it to you,” Fred continues. “That’s another big item. Especially in the automobile business. We get a lot of people that come in and say, I was told this and I was told that, and a good percentage of the time, half of it is not needed, and in some cases, none of it is needed. All you can do is shake your head and say it won’t happen here.”

Their slogan beckons you to stop and see why they are different. The shop, for instance, has never opened on Sunday. He believes the Sabbath is a day of rest.

Their showroom also sets them apart, as it’s like walking into a miniature botanical garden. There’s a rubber tree, rescued from Marquette Mall, that spans across a 25-foot section of the room. Ropes hold the branches off the floor. In the corner is a Norfolk Island Pine that Fred and Barb brought back from Florida. Having outgrown the ceilings at

home, Barb suggested he take it to the shop. Amazingly, the tree is almost outgrowing its new home.

Customers also have given him their plants. He says he doesn’t have a green thumb. He simply waters, occasionally feeds and talks to them.

“I tell them, straighten up and don’t drop their leaves so much because they’re messy,” Fred said.

They listen.

□

Fred is still an early riser. Instead of tossing and turning in bed, he goes to the shop and turns everything on. Throughout the day, he picks up parts. He also gives customers a ride home. That way, he can talk with them beyond the customary small talk. Or, with that twinkle in his eye, he “sits around and looks important.” Amid our laughter during the interview, he pointed out that I did not see him working when I walked in. That’s true. He was sitting in a comfortable chair with a cat on his lap, brushing it.

On numerous occasions, Fred has said “there is no place I would rather be.”

His retired bookkeeper, Judy Gardner, who worked for Fred for 42 years, confirms that.

“He is content to come in, sit and have a cup of coffee and enjoy the fruit of his labor,” she says.

He plans to continue working as long as his health holds up. Then, Chuck Henckel will take the reins.

“I have been Fred’s business partner for 22 years...my life has been molded in many different ways because of it,” Chuck said. “He is probably the most generous man I know, not only monetarily, but the knowledge and life lessons he has taught me. Fred has always reminded me the importance as the head of my family, of raising my children in a Christian manner. Those values have always carried over to our business, how we treat our customers, our community and our employees.”

Fred touched many lives over the years through his business, as well as being in leadership positions on the boards of the Old Lighthouse Museum and Michigan City Historical Society, as well as being on the Duneland Beach board. He is still an active member of the Lions Club and Michigan City Rifle Club.

Today, he remains involved in helping his com-



Fred DeVries is photographed with colleagues Chuck Henckel (right) and Jim Coburn (center) by *The Beacher's* by Bob Wellinski.

munity, but quietly. That low-key approach is more his style. Those who know him know what he does. That is all he needs. He gives generously of his and the staff's time, and talent to numerous animal organizations. He also supports other charity organizations monetarily. His staff appreciates him and what he gives back to the community.

"Building a project at Michigan City Zoo, he says, give me a list of needed materials...the material suddenly appear," said Jim Coburn, DeVries Tire Company service writer. "Cat or dog that was just rescued that need immediate grooming or medical attention...he has helped."

There is so much he has done to help others, and without being asked.

"While his generosity includes monetary gifts to various charities...there are other gifts...giving someone a chance, giving someone the benefit of the doubt and giving others a reason to want to work for you are a few," Judy said.

Throughout his life, Fred always had pets. Over time, his love of animals has grown.

"The older you get, the more sensitive you get to animals, and there's so many of them out there that need help," he explains.

His son, Bruce, said his father "took on a new mission. All his cats.

Jim said, "He loves his animals. Cats, dogs, big



The counter at DeVries Tire Co. reveals some of the causes to which Fred supports. Photo by Bob Wellinski.

cats, feral cats. He cares about them all."

Entering the shop, you are greeted by two rescue cats, as well as their mascots: Oreo, a friendly miniature Australian cattle dog, and Bella, a golden doodle full of energy. They are a natural alarm system during the day, especially when no one is at the front counter.

Fred and his employees are involved on vari-

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# A Kind Heart

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ous levels with Fried's Cat Shelter, Michiana Humane Society, Washington Park Zoo, Sand Castle Shelter and a big dog rescue out of Westville, donating the maintenance and repair of their vehicles, along with their time and talents.

"As a community neighbor, it is wonderful to see local people and businesses find opportunities to give back..." Washington Park Zoo Director Jamie Huss said. "It is people like Fred and his crew that can inspire us all to try to make the world a better place in everything we do - both professionally and personally."

At Washington Park Zoo, Fred is known for his love of big cats.

"I know at our auctions, he has always bid high on anything tiger-related, some of which he has hung in his shop's public area," Elizabeth Emerick, Washington Park Zoo's assistant director and carnivore keeper, says.

He's also helped build new climbing platforms for the big cats, as well as sponsoring a candy station during the zoo's annual Halloween event, "Boo at the Zoo."



Fred offers treats to Oreo, a miniature Australian cattle dog, and Bella, a golden doodle.  
Photo by Bob Wellinski.

He doesn't forget about the small cats. He's earned the admiration of kitties and the staff at Fried's Cat shelter by taking Tidy Cat tubs and turning them into kitty apartments.

"Fred DeVries is a longtime volunteer and supporter of our efforts," said Sandra Odell, Fried's Cat Shelter executive director. "We will forever be indebted to him for his generosity and all the hours he spends with our kids."

Fred radiates the warmth of a man with a big heart.

"Fred has spent hours at the Michiana Humane Society socializing kittens so they'll be the best pets," Johanna Humbert, Michiana Humane Society executive director, said. "St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, said 'for it is in giving that we receive.' If that is true, then Fred's heart must be absolutely full."

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## “No Sudden Move” Sounds Cool, But the Reality is Far From It

by Andrew Tallackson



Don Cheadle (left) and Benicio del Toro star as men way over their heads in “No Sudden Move.”

All that talent, all those juicy twists...and the results are *still* meh.

“No Sudden Move,” which just debuted on HBO Max, is the work of Steven Soderbergh, one of the great talents to emerge from the last act of the 20th century. Grounded in independent fare, he pushes boundaries, making us laugh or squirm with “Sex, Lies and Videotape,” “Out of Sight” and “The Informant.” Dabbling in commercial projects, the results are frequently exhilarating, like “Traffic,” “Erin Brockovich” and “Ocean’s Eleven.”

He also makes a lot of weird, oddly disjointed stuff, and “No Sudden Move” is a perfect example. On paper, in the tightly wound script by Ed Solomon (“Men in Black,” the “Bill & Ted” movies), it sounds cool, one of those crime capers where everything that can go wrong does. But Soderbergh, who has a cinematic fetish for the ’70s, has crafted his film to stylistically resemble his favorite decade. The execution is all wrong.

Set in Detroit in the 1950s, the movie introduces three small-time crooks hired to baby-sit the family of a guy who has access to documents locked up in a safe at work. The importance of those documents is gradually revealed — they’re grounded in real events — but all the interested parties are looking out for themselves. That means deception after deception after deception.

So, yes, it sounds cool. And consider the cast: Don Cheadle, Benicio del Toro, David Harbour, Jon Hamm, Ray Liotta, Kieran Culkin, Brendan Fraser, Bill Duke and, in a last-minute cameo, Matt Damon. Each embracing the slime and grit of Solo-

★ ★

**“No Sudden Move”**

*Running time: 115 minutes. HBO Max. Rated R for language throughout, some violence and sexual references*

mon’s characters.

The approach, however, is confusing. Soderbergh does not move with crystal-clear precision. We’re not sure who is connected to whom, what the motives are. That creates frequent disorientation, and not in a good way. And Soderbergh doesn’t give each new act of deception the proper punch. The big moments surprise you, yes, but they’re not as dramatic as they should be. Instead, everything moves at a pokey pace.

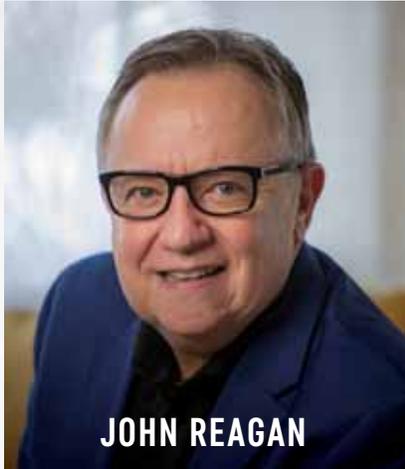
Eventually, there are so many characters, it is tough to care for any of them. And the two we like get the short end of the stick. Upstaging the big-name cast are Amy Seimetz (“Pet Sematary”) and Noah Jupe (the “Quiet Place” movies) as the wife and son of Harbour’s philandering office drone. These two are smart and brave, seeing through the hoods baby-sitting them, and how Harbour may be letting them down at every turn.

“No Sudden Move” is the third Soderbergh movie in a row to debut on a streaming service, the last two being the Meryl Streep duds “Let Them All Talk” and “The Laundromat.” He seems content to coast on the notion of coolness rather than create anything remotely cool in and of itself. Let’s chalk it up to a dry spell. Hopefully.

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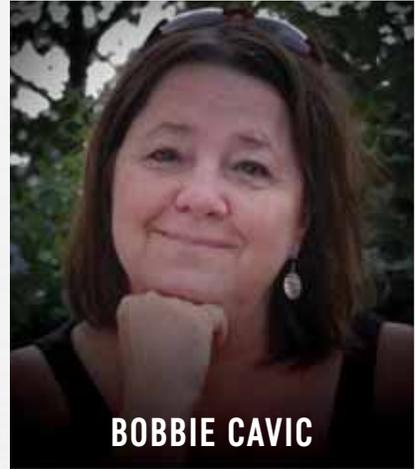
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## Purdue Northwest Sinai Forum Unveils 68th Season

Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum kicks off its 68th season with Deborah Birx, former White House Coronavirus response coordinator, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17.

The season also features Silicon Valley icon Steve “The Woz” Wozniak, civil rights lawyer/social justice activist Bryan Stevenson, Holocaust survivor Max Eisen and nature photographer Paul Nicklen.

Tickets go on sale starting Tuesday, July 13, at [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum). The season is in person, with a virtual option available. PNW will follow all state, local and university health-and-safety protocols for in-person events.

All programs, with the exception of “An Afternoon with Steve Wozniak,” are at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville. The Wozniak program is at Blue Chip Casino Hotel & Spa Stardust Event Center, 777 Blue Chip Drive. All talks start at 4 p.m., with doors opening at 3 p.m. Regular series tickets with general seating for all five programs cost \$175. Patron series tickets that include reserved seating and a reception with speakers before each program cost \$300. Patron and regular season tickets include a link for each program to allow for virtual viewing, if preferred. Virtual-only tickets are \$100. The schedule is:

• **Oct. 17, “An Overview of the Pandemic from the Inside.”**

Birx is a medical expert whose career has focused on clinical and basic immunology, infectious disease, pandemic preparedness, vaccine research and global health. She began her career as a U.S. Army colonel, later running key programs at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of State. She recently served as the White House Coronavirus response coordinator in which she used complex data integration to drive decision-making, providing recommendations to then-Vice President Mike Pence and working closely with state officials to provide state-specific advice and guidance.



• **Nov. 7, “By Chance Alone: A Remarkable True Story of Courage and Survival at Auschwitz.”**



Eisen is a Holocaust survivor, speaker and educator who will share his story of courage to warn of the dangers of hatred and discrimination, but also to promote understanding. Born in Moldava, Czechoslovakia, in 1929 into a large orthodox Jewish family, at 15 he and his family were taken from their home and sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death

camp. His extended family, including parents, two younger brothers and baby sister, paternal grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins, all perished there in May 1944. The maternal side of his family departed from Slovakia in 1942 to the Majdanek-Lublin death camp, where they also perished.

• **Dec. 5, “On Justice and Mercy.”**



Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Ala. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two cultural sites that opened in 2018: the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. He also is a law professor at the New York University School of Law.

• **Jan. 9, 2022, “Into the Icy Realm.”**



Nicklen is a Canadian photographer, filmmaker and marine biologist who has documented the planet’s beauty and plight for more than 20 years. He also is a speaker and National Geographic Fellow. In the past two decades, he has collaborated with scientists, filmmakers, conservationists and explorers to create awareness and inspire action for global issues like climate change. As an assignment photographer for *National Geographic*, he reaches a global audience.

• **Feb. 6, 2022, “An Afternoon with Steve Wozniak.”**



A Silicon Valley icon and philanthropist, Wozniak has helped shape the computing industry with his design of Apple’s first line of products – the Apple I and II. In 1976, he and Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer Inc. The Apple II was integral in launching the personal computer industry. For his achievements at Apple, he received the National Medal of Technology from the president in 1985. In December 2020, he launched Efforce, which uses cryptocurrency and blockchain technology to make it cheaper and easier for companies to fund green projects.

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## “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” adapted and directed by Steve Scott, marks the next performance in the Dunes Summer Theatre season.

Shows are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday, July 9-25, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Scott is an artistic associate at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre, where he was an award-winning producer for more than 30 years before retiring in 2017. He returns for his third season at the Dunes, where he directed “The Spitfire Grill” in 2018 and “Working” in 2019. He is a Dunes Arts Foundation board member.

The cast includes:

- Beck Damron, who graduated this year with a Bachelor of Arts in acting from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film in Lincoln, Neb. He plays the role of Puck.
- Jay España, an actor, writer, director, producer and filmmaker with a Master of Arts in film directing from Columbia College Chicago. He played Smudge in this year’s “Forever Plaid” and appears as Lysander in “Midsummer.”
- Emily Franks, who has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater performance from the University of Idaho. She lives in Washington state and returns to the Dunes to play Helena after performing in the 2019 production of “South Pacific.”
- Haley Glickman, who makes her Dunes debut in the dual roles of Egeus and Bottom. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Marymount Manhattan College.
- Jamie Herb, who is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in acting at the DePaul Theatre School, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and theater from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She plays Hypolita.
- Caroline McKinzie, who graduated this year from Lyric Theatre at Illinois and has performed at Shakespeare’s Globe in London. She plays Hermia in “Midsummer” and is teaching two classes for the Dunes’ children’s program.
- Caitlin McNichol, who will receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She plays Titania.
- Erin Christine Walsh, who has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from Syracuse University and is based in New York City and Chicago. She has performed at Shakespeare’s Globe in London and at theaters across Europe and the United States. She plays Demetrius.
- Lizzie Williams who, originally from Cheshire in England, has lived in Chicago since 2012 and is a graduate of Loyola University’s Department of Fine and Performing Arts. She debuts at the Dunes as Oberon.



Damron



España



Franks



Glickman



Herb



McKinzie



McNichol



Walsh



Williams

- Tito Sanchez-Williams, who is the Dunes Arts Foundation artistic director and board member. He directed this year’s “Forever Plaid,” teaches acting classes for the Dunes’ children’s program and plays Theseus in “Midsummer.” He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the New School for Drama in New York City.



Sanchez-Williams

The show is free; however, donations are suggested of \$25 per individual and \$50 per family. Take a blanket, lawn chair and picnic for seating on the Dunes lawn. Seating is limited, so reservations are suggested.

The box office opens at 5 p.m., when theatergoers can buy merchandise, water or snacks. Lawn spots can be claimed starting at 5:30 p.m. Lawn chairs for rent are available for \$5. Staff will designate an area for reserved/pre-sold tickets. Some tickets may be available the night of the show. Visit [tinyurl.com/yezp2vym](http://tinyurl.com/yezp2vym) for reservations.



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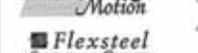
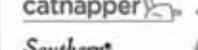
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## Updated Version of Musical-Comedy on Tap at Canterbury Theatre

Canterbury Summer Theatre presents an updated take on the musical-comedy, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" on July 7-17 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

With book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts, the production is the longest-running off-Broadway revue in history. The authors recently revised it to reflect dating in current times.

It debuted in 1995 at New Jersey's American Stage Co. where, in the middle of an early performance, a woman in the audience blurted out, "This is my life!" From that moment on, the creators knew they were on to something, taking on the truths and myths behind relationships.

The production has been showcased in more than



Jacob Ryan Martinez (from left), Anna Holmes, Bailey Roberts and Grace Cummings star in "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

250 cities, including London, Tel Aviv, Amsterdam, Sydney, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg. The off-Broadway production also was the site of more than 50 marriage proposals.

Featured in the Canterbury production are Grace Cummings, Anna Holmes, Jacob Ryan Martinez and Bailey Roberts. Canterbury veteran Lari Renee Leber returns to direct the show, her second after

helming last season's "Vanities: The Musical." She recently received her master's degree in theater from Louisiana Tech University. Ellen Perkins is the musical director and Anna Holmes the choreographer. Scenic design is by David White, with lighting by Austin Ferrari. Jakob Innes and Sarah Schwarz provide costume design, and Megan Ross is the stage manager.

Shows are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 6:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets cost \$16-\$17, with discounts for seniors and students. They can be purchased at (219) 874-4269 or by email [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org)

Canterbury will follow health and safety protocols as set forth by the Indiana State Health Department, implementing socially-distanced seating and other precautions. Patrons are not required to wear masks, but can do so if they feel it necessary.



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## LaPorte County Public Library Opens New Location



LaPorte County Public Library has opened LP-CPL Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave., to the public.

The multi-use community space aims to remove barriers to equipment access. Community members can reserve study spaces, use open seating or a variety of equipment for free. The building contains two meeting rooms, a large classroom, audio and video recording studios, sewing machines, design software, 3-D printers, soldering equipment, a CNC milling machine and wood lathes.

Community members may visit for tours during open hours. Library employees and volunteers will lead classes to familiarize guests with available equipment. Individuals also may reserve equipment once they have completed the appropriate safety training. Visit [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org) or call (219) 344-5895 for more details.

## Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will revisit nature study trails surrounding New Buffalo Elementary School, including the newly created butterfly field, at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 10.

The field, seeded in 2019 by the U.S. Field & Wildlife Service, is in full bloom with a variety of wildflowers. The 1.5 acres were created to replace the former waterlogged ballfield, with an ideal living place for insects, reptiles and smaller mammals. This part of the hike can be enjoyed by those with different abilities.

From there, HCH President Pat Fisher will lead the group through sections of the trails that reveal diverse ecosystems, including ancient beaches, large ravines and hardwood forests.

The two-hour hike may go through some wetlands, so appropriate footwear is advised, along with extra drinking water, bug repellent and head covering. The group will meet in the school parking lot, 12292 Lubke Road. HCH observes federal and state COVID guidelines. At present, mask wearing is optional.

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

## Women in Leadership Program

Women in Leadership LaPorte County will present the program "Diversity, Inclusion and Unconscious Bias" from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The speaker is Angie Nelson Deutch. The cost is \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members. Visit [www.women-in-leadership.com](http://www.women-in-leadership.com) for reservations or more details.

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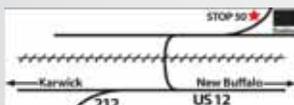
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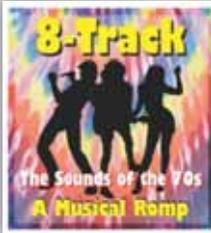
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## La Porte County Parks



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

### Tuesday Treasures

The program aimed at 6- to 13-year-olds meets from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

All programs include arts and crafts. Parents are not required to participate or stay. The cost is \$8 per person per program. Masks are required. Pre-registration and payment are required one week before each program. The schedule is:

- July 20 – “Bugg Off.” Learn about insects, bugs and spiders.
- July 27 – “Scat, Tracks and Other Mammal Facts.” Learn to identify animal scat and tracks.
- Aug. 3 – “Feathers, Feet, Nests and Beaks.” Birds are the topic of the hands-on program.

### Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Programs focus on

health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- July 14: Nutrition, food groups and labeling, Stephanie Thomas.
- Aug. 4: Sleep disorders and their health effects, by Mindi Whittaker, Northwest Health LaPorte.
- Sept. 1 — Fall garden cleanup and separating plants, Gee-Burns.
- Oct. 6 — Pulmonary health, Patti Solona, Northwest Health LaPorte.

### Under the Shady Tree – Story Time

Children ages 2-11 can attend the free program at 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 19, at Luhr County Park.

Siblings are invited. Take a blanket to sit under the shady tree. Then, engage in self-guided play-time or take a snack for family time. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Make reservations at least one week before the program.

### Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- July 21 — “Lonesome Dove.”
- July 28 — “Here, Fishy, Fishy.”
- Aug. 4 — “It’s a Great Blue Heron.”

### Family Fishing Nights

The free, all-ages event is from 5-7:30 p.m. July 26 and Aug. 30 at Luhr County Park.

A limited number of poles and bait will be provided. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required.

### Nature Stroll

Join a naturalist in front of the Nature Center for a relaxing stroll from 7:15-8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17, at Luhr County Park.

Learn about the park’s history, look for migrating birds, identify trees and hunt for native plants. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to reserve a free spot.

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## “F9” is Insane...and Insanely Fun

by Andrew Tallackson



Dom (Vin Diesel) and Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) brace for surprise visitors in “F9.”

It was somewhere around the fourth or fifth entry that the “Fast and Furious” franchise became my go-to guilty pleasure.

Before then, these films were a slick, but drowsy mix of street racing, gyrating hoochies and undercover cop picture, the kind believed long dead thanks to the “Naked Gun” parodies. But with 2009’s “Fast & Furious,” the franchise rebooted itself. Now, it was a gonzo fusion of stunt-driven Bond movie and missions insanely impossible. Each entry never deviated from the formula — same plot, same snarky banter, interchangeable villain — but the goal now was, how can we top ourselves with action so preposterously over the top, all you as the audience have to do is roll with it. And you do, adopting the “it is what it is” approach.

“F9” is no different. You check your brain in at the door and have a good time, even though the big finish this time is so spectacularly stupid, you have to wonder if everyone was unwillingly lobotomized.

Like all the “Fast” movies, “F9” opens with Dom (Vin Diesel) and Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) trying to live a life shielded from crime, especially now that they are raising his child fathered with a police officer (Elena Neves), now deceased, while Letty was presumed dead, but actually missing and suffering from amnesia and...*holy cow*, I can’t believe I wrote



“F9”

*Running time: 145 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, and language*

that last sentence. Then again, this *is* the “Fast & Furious” series. Logic is as deadly as someone with a peanut allergy, but no Epipen.

In any event, it takes all of five minutes for Dom and Letty, corralled by mouthy former partners in crime Roman (Tyrese Gibson) and Tej (Chris “Ludacris” Bridges), to embark on their latest adventure. Seems a plane carrying Kurt Russell’s shadowy Mr. Nobody and captured “Fate of the Furious” villain Cipher (Charlize Theron) was attacked, crashing in Central America. Why Central America? Because “F9,” which exists as one gigantic Easter egg tribute to other movies, can’t wait to unleash its first elaborate car chase. And it’s a doozy, with Dom and company maneuvering through a field of land mines. But now, we get two nods to Steven Spielberg, first to “Jurassic Park,” with Roman’s car suspended above certain death, then a trip across a rickety bridge that recalls “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.” The payoff defies all known laws of physics...but honestly, you don’t care. You laugh twice,

first at the sheer outrageousness of it, then at how ingeniously choreographed it is by returning director Justin Lin, back after a two-film reprieve.

Thankfully, Lin also has streamlined the franchise. Thinned out the herd. Gone is Dwayne Johnson, the proprietor of alleged behind-the-scenes bickering among the cast. The street hoochies, a staple of this saga, are noticeably absent...for about an hour. Then, as if on cue, we get the slo-mo T&A shots...in Edinburgh, no less.

Who is at the center of all the mayhem? It's Dom's brother, Jakob (John Cena). The beef between these two dates back to their deceased father, a fractured relationship depicted in flashbacks scattered throughout the action. And what Jakob has in store for the world, I could not tell you. The specifics in a "Fast & Furious" picture are irrelevant. For the sake of the plot, as threadbare downtime between action sequences, all we need to know is that Jakob is bad, he's in control of technology and his intentions are less than noble.

Now, however, the drama and the action are so cheeky, Lin's intentions as director and co-writer are iffy. Is he going for all out parody? Because we get Cipher encased in a glass prison that's like "Silence of the Lambs" meets Magneto's "X-Men" cell. A line of dialogue lifted from "The Shawshank Redemption." Disposable scenes that exist as "Fast & Furious" reunions, from Helen Mirren driving like a bat out of hell, to the return of "Tokyo Drift" veterans Lucas Black, Sean Boswell and Jason Tobin, now envisioned as the techno-geek offspring of The Three Stooges.

Oh wait, almost forgot. Adhering to the franchise's mantra of "no one is really truly ever dead," Han (Sung Kang), believed deceased after a mid-credits scene in the sixth film, makes a surprise return.

Then, we get to the big finish. Aye-yi-yi, where to begin. On land, we have Dom's gang in armored vehicles using monstrous magnetic devices to unleash chaos among their pursuers. By all "Fast & Furious" standards, that would be enough. But no,



The moment "F9" officially loses its mind, sending Tej (Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, left) and Roman (Tyrese Gibson) into space.

Roman and Tej get launched into space to destroy a satellite. In a rocket ship crafted out of a Pontiac Fiero. Yep, you read that right. A *Pontiac Fiero*. The image of it drifting through space toward the satellite reminded me of Mel Brooks, substituting a Winnebago for the Millennium Falcon in "Spaceballs." That comparison is not a compliment. Brooks was going for laughs. Lin may actually *not* be. I could not tell. I *was* laughing, but for all the wrong reasons. The movie, by this point, had completely lost its mind.

It may sound by this review that I don't particularly care for "F9." Far from it. More, just trying to illustrate how these movies are critic-proof. True, I wish Lin had not shot two of his characters out into space. And maybe, one day, Rodriguez will voluntarily smile in a movie. But for now, experiencing the lunatic mayhem that is "F9" is perfectly fine.

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# Long Beach Becomes Home to Two “Climate Refugees”

*Editor's note — Matt Kubik wrote this article about his brother and sister-in-law.*

It wasn't too long after high school that Elston graduate Andrew Kubik headed west, putting Michigan City in his rearview mirror. It was never his expectation that he would return to the city of his birth to live.

After earning a four-year degree from Arizona State University, his final destination was California. As for many in his generation raised on the Beach Boys, Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead, California was a Mecca. And as in the words of the Mamas and Papas, everybody seemed to be “California Dreamin'.” For Kubik, the dream came true with a graduate degree from the University of San Francisco and a long career as a planner with the California Department of Transportation. He even met his own California girl, Mary Cody. His life partner. Born and raised in Sacramento, she also worked for the state.

After retiring in 2009, the two moved to what they thought would be their permanent home in Ashland, located in southern Oregon.

“It was the most ideal place we ever lived,” Andy says. “The mild four-season climate included a bit of winter snow, and the summers were delightful; hardly any rain, low humidity and, in some years, never even reaching high 80s.”

From the windows of their house, they had a spectacular view of the foothills of the Cascades range. It all seemed too good to be true.

And it was.

Andy and Mary now live in Long Beach. What was it that caused them to uproot from their ideal retirement and move across the country to the Midwest?

Andy and Mary are “Climate Refugees.”

It's no secret western forest fires are getting worse. Scientists identify the hotter, drier conditions brought on by climate change making vegetation prime to burn.

And then, there are the beetles. There are many species of bark beetles, but some, like the mountain pine beetle, attack living trees. According to a *National Geographic* article, and supported by many other sources, over the past 20 years, the mountain pine beetle has killed roughly 100,000 square miles of trees across western North America. This dramatic spread is attributed to climate change that has eliminated the winter cold spells that kill them off. The trees, stressed by drought, are unable to defend themselves and eventually die, becoming fast-burning fuel.

For many of us, the idea of climate change is



Andrew and Mary Kubik realized they could no longer stay in Ashland, Ore., “...the most ideal place we ever lived,” Andy says.

something that's happening elsewhere. That is not true for Andy and Mary. Their lives have been directly affected by the significant and threatening climate changes taking place on the West Coast (and for that matter, everywhere).

“We first noticed obvious smell of smoke in 2015,” Andy said. “At first, our neighbors didn't seem to be too concerned about the fires. Mother Nature was just doing her thing.”

The autumn rains cleared the air, and everyone got on with life. However, the summer of 2017, smoke was noticeably thicker than before.

“We were out of state for a month and received numerous text messages from Ashland friends about thick smoke that engulfed the area,” Andy said. “Upon our return, we could faintly smell some smoke.”

As a result, Mary and Andy became more serious about educating themselves about wildfire taking place west of the Rockies. Aside from learning about the destruction caused by the bark beetle, they learned about Air Quality Index to assess how thick and polluted the air is at any time. The Air Quality Index is a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500 to gauge air pollution. The greater the number, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. An AQI value of more than 300 represents hazardous air quality. In 2017, southern Oregon experienced more than 20 days of unhealthy and hazardous air quality. Were the wildfires of 2015 and 2017 flukes, or was something more egregious taking place?

The summer of 2018 was ushered in by nearly two weeks of unusually high temperatures in June.

The warmer temperatures add to the volatility of the region.

“No one we knew remembered anything like it,” Andy says. “This included a number of long-term residents.”

The summer continued to be unusually warm. In July, a series of raging wildfires began to engulf the area with thick smoke. There were times when the region literally was surrounded by wildfires. According to Andy, the N-95 mask made its Oregon fashion debut well ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thick smoke hung in the air, and fine ash filled the air, covering everything. The AQI again reached well above 300, attaining the unhealthy and hazardous zone for more than 30 days.

For eight weeks, southern Oregon was engulfed in thick smoke and falling fine ash. For weeks at a time, Andy and Mary no longer could see even a trace of the beautiful foothills view from their windows. It was time to do some serious research on climate change.

While climate change deniers were calling it all a hoax, research, science and personal experience led to different conclusions. According to the Purdue Climate Change Research Center, “the vast majority of climate scientists, 97%, agree that the world is unequivocally warming, that the human activity is the primary cause of warming over the past century.”

Andy added, “The abrupt changes that took place in southern Oregon and northern California were impossible to ignore, and we wanted to be as certain as possible about what we were experiencing.”

As it turned out, the scientific consensus as reported by Purdue states, “The pace of change is accelerating, and the broad-reaching effects of climate change are becoming more apparent.”

The autumn of 2018 also was the famous “Camp Fire” that burned Paradise, Calif., to the ground. To put it in perspective, Paradise had a population similar to LaPorte. The event was ranked as one of the most costly natural disasters in the world for 2018. With the devastating wildfires tearing across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states, it became clear to Andy and Mary it was time to get out. Like people all over the world fleeing dangerous and unlivable conditions, Andy and Mary were refugees. Climate refugees. Where would they go?

“Armed with our climate research, we were able to narrow down the area of the country that is least likely to be disastrously impacted by global warming,” Andy says, “at least for the foreseeable future.”

Turns out, it's right here: the Great Lakes region.

Continued from Page 25

As stated earlier, Andy has deep roots in Michigan City. His grandfather was a foreman at Pullman Standard. His father was a businessman, owning Kubik Southside Hardware. With stories of his happy childhood on the shores of Lake Michigan and the region's woodlands, farms, vineyards and other local attractions, he set out to persuade Mary this was the place to move. She wasn't so sure. Mary had never lived any further east than Oregon, and her mother was still living in California. She finally agreed to visit Michigan City in February.

"I figured, since I am often cold, the winter conditions would be intolerable and my complaining would certainly kill the idea of moving to the Great Lakes area," Mary says with a grin. "You have to understand, my impression of the Great Lakes area in winter was from weather reports on TV news. Each year, news stations seem to show the same individual struggling to cross what looks like the same dreary street in Chicago during a significant blizzard."

Instead, she discovered a city of friendly people, the beautiful lake and newfound knowledge about its "effect." After several trips to the area, Andy and Mary found a home in Long Beach.

The "Climate Refugees" moved to Indiana in October 2019, and it appears none too soon. In the summer and autumn of 2020, nearly 10 percent of Oregon's population was placed under some level of evacuation, with hazardous air conditions forcing residents to stay inside. At least 35 deaths were confirmed across California, Washington and Oregon. And what about Ashland? The town, itself, escaped extensive fire damage, but on Sept. 8, 2020, two small towns directly north were not as lucky. Both Phoenix and Talent nearly burned to the ground. Both of these towns had populations several times that of New Buffalo, but they are located as close to Ashland as Long Beach is to New Buffalo.

"What saved Ashland from burning was the direction the wind was blowing," Andy says. "It was

just luck."

Unfortunately, climate change is not only affecting the West. It is happening around the world, resulting in reduced snow cover and sea ice, intensifying heavy, longer rainfall seasons in some areas and increased drought in others, more frequent violent storms, hurricanes/tornados. According to National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, a "2-degree increase in global average surface temperature that has occurred since the pre-industrial era might sound small, but it means a significant increase in accumulated heat" over time, including the Great Lakes. There have been large destructive wildfires in western states such as Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, even states east of the Rockies such as Tennessee and Oklahoma. Internationally, British Columbia, Sweden, Brazil, Greece and even Siberia have experienced devastating wildfires.

"Wildfires and facts are stubborn things," Andy says.

Prior to moving here, Mary and Andy researched impacts of climate change to Indiana. According to a study conducted by Purdue in 2018, climate change risk to Indiana includes an increase in the number of hot days, decline in the number of extreme cold days, increase in average annual precipitation and longer growing seasons for crop production.

According to Andy, "Weather patterns in northern Indiana seem to have changed from when I grew up here in the 1950s-1960s. For example, irrigation equipment is now common, whereas 40 years ago it was rarely seen.

"I recognize that climate change here has been occurring more gradually than in the far west, but it's also noticeable how many lower humidity days there are. Red flag fire warnings don't seem to be unusual, either."

Do we have time to make the changes to reverse climate change? According to the Purdue University website, "*Lasting climate solutions will require action on a global scale, but there are many ways that individuals can help, such as: Learn the basics, know your impact, talk about it, and engage now.*"

Mary says, "Andy and I didn't escape climate change, we just moved to a place where it's not as obvious. We are all in this together, and by acting as responsible citizens, we should be able to help make the difference."



Mary and Andrew Kubik

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1. Don't "top" your trees. Topping is the removal of large branches to reduce the height of the tree. This causes decay that leads to large branch failures in the future.
2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
4. Protect the roots out to the drip line from any activity other than foot traffic. The drip line is simply the outside edge of the canopy. On a mature open grown oak, it can be a circle of 60 feet in diameter.
5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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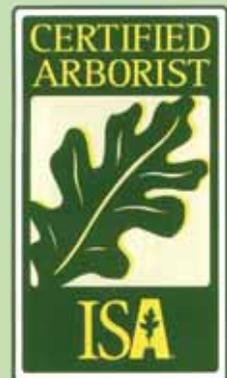
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### Community Celebrates Michigan City Suffragist



*“If your community doesn’t tell its stories and preserve its history, then it will be lost forever.”*

So said Purdue University Northwest Archivist Joseph Coates to many nods of agreement. Nearly 100 people from Michigan City and surrounding communities celebrated Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson, 19th-century Michigan City native and African-American suffragist, during a kickoff event on Juneteenth (June 19) at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau.



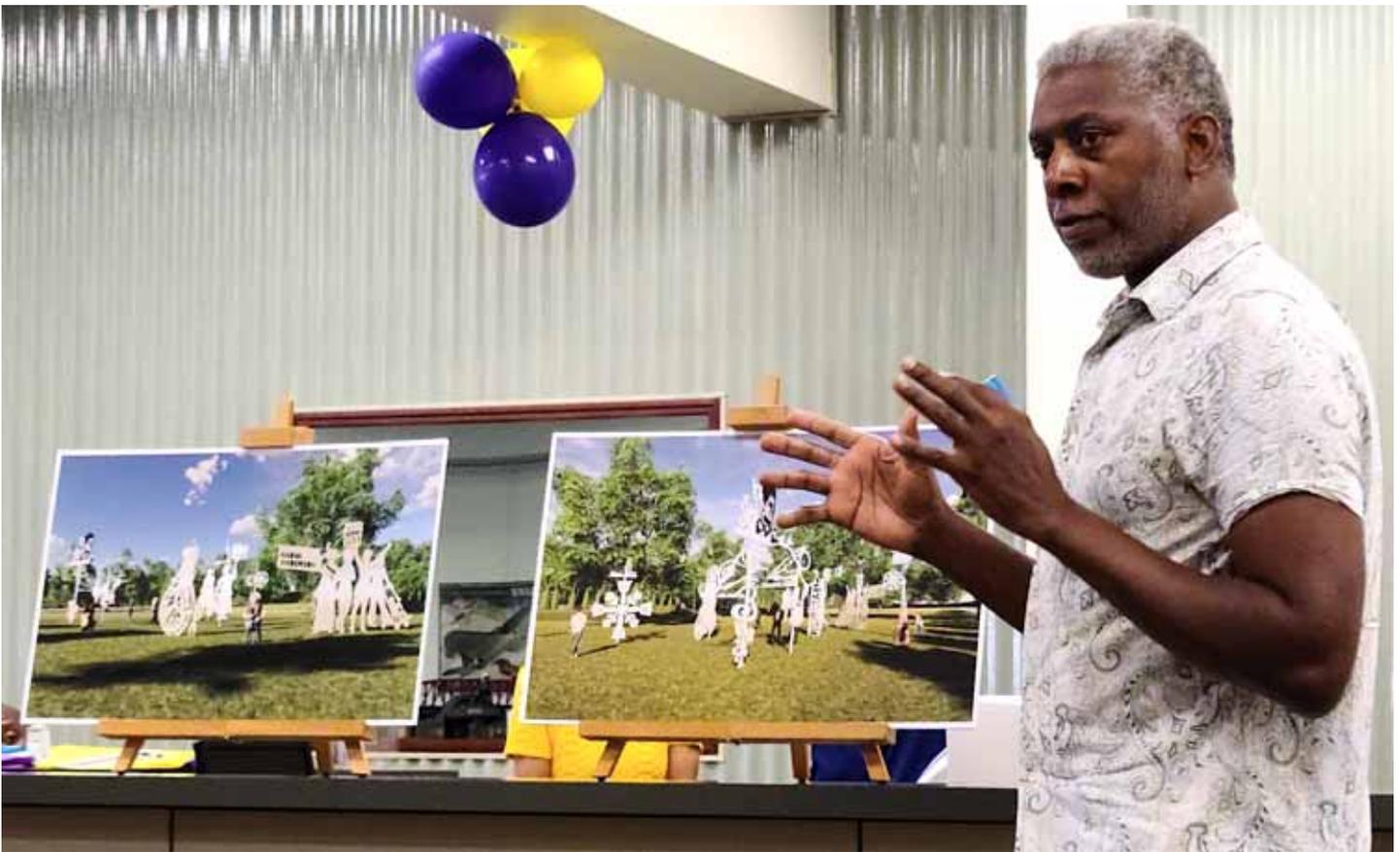
“But for the fact we learned of a truly outstanding woman who was the little known ‘daughter’ of Michigan City, her great national contributions to fight for women’s right to vote and human rights would have been unrecognized here. Now they won’t be!” Bonnie Schaaf, lead researcher of Michigan City Mainstreet Association’s Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project, said.

Sculptor Bernard Williams was present to show images of his large narrative sculpture to be installed Oct. 1 at Charles R. Westcott Park.

“I am overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response to this work,” he said. “It will be the largest amount of steel I have ever put on this earth!”

He estimates 4,300 pounds of multiple figures and cultural symbols will be distributed over a 50-foot-long expanse at the park.

Carnessa Carnes, a Michigan City poet and spoken word artist, delivered an original performance about Naomi Anderson



that began with the words:

*“Naomi Anderson is from smaaall Michigan City  
But her activism pedigree said smaaall thinkin  
aint in me*

*She was bold and fearless for African-American  
rights...Hear her roar Ready for take-off, Limitless...*

*Mrs. Naomi was kissed by the sun*

*And no one could block your shine*

*We can and will continue to overcome as we honor  
the Legacy of your life.”*

Donations to support the Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project can be made to Unity Foundation of LaPorte County at [tinyurl.com/w93p2d63](https://tinyurl.com/w93p2d63), or send checks with “Naomi Anderson” in the memo to 422 Franklin St., Suite C, Michigan City, IN 46360.



All Photos Provided

## Watercolor Classes

Local artist Matt Payovich will present “Exploring Watercolor with Matt,” a six-week series of watercolor classes, starting from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Thursday July 8, at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Payovich has served as an art instructor at Lake Michigan College and Krasl Art Center. He has work in the Michiana Annual Arts Competition, and will open a one-man show July 23 in the Box Factory’s Robert Williams Gallery.

Class participants should have basic drawing skills; however, the series is open to those 12 and older. During the first class, Payovich will conduct a watercolor demonstration and provide a materials list. A minimum of five students and a maximum of 10 are required. The non-refundable fee is \$150 for Berrien Artist Guild Inc. members and \$175 for non-members.

Registration is available by calling (269) 983-3688 or at [tinyurl.com/bwd7xh6n](http://tinyurl.com/bwd7xh6n)



An example of  
Matt Payovich’s work.

## Call for Photographers

Photographers are invited to enter “ReShoot,” a Box Factory for the Arts show, the deadline being noon to 4 p.m. EDT July 16-17.

The exhibit runs July 23-Sept. 12, with a reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. EDT Friday, July 30, at the Box Factory, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Photographers are limited to two entries, for which a \$5 per photo entry fee will be charged. Photos must fit into the categories of still life, people, animals or landscape. All images must start in the camera and be taken by the photographer entering the show. Manipulation or enhancements made to the photo are acceptable. Ribbons will be awarded to first place and a runner-up for each category. Photos must be wired for hanging. No saw-tooth hangers, hanging loops or easel-back frames will be accepted.

Susan Johnston, Stevensville, Mich., will judge the show. She began her photographic career 40 years ago, working to develop her style by attending the Santa Fe Workshops and Brooks Institute. She has exhibited at Buchanan Art Center, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, the Box Factory, Lakeland Hospital and Gilmore Car Museum. In 2018, she won Best Photograph at Midwest Museum of American Art.

Visit [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org) or follow the Box Factory on Facebook for more details.

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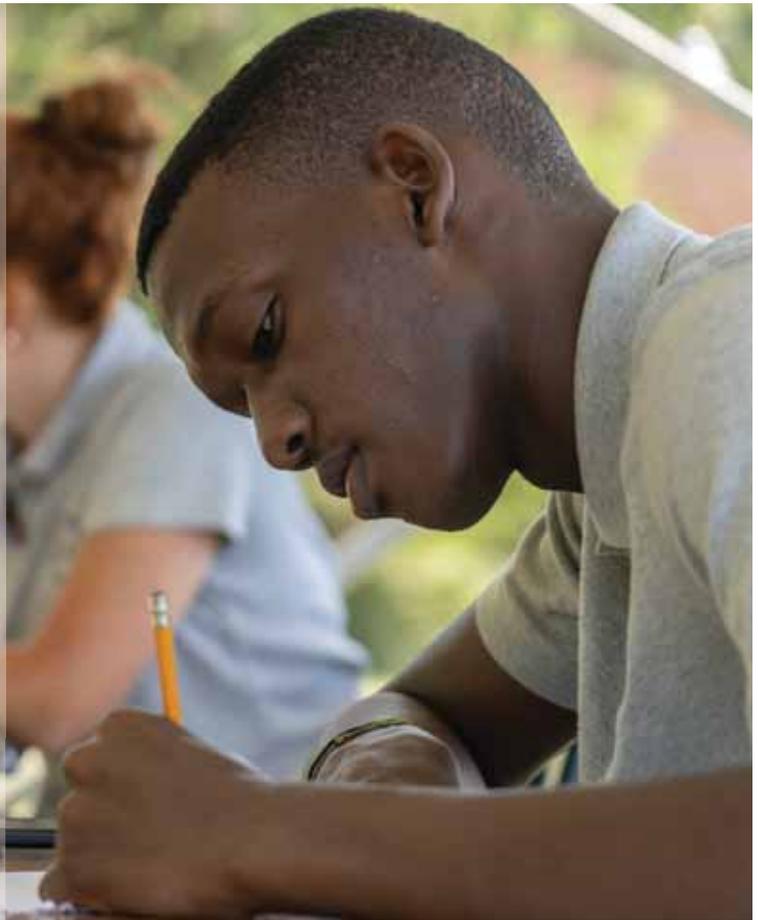
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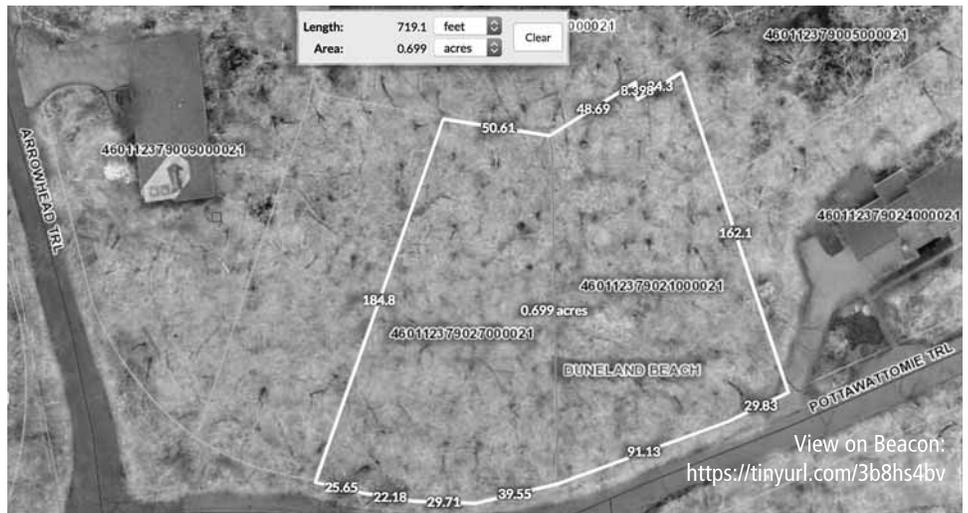
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## Huge Double Parcel in Duneland

Two beautiful adjacent wooded parcels at stop 35, totaling approximately .70 acres, being sold together.

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The two parcels combined have approximately 235 ft. of frontage on Pottawattomie Trail (just east of Arrowhead), and an average depth of about 170 ft. The wonderful size and excellent location make this property perfect for building your summer or year-round dream home while maintaining plenty of wooded area for privacy and seclusion in all directions. As an added bonus, the lot to the west is owned by the neighbor around the corner toward the lake who enjoys having these virgin woods adjacent to his home.

The property is a very short walk to the beach. It's also across the street from the Duneland Beach park and tennis courts, and just a few blocks away from Farina Supper Club (formerly the Duneland Beach Inn).

This wonderful property, being sold by the owner, has been in the family for over 40 years; all have since passed on or moved away. This is an excellent opportunity - there isn't much undeveloped land remaining in Duneland or the adjacent beach communities.

Contact Bruce at 817.875.9955 or [bruce76016@gmail.com](mailto:bruce76016@gmail.com).

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## Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 20th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 14, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

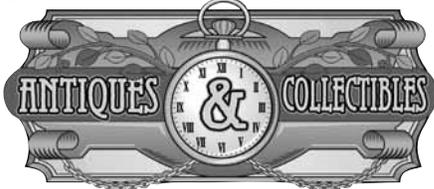
All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Performing July 14 is Carol Garrett, who has been a church organist for more than 50 years. Born the daughter of a Church of the Brethren minister, she actively served as organist and pianist in several Illinois and Indiana churches where her father served as pastor. She received music instruction from several teachers in grades 3-12 while living in different communities. In college, she was the pianist on several deputation teams that brought the Sunday morning service to Brethren congregations.

In 1970, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Manchester College, and a Master of Science in education from Purdue University-North Central in 1974. As a fourth-grade teacher, she used music to enrich the curriculum of her students for 40 years, retiring from Michigan City Area Schools in 2010. Besides being part of the music ministry at Church of the Brethren in Michigan City for 34 years, she served St. John United Church of Christ in New Buffalo, Mich., for five years in the 1990s. She has served as a guest organist for First Baptist Church, St. John's United Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Michigan City.

Garrett is a member of Monday Musicale and performs pieces on the piano and organ at least once a year. Currently, she is the organist at First Presbyterian Church, where she has been a member since September 1999.

The season runs through Aug. 18. Call (219) 608-5358 for details.

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### Harbor Country Singers



Donna Mitchell and Ron Spears lead a Harbor Country Singers sing-along.

Popular Broadway selections are the theme of Harbor Country Singers' next free sing-along at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, July 13, on The School of American Music's Spring Creek Stage.

Located at 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich., the stage is behind the Arts & Education Center. The rain date is the same time Tuesday, July 20.

The sing-along will include popular songs such as "Always," "My Favorite Things," "Oklahoma" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." Donna Mitchell, SAM executive director and voice teacher, and SAM music instructor Ron Spears will join show producer Pat Putnam as song leaders, with Spears providing accompaniment on guitar. Songbooks will be provided, but attendees should take lawn chairs. Musicians can take instruments to play along.

Current COVID-19 restrictions will be observed.

Contact SAM at schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or (269) 409-1191 for more details.

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Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### A Night to Remember



LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra recently hosted its first summer A La Carte fundraiser, "Dance at the Artisan Barn," at LaPorte County Fairgrounds. The evening included dancing to music by the band A Night To Remember. Photo by Glen Richardson.

### Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

- **The 24th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest is Saturday, July 17.**

This year's theme is "Nature." The registration table opens by 9 a.m. at the beach, but groups may begin as early as 7 a.m. Park volunteers will judge sculptures at noon for the funniest, most creative and most thematic awards (provided by Friends of Indiana Dunes). Winners will be announced at 1 p.m. Visitors also can vote in the "People's Choice Award."



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

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

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

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

## LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The following program are planned:

- **STEAM Sandbox from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, July 10, at the main library. Also from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at the Coolspring Branch.**

Children ages 6-18 can build real-world STEAM skills with self-paced STEAM challenges using the Mobile Maker cart.

- **Pill Identification Workshop from 3-4 p.m. Monday, July 12, in the Main Library Meeting Room B.**

The focus is staying organized. Registration is required.

- **Anime Club from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, July 12.**

Meet other teen anime fans through the club.

- **Online class — Chef for a Day in the Wizardly World of Harry Potter from 3-4:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 14.**

Learn to make recipes inspired by the series. Register through the website.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details.

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## Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place.

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

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

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

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day. Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations). WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

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

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- Dungeons & Dragons for Teens from 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays, July 14 and 28. Play D&D with Michigan City Public Library in the one-shot campaigns hosted on Zoom. The target is ages 13-18. Registration is required. Contact Jonathan at (219) 873-3045, [ysonline@mclib.org](mailto:ysonline@mclib.org) or [jlovett@mclib.org](mailto:jlovett@mclib.org)
- The free, all-ages 2021 Summer Reading Program: Tails and Tales. For every 10 hours of reading, reading to someone else or listening to someone read, participants can enter a raffle for prizes. Download a reading log from the library website. Logs also are available in Youth Services. Hours also can be recorded by emailing [SRP@mclib.org](mailto:SRP@mclib.org) or calling Youth Services at (219) 873-3045.
- Virtual Story Time. A new video will be posted to the website, Facebook page and YouTube channel at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Each video will be available for two weeks at [www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/](http://www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/). Stop by Youth Services to receive the craft project for the week.



Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.



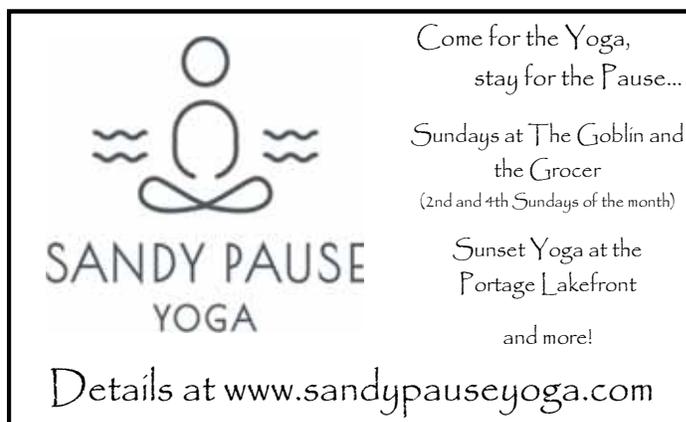
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### LCSO in the Spotlight



Christopher Bendix.

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

Acting Principal Double/Electric Bassist Christopher Bendix is a 22-year member of LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. His career with it began at 13 as a student apprentice with the percussion section. Soon after, he developed a passion for double bass and joined that section.

Outside of the LCSO, Bendix has performed as a member of the jazz fusion/hip-hop group Rhymer Educator. He lives in Michigan City with his wife, Lindsay. They have two children, Ella and Jack. He owns Bendix Pro-Painters, a high-end residential and commercial painting business.

### Secret Gardens Walk

Miller Garden Club will present its 20th Annual Secret Gardens Walk from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11, starting at the Marquette Park Aquatorium, 6918 Oak Ave. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.

Tickets, which cost \$15, are available at Ayers Realty, Lake St. Gallery and the Schoolhouse Shops and Spaces. Tickets will be sold the day of the event and include a map of the area, regardless of the weather. Signs will guide guests along the route. A bicycle tour led by a biking expert is at 10:30 a.m. each day.

The event also will feature more than 15 arts and crafts vendors in the aquatorium courtyard, box lunches and a plant sale (with free expert advice on planting and care), plus club merchandise, including gardening tools, seed kits and stationery. Free parking is available in the lot next to the aquatorium.

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## Exhibit Highlights "Erosion"

"Erosion: One Town Copes with Recurring Challenges from Lake Michigan" is the latest exhibit at The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

An opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 9.

Disappearing beaches are not new to Beverly Shores. It's been a pattern since Fred Bartlett purchased land for the town in 1929. Since 1951, The Depot has kept records and photos revealing how the town has experienced and coped with its disappearing lakefront, and the challenges presented by the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Michigan.

Visit [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org) for interviews with key residents following the most recent erosion challenges, as well as virtual exhibits and history.

Gallery hours through October are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays.

## Art Fair on the Bluff

Krasl Art Center will hold its Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, complete with 155 artists, on Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11, in Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, Mich.

Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 10 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 11. Tickets are \$5 per attendee 2 and older. Tickets must be reserved for 2 and younger for free. Visitors are encouraged to buy advance tickets at [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org). Only timed tickets are available at Ticketspice; however, entrance times will not be enforced unless capacity limits are again required by Michigan COVID-19 guidelines.

Advance tickets are available by texting "Tickets" to (269) 215-5521. General admission tickets are available at [tinyurl.com/28jw43vu](http://tinyurl.com/28jw43vu)

Walk-up tickets (\$5) can be purchased by mobile phone or at merchandise stations along Lake Boulevard at Ship Street, Broad Street and Park Street.

## LCA Gallery Talk

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a gallery talk on the exhibit "Bramson/Indiana/Lake" at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 10.

Leading the in-depth program is Director of Exhibitions Lora Fosberg. Masks are required.

Visit [tinyurl.com/45rcrww9](http://tinyurl.com/45rcrww9) to register.

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Welcome to the

## Front Yards of Beverly Shores

July 10, 10 am-2pm. Self-guided tour of 15 front yards with plein-air artists. Refreshments. \$10 tickets, includes raffle for original watercolor, at [absr.org](http://absr.org).

Maps & tickets at The Depot, 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores,  
July 10, 10 am-noon.

### Chesterton Art Center



An example of a dunes scene by Mark Anderson.

Watercolors by Mark Anderson, Hammond, are on display in July at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Anderson has been an illustrator for more than 25 years whose work has appeared in *Time*, *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *Outside Magazine* and *The Chicago Tribune*. He has illustrated and designed more than 20 books for Triumph Publishing, and illustrated the longest-running illustrated advertising campaign for All-state Insurance. His love of the dunes is evident in his works.

*Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org) for more details.*

### Video Fest Submissions

Organizers behind Michigan City Video Fest are accepting submissions for the seventh-annual event slated for the first weekend in November.

Exact dates and venues will be announced later. The festival will highlight the area's uniqueness by giving priority to local videomakers and subject matter. The top concern, however, is the highest quality material available. All genre will be considered, including animation, documentaries, music videos, commercials and trailers. The preference is videos shorter than five minutes. Invitations may be extended for longer videos.

The submission form and updates are available at [www.MCVideoFest.com](http://www.MCVideoFest.com). Visit [Facebook.com/MCVideoFest](https://www.facebook.com/MCVideoFest) for more details.

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### Lions Club Awards

The Michigan City Lions Club recently presented its top awards during a meeting at Creek Ridge County Park.



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Lion DeNita Ton presented Lion of the Year for outstanding service to the community and Lionism to Boss Lion Irene Rosevear.

Lion Melinda Nagle presented the Cliff Arnold Memorial Award for a lifetime of service to the community to Sam Johns.

### Indiana Dunes National Park

• **Wetland Wonders is from 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and Miller Woods ponds.**

Join a ranger to search for life in a pond. Sampling equipment and identification sheets are provided. Visitors also can hike the trail through Miller Woods, check out the nature play zone or explore activities inside the center.

• **Bailly Chellberg History Hike is from 1-3 p.m. Sundays.**

Join a ranger for a hike to Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm. Learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Take children to Chellberg Farm at 4 p.m. to help a ranger feed the animals. Meet at the Bailly/Chellberg Farm parking lot, which is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

*The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

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### A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

**Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Closed: Saturday & Sunday**

# LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



June 24, 2021

### Flight A

- Low Gross — Cindy Levy.
- Low Net — Cindy Levy.
- Low Putts — Cindy Levy.
- Birdies — Eunie Nondorf (12), Cindy Levy (8).
- Sunken Approach — Cindy Levy (8).

### Flight B

- Low Gross — Eileen Miller
- Low Net — Eileen Miller
- Low Putts (Tied) — Marge Walsh, Barbara Ward.

### Flight C

- Low Gross — Catherine Kelly.
- Low Net — Catherine Kelly.
- Low Putts (Tied) — Tina Sonderby, Mary Weithers.

### Flight D

- Low Gross — Donna Andreotti.
- Low Net — Jude Stahmer.
- Low Putts — Sally Allen.



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

- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, July 12.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13.

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




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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**July 7-17** — “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed.-Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$16-\$17. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org)

**July 9** — Opening reception, “Erosion: One Town Copes with Recurring Challenges from Lake Michigan,” 5-7 p.m., The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

**July 9-25** — “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 6-7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sun. Free; suggested donations — \$25/individual, \$50/family. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/yezp2vym](http://tinyurl.com/yezp2vym)

**July 10** — Front Yards of Beverly Shores (self-guided tour), 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: [www.absr.org](http://www.absr.org). Maps & tickets @ The Depot, 525 Broadway: 10 a.m.-noon.

**July 10** — Gallery talk, 11:30 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Registration: [tinyurl.com/45rcrwv9](http://tinyurl.com/45rcrwv9)

**July 14** — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Carol Garrett, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

**July 14** — Dungeons & Dragons for Teens, 3-5 p.m., Zoom, through Michigan City Public Library. Registration: (219) 873-3045, [ysonline@mclib.org](mailto:ysonline@mclib.org), [jlovett@mclib.org](mailto:jlovett@mclib.org)

**July 14** — Online class, “Chef for a Day in the Wizardly World of Harry Potter,” 3-4:15 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 14** — LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m., LaPorte’s Fox Park Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. Free.

**Though Aug. 12** — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater, Washington Park. Free. Parking @ Senior Center, lots closest to amphitheater.

**Through Oct. 15** — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

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

**Saturdays** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth and Washington streets (Uptown Arts District).

**Saturdays** — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe (near Mucho Mas). Info: [laportefarmermarket@gmail.com](mailto:laportefarmermarket@gmail.com)

**First and Third Mondays** — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom. Info: <https://7269291.toastmastersclubs.org>

**Second Saturdays** — Free sunset yoga w/ Lauralee Sikorski, 1 hour before sunset (specific time

TBD), Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

**In the Region**

**July 9** — The Way Down Wanderers (Acorn Anywhere Series), 7 p.m. EDT, Buchanan (Mich.) Common. Free; tax deductible VIP reserved seating ticket donation option. Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 10** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, nature study trails @ New Buffalo Elementary School, 12292 Lubke Road. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**July 10-11** — Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, Mich. Times (Eastern): 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 11. Tickets: \$5. Info: (269) 215-5521, [tinyurl.com/28jw43vu](http://tinyurl.com/28jw43vu)

**July 11** — Chicago Farmer with opener Jamie Wagner Band (Acorn Anywhere Series), 7 p.m. EDT, Wagner Farm, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 13** — Harbor Country Singers free sing-along, 6:30 p.m. EDT, The School of American Music's Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 409-1191, [schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com)

**Saturdays** — Wetland Wonders, 10 a.m.-noon, The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education/Miller Woods ponds, Lake Street north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays** — Bailly Chellberg History Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Through July 25** — New exhibits, artists Abner Hershberger/Dick Lehman, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Admission: \$10/adult, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/13-18 & college students with ID. Hours: (Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: (574) 293-6660, [info@midwestmuseum.us](mailto:info@midwestmuseum.us)

**The Region of Three Oaks Museum** — 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks Mich. Free admission; donations accepted. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday through October.

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now showing:* "In the Heights." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. July 8, 2:45 & 6 p.m. July 9-12, 6 p.m. July 15. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522, [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com)



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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Raft of Stars by Andrew J. Graff** (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audio book. 286 pages.)

*“To: Fish’s Grandpa*

*“Fish had me put this note on your fridge to tell you we are running away.*

*“He says we’re going to find his dad. We will mail you money for the sack of food we took from your cupboard, and the jackknife, and the two cups, and the pack of matches. Fish says to tell his mom don’t worry. We have my old man’s gun and five bullets. We have our bikes and fish poles, and a tarp, and also a pouch of your tobacco, and will send money for that too.*

*“Please tell the sheriff that Fish didn’t want to shoot my old man. My old man is dead in my kitchen, on the floor by the table.*

*“From: Dale Breadwin”*

That note is composed by two 10-year-old boys, scared, yet determined to take charge of their own lives and live like the wanted fugitives they figure they have become. That’s the reason for this story, but not the heart of it. Let me back up to what started the whole thing...

This week, we’re in the far north of Wisconsin in a town called Claypot, population 1,999. Bread (Dale Breadwin) and Fish (Fischer Branson) are 10-year-old best friends in this small farming community. Fish spends every summer with his grandpa, Teddy Branson, helping him on his farm and spending time with best friend, Bread.

Fish lives the school year with his mother, a widow since her husband, a sergeant in the National Guard, was killed in service. To Fish, he’s still alive in his memory, and he’s never told Bread his father’s dead. Bread thinks he’s at the National Guard Armory some 90 miles from Claypot.

Bread lives with his father, Jack, a widower who can’t seem to get his life together since his wife died. He drinks way too much and takes his frustration out on his son.

Inseparable during the summer, Fish tries to have Bread stay with him and his grandpa as much as possible, to keep him away from his father. But this time, Fish finds his friend down on his father’s kitchen floor beaten near to death. Bread’s father keeps a gun by him at all times — big mistake this time as Fish picks it up and shoots the man.

That’s the reason for the note and the race out of Claypot.

Then there is Sheriff Cal. He came up from the police department in Houston, Texas, a “suggestion” made by his chief that the job in Wisconsin would be a wise choice. Time for a change of scenery after what happened...

Then there’s Tiffany, she of the purple-highlighted hair who works at the Sit & Go Gas Station in town. She writes poetry and longs for romance and a real home and family — with Cal. But does he even know she exists?

Teddy, Fish’s grandpa, is a Korean War vet and no-nonsense kind of guy who teaches Fish all he knows of farming, fishing and such.

The boys race through the woods towards the river that will take them downstream to the National Armory to Fish’s father — or so Bread believes. Fish will have to tell him the truth at some time...

Speaking of truth, the boys don’t know, and neither does Sheriff Cal, that the bullet meant to kill Bread’s father only grazed his head — it didn’t kill him.

Here’s where the story takes off...

The boys reach the river and make themselves a raft — much faster than hiking the woods. Meantime, Ted saddles up two horses for him and Sheriff Cal, and they take off in the woods, following the river. Soon after, Tiffany meets Fish’s mother, Miranda, who puts the two of them in her canoe and takes off down the river in hot pursuit. They

are the only ones who know Jack Breadwin is alive.

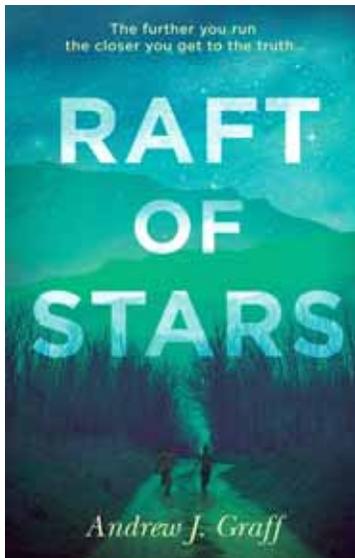
The action hits high gear during the boys’ wild journey down the unpredictable river. It includes a bear, a wild thunderstorm, bugs that will suck the last drop of blood out of you and a dinner of cooked earthworms mixed with a little chew tobacco — not one of their better ideas.

Chapters alternate from one pair to another — three different stories with six different individuals, all aspects of civilization gone, it’s just them and the elements. Spoiler alert: Sheriff Cal may be from Texas, but he’s not a horseman.

They may learn about river rafting, canoe paddling and horseback riding, but as the elements test their physical stamina, it’s the psychological aspects that will change all of them. Some will discover that courage is spur of the moment, not something you study for.

The best outdoor adventure you will read this year, with enough breath-holding moments to make you physically tired, but somehow cleansed by the last page.

Till next time, happy reading!





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