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# An Experience Like No Other

by Andrew Tallackson

*Editor's note — This article is not designed to impart any religious views on readers, but to convey the experience of being an extra in a TV show that is becoming a global phenomenon.*

To say the moment was surreal for Dale Knouse is putting it mildly.

Standing amid a sea of extras, and covered head to toe in the trappings of the time, Knouse listened intently as director Dallas Jenkins issued a set of reminders. No cell phones visible. Don't smile or wave at Jesus. Don't nod your head up and down as if in church. Just be natural.

The scene at hand? The Sermon on the Mount, slated for the Season 2 finale of "The Chosen," the first TV series — created outside the Hollywood system — that takes a multi-season approach to the story of Jesus, but from the perspectives of those who knew him. Texas provided the location for the shoot that day. Conservative estimates place the number of extras at 2,000. Knouse believes it was anywhere from 2,500 to 3,000. Temperatures for the Feb. 10 shoot hovered at a frosty 25 degrees.



Dale Knouse, on the set and in costume for "The Chosen."

The extras, though, were steadfast. Cameras began rolling, and actor Jonathan Roumie appeared as Jesus.

"Most people there were fans of the show," Knouse said. "And here you are, with the character of Jesus, where he comes down to the middle of the crowd, where he does large chunks of dialogue. It was pretty remarkable. It impacted you."

It was an experience like no other for Knouse, who grew up in Michigan City and now lives in LaPorte. For him, to be part of a TV series he once resisted, but now embraced mind, body and spirit, was extraordinary.

"The Chosen" is defying the conventions of "bingeable" television. Jenkins (2017's "The Resurrection of Gavin

Stone"), the show's creator, director and co-writer, wanted to achieve something unique, to fill in the gaps, in a way, through backstories of people in the Bible. Some are Disciples, others fringe characters. The plan is to produce seven seasons made available free to viewers. The goal is to remain true not

Continued on Page 2

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## An Experience

 Continued from Page 1

just to Scripture, but also to the historical context of the period. A particular emphasis of the show are the Jewish customs and practices of the characters. The show's advisors review scripts and offer not just Biblical insight, but also cultural and sociopolitical context.

Jenkins turned to online crowdfunding as an alternative financing source. Season One, which debuted in 2019, remains the highest crowdfunded TV series or film project to date, generating more than \$10.2 million from more than 16,000 investors.

The series is now in the middle of Season 2, releasing episodes as they are completed. The most regularly used platforms include VidAngel, YouTube, Peacock and "The Chosen" app, which allows viewers to "mirror," or send, an episode to a Smart-TV.

Jenkins has said in interviews his desire is to have the show seen by more than a billion people globally. As of March, Season 1 has been viewed more than 100 million times. The show also is being translated into 70 languages.

How did Knouse get hooked?

First, a little about him. He was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., but raised in Michigan City. He graduated from Rogers High School in 1984, then from Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Wheeling, Ill. He has been with Cutler Funeral Home for 28 years, co-owning it with his wife, Tonya, for the past 10 years. They have two sons: David, 22, and Matthew, who soon turns 20. Dale's brother, Andrew, is a captain with Michigan City Fire Department. Their mother, Alice, worked for years at Carson Pierre Scott.

Dale first learned about "The Chosen" through Facebook. Social media, in fact, has been a vehicle for promoting the show. The heavy marketing approach caught his attention, but he was hesitant. The quality, or what he saw as the lack thereof, of much faith-based entertainment kept him at bay.

Last September, however, he attended a virtual faith-based concert that included Michael W. Smith at The Melody drive-in theater in Knox. Friends attending the concert suggested he give the show a try. So, he and Tonya watched the first episode through YouTube's streaming service. They were hooked. The episode, which details how Jesus reaches out



Dale was part of a wave of extras who arrived on the set at 5 a.m.



Dale, a longtime "Star Wars" fan, waits during the shoot while wearing a Chewbacca face mask.

to Mary Magdalene, spoke to his faith thanks to the caliber of the writing, acting, directing and overall production values.

"Here is Scripture, but not in a medium that's always done well, but then again, it's outside of Hollywood, so it's freeing. Not confining. Every episode has been that way," he said.

"We all get hooked on sitcoms, or things we binge on Netflix. This, to me, was the same caliber of what I was already seeing. You get to know the characters. You're invested in them on an emotional level. It's told from a perspective we haven't seen, and it's written to where it's relatable."

Now a fan, Knouse learned of the show's "Pay It Forward" element, where viewers can contribute so it remains free. Contributions can range from \$14.99 to \$999.99. Last October, Knouse learned of the possibility, through contributing, of being an extra during the Sermon on the Mount. Interested, Knouse pursued that option. A month later,



Dale Knouse (second from right) is photographed with his son David (from left), wife Tonya and son Matthew.

Continued on Page 4

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## An Experience Continued from Page 3

he received an email stating filming was slated for February in Texas. He would have to cover travel and housing expenses, and take a COVID test three days before heading to Texas.

Knouse was game.

The day of the shoot, he was among a wave of extras that arrived at 5 a.m. for a rapid COVID test. Once cleared, they boarded a bus for the shoot. Another wave of extras arrived as the morning progressed.

Knouse's fellow extras hailed from all 50 states, along with a few from countries abroad. The 25-degree temperatures made wearing sandals a bit chilly. Individuals, however, were allowed to wear coats and regular shoes during downtime. Warming tents were available.

The cold, however, did deter some extras from remaining with the shoot.

"We maybe lost a couple hundred people," Knouse said, "but most were in great spirits."

Once filming began, Knouse says he was impressed by everyone, from Jenkins, to the producers, to the camera crew. The focus was for everyone



The extras receive instructions before filming begins.

Anyone who has experienced a film or TV shoot knows the day can be long. Tedious. Plenty of stops and starts — setting up shots, prepping cast members with costumes, makeup and props. To offset that for the extras, "The Chosen" set included food and live entertainment, all of it outside to ensure social distancing. Knouse said a brief scene was filmed at noon, following by a shot of 300 people walking across a field. Extras for the Sermon on the Mount were ready by 1:30 p.m., with shooting commencing from 2 to 5 p.m.

Extras, by the way, were asked to provide their own wardrobe, the parameters for which were contained in an in-depth email. Knouse ordered his costume off Amazon, then, as per the email instructions, "aged" it with coffee grounds in boiling water. He also frayed it a bit with scissors.

to have a good time, but to embrace the weight of the series. What was being filmed at the time.

"They were very cordial," he said of the crew. "They were glad everyone was there."

"The series," he continued, "it's a lot of imagination and conjecture because you're telling stories with the fringe people, people we're getting some glimpses of what they were like and possibly did. That's what makes the show interesting. It's really about those personalities who surrounded Jesus."

Knouse described Jenkins — his father, Jerry, cowrote the "Left Behind" series — as down to Earth. In fact, Knouse's pastor, Steve Galloway of LaPorte Missionary Church, has a past connection to Dallas Jenkins, who was willing to film a quick video for Knouse saying hello to Galloway. Knouse then texted it to his pastor. A welcome surprise for

Galloway, no doubt.

At press time, "The Chosen" has aired five of Season 2's eight episodes. The sixth episode, according to Jenkins, warrants extra time before airing due to certain special effects required. The air date for the eighth episode, which features Knouse, was unavailable at press time.

Knouse remains awed by the experience.

"They have a goal of reaching a billion people with this. That's unheard of," he said. "But after the craziness of what we've all gone through in the past year, what the world went through in general, things seem to be lining up for this to happen."

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



Actor Jonathan Roumie, who portrays Jesus in "The Chosen," during the filming of the Sermon on the Mount.



Dale Knouse is photographed with Dallas Jenkins, the director, creator and cowriter of "The Chosen."



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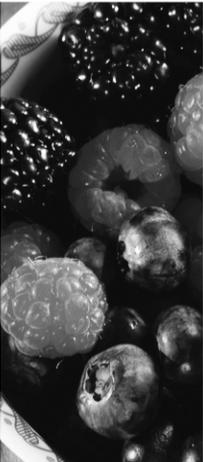
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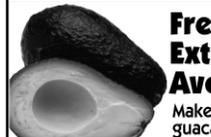
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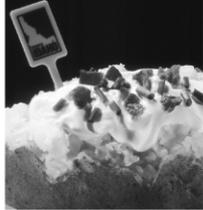
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## Dunes Summer Theatre Cast Makes “Forever Plaid” a Treat

by Andrew Tallackson



Jay España (from left), Joshua Torres, Jacob Simon and Thomas Tong star in “Forever Plaid.” Photo by Andrew Tallackson

The measure of success for any production of “Forever Plaid” is the cast. The play itself, the concept, even by musical revue standards, is supremely slight: a threadbare excuse to string along guy group classics from the ’50s. But do the actors pull it off? Do they have the voices? Do they sell it?

This Dunes Summer Theatre cast sells it.

What a treat, to have these actors kick off Dunes’ summer season. The show, which runs through June 20, gives Jay España, Jacob Simon, Thomas Tong and Joshua Torres the chance to belt these classics out with joy and, more importantly, tight harmony.

Again, show creator Stuart Ross’ idea for the revue is slim. Dreams of musical success for four high-school buddies, who call themselves The Plaids, are tragically cut short when a bus of Catholic school-girls plows into their vehicle. Their spirits return to Earth for one final performance. What ensues are favorites like “Three Coins in the Fountain,” “Crazy ‘Bout Ya, Baby,” “Perfidia,” “Cry,” “Shangri-La” and the finale, “Love is a Many-Splendored Thing.”

What I like about this production is the cama-



The Plaids in their signature plaids.

radierie between the actors. Whether they clicked upon meeting, or director Roberto Sanchez-Williams worked with them on solidifying a tight bond, we actually get the sense these guys have known each other for some time. They feed off each other effortlessly. And the way they playfully engage each other

through song and dance is a blast.

All four actors have strong voices. I’ve seen productions where the cast emblazes the songs with too contemporary a feel. But the Dunes cast — their voices feel appropriate for the time. It all feels right, especially Jacob Simon, as Francis, the leader. His stage presence, the way he belts out the music, it all has the qualities of a ’50s crooner.

The show’s secret weapon, by the way, is musical director Andrew Flasch, whose talent at the keyboard is the driving force behind the production.

All told, a dynamite start to the Dunes summer season.

(See *Activities on Page 38* for show times, dates and reservations.)

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### Mainstreet Association Selects Artist to Create Sculpture Honoring Suffragist

Michigan City Mainstreet Association has commissioned nationally acclaimed sculptor Bernard Williams to create a public sculpture of African-American suffragist Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson.

Part of its “Celebrating Naomi Anderson” project, the effort celebrates the life and legacy of Anderson as an early suffragist and human rights champion, author and orator. A Michigan City native born in 1843, she appeared frequently with women’s rights leaders like Susan B. Anthony.

Anderson passed away in 1899 in California.

The project received support from a Preserving Women’s Legacy Grant through the Indiana Women’s Suffrage Centennial, presented by Indiana Humanities and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Project partners include NAACP



Bernard Williams has a studio in LaPorte, and has served on the faculty at The School of the Art Institute, Chicago.

of LaPorte County Unit 3061, Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

Williams is known for large works that emerge out of documents from libraries and archives. He searches for hidden narratives and symbols that place their subjects in larger, frequently turbulent historical framework. His major sculptures can be seen in Chicago, Dallas and Indianapolis. He has served on the faculty of The School of the Art Institute, Chicago, and maintains a studio in LaPorte.

Williams was chosen from 12 artists. The sculpture, yet to be named, will be unveiled at Michigan City’s Charles R. Westcott Park this fall.

Visit [www.bernardwilliamsart.com](http://www.bernardwilliamsart.com) for more information

on the artist. Visit [www.facebook.com/celebratenaoami](https://www.facebook.com/celebratenaoami) for additional details on the project.

### Bug Safari

Friendship Botanic Gardens will host its free annual family event, Bug Safari, from 2-4 p.m. Sunday June 13.

Families will explore diverse natural habitats throughout the 105-acre garden park. Take nets and magnifying glasses to learn about the roles insects play through hands-on citizen science, children’s craft activities and treats from Kona Ice.

FBC is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12. Call (219) 878-9885, email [events@friendshipbotanicgardens.org](mailto:events@friendshipbotanicgardens.org) or visit Facebook at [facebook.com/friendshipgardensindiana](https://www.facebook.com/friendshipgardensindiana) for more details.

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## Ellen Firme Gallery



Nancy Natow-Cassidy's "Desert Radiance" (2020).

The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores, will host "The Universe in Ecstatic Motion," new works by Nancy Natow-Cassidy, starting June 11 and continuing through the summer.

A COVID-safe opening reception is from 5-8 p.m. Friday, June 11. The works then can be viewed during regular business hours from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Natow-Cassidy's paintings fall between abstraction and impressionism, exploring color and shape as energy and vibration. The past year of self-isolation afforded her time to study the reflections and emanations of light on water and land, and the twisting and open shapes of forests, dunes, deserts and flowers.

During the outside reception, masks are required. Social distancing will be enforced. Exhibit visitors will be limited to four people at a time.

Contact the gallery at (219) 874-4003 for additional information.

## The Holdcraft Players

Postponed last year due to COVID-19, The Holdcraft Players finally will present its inaugural performance, "Almost, Maine," on June 11-13 and 18-20 at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

John Cariani's play, directed by Jill and Tony J. Thomas, is set in northern Maine, where a group of houses and businesses have not quite incorporated. The action unfolds over nine scenes that coincide between 8:50 and 9 p.m. throughout the community. Emotions run the gambit from finding love in unsuspecting places to losing love in familiar ways.

The cast is: Denise Barkow (Chesterton); Alexander Bonner (Trail Creek); Andrea and Brian Brophy (Chesterton); Kelly Martin Fargo (Michigan City); Kelly Jones (Michigan City); Alayna Lauritsen (LaPorte); Bobbi Lauritsen (LaPorte); Mark McColley (Valparaiso); Dave Mikolajczyk (Chesterton); Thom Nelson (Michigan City); Ian Pappas (LaPorte); Dee Younce-Piotrowski (Hanna); Carol Pozos (Michigan City); Emmie Reigel (Chesterton); Jackie Robinson (LaPorte); Ken Siegfried (LaPorte); Michael J. Thomas (Trail Creek); and Joe Watterson II (LaPorte). The show is produced by John Avila. The production team includes Arturo Pozos, Armand Pozos, Alicia Pozos, Maddison Basiak, Anthony Holt, Sue Vail and Veronica Thomas.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. June 11-12 and 18-19 and 2 p.m. June 13 and 20. A limited amount of tickets are only available online at [www.yptcinc.com](http://www.yptcinc.com). The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Masks are required.

## Polish Truckers' Pilgrimage

The Fourth Annual Polish Truckers' Pilgrimage is Sunday, June 13, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine (Salvatorian Fathers Monastery), 5755 Pennsylvania Ave., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by the Blessing of Trucks and family-friendly attractions on the shrine grounds. Food will be available for purchase; menu items and prices vary.

Due to space and parking limitations, it is requested only semi-truck tractor units be brought; no trailers are allowed. Masks or other face coverings must be worn inside the church.

Call (219) 884-0714 for details.

## Auto and Bike Show

An auto and bike show is Saturday, June 12, at John Franklin Miller American Legion Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20.

Multiple classes are invited to participate. Registration is at 10 a.m. and judging at 3 p.m. The event also includes food, music and drinks.

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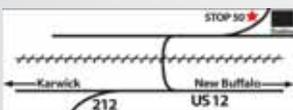
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**Harbor Country Singers**

“Happy Songs of Spring & Summer,” Harbor Country Singers’ first free sing-along of the season, is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 15.

The setting is The School of American Music’s Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich., behind the Arts & Education Center.

The program includes songs such as “High Hopes,” “Singing in the Rain” and “Sunshine On My Shoulders.” SAM Executive Director/voice teacher Donna Mitchell, HCS producer Pat Putnam and SAM music instructor Ron Spears are the song leaders. Spears will accompany the singers on guitar.

COVID-19 restrictions will be observed. Sheet music and lyrics will be provided. Guests can take lawn chairs and, if interested, instruments to play along. The rain date is the same time Tuesday, June 22.

Visit [www.schoolofamericanmusic.com](http://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com) or call (269) 409-1191 for more details. Harbor Country Singers is supported by a Pokagon Fund grant.

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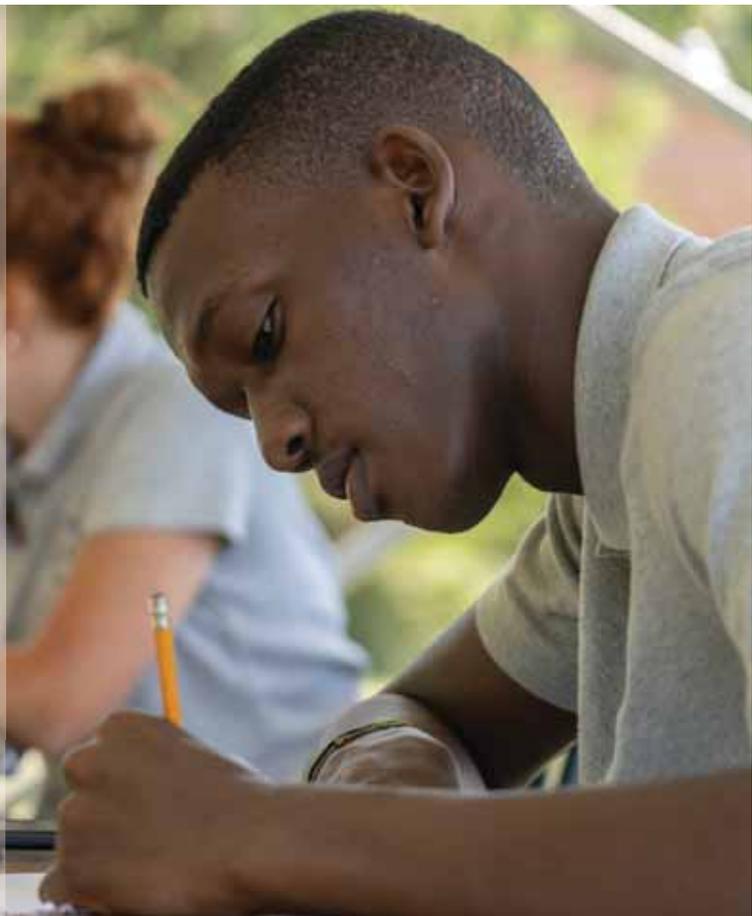


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## The Long Beach Town Council has voted unanimously to phase out all garbage bins at beach stops for the following reasons:

1. Beach trash bins are being overfilled on a regular basis with trash from the beach and from private homes.
2. To raise awareness about generating less waste, using more reusable containers, increasing recycling efforts, and taking better care of our stops.
3. To set a good example for our kids regarding taking accountability for our actions.
4. This is the right thing to do to protect our environment.

## Phase Out Schedule:

- **Starting 2020:** Communication began regarding the new policy. New signs were installed.
- **Late Fall 2020:** Garbage bins and enclosures were removed.
- **Early Spring 2021:** Bins are no longer at the beach stops as we continue to communicate the new rule.



## What can you do?

- Voice concerns and give feedback regarding the new rule to The Town Council.
- Voice opinions for how we implement new rules to The Parks and Recreation Board.
- Pass this information along to residents and visitors.

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## One Woman's Journey of Discovery Leads to a Moving New Book

by Andrew Tallackson

Having written for small-town publications for nearly 30 years, people on occasion ask if I soft-pedal reviews of local talent.

It is a legitimate question. Do we, who offer our opinions on the arts, shield people we know from the same standards applied to “professionals”? Fearful of the response should a critique be negative? I will confess to, in a past life with another publication, sometimes going easy on plays that did not rise to the occasion. Noting the flaws, yes, but not drawing blood.

The older I get, though, the more it become apparent, particularly as we emerge from a global pandemic, how essential quality of life is. People value their time and disposable income. Why direct them to entertainment not worth their while?

Earlier this year, *Beacher* correspondent Julie McGue asked if I'd read an advance copy of her first book, *Twice a Daughter: A Search for Identity, Family, and Belonging* (She Writes Press). It was scheduled for release, appropriately enough, around Mother's Day.

I knew Julie could write, based solely on her delightful monthly columns in *The Beacher*, so I agreed to read it.

After plowing through the book in a matter of days, I emailed Julie back with a four-word response: “*Don't. Change. A. Thing.*”

*Twice a Daughter* makes me want to be a better writer. That's the God's honest truth. Her work is richly detailed. Deeply moving.

In her memoir, Julie writes of how, at 48, a potential health scare prompted her to track down her actual birth parents. A twin, she and her sister were blessed with wonderful adoptive parents. The ensuing search was not an act of betrayal on Julie's behalf toward those who raised her, but a quest begun to answer vital questions that could affect not only her health, but that of her family.

Julie recounts that process, which spanned years, warts and all. The emotional highs and lows. And she does so with an incredible eye for detail. Like the body language of her adoptive mother as she reacts to the latest updates in the birth-parent search. Her birth mother's reticence at agreeing to make contact with her.

*Twice a Daughter* is the work of a major talent, one that weaves through potential darkness and emerges overcome with hope.

I sat down with Julie recently for an interview. It was a gorgeous spring day, the sun gently beating down on our backs as we chatted outside of Lakeshore Coffee and Specialties. What follows is the interview in its entirety.

**The Beacher:** I want to congratulate you on this wonderful, wonderful book, this emotional experience. I was wondering, what was it like for you when you finished? Was this the final catharsis of the whole journey, for what you'd been through?

**Julie:** Yes, but once I finished the book, and I finished it the way I wanted it to be written, then I had to tell my mothers that I finished the book and it was really going to happen. And, I had to send each one of them the chapters they were in and pray that they would not have major objections.

**The Beacher:** There's really nothing that would make anyone cringe or be worried, but it's very open, honest, it shows everyone's vulnerabilities. So, what was

their reaction?

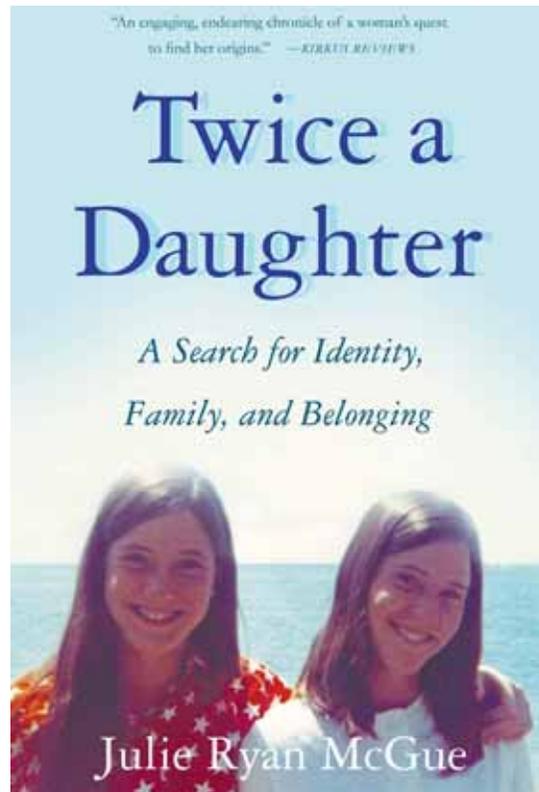
**Julie:** Well, my birth mom, she said she got the chapters, and she read them, and I did change her name and any identifying information, and that was the end of the conversation.

**The Beacher:** Really?

**Julie:** Yeah. And, this book has so many ties to COVID, because I finished it during COVID because we were all living through that shutdown. So I was writing and editing with the editor every day of the week. We started in January and finished in May, then I sent it to the publisher and I had my mom with me during COVID. She stayed with me for a whole month when I came back in June, which is when I gave her the book to read. I worried about it because I didn't want anything to happen to my relationship with her. But she's a really dear, sweet lady. We had our struggles through the book, but I hope that comes across that I respect her and wanted to treat her fairly in the book. She read the book and she said, “I think you are a good writer, and I think you said what you needed to say.”

**The Beacher:** Nice.

**Julie:** That's lovely, right? No criticism of how I



treated her or anything, so that was a huge relief. I feel like there's a blogpost coming out on about how do you reveal that you've written a memoir about somebody during COVID when they're already stressed out. Are you going to stress them out more?

**The Beacher (laughing):** And your mom goes through what so many adoptive parents go through, which is the fear of losing the child to the birth par-



Julie and her sister, Jennifer, in this undated photo.

ent. And so, that had to be emotional for her as well, now seeing it in print.

**Julie:** She had already lost a child, which I elude to earlier in the book. I had lost a sister, her biological daughter, when I was a teenager, and I knew how that loss affected her. It was really very scarring for our family. I think I went overboard in trying to make her feel good about it, and our relationship is great.

**The Beacher:** You get the sense, too, your children and now your newfound siblings are just tickled pink. There were no reservations of meeting and connecting.

**Julie:** No, however, those fabulous new siblings — I was texting my new sister this morning — they were never able to convince my birth father to change his mind, and he passed away without meeting us. After the book, I was still struggling with why did he do that, why would he not want to meet two beautiful daughters, and I interviewed him, and it comes across, he was ashamed. He was ashamed about some of his choices.

**The Beacher:** So by interviewing him and reaching that conclusion, are you OK with that?

**Julie:** I'm OK with him. I respect his decision. He was a young man when what happened to him happened to him. He got my birth mother pregnant, and religion got in the middle of all that, as it often did back then. And that's the important thing

for people to realize when they are reading a closed adoption story or meeting someone from a closed adoption. It was different times. The tolerations, the transparency, all those things are completely different. There was so much shame around religion and pregnancy. He also grew up outside a very poor Indian reservation outside of northern Minnesota, and rising out of that poverty and becoming something, and then having this other thing tarnish his character was really something he sort of shut off.

**The Beacher:** You're also blessed, too. Your sister was a great source of strength throughout the journey.

**Julie:** I say this often about Catholic Charities, because they do get a bad rap about some of the things they did and don't do, but one thing they did get right in my respect was, they did not separate twins. I cannot even imagine how I would feel about Catholic Charities if I found out now I had a twin. And I would have found out because of DNA. So, she was a great support, and she lives here, at Stop 29. We continue to live a mile from each

other most of the time. And she was very supportive of the book.

**The Beacher:** Through the process, what amazed me was, there is so much detail. Factual and emotional detail. Did you take notes during the journey?

**Julie:** I did. So, my mother-in-law, she's from Michigan, and she taught reminiscence writing at

Continued on Page 18



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Continued from Page 17

a community college, and she absolutely demanded that I write everything down as I was going through it. And she was specific. She said, "This is not a journal. Make sure you keep notes about the scenes, the dialogue." So I had a lot of research material to draw back on. But the vulnerability stuff that comes with memoirs, the reflection, I learned how to do that through my class through the National Association of Memoir Writers.

**The Beacher:** Were you hesitant at any point of how much do I reveal, how much do I personally reveal about myself, or did you feel unrestricted?

**Julie:** First, I wrote it unrestricted. Like I was writing it for myself. Then, I wrote it through the eyes of the people I was writing about, and then, took out some details that didn't change the story, but respected people's privacy. Like one of my characters in the book, he has Parkinson's, and I spent a lot of time developing his character around that, and then in the end, I thought, if he was reading this about himself, he might not appreciate it, so I took it out.

**The Beacher:** It's an interesting experience when family and friends read something very personal that's not only about the person who wrote it, but about themselves. Of how they're seen in the eyes of that person.

**Julie:** Someone came back and said, "I don't remember saying that." And I said, "OK, is it OK if I leave it in?" And one person said sure, and one person said I wish you would change this. So, I respected both wishes. They all wanted me to change their name. And I did. Whoever wanted me to change their names, I did. Some people who I thought would want me to, they were like, no, leave it in. Like the social worker from Catholic Charities. They got permission from their organizations, so those are the real people. The same with the genealogist who figures out the big secret. She was like, "Oh yeah, keep my name in there."

**The Beacher:** Did anyone come back to you saying, I didn't realize this about you, or I have a greater appreciation of what you were going through?

**Julie:** I gave the book to all my kids, and I happened to be with my son, who is 31, on an airplane while he was reading the book and I looked over at him, and he was crying. And, his girlfriend said, "What's wrong?" And he said, "I just didn't know she went through all this. I don't know where I was."



A recent photo of Julie (left) with her sister, Jennifer.

## If You Go

A book signing for *Twice a Daughter: A Search for Identity, Family, and Belonging* is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at Book Warehouse in Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets. The book also is available online through options such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

He was in college. He didn't know. But they have a greater appreciation of what it's like to be adopted. I also had another family member finish reading the book and say "I'm sorry, I should have been more present for you."

**The Beacher:** And throughout everything, you didn't give up.

**Julie:** No, I didn't give up. You know, a lot of people say this about themselves, and I am one of them, just tell me I can't do something, and I will show you that you're wrong.

**The Beacher:** You do an excellent job of walking readers through the process of what it took to get the information you needed. And it wasn't easy. So many people go through the process and don't get the results, the answers, they're looking for. So, what do you hope people who read the book take away from it?

**Julie:** I'm part of this whole adoption support group through Catholic Charities, and one of my givebacks to my group was everybody got a free copy. And one of the ladies, she was new to the group, I only met her once, she read the book. She sent me an email and said, "You won't believe what I just did. I haven't had the courage to do this. I finished the book and I called my birth relative whose phone number I've had for a year and a half. And I spent an hour and a half talking to him on the phone." That's what I hope happens, is that people realize you just have to do it. Other people have done it. You can get through it. You can do it.

**The Beacher:** Wow. That woman's story, that had to make you feel good.

**Julie:** Oh my gosh, I was, like, weeping, cheering her on.

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

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## “A Quiet Place Part II” Holds Its Own With the Original

by Andrew Tallackson



Evelyn (Emily Blunt) tries to quiet her son Marcus (Noah Jupe) after he's been injured in “A Quiet Place Part II.”

The thing with a sequel is this: All people want to know is whether it's just as good or better. If not, how badly does it suck.

With “A Quiet Place Part II,” that is a tricky question. Like many sequels, the element of surprise is gone. When John Krasinski released the original three years ago as its director, star and co-writer, it was wild with the thrill of discovery. Piecing together the rules of this post-apocalyptic world where sound could be used against us. Where the survivors had to rethink mundane tasks or functions so as not to trigger the arrival of these deadly creatures.

With the sequel, we know how this world operates. So the test for whether “Part II” succeeds is this: Do we still care about the family, and are we still riveted by the horror within the action? The answer to the first question is, definitely. And the second? Well, as a sustained piece of piano-wire tension, “A Quiet Place Part II” rattles your nerves in the first scene and never lets go.

So, to answer the question, the sequel is just as entertaining as the original.

The opening sequence, in fact, is a reminder of why certain movies should be seen on the big screen. Whereas the first film plunked us into this new world after it already began, “Part II” takes us back to Day One, affording Krasinski, whose character perished in the original, to briefly return. We

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “A Quiet Place Part II”

Running time: 97 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13  
for terror, violence and bloody/disturbing images

see a typical day of small-town Americana: families camped out around a Little League game. Parents cheering on their kids. Not a care in the world beyond that. Until a startling presence in the sky shuts down the festivities. That image, which definitely answers where these creatures came from, is beautiful and terrifying (courtesy of movie wizards Industrial Light and Magic). It doesn't long before the monsters launch an all-out attack. Krasinski, as a director, takes an unusual approach to the chaos. Some of it we hear, some of it we do not as it's filtered through the family's deaf daughter Regan (Millicent Simmonds). The effect is massive and dizzying: epic in every sense of the word.

The action then shifts to where the first film left off, with mom Evelyn (Emily Blunt) ushering Regan, her son Marcus (Noah Jupe) and her newborn into the world, having figured out that extreme, piercing sound is their best defense against these creatures. And when Marcus steps into a bear trap, unable to quell the pain, his shrieks startle us out of the supernatural stillness. Those screams by



Cillian Murphy is a welcome addition to the story, starring as a man who comes to the family's aid.

Jupe ("Wonder") are another reminder that this is a young actor of tremendous intensity. And when a creature arrives, how mother and daughter stand their ground is thrilling. No damsels in distress here.

It is this confrontation that introduces the most significant new character: Emmett, a family friend whose family perished during the initial attacks. He's played by "28 Days Later" star Cillian Murphy in another tremendously sympathetic performance. Emmett is wary of helping, conscious of how dangerous this world is, but the goodness within him cannot abandon people he knows to be decent.

In some respects, what ensues is standard apocalypse: subplots now made cliché because of "The Walking Dead." We get a band of thugs, as well as an island "safe haven" that, as a cardinal rule of horror movies dictates, won't stay safe for long.

But if the original film revealed Blunt as the Sigourney Weaver of her generation – strong, but without sacrificing her femininity – then the sequel does the unexpected. The children rise to the occasion. Krasinski brilliantly edits their separate adventures as intriguing parallels to each other. And Simmonds, more so than the original, defies convention by avoiding patronizing sentiment. The young actress has a blazingly expressive face. She is the hero of "A Quiet Place Part II": taking command, never backing down from a fight.

The movie left me pumped up. Invigorated. Clearly, there is more to this story. Can Krasinski and company maintain the same fever pitch, the same roller-coaster ride? We'll see. For now, lightning has, indeed, struck twice.

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# Honoring the Fallen

On Memorial Day, *The Beacher's* Janet Baines headed to Washington Park, Gardena Park and Greenwood Cemetery to capture images from ceremonies honoring those who gave their lives for their country.



## “Cruella” is Snarky Good Fun

by Andrew Tallackson

Emma Stone  
stars as the titular  
Disney villain.



“Cruella” caught me by surprise. It’s not for kids. As an origin story for one of Disney’s most notorious villains, it is 2 hours and 14 minutes of visual and verbal snark.

That may not sit well with the young ones wishing only to see mischievous Dalmatian pups. But for adults and teens agreeable to Disney’s riff on “The Devil Wears Prada,” the movie is wicked fun.

Ever since Disney scored box-office gold with a live-action update of “The Jungle Book” (2016), it’s been scouring its attic, dusting off old relics for material it can revisit with the latest technology. In many cases, the results have been lazy cash-grabs, like 2019’s “The Lion King,” which was a virtual carbon copy of the original.

“Cruella,” on the other hand, owes its heart less to cuddly pups and more to that popular Meryl Streep comedy. It reveals the events that shaped the titular character into the vengeful crony from “101 Dalmatians.” That it is directed by Craig Gillespie is its most unexpected revelation. Known for smaller indie fare like “Lars and the Real Girl” and “I, Tonya,” his film is all attitude, told with a zippy, kinetic style. The lickety-split editing, the wild camera angles, the dark, rich look courtesy of cinematographer Nicolas Karakatsanis, all of it helps convey how Cruella, born with the name Estella, never fit in with kids her age. Alternating between being the tormented *and* the tormentor, her mother pulls her out of school, seeking help from a wealthy friend. That plea results in her mother’s untimely death – would this be a Disney film if a kind, loving maternal figure actually survived the first 10

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Cruella”

Running time: 134 minutes. In theaters & Disney+.  
Rated PG-13 for some violence and thematic elements

minutes? – and into the hands of two fellow orphans and partners in crime, Jasper and Horace.

Starting in the ’60s and leaping forward into the ’70s, Estella (now played by Oscar-winner Emma Stone) still lives with Jasper (Joel Fry, “Yesterday”) and Horace (Paul Walter Hauser, “Richard Jewel”) when a golden opportunity arrives for Estella to work at Liberty Department Store. Estella, it seems, has an eye for fashion, one that finally scores recognition from Liberty’s authoritarian owner, Baroness von Hellman (Oscar-winner Emma Thompson).

You can see where this is headed. Estella abhors *and* admires the Baroness, much in the way Anne Hathaway did of her monstrous boss in “The Devil Wears Prada.” The acidic personalities of Estella and the Baroness thrive before clashing, sending Estella on a downward spiral that transforms her into her alter-ego bent on revenge, Cruella de Ville.

The outcome is no surprise, but the journey there is a blast. Stone and Thompson make for dynamite frenemies, pushing their performances to extremes for laughs, but never over the cliff into regrettable camp. We appreciate, as well, Fry and Hauser as Jasper and Horace, respectively. They’re not bumbling fools, but likable, if reluctant compatriots in Estelle’s vision.

The war that escalates between Estella and the

Baroness, their feverish need to be media darlings, is bolstered by the wildly imaginative costume designs from Jenny Beavan (the Oscar winner for “Mad Max: Fury Road”), who is all but assured an Oscar nomination for her work here, the killer soundtrack and the striking, elaborate sets by production designer Fiona Crombie. And through it all, Gillepsie’s camera zips through the action with the manic force of someone fresh out of film school.

Yes, the film is too dark and twisted for younger audiences. For everyone else, it’s a warped delight.

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



Emma Thompson stars as The Baroness.

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**CLASS 1) Section B** Children’s Workshop for ages 7-12  
Mon. & Wed., 10am-12pm. July 19-Aug. 18.

**CLASS 2)** Young Adults for ages 13-18  
Tue. and Thur., 10am-12:pm.

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**CLASS 4)** Young Adults for ages 13-18  
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**Tito Sanchez-Williams** moved to New York City to pursue an MFA at the New School for Drama. As a grad student at the New School, Tito formed a Spanish language improv theatre group and staged shows at Teatro Latea in Manhattan. He also worked at New York’s Fringe Festival for two summers, as an actor and lighting operator.



**Caroline Mckinzie** is a firm believer in accessibility and inclusivity in the arts, and hopes that every single student feels encouraged and inspired as a singer, actor, artist, and human. Caroline previously spent a summer as music director at PAVE Musical Theatre camp in Springfield, Illinois, while performing as Amber in Hairspray.



**Jay Españo** has collaborated with some of the best in the theater industry in Asia. Currently, he is working on the feature length script of MAHAL and another script for a possible Netflix release. Jay is delighted to join the DAF production of *Forever Plaid* as Smudge and in *Midsummer Night’s Dream* this summer as Lysander.

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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:

- June 22 – “Who’s Eyes Are Who’s.” Participants learn facts and information about animal eyes.
- June 29 – “Earth Art.” Learn about nature through painting, drawing and other activities.
- 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.

### 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:

- June 23 — “Snakes Alive.”
- June 30 — “Howling Coyote.”
- July 21 — “Lonesome Dove.”
- July 28 — “Here, Fishy, Fishy.”
- 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:

- 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.

### Meet a Bee Keeper

Learn about bees, and what it takes to be a beekeeper, from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, June 16, at Luhr County Park.

Local beekeepers Bob and Sandy Palan will discuss how they monitor their hives and harvest honey. Space is limited, so call at least one week in advance to reserve a free spot. Masks are required.

### Family Fishing Nights

The free, all-ages event is from 5-7:30 p.m. June 16, 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.

### Chalk it Up

The free all-ages event is from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 17, at Luhr County Park.

The park will provide chalk and tape while supplies last. Adults must accompany children. Call to reserve a spot.



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## Indiana Dunes National Park

A Project Learning Tree K-8 workshop for educators is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, June 11, at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center.

The environmental-education curriculum uses trees and forests to increase students' understanding of the environment, as well as actions to conserve it. Participants receive the new Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide that offers hands-on activities organized into grade bands: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Formal classroom teachers, non-formal educators, Scout leaders, youth leaders, park naturalists and pre-service teachers are welcome. Participants should take a sack lunch, with beverages supplied.

The \$23 fee includes a copy of the guide. The fee is payable the day of workshop with a check (made out to IFEF/PLT) or cash. Registration is required and limited because of social distancing. Contact Donna Rogler at drogler@dnr.IN.gov to register or for more information.

The workshop is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes National Park and the Great Lakes Research and Education Center.



The National Park service has resumed offering a limited number of ranger-led programs at Indiana Dunes National Park.

All programs are limited to 10 people and require advance reservations. Wearing a mask is required because it is not possible to maintain 6 feet of social distancing at all times during the hikes.

A hike through Miller Woods is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Sunday at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Explore a rare black oak savanna and see lupine blooming in May. Call the center at (219) 395-1824 to reserve a spot and confirm the program's time.

Upcoming programs include:

- June 12 — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike.
- June 12 — Pinhook Bog Hike.
- June 13 — Miller Woods Hike.
- June 13 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike.



Consistent with CDC recommendations, people who are not fully vaccinated must wear masks indoors and in crowded outdoor spaces. Masks are required for everyone on all forms of public transportation. Additional details are available at [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nps.gov/coronavirus). Before visiting, check the park website to determine its operating status.



*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.*

## Long Beach Summer Camp

Applications available June 1, 2021!

**Dates:** June 21 - July 30

**Days:** Monday - Friday

**Time:** 9-11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Long Beach Community Center

**Ages:** 3-11

**Fee:** Resident Full Camp: \$125

Non-Resident Full Camp: \$200

Resident Weekly: \$50

Non-Resident Weekly: \$75

### Weekly Themes

Week 1: Fire and Ice

Week 2: Throwback Week

Week 3: Glow Games

(No Camp July 5)

Week 4: Medical Minds

Week 5: Mind Games

Week 6: Olympics

All registration forms are available at Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center and online at [www.longbeachin.org](http://www.longbeachin.org)

Any questions email  
[longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com)

## Long Beach Summer Tennis Camp

Applications available June 1, 2021!

**Dates:** June 22 - July 29

**Days:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Time:** 8-9 a.m.

**Location:** Long Beach Community Center  
Tennis Courts

**Ages:** 6-11

**Fee:** Resident: \$50

Non-Resident: \$60

The 15 openings for Tennis Camp will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Tennis balls are provided for all lessons.

All registration forms are available at Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center and online at [www.longbeachin.org](http://www.longbeachin.org)

Any questions email  
[longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com)

### They Will Not Be Forgotten

Due to a technical glitch, a portion of the names of deceased veterans from the past year was not included in our Memorial Day edition. Those names are printed here.

William Rambo	11/20/43	Marines
Paul Gillon	3/22/20	Army
Mark Gayda	3/23/20	Vietnam
Harold Spaid	3/30/20	Navy
Joseph Bozek	4/10/20	Army
Samuel Mannen	5/4/20	Army & Marines
Larry "Joe" Pumroy	5/5/20	Navy
Walden Ratliff	5/7/20	Navy
Thomas Boyan	5/9/20	Navy
Donald Berg	5/9/20	Korea
Gregory Walenga	5/10/20	Vietnam
R. Zygmuntowski	5/10/20	Vietnam
Daniel Wright	5/13/20	Marines
Joseph Pataluch	5/16/20	Korea
Robert Swanson	5/17/20	Korea
Philip Mazur	5/17/20	Marines
Ronald Stelter	5/20/20	Korea
Roy Cantrell	5/19/20	Army
Lewis Juday	5/20/20	WWII
Donald Hall	5/20/20	Navy
Raymond Webb	5/22/20	Army
Jerry Hatton	5/25/20	Army
Robert Truesdell	5/25/20	Korea

Hewlett Bean	5/25/20	WWII
Thomas Ciecka	5/26/20	Army
Ralph Harrison	5/26/20	Vietnam
John Hauskins	5/27/20	Marines
Brian Meyer	5/27/20	Air Force
Richard Zarr	5/27/20	Army
Alfred Gushrowski	5/28/20	WWII
Claude Brooks	5/28/20	Air Force
Raymond Long	5/29/20	Army
William Olson	6/2/20	Korea
Eldon Tuttle	6/3/20	Army
Norman Grieger	6/4/20	Air Force
Willie Watson	6/7/20	Navy
Julius Townsel	6/7/20	Vietnam
Donald Holloway	6/11/20	Korea
Helen Bradley	6/16/20	Army
Norah Dotson	6/16/20	Army
Debbie Madaras	6/18/20	Army
William Unger	6/20/20	Vietnam
Robert Adams	6/21/20	Army Reserves
Gordon Tharp	6/21/20	Navy
Jeffrey Jamieson	6/22/20	Navy
Dustin Gray	6/22/20	Army
James Chamberlain	6/30/20	Army
Aaron Lovvorn	6/30/20	Army
Lloyd Singleton	7/1/20	Korea
Sue Anderson	7/2/20	Navy
Larry Stanley	7/8/20	Vietnam



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### Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Awesome Amphibians at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 12.**  
 Meet at the Nature Center to explore the differences and similarities between Dunes amphibians during a short hike to the marsh.
  - **Trail 7 Beach Mysteries Hike at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 12.**  
 Meet at the Nature Center for a moderate hike to identify items found on the beach.
  - **SSSSSnakes Alive! at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 13.**  
 Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.
  - **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.*

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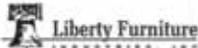
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### LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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

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

*The following program are planned:*

- **Silent Reading Book Club from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, June 12, in the main library Meeting Room B.**

Children ages 6-11 can read in the no-pressure book club.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the main library. Also from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, at the Coolspring Branch.**

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

- **Teen Anime Club from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, June 14.**

Meet other teen anime fans through the club.

- **STEAM Camp: Design and Fabrication from 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, June 15-17, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.**

Registration is required for the three-day camp emphasizing hands-on exploration.

*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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### Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 20th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, June 16, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays.

Performing July 16 is Derek Nickels, the director of music at Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), Kenilworth, Ill. Performing recitals across the country, he has Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from Arizona State University, and a Bachelor of Music from Southern Methodist University. He has been a featured recitalist at several national conventions of the Organ Historical Society, as well as appearances with Ars Musica Chicago, Early Music Chicago and the Phoenix Bach and Madrigal Society. He is president of the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society.



Nickels

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

### Westchester Public Library

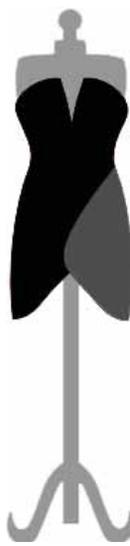
Westchester Public Library has begun curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

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

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

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

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



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### Krasl Art Center

“BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporary Art,” an exhibit conceived by nine artists and art collectives from around the world, runs through Oct. 30 at Krasl Art Center.

A free opening celebration is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT Saturday, June 12.

The exhibit, organized by Bedford Gallery at the Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, Calif., explores the medium of inflatable art with imagery that is figurative, conceptual and abstract, challenging the definition of art. The artists include: Chromaforms, Sharon Engelstein, FriendsWithYou, Josh Harker, Susan Lee-Chun, Matt Ritchie, Lizabeth Rossof, Jen Stark and Max Streicher, many of whom never worked in the inflatable medium before. The resulting works reflect a variety of themes, including consumerism, pop culture, history, even mortality. Visit [www.krasl.org/art/exhibitions/upcoming/](http://www.krasl.org/art/exhibitions/upcoming/) for additional information.

Also new is an outdoor installation. This summer, artist Andy Sawyer transforms KAC’s east garden into an outdoor summer studio with his project “Prismatic Hope.” The effort is dedicated in memory of Maria G. “Lupe” Hopp.

The galleries are open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT Friday through Monday. Extended hours are through 8 p.m. EDT Thursdays.

A free “Virtual Coffee With the Curator” is at noon EDT Thursday, June 17, through Facebook Live. Also June 17 is “Third Thursday Art Event: Artist Talk With Lizabeth Rossof” at 7 p.m. EDT through Zoom. Advance registration is required.

Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for more details.



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### Birds of the Great Marsh

An opening reception for Kristina Knowski's exhibit "Birds of the Great Marsh" is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 11, at The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The Great Marsh is an Indiana Dunes habitat known as a refuge for celebrated avifauna. In her works, Knowski, a watercolorist and birder, explores bird species exclusive to the marsh and Indiana Dunes region. Birds are painted full size to capture the essence of their characteristics, from the tiny Marsh Wren to the towering Sandhill Crane.



Kristina Knowski's rendering of a red-headed woodpecker.

Since graduating valedictorian from Chicago's American Academy of Art in 2012, Knowski has participated in numerous shows in Chicago and the surrounding states. Her most notable solo show was at Chicago's Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in "Dreams of Martha," held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction.

Depot gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays through October. Visit [www.thedepotmag.org](http://www.thedepotmag.org) for more details.

### Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Fernwood's virtual Garden Party fundraiser is June 16-19.**

The event will feature planted containers in a silent auction. Bidding begins Wednesday, June 16. The program starts at 6 p.m. EDT June 16, broadcast from the gardens and hosted by The Hearty Boys.

The fundraiser continues virtually from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19, and at 7:30 p.m. June 19. All times are Eastern.

Proceeds benefit the gardens, grounds and facilities, along with the staff and interns. Visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org/gardenparty2021](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org/gardenparty2021)



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

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# American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, June 10.
- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., noon-4:30 p.m. Friday, June 11.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, June 14.
- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, June 14.

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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## A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher will continue the following office hours for now

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

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

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## LCSO in the Spotlight



Tamara Stojanovic Albahari.

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

Concertmaster Tamara Stojanovic Albahari has been with LCSO since 2007. She is a regular member of South Bend Symphony Orchestra and the Fleur de Lys Baroque Chamber Ensemble.

Violin-teaching appointments, in addition to her teaching studio in Granger, include the University of Notre Dame and the Suzuki Music School of Michiana. She also serves as a sectional coach for the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Albahari has a Master of Music degree in violin performance from San Francisco State University, and is a graduate of the State Conservatory of Music in Florence, Italy. She also graduated *magna cum laude* in letters and philosophy from the University of Florence.

Married with two boys, ages 9 and 11, she enjoys reading and watching movies but, most especially, spending time with her family outdoors biking, hiking and skiing.

## Michiana's Rent A Painter

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### Three Oaks Flag Day Events

After last year's parade went virtual due to COVID-19, Three Oaks Flag Day Committee members are excited to offer in-person events during the weekend-long festivities.

The free parade will celebrate 69 years starting with a flag-raising ceremony, with The National Anthem performed by veteran/country artist Joey Beebe, at 2:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 13, at Elm and Maple streets. A flyover by a World War II military plane over downtown Three Oaks at 3 p.m. EDT will signify the start of the parade. The route starts at Buckeye Street, moves south on Elm Street and turns west on Linden Street, ending at the American Legion. The committee requests that all participants and spectators wear masks and socially distance.

The grand marshal is Lt. Col. Ernest Bachman, who served in the National Guard and Army Reserves. He has been driving the Flag Day Prince and Princess in the parade every year since 2009.

The third annual Three Oaks Flag Day 5K/Walk is at 8 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 12. All proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House and River Valley Cross Country Team. Visit [tinyurl.com/2xspzyn3](http://tinyurl.com/2xspzyn3) to register. Later, at 1 p.m. EDT, is a Quilts of Valor presentation at the Carver Park pavilion. The event, presented with the Berrien Towne and Country Quilters, will honor 11 local veterans.

Live music includes Music in the Park at Dewey Cannon Park on Saturday, June 12, and three days of live entertainment at American Legion Post 204.

### United Way Golf Outing

The 17th annual golf outing benefiting United Way of LaPorte County is from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at Beechwood Golf Course, 2222 Woodlawn Ave., LaPorte.

Individuals cost \$100 and foursomes \$400. The cost includes 18 holes of golf with cart, a gourmet box lunch, Bloody Mary bar, games and prizes.

Visit [tinyurl.com/fnxc5p9w](http://tinyurl.com/fnxc5p9w) to register.

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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:

- 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.

## LBCC Women's Golf Leagues



### 9-Hole League

May 27, 2021

#### Flight A

Low Gross — Sue Luegers.

Low Net — Janet Andreotti.

Low Putts — Carol Excell.

Birdies — Cindy Levy (1 & 7), Janet Andreotti (5), Sue Luegers (6).

#### Flight B

Low Gross — June Salmon.

Low Net — June Salmon.

Low Putts — Gloria McMahon.

#### Flight C

Low Gross — Tina Sonderby.

Low Net — Tina Sonderby.

Low Putts — Tina Sonderby.

#### Flight D

Low Gross (Tied) — Marti Doherty, Jude Stahmer.

Low Net (Tied) — Marti Doherty, Jude Stahmer.

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### Suzuki Piano Method at SAM

The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich., will offer the Suzuki Piano Method to young children this summer.

Taught by Jay Kolin, a longtime Music Institute of Chicago Suzuki piano teacher, the six-week-long "Summer Samplers of Suzuki" involves private lessons for students ages 4-6. Kolin also is available to teach piano lessons that follow more traditional methods.



Kolin

The Suzuki Method is based on teaching young children to play music much like they learn to talk: by listening, mimicking and learning from interaction with others. The Sampler series asks that parents

read Shinichi Suzuki's *Nurture by Love*, and commit to practicing at home between lessons. All materials are provided.

Lessons begin the week of June 21 and run weekly through July 28. One make-up lesson can be scheduled.

Originally from the East Coast, Kolin moved to Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer, stayed to serve as a participant in Harvard University's WorldTeach Project in Kenya, and ended up as deputy head teacher at the Kisumu International School in Kenya. He moved to Chicago in 2005.

The 30-minute "Samplers" will be taught one-on-one with parents on the second floor at Three Oaks Library, 3 N. Elm St. The cost is \$120, and scholarship assistance is available. Call SAM at (269) 409-1191 or visit [www.schoolofamericanmusic.com](http://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com). All existing COVID protocols will be observed.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**June 11** — Opening reception, Nancy Natow-Cassidy's "The Universe in Ecstatic Motion," 5-8 p.m., The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Info: (219) 874-4003.

**June 11** — Opening reception, Kristina Knowski exhibit "Birds of the Great Marsh," 5-7 p.m., The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.thedepotmag.org](http://www.thedepotmag.org)

**June 11** — Movies in Washington Park, "Frozen 2," approximately 8:30 p.m., North Pointe Pavilion lower level.

**June 11-13, 18-20** — The Holdcraft Players, "Almost Maine," The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Times: 7:30 p.m. June 11-12, 18-19, 2 p.m. June 13 & 20. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/students. Reservations (online only): [www.yptcinc.com/tickets](http://www.yptcinc.com/tickets)

**June 11-20** — "Forever Plaid," 6-7:30 p.m., Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Free, freewill donation taken. Reservations: [www.dunesarts.org/tickets](http://www.dunesarts.org/tickets). Info: (219) 879-7509.

**June 12** — Auto & Bike Show, John Franklin Miller American Legion Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20. Registration/10 a.m., judging/3 p.m.

**June 12** — Silent Reading Book Club, 10-11 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room B, 904 Indiana Ave.

**June 12** — Awesome Amphibians, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**June 12** — Trail 7 Beach Mysteries Hike, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**June 12-13** — Aunt Kitty's Spring Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville. Drop off items 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 11. Info: [www.catsociety.org](http://www.catsociety.org), (219) 785-4936.

**June 13** — Free annual Bug Safari, 2-4 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: (219) 878-9885, [events@friendshipbotanicgardens.org](mailto:events@friendshipbotanicgardens.org)

**June 13** — SSSSSnakes Alive!, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**June 14** — Teen Anime Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room B, 904 Indiana Ave.

**June 16** — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Derek Nickels, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

**June 16** — Meet a Bee Keeper, 9-10 a.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Reservations: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**June 16** — Family Fishing Nights, 5-7:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Reservations: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

**June 16** — LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m., LaPorte's Fox Park Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. Free.

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

**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

**Second Saturdays** — Free sunset yoga w/ Laurelee 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

**June 11** — Brad Cole & Friends with opener James Neary, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

**June 12** — Opening reception, "BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporary Art," 11 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

**June 12** — Three Oaks Makers & Merchants Alliance open house, 5-10 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks Social Club, 8 Maple St. Info: www.ilovethreeoaks.org

**June 12** — Live chamber music during walking tours, 2:30, 4, 5:30 & 7 p.m. EDT, Copshaholm (the Oliver Mansion), 808 W. Washington St. Tickets: \$30, \$25/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org

**June 13** — Three Oaks Flag Day Parade, 3 p.m. EDT, downtown Three Oaks, Mich. Flag-raising ceremony/2:30 p.m. EDT. Info: tinyurl.com/2xspz3

**June 15** — Harbor Country Singers' free sing-along, "Happy Songs of Spring & Summer," 6:30 p.m. EDT, The School of American Music's Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.schoolofamericanmusic.com, (269) 409-1191.

**Sundays** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Reservations: (219) 395-1824.

**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:* "Hope." Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. June 11-13, 2:45 p.m. June 14. *Also:* "The Dry." Rated R. Times: 2:45 p.m. June 11-13, 6 p.m. June 14. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522, www.vickerstheatre.com

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Tours are limited, and reservations are strongly  
recommended. Masks are required on all tours.  
Tickets, which cost \$30 or \$25 for members, may be  
purchased at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org)

The Oliver Mansion is located at The History Mu-  
seum, 808 W. Washington St. Call (574) 235-9664 or  
visit [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) for details.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Break Out: A Thriller** by Paul Herron (\$28, retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 290 pages.)

*“Revenge. Survival. Freedom. Things I never thought I’d get another chance at. The hurricane has brought them all to me. They’re all within my grasp.”*

The man talking is ex-cop Jack Constantine, now serving time at Ravenhill Correctional Facility, Miami, Fla. Cop gone bad? No. Just cop gone rogue because he knew he would never get justice from the courts after the death of his pregnant wife. She was killed in a burglary attempt by three men at his house one night. How could he not have heard when his wife left their bed to go downstairs? It was all his fault, and now, he must avenge her murder.

After finding out the names of the three men, he sets up a perfect scenario to kill them all at once. He does kill one, but only wounds the other two. The police stop him before he can finish his revenge. And that’s why he’s at Ravenhill. Wright and Tully, the two remaining men, are eventually charged with the Constantine break-in and also sent to Ravenhill.

While you might say the case is justifiable homicide, there was a situation the year before when Constantine actually did go bad and set up a drug kingpin, Malcolm Kincaid, who also is serving time at Ravenhill thanks to Constantine’s cunning plan. Now, there’s three men who would like to kill him...Getting crowded at Ravenhill, eh Constantine?

The story switches to one morning, one holy-mother-of-God-beginning of a super hurricane morning, when a young woman, Kiera Sawyer, shows up at Ravenhill to begin her job as the facility’s newest correctional officer. Only one woman in HR, Martinez, talks to her and takes her around the admin building. She tells Kiera the National Guard will be coming to sub for the COs being sent home. She should get out of there and go home before the storm hits. Spoiler alert: If the roads are slowly being flooded, how can the Guard get there? And, Martinez doesn’t know the phones are out.

She leaves immediately, and Kiera is left alone in the office pondering whether she should leave or report for duty. More the pity she stayed...and more the pity no one on staff knows she is still there be-

cause they are all leaving.

They call it Hurricane Anna, and it’s a super-storm made up of two storms that decide to combine their category 5 strength for maximum damage. No one at the prison knows that Miami, as well as other locations, have been evacuated. The rest of the COs at Ravenhill decide to take the prison bus and hightail it out of there. One CO takes pity on all the inmates and unlocks the cell doors before he leaves.

A humane decision? Or a stupid one? That means about 900 murderers, rapists and all manner of criminals are running free in the prison. And that includes the cells housing psychos, mass murderers and all kinds of mentally deranged criminals.

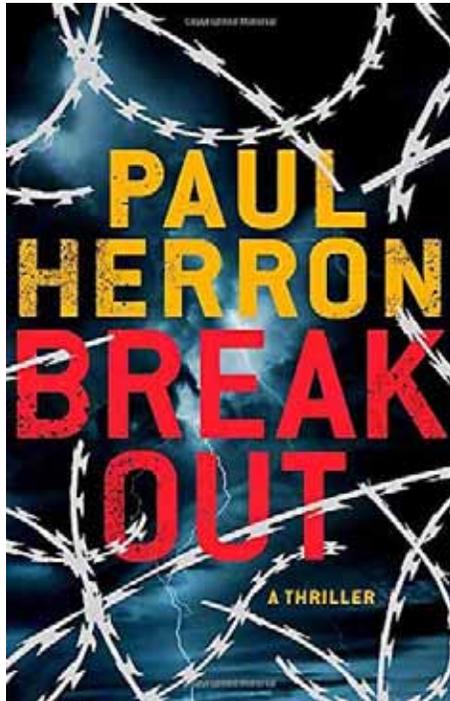
Forgetting the storm for a minute, they all decide to take revenge on each other, and the killing begins. Pipes, desk legs, kitchen utensils, anything that could be a weapon becomes one. At the same time, water begins seeping into the prison, soon rising higher and mixing with the blood of the wounded. Dead start to float in the halls...

Each chapter starts with the latest weather report. It’s like the ticking of a clock bringing everyone closer to death and total destruction.

Constantine is obsessed with the thought that Wright and Tully have to die by his hand before they are killed by the hurricane. Meanwhile, fate, or whatever, brings Constantine and Kiera together. Fearful of him at first, she hears his story and decides he might be her only way out of there. Constantine’s cellmate, Felix, is with him, and the trio realizes the old prison structure is not standing up to the hurricane and will probably collapse soon. A building on the other side of the property might be their only chance at survival, but it means a long route down winding halls no one has entered for years.

It’s a chilling race trying to outrun the three men who want to see Constantine dead. Dodging other crazed prisoners, the rising water and the slowly collapsing walls — are the most descriptive and heart pounding scenes ever written. And did I mention the prisoners get to the armory? If you enjoy thrillers, this definitely is the one for you, however...this is not recommended for the faint-hearted. Full stop.

Till next time, happy reading!





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