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Lake Effect

by Kim Nowatzke

More than just boats and personal watercraft are revving their engines for this year's Great Lakes Grand Prix and Taste of Michigan City.

"Anyone you talk to tells you they are ready to break out and enjoy themselves," Jack Arnett, LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director, said. "They love the race, the Taste and the parade, and they want back what they lost due to COVID."

Arnett is referring to the 12th annual Great Lakes Grand Prix on Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 4-8, in Washington Park. This year would have been the 13th had the 2020 event not been canceled due to COVID.

"It's now an expected regional event. It's building up every day," Arnett continued. "Folks are bringing generations back to this event. I sense from the public that they can't wait for this to come back. The public just loves this event. There's a lot of satisfaction there."

The Great Lakes Grand Prix is the third race (and the only one outside of Florida) in the American Power Boat

Association National Offshore Championship Series — the 2021 P1 Offshore and AquaX Championships. Powerboat P1 is an international sports promoter founded in 2002 that partners with the Offshore Powerboat Association and is responsible for competitions. Powerboat P1 operates AquaX, an international personal watercraft racing series. In 2019, P1 added AquaX to the Great Lakes Grand Prix agenda. It's expanded even more this year with AquaX races at Washington Park on July 10-11 and at LaPorte's Stone Lake Beach on July 31- Aug. 1.

The five-day Great Lakes Grand Prix kicks off Wednesday with the Great Lakes Grand Prix golf outing at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, where golfers can meet race teams, sponsors and fans. Thursday includes a ribbon cutting and VIP party at Sunset Grille and a performance by Aftermath that night at Washington Park.

A food court at the park opens Friday, the excitement building with the Taste of Michigan City in the Uptown Arts District. Saturday opens with

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The races commence during the 2019 Great Lakes Grand Prix. Photo provided.

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the Four A's Vintage Car Show in the grassy area between the park main entrance and the marina, followed by more VIP perks, P1 AquaX and OPA racing, the Taste of Michigan City, a boat parade and block party on North Franklin Street and the band Point'N Fingers playing at the beach.

Sunday's activities include another day of the car show, more VIP opportunities, another round of racing and, finally, the awards ceremony at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa.

Best of all, the entire gamut of activities (except the VIP events) are free. The VIP passes allow individuals these benefits: attending the VIP party Thursday night at Sunset Grille, viewing the races from the VIP tent and attending the Sunset Grille brunch either Saturday or Sunday. There is a VIP discount for purchasing all three offerings.

This year, Arnett said, the number of VIP passes increased from 400 to 1,000. Some are secured for sponsors, but more are for sale so additional race

fans can enjoy the perks.

With no available event parking at Washington Park, free parking will be offered at Ames Field and a continuous round-trip shuttle service to the park and Taste of Michigan City provided.

As far as COVID protocols are concerned, Arnett said "regular vaccinated rules apply." Masks are not required for vaccinated guests.

The Taste of Michigan City, ran by the Michigan City Mainstreet Association, has been a key element of the Great Lakes Grand Prix nearly from its beginning, Arturo Pozos said. He is the Michigan City Mainstreet Association president and Taste of Michigan City chairman. The owner of Arturo's Baked Goods & More in Michigan City, he has been part of the Taste since it began teaming up with the Great Lakes Grand Prix. In fact, his business had just opened a few months earlier when he first participated.

"We are ready to come together again – it's a great way to do that," Pozos said about the Taste, which began drawing a crowd of about 4,000 when it debuted. It leapt to 10,000 by 2019. He expects



The massive crowds in 2016 for Taste of Michigan City and the boat parade.

10,000 to 15,000 at this year's event, noting he receives three to four phone calls daily about it.

Pozos expects more than 20 food vendors on Franklin Street between Sixth and Eighth streets and Seventh Street between Washington and Pine streets. Event veterans such as Miller's Pizza and Smokey G's BBQ, which have been part of the Taste of Michigan City from the start, will be back along with brand new businesses, The Brisket Bisket and Fauson's Ice Cream.



Arturo Pozos, the Michigan City Mainstreet Association president and Taste of Michigan City chairman.

"It's always been a super special event even when it was new," Pozos said. "It's a success for the city, the public and the vendors...we've grown the event. We've been able to accommodate more."

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association also made a concentrated effort to increase the number of artists. This year, 10 will feature their artwork from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Furthermore, there is an all-ages, expanded beer garden with offerings from local breweries and wineries. Attendees also can enjoy a full lineup of eclectic groups from the genres of heavy metal, rap, country and Latin rock.

"We will be spreading food vendors further out than in past years so lines aren't on top of each other," he said, adding that attendees are encouraged to take chairs and blankets for the grassy areas, where they can sit and enjoy the entertainment.

Arnett candidly discussed the effects of canceling last year's event because of the pandemic.

"It was out of our control. Our industry got turned upside down. The economic impact from that will be felt for years to come," he said. "But at the end of the day, LaPorte County survived this thing. We weren't challenged as much as other places because of the revenue from vacation rentals in the area (and the income that the county receives from this).



Jack Arnett, the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director.

LaPorte County, Arnett continued, has the third largest number of vacation rentals in the state.

"A lot of folks kept coming to these (even dur-



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Lake Effect

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ing the height of the pandemic),” he said, “and we weren’t hurt as much as other places.”

And, he offered a word of caution to those planning on attending.

“The service is going to be affected some,” he said. “Be expecting that. It’s where we are at right now. Bear with us all in the service industry. Restaurants are struggling – everyone is having a problem with help.”

Arnett said 50 to 60 race teams are expected, but there are six to eight international teams that might not make it due to complications securing visas in these complicated times.

With contagious enthusiasm, Arnett explained how LaPorte County just signed a five-year contract extension with the Offshore Powerboat Association for the Great Lakes Grand Prix.

“This is a big announcement,” he said. “This will guarantee that the race will be here for the next five years.”

Arnett isn’t the only one excited about the news.

“The folks in Michigan City have been a pleasure to work with,” said Nick Smith, Offshore Powerboat Association vice president, in the article “Offshore Powerboat Association Inks Michigan City Venue To Five-Year Deal” for www.speedonthewater.com. “We’re beyond excited at the opportunity. Given our success in the Great Lakes, this contract has solidified offshore racing in the region for the fans, and the communities where we love racing.”

In the same article, association president Ed “Smitty” Smith said the group is happy to be part

of the events.

“Everyone involved transcends offshore – from the fans to the promoters,” he said. “Michigan City feels like home to us. With five years added to our contract, we’re excited to see the evolution of the Great Lakes Grand Prix.”

Arnett said staff members, such as Rick Wright, the tourism bureau’s race director, and other community members are purposely sent to other towns in the 2021 P1 Offshore and AquaX Championships rounds, specifically to find out their lineup of events and activities surrounding the race.

“They tell us our block party is the best in the circuit. That’s the kind of stuff we hear – and it’s real,” Arnett said. “The key to the success is, the race teams love coming to Michigan City. We roll out the red carpet for them.”

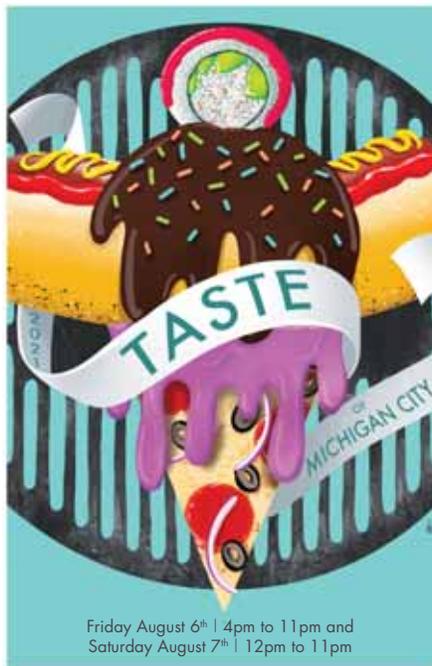
And, the race teams have demonstrated their desire to give back to a community that welcomes them with open arms.

In 2019, Racer Billy Mauff donated \$20,000 to Washington Park Zoo to help build a new lions display. The year before, he learned of the city’s need to rebuild the fe-

line lion’s cage, so he told city officials he would donate \$10,000 to this effort. Then, during the special awards ceremony last year he doubled that amount to \$20,000. Arnett said rumor has it he has plans to make another donation to support the zoo this year.

“This has started a whole new feeling of donating to our race,” Arnett said. “There are things that happen because the race is here.”

(Visit www.GreatLakesGrandPrix.com or “Great Lakes Grand Prix” on Facebook for more details.)



Friday August 6th | 4pm to 11pm and Saturday August 7th | 12pm to 11pm

This year’s Taste of Michigan City poster.



Live entertainment is a staple of Taste of Michigan City.

Success by the Numbers

The success of the Great Lakes Grand Prix goes beyond enthusiasm and excitement on the part of the public, racers and promoters. Facts and figures back up the financial benefits the popular event brings to Michigan City.

The “Economic Impact Of The 2019 Great Lakes Grand Prix” report by Certec Inc. in August 2019 offers a detailed examination of the expenditure and tax impacts generated by visitors. The major findings include:

1. “Non-local visitors to the event contributed over \$13.6 million to LaPorte County’s economy in 2019. Direct expenditures by travelers to the event accounted for \$9.1 million of this total.”
2. “These visitors generated nearly \$3.6 million in tax revenues to government – \$1.3 million to state government, \$705,800 to local government and \$1.5 million to federal government.”
3. Expenditures broken down by category include food and beverage (30 percent), retail shop-

ping (28 percent), automobile service stations (16 percent), lodging (11 percent), souvenir vendors (nearly 8 percent) and attractions (including, but not limited to, the Great Lakes Grand Prix) at 7 percent. “However, a number of other businesses throughout the local and regional economies also experienced increased revenues as a result of the event, particularly through the multiplier effect of the initial round of spending.”

4. “A total of ninety percent of the visitors to the event are from Indiana (74.3 percent), Illinois (11.4 percent) and Michigan (4.3 percent). The event also received visitation from eight other states, including Ohio, Florida, Georgia, New York, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Missouri.”

5. “Nearly two-thirds (64.3 percent) of the travelers to the Great Lakes Grand Prix are on a day trip. Less than one in ten is on a first visit to LaPorte County, whereas three in ten are attending the Great Lakes Grand Prix for the first time.”



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City's Public Art SculptFusion Opens Aug. 4

The Michigan City Public Art Committee will hold its 2021 SculptFusion debut from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, on the first floor of Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Square.

Refreshments will be served at the event that is free and open to the public.

"This year's event represents even more than Michigan City's annual SculptFusion opening," Robin Kohn, the Public Art Committee president, said in a press release.

"It will bring together our community after a one-year hiatus, during which most summertime activities like ours were cancelled. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of Michigan City's Public Art Committee creation."



Two pieces by sculptor Ray Katz have been installed. "Sentinel," which is 16 feet tall, is at the southwest corner of Seventh and Franklin streets. "Mechanical Galaxy," which is 13 feet tall, is at the northwest corner of Eighth Street and Michigan Boulevard.

Yet to be installed is a carved stone turtle by Jason Quigno, a Native sculptor and Saginaw Chippewa tribe member.

The smart-phone application Otocast Inc. (www.otocast.com) continues to record on site and online photos of each sculpture, exact GPS locations and sculpture information narratives in the voice of each artist.

"All you have to do is Google Otocast and scan the URL on each sculpture pad, and it brings you to the piece," committee member Dale Cooper said in a press release.

The city now displays 22 sculptures. Nine are permanent. Contact Judy Jacobi at jjjacobi@pnw.edu for more details.



Ray Katz's "Sentinel" attracts a young admirer.



The carved stone turtle by Jason Quigno, a Native sculptor and Saginaw Chippewa tribe member.

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Dunes Arts Foundation, Gardens Unite for “Music Under the Stars”

Dunes Arts Foundation and Friendship Botanic Gardens have joined forces to host “Cabaret at the Gardens: Music Under the Stars” from 6:30-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 30-31, at the Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The event is a fundraiser for both groups. Tickets are \$40, with free admission for those 18 and younger accompanied by an adult. The senior discount is \$35 for 62 and older, while groups of five cost \$35 per person and groups of 10 cost \$25 per person. Guests can take lawn chairs and blankets; however, chairs are available. Refreshments will be sold.

Performed at the Gardens’ Celebration Pavilion, the program is directed and hosted by Steve Scott, Dunes resident guest director and an artistic associate at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Musical accompaniment is by Dunes music director Andrew Flasch and his jazz trio.

The program will feature songs from productions such as “West Side Story,” “Carousel,” “Camelot,” “Sweeney Todd,” “Waitress” and “Hamilton,” the cast featuring talent from “Forever Plaid” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”



Flasch

The cast will be joined by two guest artists:



Turner



Byrd

- Andrew Turner, whose resume spans opera, jazz, contemporary and musical theater. This summer, he performed in “Sweeney Todd” at Des Moines Metro Opera. In the spring, he was a resident artist with Virginia Opera and Opera Iowa. A native of Tacoma, Wash., he graduated from the University of Illinois Lyric Theatre program.
- Sophia Byrd is a Chicago native and recent Lyric Theatre graduate. As a member of the Chicago Children’s Choir, she performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Riccardo Muti’s direction. She has performed with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Jennifer Hudson and Chance the Rapper. Her song, “I See the Light,” was featured in Spike Lee’s “Chi Raq.”

Call Friendship Botanic Gardens at (219) 878-9885, or visit www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org or www.dunesARTS.org for more details.

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The Dale Prasco Trio

The Dale Prasco Trio will present a free Three Oaks concert at 7 p.m. EDT Friday, July 30, on the Spring Creek Stage at The School of American Music's Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.



Dale Prasco

The group includes Prasco on guitar, Charles "Rick" Heath IV on drums and Ron Hall on bass guitar. Local jazz vocalist Livia Gazzolo will open the show accompanied by guitarist Matt Berger.

Prasco studied jazz guitar at the Berklee School of Music, and has been playing the jazz and blues circuit in the greater Chicago region for more than 30 years. He has worked with guitarist Mike Stern and musicians Alex Bugnon and Elvin Bishop.

Heath IV is an in-demand drummer in the Chicago area, while Hall has been a member of the Poi Dog Pondering band since 1999, and a regular performer with the Dale Prasco Trio.

Guests can take lawn chairs to the concert, which is underwritten by Ron Spears, a SAM board member and guitar instructor. Call (269) 409-1191 or visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com for details.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will head to Indiana Dunes National Park's Heron Rookery Trail at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 31.

The focus is a portion of the east arm of the Little Calumet River, including facts about riparian zones.

The area once featured more than 100 great blue heron nests. After 60 years of nesting there, the herons have moved on, but the woods still contain dozens of birds, including kingfishers, woodpeckers and migrating and nesting warblers.

The three-mile hike should take about two hours. Long pants, sun hats, sturdy shoes or boots, insect repellent and water are recommended. Depending on the weather, there may be muddy areas. HCH observes federal and state COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional.

The Heron Rookery Trail parking lot is located at 1336 East Road just west of Michigan City. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com for details.

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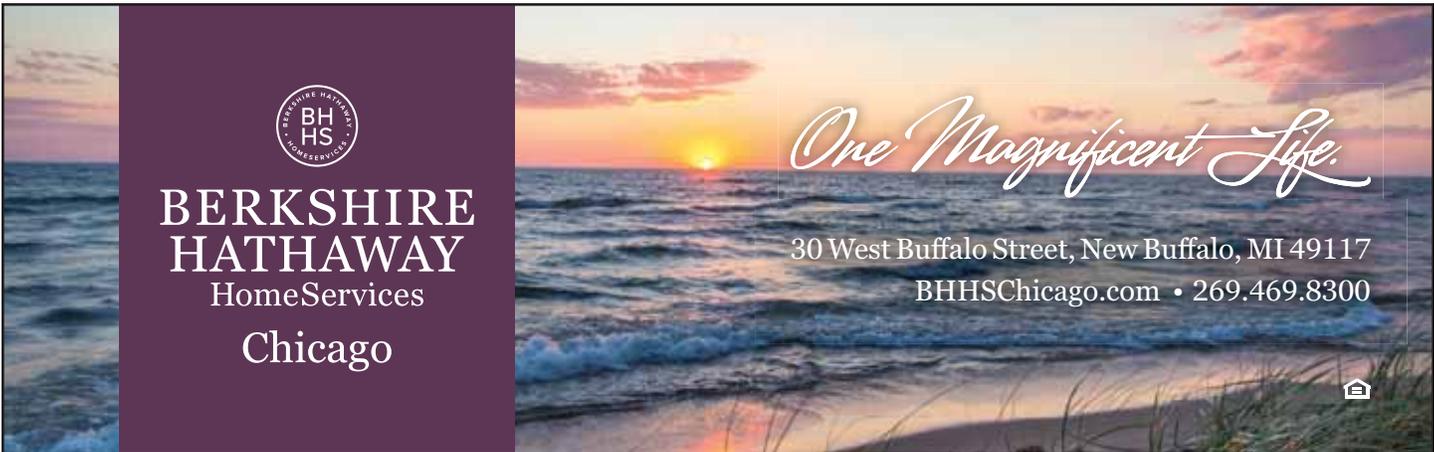
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New LCA Education Director

A former staff member of Chicago's Tarkington School of Excellence is the new education director at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.



Marcano

Nelsy Marcano officially stepped into the position July 19. The Hobart resident is a graduate of Columbia College of Chicago and holds a Master of Arts degree in arts education from Indiana University Northwest. Her experience includes teaching adults and younger students, collaborating with sponsors and partners and program curriculum development.

As an artist, she draws inspiration from organic forms and natural elements, and favors watercolor and colored pencils.

New Teacher Luncheon

The Lakefront Career Network will host the annual New Teacher Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 6, in Blue Chip Casino's Suncoast room.

LCN, the young professionals committee of the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, was unable to hold the event in-person last year due to COVID-19.

New teachers and administrators from Michigan City public and parochial schools will be treated to lunch and welcomed by local businesses and organizations. This year's presenting sponsor is Purdue University Northwest. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent, will address the new teachers.

LCN is seeking additional event sponsors. Gift bags will be handed out to each new teacher in attendance. A variety of items will be included in the bags, and donations are being accepted for these as well, including: branded items, discounts, coupons, gift certificates and resource material.

The luncheon is open to the public. Contact Janelle at (219) 874-6221 or jelwood@mcachamber.com for more details.

Red Apple Music Fest

Steve and Mary E will host Red Apple Music Fest, described as a mini-Woodstock, at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at their new home, 6821 Red Apple Drive, Michigan City.

Performances include the couple, David Lahm and guest vocalists. However, the event is planned as an open mic forum, so guests are invited to perform. Visitors also can pack food, drinks and sit on the lawn Ravinia-style. Some food and drinks will be provided.

Call or text (219) 210-5477, or email maryerapier@gmail.com for more details.

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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. The front door will remain closed until the new doors are installed. Use the temporary public entrance on the east side accessible from the parking lot near the drive-up book drop.

The Friends of the Michigan City Public Library book sale is Oct. 21-23 at the library. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Donations can include magazines, children's books and puzzles.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

The following programs are scheduled:

- Online CMYK Graphic Novel Club for Teens from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 29. Register for the Zoom meetup by calling Jonathan at (219) 873-3045 or email YSONline@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 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/. Stop by Youth Services to receive the craft project for the week.



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

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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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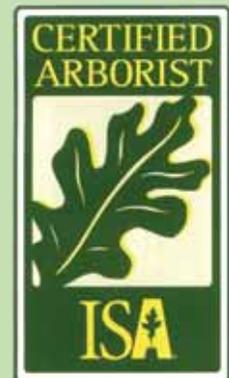
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Old School Run Back to Normal

The 24th annual Long Beach Old School Run, sponsored by *The Beacher* and Town of Long Beach, arrived on a humid, but relatively comfortable July 4 morning. Participants welcomed it happily, to be outside, together, after more than a year of limited activities.

The low-key, no-frills event, which is just fewer than three miles, is organized by Camille and Kevin Higdon, with family and friends contributing in some fashion or another. The day started early with marking the course at 5 a.m., then registration starting at 6 a.m. at the community center. The town contributed use of the building and water for everyone, which helped ensure everyone was properly hydrated. The race entry is a \$10 donation, with a \$5 donation for students. All proceeds go to the town for community center needs. With more than 100 participants, \$1,000 was presented to Town Clerk Bill de Funiak for proper use.

The Beacher has been another loyal supporter every year by providing advertising space in the newspaper and certificates for all the finishers. Par-



ticipants also could pick their favorite “Old T-shirt” as a memento, but some remained after the race to ensure the 25th race has a good pile. An added attraction: the top three male and female leaders received an autographed copy of *Run Fast* from race founder Hal Higdon.

Camille Higdon and her helpers made sure registration went smoothly. As in prior years, all sections of the United States were represented, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and many areas in between.

Runners finally lined up at the starting line. Arizona’s Duncan Riley, son of former *Beacher* Rico Riley and grandson of Mike and Marty Riley (they live right across from the Old School), quickly took the lead. But right behind him, Kyle Higdon, now of Houston, Will Ruszkowski of Long Beach, son of John and Stephanie Ruszkowski, and Graham Novak of Atlanta, Ga., followed closely. Ultimately, Higdon caught Riley around the one-mile mark and started pulling away. But looming close behind was rising Culver Academy sophomore Ruszkowski, 15, who was starting





and Wall finished happily together with their time of 20:46

All the runners-walkers finished in their own fast and/or leisurely way, with everyone done in less than an hour. They returned for their morning breakfast and getting back to the Long Beach parade and community activities, which were canceled last year because of the pandemic. The most important aspect was the camaraderie participants shared, catching up on the goings-on with each other.

So, until next year, keep up the training. And wear your old T-shirt proudly. *(All photos provided by Camille and Kevin Higdon.)*

to catch up. Finally on the hill, by the golf course on Floral Trail, Ruszkowski used his Culver cross country base training to catch and pass Higdon. He finished strong with a 16:54 time, with Higdon close behind in 16:59. Riley's 17:14 put him in third, with Novak running a 17:44 in fourth.

Meanwhile, a close race was unfolding in the women's field.

Sandy Gregorich of Ithaca, N.Y., a previous participant, was back to try and win the race. But competition was stiff, and Michigan City's Jane McNamara and Haley Wall ran together close behind her. But Gregorich was up to the challenge and kept them at bay throughout the loop around Long Beach Cove. After turning off Floral Trail onto Belle Plaine, the two Michigan City natives started reeling Gregorich in, but coming around the curve with 200 meters to go, Gregorich put on a sprint to ensure victory with a time of 20:41. McNamara



New Season of “Never Have I Ever” Keeps the Laughs Coming

by Andrew Tallackson



“Never Have I Ever,” now streaming on Netflix, keeps the love triangle alive between Devi Vishwakumar (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, center), Ben (Jaren Lewison, left) and Paxton (Darren Barnet).

“Never Have I Ever” fans can breathe a sigh of relief: Season Two not only is better, but more satisfying...and for all the right reasons.

Teen comedies are a dime a dozen. Especially on Netflix, what with all that kissing booth nonsense. But “Never Have I Ever” hails from Mindy Kaling. An acquired taste, yes. A comic who starts neatly at every corner of her own foibles and dissects them with the precision of a heart surgeon. But if you can keep up with her, if you catch every funny jab or reference, then her humor is wicked fun. Like the caustic, pop culture obsessed, emotionally stunted heroine of “The Mindy Project.”

“Never Have I Ever,” which is inspired by Kaling’s youth, has been called a “watershed moment” in Hollywood for its South Asian representation. And in Season 2, we notice how the comedy not only is shattering stereotypes about Indian-American teens, but also for youth who are black, Chinese, Japanese American, Jewish, Black-Latinx and LG-BTQ+. But this is not a show that rests on the laurels of its representation, as if that were enough. It casts young actors from all walks of life, allows them to embrace who they are, then moves on to the bigger issue at hand: surviving high school.

The beauty of Season 2 is that it allows its characters to grow, to abandon their comfort zones while generating big laughs.

Season 1 introduced us to Devi Vishwakumar (the amazing Maitreyi Ramakrishnan), an Indian-

American teen from Sherman Oaks, Los Angeles. It’s not been long since her father passed, and she and her mother, Nalini (Poorna Jagannathan), are still reeling from the loss. Devi, however, fixates on being popular, bolstered by gal-pals Eleanor (Ramona Young) and Fabiola (Lee Rodriguez). Toss into the mix her abs crush, Paxton (Darren Barnet), a surprise love interest, Ben (Jaren Lewison), her devastatingly beautiful, and exceedingly intelligent cousin Kamala (Richa Moorjani), and tennis legend John McEnroe — her father’s hero — narrating the chaos...and the flavor of the show is ripe for laughs.

Season 2 opens by wrapping up unfinished business, specifically that Nalini, feeling like she’s failed as a parent, wants to move back to India. Devi, of course, has zero interest in doing so. Always the smart-ass, she ditches gym class, saying, “*I’m pretty sure PE credits don’t transfer to India, so what am I exercising for?*”

Once that matter is resolved, “Never Have I Ever” settles into a groove where it puts its characters to the test. And the challenges are so relevant and universal, they speak to all audiences:

- Kamala, increasingly frustrated by the rampant sexism in her lab group.
- Fabiola, wanting to be openly gay without adopting the “lifestyle” expected of her.
- Paxton, wrestling with his own arrested development, yearning for acceptance as a jock with more on his mind than sports.

- Nalini, plagued with guilt over finding a colleague (Common) attractive.

“Never Have I Ever” allows the characters to confront their nagging doubts and, in many ways triumph over them, with a maturity uncommon for TV comedies.

But the most radical transformation is Devi. The risk with the character, and it was the same with Kaling on “The Mindy Project,” is that Devi is not exactly likable. Loss and teen angst have made her exceedingly selfish. She will say or do whatever it takes to tame whatever beast exists. But Season 2 makes her do an about-face by introducing a new Indian-American student, Aneesa (Megan Suri), and she is everything Devi is not. Cool. Confident. Easily slips into competing social circles. When Devi hopes fellow students will deliver a cold shoulder, McEnroe, the narrator, leaps in with another hilarious quip: “Unfortunately, her arrival was given the celebration of an Amazon package.”

And Devi, in a moment of weakness, starts a rumor, one that spreads like wildfire, suggesting Aneesa has an eating disorder. The fallout walks a delicate line: It doesn’t shy away from forcing Devi to take a hard look at herself, while still generating laughs amid Devi’s misguided attempts to salvage the friendship.

At its core, “Never Have I Ever” keeps the laughs, and its heart, fresh because it delights in its own warped surprises. Devi’s “rager” — teenspeak for a house party — goes wrong in ways that have you gasp, then erupt with laughter. Jagannathan, as the uneasy Nalini, is a deadpan delight, one attempt to subdue her daughter involving an order to clean her grandmother’s CPAP machine. And, Benjamin Norris emerges as the show’s secret weapon. As Paxton’s best buddy Trent, the character is an outrageously funny mix of *Bill and Ted*, as well as Jay, Silent Bob’s partner-in crime from “Clerks.”



The arrival of Aneesa (Megan Suri) forces Devi to confront insecurities about herself.

Anyone new to “Never Have I Ever” could easily binge an entire season over a single rainy afternoon. My family and I, however, found ourselves pumping the breaks, savoring the show in short bursts, to make it last longer. Still, we have to wait another year for more.

Man, that stinks.

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Sands Singing With Sculptures



The 24th Annual Sand Sculpture Contest drew 16 participants to Indiana Dunes State Park on July 17, with *The Beacher's* Paul Kemiell present to capture all the fun. Thanks to Interpretive Naturalist Marie Laudeman for providing us with the results:

- People's Choice Adult: Cathy and Brandon Sams with "Manatees," Lowell, Ind.
- People's Choice Youth: Brianna, Sofia, Alison, Valeria, Wico, Avalon and Isabella with "Save the Turtles," Glendale Heights, Ill.
- Most Thematic Adult: Victoria Smith and Ashley Nilson with "Dunes Pavilion," Valparaiso.
- Most Thematic Youth: Willow Eriks with "Big Frog," Lowell.
- Funniest Adult: Mariah, Neil, Jamie and Olivia with "Alligator Eating Leg," Amelia, Ohio.
- Funniest Youth: Diana Pichardo with "Titanic and the Octopus," Justice, Ill.
- Most Creative Adult: Steven Bautz with "Dripping Spruce Trees," Schererville, Ind.
- Most Creative Youth: Olivia and Brooke with "Alligator and Babies," Chesterton.



“Loki” is Marvel Streaming at its Most Inventive

by Andrew Tallackson



Tom Hiddleston (left) and Owen Wilson star in “Loki,” now streaming on Disney+.

After the safer, yet satisfying experience of “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier,” “Loki” finds Marvel back in “WandaVision” mode, taking risks and largely succeeding.

It was inevitable Tom Hiddleston’s fan favorite would get a Disney+ series. The actor plays the god of mischief-Thor’s adopted brother not as high camp, but like a Shakespearean actor afforded a hall pass from playing “Hamlet.” Sly, like he knows a dirty joke, but won’t share it with you.

“Loki” puts him center stage, and it dares to be weird. To introduce characters, visuals and ideas with warped sensibilities, thus carving a clever niche within the Marvel universe.

But in setting up its take on the “multiverse” for Marvel’s next phase, the show could open up a can of worms from which it cannot recover.

So how does Loki re-emerge after it seems he perished during “Avengers: Infinity Wars”? By stealing the Tesseract during a time-travel sequence in “Endgame.” An alternate version of himself ends up with the Time Variance Authority, which monitors the steady flow of time, pursuing “variants” that disrupt it.

And it is here Marvel introduces its most brazen invention: Loki is not so much a “he,” but an “it.” Multiple versions exist of what the TVA calls “a Loki.” They range from a child, to a woman, to even

animals. But the most potent “variant” is Sophia Di Martino’s Sylvie, a fiercely rebellious warrior bent on destroying the TVA. Is Sylvie good or bad? That’s part of the mystery for viewers, and Di Martino is one spicy dish. A tiny little thing, with porcelain features...but also unstoppable. Never backing down from a fight.

She’s also oddly attracted to Hiddleston’s Loki, which inspires hilarious observations that only a Loki would be narcissistic enough to be attracted to itself. There *is* legitimate chemistry between the actors, though, and their conversations lead to Hiddleston’s Loki identifying as bisexual, a first for a Marvel character.

Other intriguing characters pop up. Like Owen Wilson’s Mobius, a TVA agent who prefers dangerous cases. Wilson can rub people the wrong way. Whatever movie, whatever role, he always sounds like he smoked a bag of weed, then showed up on set. But this is different: an office bureaucrat who regains a sense of purpose. Wilson hasn’t been this fun in a while. I also appreciated “Lovecraft Country” cast member Wunmi Mosaku as TVA Hunter B-15: a strong, intelligent woman open to the possibility that all is not right within the agency.

Visually, “Loki” is a reminder that Marvel spares no expense with streaming content. Portions of the third and fourth episodes feature meteors bom-

barding a distant planet, the massive effects on par with anything Marvel has achieved. And in Episode Five, we get the show's most brilliant invention. Loki ends up in the Void, located at the end of time, and it is like nothing Marvel has visualized. A wasteland of devastated and discarded individuals, landmarks and weaponry. Plenty of Marvel Easter eggs exist here, but the bleak landscape is like a cross between a World War I battlefield and a nightmarish dreamscape. It's hypnotic. You cannot take your eyes off of it.

Right when it seems the show is unblemished, red flags signaling potential problems appear during the final episode. Loki and Sylvie encounter an individual played by another "Lovecraft Country" alumni, Jonathan Majors, and it is a star turn. Wild, eccentric, *way* out there. But that last episode is a lot of dialogue, a lot to take in. As it cements the notion of the multiverse — many realities tethered to each other, each with similarities and differences — that will carry the upcoming "Spider-Man" and "Doctor Strange" movies, Season 2 of "Loki" could get messy. Insanely complicated.



The most inventive creation of "Loki": A place called The Void, where the title character meets various incarnations of himself.

My hope, since Disney+ already gave the go-ahead to Season 2, is that the creators of "Loki" keep a clear head about it. Guide us through the action without achieving a massive migraine.

This show is just too fun to botch.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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A New Look at Life in 2021

To paraphrase the great Jimmy Cliff, I can see clearly now that every day is a bright shining day.

That's because my eyesight has taken an amazing turn for the better. Not that I didn't see it coming, but I thought I had a few more years before dealing with that "cataract thing."

Yes, I was put on cataract watch a few years back at Smoke Vision Care in New Buffalo, Mich., where I receive excellent eye care. I was told when my "baby cataracts" grew to adulthood, I would need to have them removed, then replaced with interocular lenses.

Hmmm.

I wasn't so sure, but Natalie up and beat me to the punch. Meaning, she had cataract surgery on both eyes in March, coming away from the experience telling me, unequivocally, "You're gonna love this." She was so excited and seeing so clearly, although she knew she would still have to wear glasses to provide perfect vision. "No matter," she said after her two surgeries. "I can see better than I ever have in my life."

That was one powerful endorsement for work done at Great Lakes Surgical Center in St. Joseph, Mich. As I could see, my dear wife was feeling no pain or discomfort before, during or after her two surgeries.

Hmmm.

So when Dr. Brenda Smoke examined me March 11 and referred me to Great Lakes Eye Care for further evaluation, I went, not with trepidation, but the fervent desire to qualify for my own cataract surgery. And, I really hoped to qualify for these new-fangled multi-focal lenses I had been hearing about while accompanying Natalie to her various visits.

Let me cut right to the chase and say I not only qualified for a breakthrough innovation that enables people to see clearly at all distances without glasses, but that I most likely would not need

glasses after my two surgeries. Music to my ears, because I've been wearing glasses for more than 30 years and I'm tired of them. Ready for a change. Ready to just be glasses-free, all right?

Right.

So, with your patient indulgence, I would like to finish this off with the following entry in my pocket notebook:

May 12, 2021, Feelin' and seein' fine at Panera after follow-up visit

Well, here I am — along with Natalie Dearest — at Panera in Saint Joe. This is where my whole Pocket Books writing renaissance began.

That was last September while Natalie was still in physical therapy, down the road at the so-called Health Park. Due to COVID restrictions, I could not wait for her in the hall of therapy itself, so I'd head on over to Panera and get me a cup of the house dark roast and some toasted bagels and write up a storm in my handy Filofax pocket notebook.

Worked like a charm.

Sure made my muse mighty happy, and my muse is humming away right now as I savor with Natalie the good news I just got at Great Lakes Eye Care.

Yep, 20/20 in the operative right eye. That would be the one blessed with the insertion of a Pan-Optix trifocal interocular

lens at Great Lakes Surgical Center the day before, on May 11, 2021.

Leftie, being my left eye, was similarly gifted with amazing vision on April 27, and during the two-week wait for the second procedure by Dr. David Cooke, Leftie did just fine, thank you very much. (So you know, Leftie scored a solid 20/25 the day after his surgery.)

Rightie just kind of hung back with his old, cloudy natural lens, and let Leftie lead us on all kinds of ocular adventures, including driving to Chicago on

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Natalie was first in modern eye care. She had her cataracts out in March.

May 1 to participate in a painting party at the Monastery of the Holy Cross. Father Timothy, as you may recall, was mighty impressed with my precision painting, with just one good eye. And, well, he should have been, because he was the priest who anointed me before my first operation.

All right, back on track here with not one, but two good eyes.

REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY GOOD EYES!!!!!!!

My buddy Tim told me a few weeks ago that if my experience with multi-focal lenses was going to be anything like his, why, then, I would feel like I'm 20 years old.

Yeah, I'm here at Panera with Natalie and a cup of Joe and some toasted bagels, and the world I'm seein' is so sunny and bright and clear and just right. Just the way a 20-year-old would see it.

Who knew, right?

Well, I do have it on sound medical authority, from no less an authority than Dr. John McDougall of the Dr. McDougall Health & Medical Center, that my cataracts were diet-related. Meaning all those milkshakes, cheeseburgers, pizza and great big gobs of greasy American food I wolfed down most of my life came back to cloud my natural lenses.

So let that be a lesson to you young'uns:

Switch to a whole-food, plant-based diet now. Not tomorrow, but now.

Save yourselves the heartbreak of cataracts in later life.

Yes, there is a modern miracle of a solution in the interocular lenses that can replace your damaged natural lenses.

And it's great.

I'm all for it.

But Dr. McDougall is right: It's the food.

And, yes, I eat the way he suggests now but, as he said the other day, cataracts are not reversible. Once they develop, they need to be dealt with.

And nobody deals with them better than Dr. David Cooke and his associates.

Both procedures were — time out for some drops — wait!!!

Blink, blink, blink.

Close for three minutes.

Listen to some groovy tunes on Little Steven's Underground Garage, and Take Five.

All right. I've taken five.

Now, I'm alive and seeing like the wide-eyed 20-year-old I was back in 1970 when I saw so, so many possibilities before me.

I see them still, now that I have amazing new lenses in both eyes.

No more glasses for this old boy. Just non-prescription sunglasses.

That's it.

And that's it from me, except to say to Dr. David Cooke and Great Lakes Eye Care and Great Lakes Surgery Center: THANKS A MILLION!!!

P.S. A postscript, if you please, to tell you I returned to the pool May 25, after being beached for a full month. As the instructions said: "*No swimming or hot tub for 2 weeks.*" That's after each surgery, of course, so basically I was quarantined from April 25 to May 25. That's a long time for an aqua-addict like yours truly, but I did find ample exercise by bicycling and walking, especially with Natalie.

And when I did return to the pool May 25, I was pleased to discover I remembered how to swim, and that I could clearly see the bottom, sides, lane markers, the deck clock and other swimmers. (Now, if I can just figure out how to keep my goggles from fogging up.)

It is June 1, and I am writing this on my desktop without glasses. I can practically see the pixels in each letter, my vision is so good.

I can read all the music on my music stand and thus distinguish a quarter rest from an eighth rest. I can even see the dots on the dotted quarters. One doesn't have to look at one's clarinet while playing, but I can now see I have one beautiful instrument that deserves to be played more often, especially now that I can read the notations so clearly.

All this goes without saying that I endorse cataract surgery for those who need it and, yes, brothers, I was able to apply my own eye drops after surgery. They were amazed at Great Lakes Eye Care, noting 60 percent of male patients depend on their women folk to do that for them. In fact, I told a friend who is deferring needed cataract surgery because he cannot and will not apply eye drops, "If I can do it, so can you."

That's it — be seein' ya.

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Guest Day at Long Beach Country Club



LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



*July 15, 2021
Guest Day (Putts & Polka Dots)*

Front Nine

First Place — Donna Andreotti, Jill Rhiner, Janet Andreotti, Kathy Hanley.

Second Place — Juli Cronin, S. O'Connell, Rise Wendt, Monica Tynan.

Third Place — Jean Guerin, Jane Irvine, Dorothy Stall, Carol Nick.

Back Nine

First Place — Peg King, Kathleen Beeler, June Salmon, Colleen Meyer.

Second Place — Alison Kolb, Maggie Tigue, Cindy Levy, Mary Lou Huffman.

Third Place — Suzanne Smith, Cece Brown, Kellie Burke, Sally Hunneke.





LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League



July 21, 2021

Event: Regular Golf-Low Net

A FLIGHT

- First Place — Cindy Levy.
- Second Place — Vicki Hill.
- Third Place — Kathy Peters.

B FLIGHT

- First Place — Linda Wilson.
- Second Place (tie) — Joan Carey, Eileen Miller.
- Third Place (tie) — Claudia Brennan, Nancy Trainor.

C FLIGHT

- First Place — Nancy Thill.
- Second Place — Barbara Beardslee.
- Third Place — Carol Sullivan.

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La Porte County Parks



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

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:

- Aug. 3 – “Feathers, Feet, Nests and Beaks.” Birds are the topic of the hands-on 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:

- Aug. 4 — “It’s a Great Blue Heron.”

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:

- 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.

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.

Family Fishing Nights

The free, all-ages event is from 5-7:30 p.m. 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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **National S’mores Day Fun from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6.**

Learn about the history of the treat, then try different variations.

- **Great Lakes Hummingbirds Presentation from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.**

Hummingbird expert Allen Chartier will discuss attracting, feeding and research about hummingbirds.

- **Hummingbird Banding Demonstrations from 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.**

Meet at the Nature Center as hummingbird bander Allen Chartier leads a study on the bird.

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.

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Greek Food/Pastry Drive-Up Sale

Order forms will post Aug. 1 for the Greek Food and Pastry Drive-Up Sale, which is from noon-4 p.m. EDT Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 4-5, at Annunciation & St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich.

Forms will post on social media, the church website (www.aapgoc.mi.goarch.org) and in local media. Forms also may be obtained by calling the church office at (269) 231-9052. The deadline is Aug. 26.

Saturday's offerings will include homemade pastries, *souvlakia* (pork kabobs) and lunch-sized cheese or spinach pitas.

Sunday's offerings will include homemade pastries, gyros, *souvlakia* and lunch-sized cheese or spinach pitas.

Lubeznik Festival Volunteers Needed

Volunteer opportunities are available with Lubeznik Arts Festival, which will be held in-person Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The event features new and returning artists and artisans, live entertainment, family activities and food. Volunteer opportunities include setting up Friday (Aug. 20) and tearing down Sunday (Aug. 22), greeters, booth/row captains and gallery monitors.

Email LFA Volunteer Coordinator Mo Vear at lafcoordinator@gmail.com if interested.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues with a film at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, July 29, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The film explores challenging issues in contemporary art.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 20th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, July 28, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. Performing July 28 is William Halliar, whose parents and grandparents played instruments and



William Halliar

served in local church choirs. His keyboard instruction began at age 8 and continued through high school and into college. Over the years, he has accompanied soloists, church choirs and played for weddings, funerals and other occasions. He formed and directed a variety of musical groups, from choirs and mixed ensembles to pep bands, wind

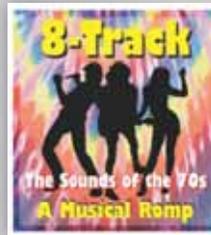
ensembles and polka bands. Along the way, he arranged and composed original pieces and music for numerous instrumental combinations.

Halliar moved to Michigan City after retiring from the rail industry in 2011, eventually playing the 1907 antique pump organ at the Old Lighthouse Museum for First Fridays and special tours. He also plays the pump organs at Barker Mansion and LaPorte County Historical Society Museum. For the past 2 1/2 years, he has been playing piano for services at Trinity Episcopal Church. He also is a correspondent with *The Beacher*.

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

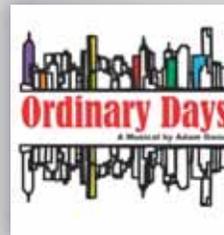
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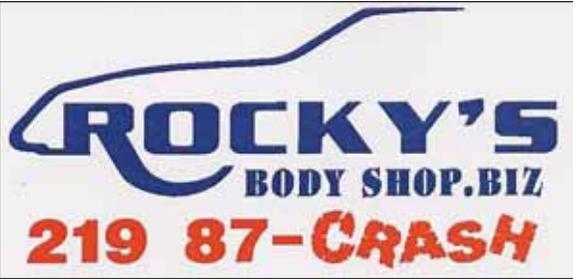
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LCSO in the Spotlight



Carrie Ann Carlson

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

A member of LCSO's first violin section, Carrie Ann Carlson also has served as associate conductor, concertmaster and executive director.

An Evansville native, she was active in Girl Scouts and 4-H Club, as well as being a member of the Indiana All-State Orchestra. She graduated from Indiana State University with a bachelor's degree in music education after receiving a full-tuition scholarship in tennis and serving as team captain for three years.

After graduation, Carlson taught at Chester-ton High School for five years. She then attended the University of Notre Dame, earning her master's degree in violin performance and sonata literature. After moving to Pennsylvania with her husband, Harold, she earned an artist diploma in violin performance from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. After returning to Indiana, she was on the faculty of St. Mary's College in South Bend, becoming involved with LCSO during that time.

For years, she scripted and conducted the annual Children's Concerts and Holiday at the Pops concerts. She then went to Portage High School, where she recently retired after 22 years as the director of orchestras. Now living on five acres outside of Rolling Prairie, she and Harold have been married for 44 years and have three adult children and six grandchildren. She also performs with the Whiting Park Festival Orchestra, Elkhart Symphony Orchestra and South Shore Symphony Orchestra.



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Inaugural LakeFest

LaPorte will host its first LakeFest on Friday-Sunday, July 30-Aug. 1, complete with music, art and food at Pine, Stone and Clear lakes.

The main event, AquaX Jet Ski races, are Saturday and Sunday on Stone Lake. Other attractions include concerts, children's activities, markets and fireworks. The schedule is:

Friday

- Sand Volleyball Tournament, Dunes Event Center, 3 p.m.
- Downtown Farmers Market-Food Court, The Stitch on Monroe Street, 4-8 p.m.
- Teen Beach Night, Stone Lake Beach, 6-9 p.m.
- Concert, Fantasy Band, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 7-9 p.m.
- Concert, Wayne Baker Brooks, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 9-11 p.m.
- Downtown Street Dance, State Street, 7:30-10 p.m.

Saturday

- 5k Run, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 8 a.m.
- Sand Volleyball Tournament, Dunes Event Center, 9 a.m.
- Kids Fun Zone, Unity Park, 9-11 a.m.
- AquaX Personal Water Craft Races, Stone Lake Beach, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- The Collective Artisan Market, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Kayak/Canoe Sunset Paddle, Stone Lake Beach, 6-8 p.m.
- Concert and Fireworks, Too Bad Company, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 7-9 p.m.
- Concert and Fireworks, Rich Hardesty, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, 9-11 p.m.
- Venetian Boat Parade, Pine Lake, 7 p.m.

Sunday

- Sand Volleyball Tournament, Dunes Event Center, 9 a.m.
- AquaX Personal Water Craft Races, Stone Lake Beach, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Fiesta del Lago Concert, Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, noon-4 p.m.

Visit <https://laportelakefest.com> for more details.

Commission Aids Gardens

The Indiana Arts Commission awarded \$3,900 to Friendship Botanic Gardens through the Arts Project Support grant program.

During its June 25th Quarterly Business Meeting, the commission approved recommendations for the Arts Project Support and Arts Organization Support grant programs. More than 590 applications were reviewed by 167 Hoosiers from around the state specializing in arts, community development and finance.

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Love Song Revue

Footlight Players will present the 1980s love song revue, "After All: A Musical Journey Through Love," at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 30-31, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.



Jeff Otto and Sheree Wheeler-Gudeman.

The revue, presented by Sheree Wheeler-Gudeman and Jeff Otto, will showcase one couple's journey through the stages of love with hits like "Almost Paradise," "Endless Love" and "Separate Lives."

Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Seating is limited, so reservations are requested by calling (219) 874-4035, in person at the box office or online at www.footlightplayers.org

American Red Cross

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

- Indiana Department of Transportation, 315 E. Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, July 30.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4.
- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5.

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 for more details.

Music in the Gardens

Music in the Gardens, presented by The History Museum and 88.1 WVPE, will feature the Whistle Pigs from 5 to 9 p.m. EDT Friday, July 30, in the museum's Oliver Gardens.

The group will perform contemporary, classic rock, jazz and rhythm and blues. Guests may take lawn chairs or blankets. The Landing will sell food and drinks, so no carry-ins are allowed. Guests also can browse exhibits at the museum.

Limited tickets are available. The cost is \$10. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org to purchase online. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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MCAS School Supply Drive

Michigan City Area Schools is conducting a school supply drive in conjunction with its upcoming Back to School Rally.

Items needed include: pencils, black pens, spiral notebooks, three-hole notebook paper (college rule), markers (washable), crayons, dry erase markers, glue sticks, erasers, two-pocket folders, rulers, highlighters, composition books, calculators, pencil boxes, water bottles, facial tissues, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, quart- and gallon-size Ziploc bags, earbuds and headphones.

These items can be dropped off at: Al's Supermarkets (Franklin and Karwick), Captain Ed's, City Hall, First Trust Credit Union, First United Methodist Church, General Insurance Services, MCAS Food Service Department, Members Advantage Credit Union, Swanson Center, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce and the MCAS Administration Building through Aug. 8. They also can be dropped off at Walmart on Aug. 6-8.

The annual "Citywide Back to School Rally" returns to an in-person event from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Elston's Gill Field, 317 Detroit St. Visit www.EducateMC.net/backtoschoolrally for more information.

Plein Air Workshop

"The Power of Plein Air," a two-day painting workshop with Porter County artist Mark Vander Vinne, is Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10-11, through Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St.



Vander Vinne

Participants will join Vander Vinne to paint on 22 acres of nearby land. The workshop will focus on: capturing the essence of a scene quickly; how to simplify a scene into manageable pieces of information; creating a focal area; and bringing the essential elements of a scene to life through color.

The workshop is limited to 10 participants. The cost is \$350 (exclusive of materials). Register by calling (574) 293-6660 or email info@midwestmuseum.us.

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Chesterton Art Center

Kim Riley will offer an Epoxy Resin workshop from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Learn how to safely use epoxy resin to create a mixed-media relief piece inspired by the beach. Participants will layer shells, beach glass, sand and coral into resin onto glass and in frame. All materials and supplies are provided, but participants can take shells or other small pieces.



An example of the type of work participants will tackle.

Participants also will create a small resin bookmark or luggage tag as a bonus project.

Tuition is \$60 for non-members and \$50 for members. A \$38 supply fee is payable directly to the instructor on workshop day. The work area is cleaned and sanitized, with hand sanitizer available. There are no make-up days for missed classes due to COVID-19

Register in person, over the phone or visit Eventbrite.com and search for Chesterton Art Center.

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 for more details.

Sunset Grille Donates to Zoo

Sunset Grille Rooftop Cantina hosted a July 4 fireworks party to benefit Washington Park Zoo, the sold-out fundraiser generating \$1,080 to the zoo from ticket sales and on-site donations.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

July 29 — Online CMYK Graphic Novel Club for Teens, 3:30-5:30 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Registration: YOnline@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

July 29-31 — “Ordinary Days,” 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

July 30-31 — Dunes Arts Foundation/Friendship Botanic Gardens fundraiser, “Cabaret at the Gardens: Music Under the Stars,” 6:30-9 p.m., the Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: \$40. Reservations/info: (219) 878-9885, www.dunesARTS.org, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

July 30-31 — Footlight Players revue, “After All: A Musical Journey Through Love,” 7:30 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

July 30-Aug. 1 — LakeFest, Pine, Stone & Clear lakes, LaPorte. Full schedule: <https://laportelakefest.com>

July 30-Aug. 1 — “Disney’s High School Musical,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors 60 & older, \$13/students with valid ID. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/

July 31 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Heron Rookery Trail, 1336 East Road west of Michigan City. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

July 31 — Red Apple Music Fest, 1 p.m., 6821 Red Apple Drive, Michigan City. Info: (219) 210-5477, maryerapier@gmail.com

Aug. 4 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Aug. 4 — 2021 SculptFusion debut, 5:30-7:30 p.m., first floor @ Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Square. Info: ijnjacobi@pnw.edu

Aug. 4 — Fiber Arts Class: Create a Dunes Scene, 2-4 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 4 — 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 Sept. 30 — New exhibit, “Diversity” (Madeleine Schooley), The Legacy Center Gallery in Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Meet-the-artist reception: 8:30 a.m.-noon Aug. 8. Info: jessicar@qas.org

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second

St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

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

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

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 29 — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EDT, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Cost: \$5, members/free. Info: (574) 293-6660.

July 30 — Music in the Gardens, the Whistle Pigs, 5-9 p.m. EDT, The History Museum Oliver Gardens, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org. Info: (574) 235-9664.

July 30 — The Dale Prasco Trio concert, 7 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Stage @ The School of American Music's Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: (269) 409-1191, www.schoolofamericanmusic.com

Through Sept. 12 — New exhibits, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Exhibits: "The Hidden Common Place," "Found," "ReShoot," "At the River's End." Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

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

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

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*: "Holler." Rated R. Time: 6 p.m. July 29. Also: "I Carry You With Me." Rated R. Times: 2:45 p.m. July 30-Aug. 1, 6 p.m. Aug. 2. *Opens July 30*: "Summer of Soul" (reviewed in July 22 *Beacher*). Check website for times. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522, www.vickerstheatre.com

Story idea? Email drew@thebeacher.com





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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On July 29, 1850, “La Traviata,” the first opera performed in Chicago, opened at the Rice Theater.

On July 29, 1890, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers, France.

On July 29, 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

On July 29, 1957, Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC’s “Tonight Show.”

On July 29, 1958, NASA came into being when President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act.

On July 29, 1977, the first oil began flowing through the 800-mile-long Alaska pipeline.

On July 30, 1792, the French national anthem, “La Marseillaise,” was first sung in Paris.

On July 30, 1890, baseball legend Casey Stengel was born in Kansas City, Mo.

On July 30, 1909, the U.S. government paid \$30,000 for its first airplane, a Wright biplane.

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill creating the WAVES, a women’s auxiliary of the Navy.

On July 30, 1971, Chicago’s famous Union Stockyards permanently closed.

On July 31, 1790, the U.S. government issued its first patent. It went to Vermont’s Samuel Hopkins for a process for making potash and pearl ash.

On July 31, 1792, the cornerstone of the U.S. Mint, the first building erected by the federal government for public use, was laid in Philadelphia.

On July 31, 1877, Thomas Edison took out a patent leading to the development of the phonograph.

On July 31, 1948, the New York International Airport (changed in 1963 to the John F. Kennedy Airport) was dedicated by President Harry Truman and New York Gov. Thomas Dewey.

On July 31, 1971, the Apollo 15 astronauts took a 6-1/2 hour ride on the moon in an electric cart.

On August 1, 1790, the first U.S. census (taken to determine state representation in Congress) was completed. It showed a population of almost 4 million in 13 states.

On August 1, 1873, Andrew Hallidie demonstrated a cable car he designed for San Francisco.

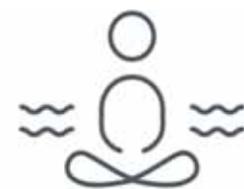
On August 1, 1944, an uprising broke out in War-

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Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Closed: Saturday & Sunday

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saw against Nazi occupation force atrocities.

On August 1, 1977, Francis Gary Powers was killed when his helicopter crashed in Los Angeles. Powers gained fame in 1960 as the U-2 pilot shot down over the Soviet Union.

On August 1, 1978, Cincinnati baseball player Pete Rose's 44-game hitting streak, which tied a National League record, ended in a game against the Atlanta Braves.

On August 1, 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.

On August 2, 1858, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance providing for the city's first paid fire department.

On August 2, 1876, in Deadwood, located in Dakota Territory, "Wild Bill" Hickok was fatally shot from behind while playing poker in a saloon. His hand consisted of two aces and two eights, a combination that become known as the "dead man's hand."

On August 2, 1909, the first Lincoln penny was issued by the United States Mint.

On August 2, 1921, the jury in the "Black Sox" trial of eight White Sox players returned a not guilty verdict in the plot to fix the 1919 World Series. However, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis banned the players involved for life.

On August 3, 1900, World War II newspaper columnist Ernie Pyle was born near Dana, Ind.

On August 3, 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed.

On August 3, 1951, the U.S. Military Academy dismissed 90 cadets for cheating on exams.

On August 3, 1958, the Nautilus, a nuclear-powered submarine, became the first vessel to round the North Pole under water.

On August 3, 1980, closing ceremonies were held in Moscow for the 1980 Summer Olympics, which had been boycotted by dozens of countries, including the U.S.

On August 4, 1735, freedom of the press won a victory in the American colonies when a jury acquitted John Zenger, of *The New York Weekly Journal* on libel charges brought by the Royal Governor of New York.

On August 4, 1790, the "Revenue Cutter Service," a task force of the U.S. Navy, was created by Congress. In 1915, it combined with the "Life Saving Service" to become the U.S. Coast Guard.

On August 4, 1892, Lizzie Borden was arrested in Fall River, Mass., for the hatchet murders of her parents. She was later acquitted.

On August 4, 1944, during World War II, German troops raided the "concealed annex" of a home in Amsterdam and arrested its occupants, including 14-year-old Anne Frank. Her writings, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, became famous after her death in a German concentration camp.



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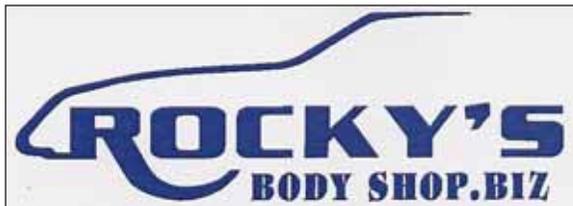
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Join a ranger to search for life in a pond. Sampling equipment and identification sheets are provided. Visitors also can hike the trail through Miller Woods, check out the nature play zone or explore activities inside the center.

• **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.

• **Closed are 1.5 miles of the Little Calumet River Hiking Trail for safety and resource protection.**

The temporary closure allow a contractor to replace approximately 1,000 feet of boardwalk. The work is expected to last no more than 120 days. Hikers will still have access to the adjacent Bailly/Chellberg trails, along with another 48 miles of trails, including: Dune Ridge, Miller Woods, West Beach, Heron Rookery and Pinhook Bog Upland Trail.

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



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Three Brothers by Peter Ackroyd (paperback, \$15.99; also available in Kindle and audiobook from Amazon. 256 pages)

Like a rich man who visits his wine cellar to admire his fine collection, I like to peruse my bookshelves and reacquaint myself with those I haven't read in awhile, or those I haven't gotten around to reading yet.

Looking at books online is OK, but I like to touch and feel the texture of the book cover, see what different kinds of paper and font types are within. Before you call me crazy, all you true bibliophiles out there know whereof I speak!

That's how I came across this hidden little gem about London and three very different brothers. My attention was captured by the black-and-white foggy picture of three young men standing around a lamppost on a deserted brick street. The photo looks very 1960s, and I knew this was the promise of an interesting read — no, the promise of a fantastic read by world-famous author Peter Ackroyd. He is English, a writer prolific in fiction and non-fiction, including poetry, criticism and biography. His honors and awards are numerous, but let's get right down to the story...

The three Hanway boys were born in the London borough of Camden, a council estate of small houses, what we in the states would call government housing. Harry was born in 1947, Daniel in 1948 and Sam in 1949. What is extraordinary about them is that each was born on May 8. After Sam's birth, the newspaper makes something of the boys, but the novelty soon wears off as life after the war is hard in Camden. The boys grow up as boys do: father Philip is a night watchman in London and their mother, Sally, disappeared from their lives when the boys were 10, 9 and 8, respectively. Their father never speaks of her again, and the boys grow up wondering what they did wrong for mom to leave them.

As the boys grow to teen age, Harry is the first to leave home. He always loved newspapers and finds a job as a messenger boy for a local paper. Following a hunch one night, Harry follows a strange man into a church. He manages to stop the man as he attempts to start a fire. This leads Harry to writing a story about the incident, which impresses his boss.

Harry is promoted to reporter. A chance meeting with Hilda, a waitress, leads him to a story about paybacks and government corruption. It's a story that never gets published, but gets the attention of the newspaper's owner. Soon, Harry is on his way to becoming a top newspaper journalist with his own byline. He even marries the boss' daughter. But is Harry happy?

Daniel, always the scholar, ends up in Cambridge studying English literature. He works hard to lose his Camden accent and fits in with all the snobs. He does well at his studies, eventually graduating and receiving a research fellowship. He later moves on to be a reviewer of some renown in literary circles. Too busy with his career, Daniel doesn't even recognize his own sexuality until he meets Stanley Askisson...

Sam, always the dreamer, stays with his father and becomes a handyman for the nuns at a convent. One day, by accident, Sam discovers where his mother lives — a warehouse. He finally leaves the job with the nuns to become a rent collector for a slum landlord who just happens to have a connection to the corruption story Harry wrote...where will this lead him?

I felt like it was a gray day with clouds pressing down on me as I read this book. London became a foggy city of back alleys, literary gatherings and political machinations

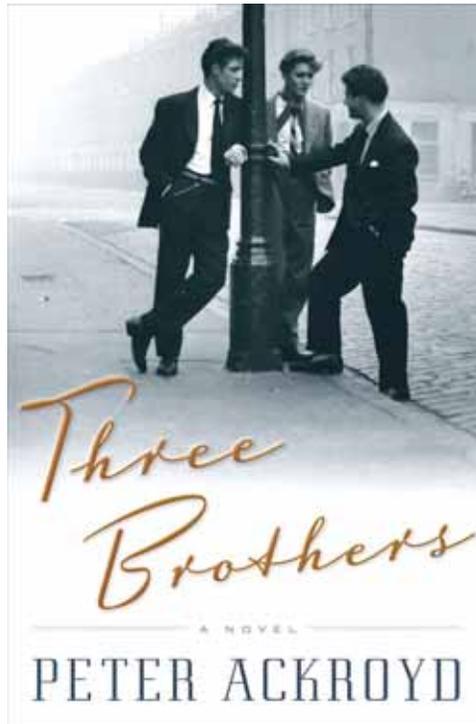
in this atmospheric and spellbinding story. It is almost mesmerizing, wondering where the fates will take these three men as their paths intersect so many times without them actually meeting each other.

Can't reveal too much more, but, here's a big hint — there are murders and suicide. However, all is not gloomy, as I must recount one incident in the story that made me laugh out loud.

It is a book publication party with all the glittering members of the literati present: one editor says, "An interesting crowd, don't you think?" His friend says, "Well, all people are interesting if you don't really want to know them." Such humanity! Such a fascinating story!

Ackroyd not only is a novelist, but also a broadcaster, biographer, poet and historian. His novel Hawksmoor won the Guardian Fiction Prize and Whitbread Novel Award. He also won the Somerset Maugham Award and another Whitbread Award. He lives in London.

Till next time, happy reading!



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