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A Calculated Risk

by William Halliar



Fred Warren.

The fate of a tinkerer — are you willing to take a chance on a dream? Fred Warren had a dream. All successful enterprises, small or great, begin with the spark of an idea, then an ever-pressing, ever-haunting dream to bring that idea into reality. A dream that persists until it is fulfilled.

What Warren dreamed, what he saw in his imagination, was a machine, a mechanical device that could replace the human brain when it came to working complex mathematical problems. It would be faster and more accurate than any man or woman. He envisioned a device that would be decades ahead of anything like it. Thinking far ahead of the best minds of his time, he would invent a machine for generations in the future.

Fred Warren dreamed of building a computer.

And he did it!

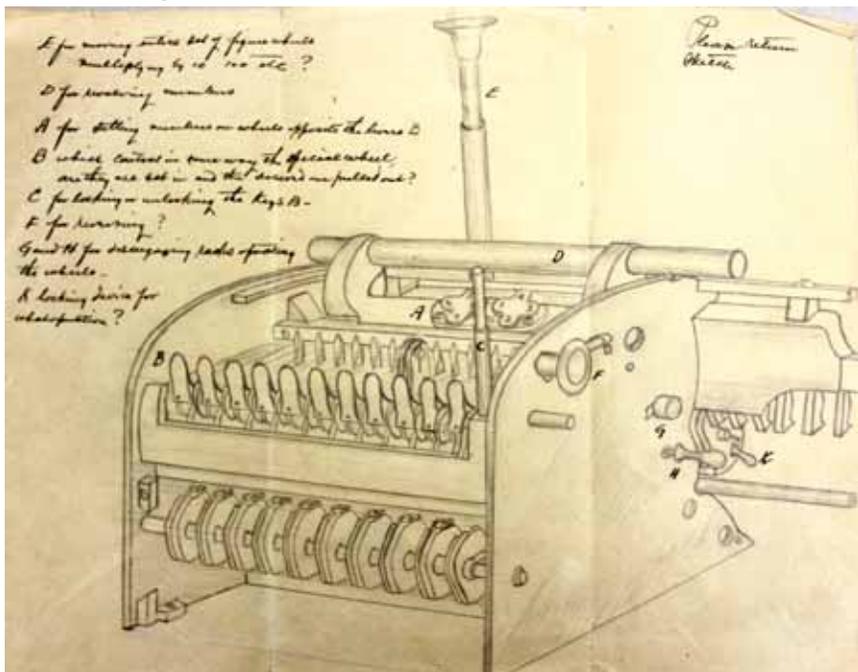
Trouble was, it was 1875. Who could use such a machine? Who could appreciate it? It was too complicate, difficult to use. Men were still riding in carriages pulled by horses. There were no electric lights or motors. Who needed a calculating machine of the future? A computer? So, when it was finally finished, it was considered a curiosity instead of a serious tool. It was never put to serious use. It was forgotten in time. So, too, was its inventor.

Perhaps, like Nikola Tesla, Fred Warren was too ahead of his time. Each imagined the future and gave their lives to its invention. Warren, like Tesla, died not reap-

ing the financial rewards of his passion. Yet, each did succeed in their own way.

I had heard of Warren's wondrous machine. The Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington has two early prototypes on display. Articles have been written about it. I had seen the pictures and read the material, but I needed to see what he called his "Calculating Engine" for myself.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. in Three Oaks, Mich., has on loan from Michigan State University in Lansing, Mich., the third and final prototype of Warren's miraculous machine. It is an impressive piece of fine workmanship, from its polished wood case to its finely machined gears. It is a wonder to behold. Housed in a case about the size of a small coffin, the top, front



Fred Warren's design sketch for his creation.

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A Calculated Risk

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and ends are glass. Handles are provided to carry the heavy mechanical inner workings. Mirrors are placed against the back of the case, and provisions were made to house two oil lamps that illuminate the interior. According to Nick Bogert, my guide this day, the light from the oil lamps even would project the calculator's findings onto a nearby wall.

Bogert is a retired TV journalist and museum board member. He wrote an article that appeared in the 2020 November/December *Michigan History* magazine titled "The Miraculous Warren Calculating Engine that Almost Wasn't." He kindly offered to give me a tour of the museum and tell me Warren's story.

Much of what I relate here is from Bogert's research, from his article and the tour of the museum. I have added to the story a view from the perspective of the soul of an inventor.

You must ask yourself this question: Why would a person give his life for an invention that is for the future, which no one in the present can understand, or even operate and for no visible remuneration?

To satisfy curiosity, to do something no one else has done, to be the first — that is why.

The Warren family was a family of inventors. Patriarch Waters Warren patented a circular beehive in 1863, which was intended to fit inside of a barrel. Elder brother Edward Warren is famous for inventing a replacement for whale bone corset stays, a necessary fashion accessory in the Victorian era, and for establishing The Featherbone Factory in Three Oaks to produce his creation.

Fred Warren was

born in Connecticut in 1839 and spent his early years in Ludlow, Vt. Curiously, the science of practical photography was born that year. Early in his life, Warren became interested in creating his own photographic images. An early one, taken by him, shows the family cabin with a windmill — an unusual accessory — which he created on the roof.

The family moved to Three Oaks sometime before the Civil War, and Fred served in the Union Army from 1864-1865. Most of that time, he spent at a supply depot in DeValls Bluff, Ark. His frequent letters home reflected homesickness, and the Spartan camp life in which so many soldiers in so close quarters often became sick. Without modern sanitary practices and medicines, many more men died of disease in camp than of combat injuries in the field.

In a letter home in April 1865, Warren wrote, *"The army is a bad place to be sick in. Four or five of the squad that came down before us have gone to the bone yard, as they call it. Most every day we hear the funeral march."*

Like so many of his campmates, Warren fell ill during his stay at the Arkansas camp. As letter writing was one way to stay the boredom, he, like so many of his fellow soldiers, wrote daily missives home to report on life at camp. After one particularly long march he reported that, *"my liver & bowels*

were so sore that the belt and cartridge box set them to aching...I got liberty to come back to camp, got into my bunk and lay in misery all day."

Camp life during the Civil War could be boring, with weeks on end spent waiting on generals to actually find the enemy and decide what course of action to follow. It has been said that service during the war was "long periods of boredom punctuated by moments of



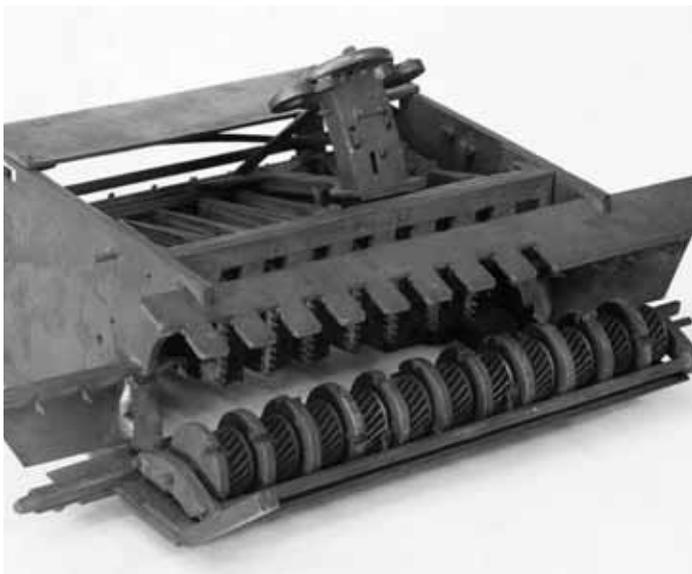
Nick Bogert is photographed by *The Beacher's* William Halliar at Fred Warren's calculating machine in The Region of Three Oaks Museum.

sheer terror.”

“*Soldiering in camp is a lazy life,*” Warren wrote home, and he often asked that his family send him reading material; this in contrast to the many of his fellows at the time who were illiterate. According to National Center for Education Statistics, in 1870, 20 percent of Americans could not read or write.

In camp, many soldiers turned to idle diversions. They organized sporting activities, wrestling, boxing, foot races and baseball games between camps. All too many took to gambling. Reading and letter writing were popular among the soldiers. Warren, who had already shown a curious bent, unique to the creative mind, asked his family to send reading material. Here, fate took a hand because among the articles he read while lazing about the camp, recovering from stomach ailments, was a discourse by Englishman Charles Babbage, who was working to perfect a “differential engine,” which the article described as a calculating machine able to add, subtract, multiply and divide.

At this point, Warren became determined to surpass Babbage’s accomplishments and build a “calculating engine” that would actually work. “*A machine that will astonish the world.*” Why not dream big?



A prototype of the calculating machine on display at the National Museum of American History.

Boredom can prove to be fertile soil for the inventive mind. It can be imagined that very often, as Warren lay on his cot at night in the sweltering heat and humidity of the Arkansas nights, he dreamed of gears, wheels and pulleys, cranks and pins. During the day, he would use scraps of paper to make sketches of the mechanisms that came to him by night.

After the war, Warren returned to his family home in Three Oaks. He borrowed money from an uncle and built a two-story building on the main street. In this building, he opened a jewelry store and watch-repair business on the first floor. On the second, he set up a laboratory to continue his experimentation with photography.

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The 53rd Season

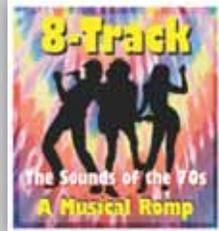
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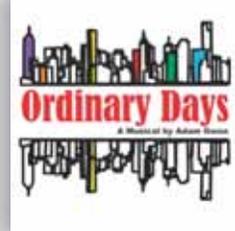
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The Season of Love!

A Calculated Risk

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But, of course, his dream and goal of building a mechanical calculating machine was never far from his mind. He began to build a working prototype in his building in downtown Three Oaks.

Soon, he gave up his photography business. Bogert surmises the harsh chemicals might have “damaged his already precarious health,” but perhaps this business

took too much time away from his experimenting and prototyping. Still, it costs money to support the inventing habit, and Warren began working as a station agent for the Michigan Central Railroad, selling insurance on the side. He must have hurried home each evening, working and planning every spare moment to continue working on his prototype calculating “engine.”

Ever the industrious business man, Warren found time in 1872 to found *The Reveille*, Three Oaks’ first newspaper. All the while, he continued tinkering and working on his machine. That same year, the first version of his amazing engine was completed. But like most inventors, he was not satisfied with its operation, setting about making improvements to it, building a second prototype.

According to Bogert’s article, “*building a calculating engine would take a serious toll on his constitution*”; in fact, he “*gave up watch repair, newspaper work, and most social contact in early 1873, writing his brother Albert, ‘My health would not admit to the strain of old watches and the calculating machine at the same time. Company annoys me. I cannot bear to have anybody around.’*”

Fred’s brother, Edward Warren, who by this time was a successful businessman in Three Oaks, though he had not yet invented the famous “Featherbone” process, stepped into support his brother’s research. At this point, the brothers, Edward at least, saw no practical use for a successful calculating engine. They envisioned selling tickets to people who would be curious to see the machine as it solved increasingly more complex mathematical problems.

Fred finished his second prototype, but was not satisfied because it worked too slowly, and would



This undated photo shows Fred Warren in his clock-repair shop.

often “stick” when too many numbers were entered into its mechanical memory. He could not wait to begin working on his third prototype. At this point, Bogert says, he acknowledged the machine had taken over his life: “*I ought to get married and settle down, but this thing has got into my head...*”

James Watt, inventor of the first successful steam engine, is famously quoted as saying after he spent his fortune on ever-improved prototypes of the device that would make him famous, “Of all things in life, there is nothing more foolish than inventing.” On the other hand, what is more satisfying than that day when you finally succeed? The trick is to know when a thing is done, when it is good enough to show the world, to sell and make a profit. On this point, many inventors have missed the mark and died penniless without bringing their ideas successfully into the world.

Often it takes many months and a minor fortune to build a prototype. Months of planning and dreaming before an idea or machine can actually be tested. Then, there is the adrenalin-rushing, heart-pounding moment when it all comes together, and a switch is thrown or a crank turned or a button pushed, and the thing actually succeeds and works or is a spectacular failure. But even if all works as planned, there are always improvements to be made. The inventor is never truly finished with his work.

So, Warren worked to this final end, as many inventors do, in secrecy, finally ending up as his health failed living at his brother Edward’s house.

Fred’s machine is classed as a “pinwheel calculator.” The calculating engine of this machine was comprised of a set of wheels that had on their circumference an adjustable number of teeth. Since engineers like to give clever names to unusual components, these wheels with teeth became known as pinwheels.

By a complicated adjustment of levers and knobs, any number from 0 to 9 teeth could be brought into play on each wheel. The wheels were coupled to a counter and connected together by a crank-operated shaft. Turning the wheels in one direction would add and multiply, depending on levers and knobs



A closer look at the inner workings of the device.

brought into play, and turning the wheels in the other would subtract and divide.

Warren's health continued to decline as each iteration of his machine became more complex. He became too weak to work on the machine himself, so a mechanically inclined farmhand, David Martin, was hired to do the assembly work. This part of the story is reminiscent of the scene in "Amadeus" (1984) when Antonio Salieri writes down the notes of Mozart's final "Requiem" as the dying composer dictates them to him, Mozart being too weak to do the task himself.

The third version of the calculating engine had as many as 500 moving parts that did not include the structural parts and cabinet components of the device. One magazine article of the time estimated there were more than 3,000 separate parts that had to be assembled to complete the machine.

While Warren might have been focusing on the utility of the calculating engine, thinking that if successful, it would eliminate the drudgery of math-



This undated photo shows Fred Warren on the porch of his photo studio/watch repair store in Three Oaks.

ematical study, Edward, ever the businessman, thought the machine could be put on display as an oddity, with money to be made through ticket sales for demonstrations.

As Fred slaved away on the machine, he continued to grow weaker. The trouble was that neither Edward Warren nor David Martin knew how the complicated engine actually worked. A brother, Albert, had gone to California to seek his fortune in the gold rush, and Edward

pressured him to return to Three Oaks, to learn how to use the machine and become a partner in the business of exhibiting the machine. Edward wrote Albert, "It is the greatest machine that the world ever saw."

Albert was too invested in his own future and fortune in California. He never did return to Michigan.

The third version of the calculator was finally complete early in 1875. Fred Warren, excited, took it on the road to show off its potential. The trip took

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A Calculated Risk

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him to Niles, Mich., and Morris, Ill. After the demonstration in Morris, *The Detroit Free Press* trumpeted that his machine was “*the most intricate and complicated piece of mechanism ever constructed.*”

Edward was proven correct as well: money could be made by using the machine as an attraction. In Morris, it cost 10 cents a ticket to view the machine, but if a person was curious enough to want to see it in action, it would cost an additional 25 cents.

By March of 1875, after Fred’s successful tour, his health took a turn for the worse. Perhaps the excitement of working continuously on his project, and wanting to see it actually work successfully, had kept his terminal malady at bay. His lungs began to bleed, and he was too weak to work further on the calculator.

Fred Warren died of tuberculosis on April 9, 1875.

After Fred’s death, Edward wrote to Albert in California, saying he would work to make Fred’s amazing machine a success, and always the entrepreneur added, “*I shall do all in my power to make it an honor to Fred and also profitable.*”

But was Fred Warren and his machine, like Nicola Tesla, simply ahead of his time? It was said of Tesla at the time of his death that “*although he was a brilliant inventor, a genius, he was a naïve businessman who was hopelessly out of step with commerce.*”

Fred Warren had created a machine that, although brilliantly successful in its design, was too complicated to be understood by his peers. Edward had plans to put it on display, but who could make it work?

The Berrien County Record reported that Warren’s calculator was “*the most ingenious calculating machine ever invented...so intricate as to be perhaps, beyond the comprehensions and understanding of any person or persons living.*”

Edward continued to try to make good on his oath to Fred, that of making his machine profitable. He once rented a room in Chicago at the Palmer House to display the calculator and charge admission. Many were curious, but few were willing to pay hard cash to see it. He tried interesting the Studebaker brothers, but they were too busy with their automobile business to help promote the Warren Calculating Engine. Even P.T. Barnum could see no profit in displaying and promoting the calculator.

It was Edward’s desire that his brother be recognized by the scientific world. He proposed display-

ing the machine alongside a similar device invented by mechanical engineer George Grant at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, but the project fell through despite a *Harper’s Weekly* article that praised Warren’s “arithmometer” and its invention as a wonderful story. *Harper’s* went on to congratulate “*the children of the future on the probable expulsion of all dull arithmetic from their pile of school books.*”

As time went on, Edward Warren became busy with his featherbone idea. It was patented in 1893, and the company he created employed a sizable percentage of the population of Three Oaks. He organized the E.K. Warren & Co. banking house and succeeded in the mercantile business. He was a philanthropist who served as city treasurer, clerk and town supervisor, and left behind the legacy of the establishment of Warren Dunes State Park.

Edward Warren did not forget his brother or his amazing calculating engine. In 1916, he founded in Three Oaks the Chamberlain Memorial Museum, named after his father-in-law. The museum preserved

early farm implements, Native American artifacts and Civil War memorabilia. Here also was a special place for Edward to display his brother’s third and most successful calculating engine. The first and second prototypes are now proudly displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The Chamberlain Museum closed in Three Oaks in 1952, the collections acquired by MSU. Fred Warren’s engine sat in storage for many years, its marvels lost to the world.

In 2020, Fred Warren’s third prototype returned to Three Oaks and is now on display at the museum, where Bogert and his fellow descents proudly regale visitors with the story of its creation and the brilliant man who dreamed that it could be.



Nick Bogert explains aspects of the museum’s display involving the history of the Warren family.



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A Centennial Keepsake



Artist and Illustrator Mitch Markovitz (left), Long Beach CIVIC Association member Debbie Mengel and CIVIC President John Mengel are excited about unveiling the poster to the community.

Editor's note — This is the next in an ongoing series amid this year's Long Beach centennial anniversary highlighting history, individuals and organizations in the community.

by Kim Nowatzke

Just in time for July 4th activities and celebrating Long Beach's centennial, a specially created memento is available to commemorate the milestone.

The Long Beach CIVIC Association commissioned professional artist-illustrator Mitch Markovitz to create a special Long Beach oil painting. The original 28x42-inch piece, which eventually will hang in Long Beach Town Hall, will be revealed during the town's July 4th activities, with 20x30 poster prints sold that day and afterward.

The idea came to CIVIC President John Mengel as he recalled a 2014 painting Markovitz did for ArcelorMittal honoring the 50th anniversary of steel-making at Burns Harbor. At the time, Mengel was the vice president/general manager of the Burns Harbor plant. The artwork was part of the new South Shore poster series.

"All the terms were right. He's a reputable artist, and his name is well-known in this area," explained Mengel, who coordinated the project with other CIVIC members, including his wife, Debbie, Cherie LeFevre and Laurel Kuczynski. "I couldn't think of a better way to commemorate the Long Beach centennial."

In Next Week's Edition

An interview with this year's selection for the Long Beach July 4th parade marshals.

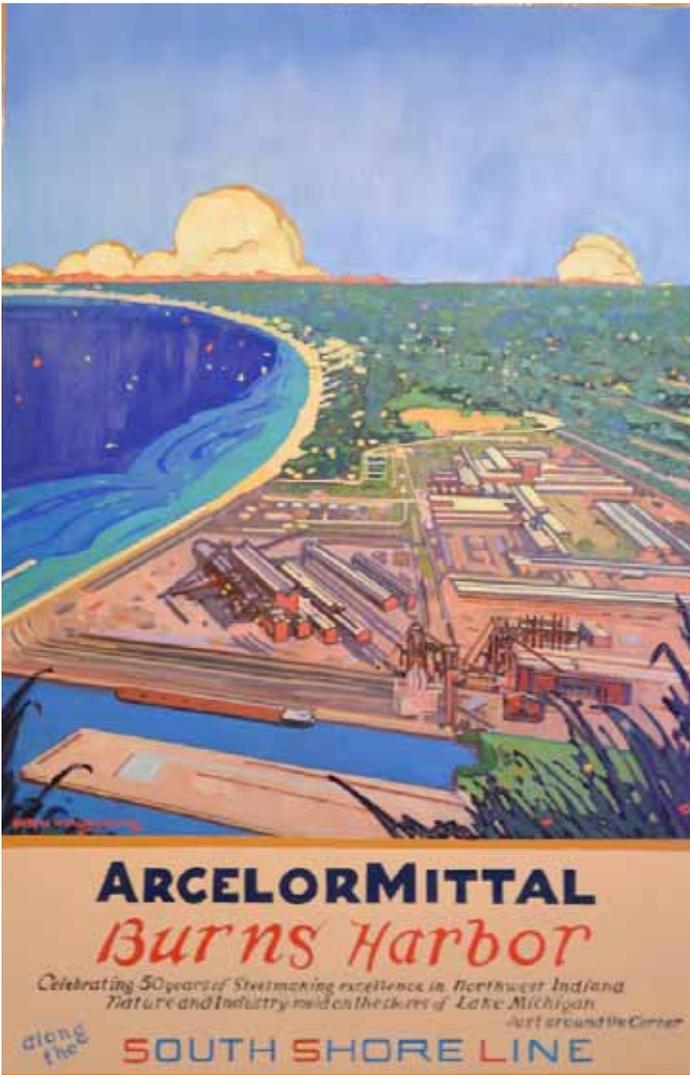
Markovitz, who lives in Knox, is familiar with the area as he's been "vacationing my whole life here." He first began drawing at 18 months under the influence of his father, a commercial illustrator.

"Mom and I would pick up Dad at the South Shore train station after work, and he would teach me how to draw trains because he knew I loved them," Markovitz said. "All through school, I drew trains."

He had 30 years of service as a railroad brakeman, then as a passenger trainman on the former Chicago and North Western Railroad, then as a brakeman and conductor for the Milwaukee Road railroad. Starting in 1984, he worked for four years as the South Shore Line's art and advertising director before switching to the train-service side as a collector, then as an engineer. He retired in 1999.

Markovitz even met his wife of 26 years, Reneé, who worked for Leo Burnett advertising agency in Chicago, when she was a South Shore passenger.

Markovitz is best known for creating "Just Around the Corner, Along the South Shore Line" series of South Shore posters in 1997. He's the series'



Above: Mitch Markovitz offers a sneak peak into his work involving the Long Beach centennial poster.

Left: Mitch Markovitz's 2014 work for ArcelorMittal honoring the 50th anniversary of steelmaking at Burns Harbor.

founding artist and art director. He explained how 28 by 42 inches was the size of the original South Shore posters in the 1920s because they would fit Chicago's elevated stations' advertising frames.

Markovitz also created the original painting, "It's About Time" in 2009 for Sheridan Beach. It was dedicated to the memory of his close friend, the late Sidney Pokorny, and special times spent in the beach house at Stop 5 owned by he and his wife, the late Jeanne Pokorny.

The Long Beach oil painting is in Markovitz's familiar poster style and size, 28 x 48-inch.

It's one he always wanted to do.

"What's behind a lot of my paintings is music," he said. "This one is driven by the Beatles' song/album/movie 'A Hard Day's Night'."

He chose the more traditional and substantial medium of oils for the artwork. He and CIVIC members took the time to drive around Long Beach so he could take photos at different angles of what might end up in the painting.

When asked how long the finished Long Beach piece will take to complete, he answered with his age: "70 years – because it took me 70 years to get this far."

He also admitted it's challenging for him to dis-

cuss his paintings.

"I don't usually talk about paintings because they are meant to be viewed – not talked about," he said. "It's as difficult for me to talk about a painting as it is to paint a lecture."

The revealing of the centennial painting is planned in an area on the side of Long Beach Community Center after the Fourth of July parade, which begins at 10 a.m. The Independence Day celebration will include food for sale by Blind Pig Tavern & Grill and Social Que BBQ and Catering, as well as a beer garden and other refreshments, including soft drinks, water and ice cream. For those wishing to buy unframed poster prints, Markovitz will be on hand to sign their purchases.

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Couple Continues Series of Shows With “Alice’s Heavenly Folly”

Lee and Laura Meyer continue their series of “Alice shows” with “Alice’s Heavenly Folly” on Friday through Sunday, June 25-27, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The show joins previous entries in the series — including “Alice on Broadway,” “Alice in Dollywood” and “Alice Goes to Heaven” — that honors their mothers: Alice (Diana Hirsch) and Jeanette (Penny Russell). Both are bored in Heaven and decide to put on a Ziegfeld’s Follies-style show. Other heavenly bodies include Danielle Bilderback, Molly Caplice, Noel Carlson, Kathy Chase, Adrianna and Tom LeDonne, and Chris West.



Songs include “I Don’t Know How To Love Him” from “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Anything You Can Do” from “Annie Get Your Gun,” and “Wonderful” and “Follow Your Heart” from “Wicked.”

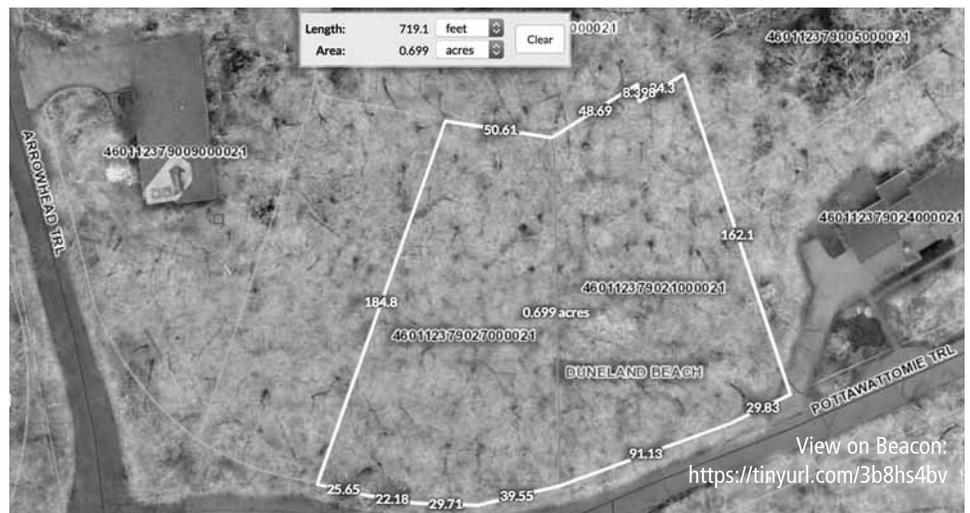
Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for children 12 and younger). Footlight patrons of the 2020-2021 season can use their gift cards. Make reservations by calling (219) 874-4035 or online at www.footlight-players.org.

Laura Meyer (left), Diana Hirsch and Tom LeDonne star in “Alice’s Heavenly Folly,” which will be performed this weekend at Footlight Theatre.

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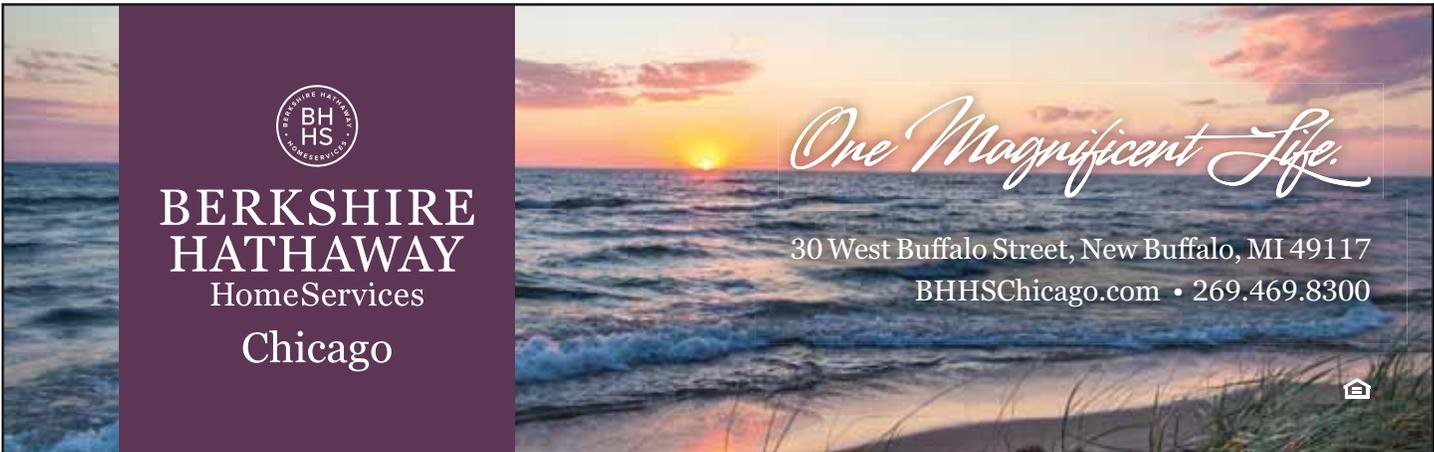


The two parcels combined have approximately 235 ft. of frontage on Pottawattomie Trail (just east of Arrowhead), and an average depth of about 170 ft. The wonderful size and excellent location make this property perfect for building your summer or year-round dream home while maintaining plenty of wooded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

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

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

Contact Bruce at 817.875.9955 or bruce76016@gmail.com.





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Canterbury Summer Theatre Puts '70s in the Spotlight With "8-Track"

Canterbury Summer Theatre will present "8-Track: The Sounds of the '70s," its first musical of the 2021 season, on June 23-July 3 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Conceived by Rick Seeber, "8-Track" features music by The Emotions, The Carpenters, Labelle, Barry Manilow, Marvin Gaye, The Doobie Brothers, The Bee Gees, Helen Reddy and KC and the Sunshine Band. The production is staged by Canterbury Artistic Director Ray Scott Crawford, with music direction by Ellen Perkins.

The four cast members all make their Canterbury debuts.

Grace Cummings is earning a degree in performance from Northwestern State University in Louisiana. After a decade of performing, notable roles include Gertrude in "Seussical," Nikki Crandall in "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940," Elizabeth Proctor in "The Crucible" and Margaret in "Carrie."

Anna Holmes, doubling as the show's choreographer, recently graduated from West Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater. She has acted with Moonlight Musicals in Lubbock, Texas, and danced for Texas Outdoor Musical in Palo Duro Canyon.

Hailing from San Antonio, Jacob Ryan Martinez studies theater at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and has appeared as William in "Punk

Rock" and Princeton in the musical "Avenue Q."

Bailey Roberts' past stage appearances include Jinx in "Forever Plaid" (Aurora Arts Theater), "Peter Pan" and Lucas in "The Addams Family" (The



Jacob Ryan Martinez (from left), Grace Cummings, Anna Holmes and Bailey Roberts star in "8-Track: The Sounds of the '70s."

Harbor Playhouse). He will appear as Miller in the upcoming film "12 Mighty Orphans."

Scenic design is by Crawford, with lighting by Austin Ferrari. Jakob Innes and Sarah Schwarz provide costume design, and Grason Unzelman is the stage manager.

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

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



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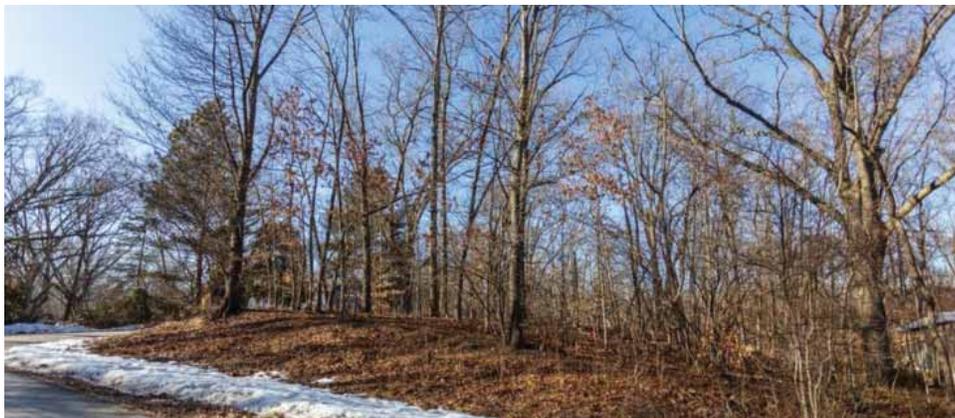
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Two New Exhibits Debut at Midwest Museum of American Art

New exhibits featuring work by Abner Hershberger and Dick Lehman run through July 25 at Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art.

Hershberger, a Goshen College professor of art emeritus, has been an active painter and printmaker for more than six decades. The Legacy Collection, owned by MMAA, presents an overview of his work. His exhibit, "The Abstraction of Landscape," features early drawings and Hershberger's signature abstract aerial views of Midwestern landscapes, including his birth state of North Dakota.

Curated by MMAA Director Brian Byrn, the display resulted in 33 additional works added to the museum's permanent collection.

Lehman is the focus of the spotlight exhibit "Michiana Masters Series III." The Goshen-based ceramic artist and potter has received international recognition for his experimental work, as well as his production ware over the past 40 years.

The exhibit features more than 50 examples of his work, the majority of which were created this year and modeled after a Japanese glazing technique called *Oni*. According to the artist, *Oni* in

Japanese translates to "devil, demon, rustic, extra, excessive and over the top." Lehman uses the term to describe his approach to glazing, sometimes adding

as many as 10 layers of different glazes to a single pot. When fired, the layering produces an effect where the glazes move, flow, peel, fold and slide.

Lehman is an award-winning artist in the Elkhart Juried Regional, receiving 15 purchase awards during his 31 years of participation.

The Michiana Master's Series acknowledges those who have accomplished high honors, using the Elkhart Juried Regional as a starting point.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St. Admission costs \$10 per adult, \$6 for ages 8-12 and \$8 for ages 13-18 and college students with ID. Hours are (all

times Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Masks are required to enter.

Call (574) 293-6660 or email info@midwestmuseum.us for details.



Works by Abner Hershberger (above) and Dick Lehman (below).





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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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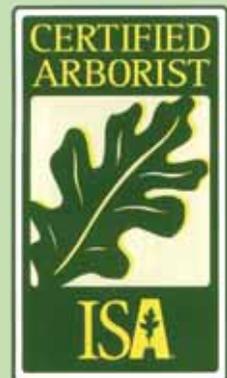
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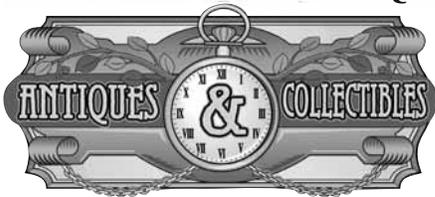


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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 20th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues Wednesday, June 30, at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St.

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

Performing June 30 is Mark Sudeith, who recently performed



Sudeith

Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5" and "Variations on a Nursery Song of Dohnanyi" with Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He also has performed at the Organ Historical Society's national convention.

Sudeith recently was featured in a performance with the

Chicago Gargoyle Brass on WFMT, and other radio stations throughout the United States. He has a Master of Music in organ performance from the University of Minnesota, and a Doctor of Music in piano performance from Indiana University. Sudeith retired in 2020 as interim associate provost at Chicago State University, where he joined the music faculty in 1984.

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

NB Library Community Forum

Author, playwright and sports journalist Ring Lardner is the focus of the next New Buffalo Friends of the Library Community Forum at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 24, through Zoom.

The Niles native was the first "In the Wake of the News" sports columnist for *The Chicago Tribune*. Along the way, he covered the 1919 Black Sox scandal and World War I, co-wrote a Broadway play with George M. Cohan and was a magazine writer, lyricist, novelist and short story author whose many admirers included a young Ernest Hemingway.

Mollie Watson, Niles History Center assistant director, is the speaker. The Zoom link can be found under Activities/Events on either the library's Facebook page or website (www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org), or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com

Upcoming programs, which resume in person, include: "Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair" on Thursday, July 8; "Clara Barton: The Union Army's Angel of Mercy" on Tuesday, July 20; and "The Baillys: A Pioneer Family in the Dunes" on Thursday, Aug. 12.



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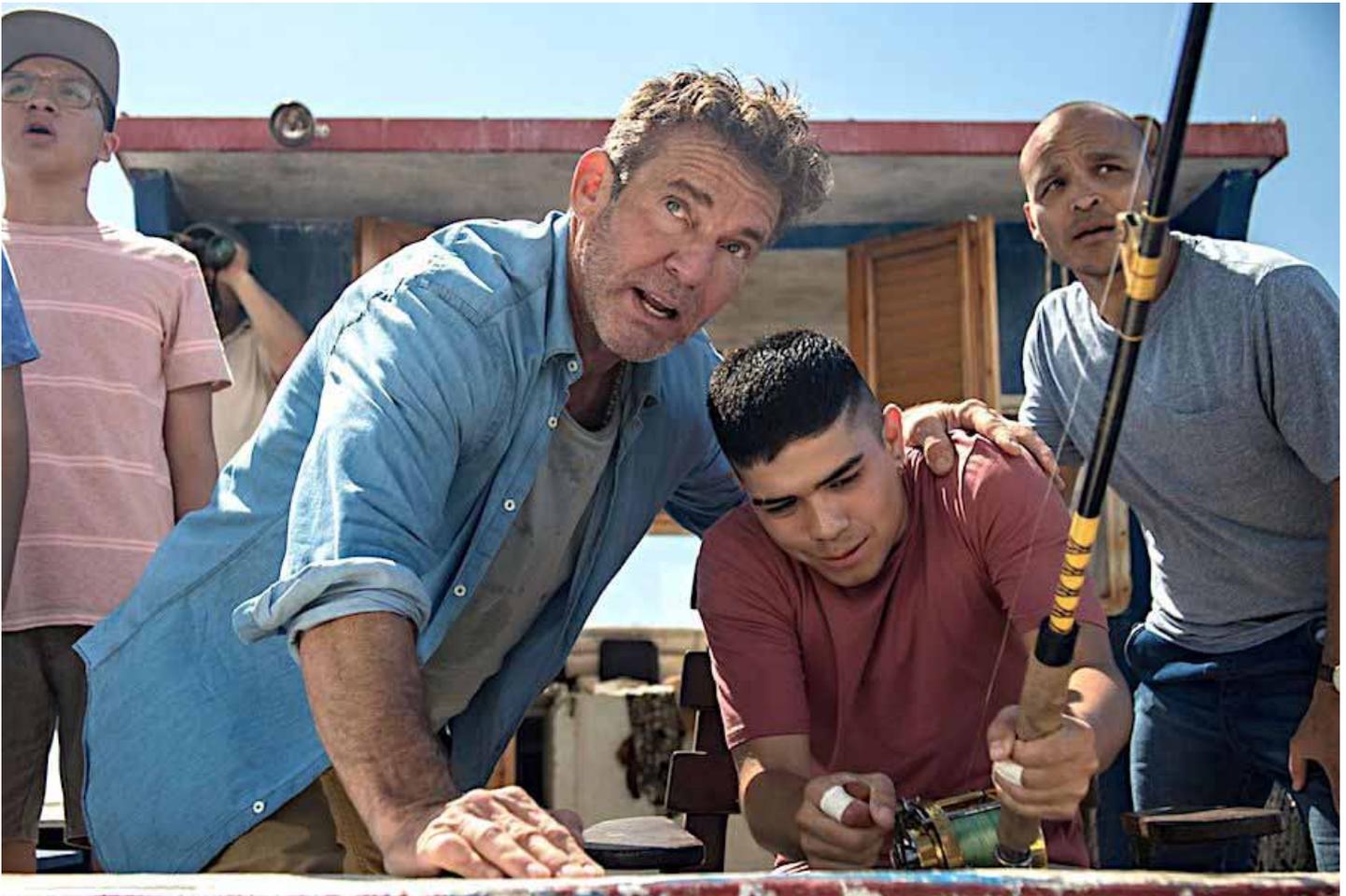
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“Blue Miracle” Balances Grit With Inspirational Outcome

by Andrew Tallackson



A fisherman (Dennis Quaid) teams up with a group from a local orphanage to hopefully win the top prize of a local tournament in “Blue Miracle.”

“Blue Miracle” is Hollywood schmaltz filtered through a gritty lens. A Disney(ish) film whose only desire is to make you feel good. The difference between Disney and this Netflix film is, the filmmakers don’t clobber you with mushy sentiment.

The story is inspired by fact. In 2014, *Casa Hogar* in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, is an orphanage struggling to make ends meet. It is a facility held together by determination and plenty of elbow grease by the guardians, Omar and Becca (Jimmy Gonzales and Fernanda Urrejola). The facility is a dump, and the couple knows it. During a storm, for instance, the halls are flooded the following morning. Worse, Omar owes the government \$117,000. Unless they put up the cash within the month, *Casa Hogar* is kaput, these kids relinquished to the cruel streets.

Enter the world-famous Bisbee’s fishing tournament, with millions of dollars in prizes. And with Wade (Dennis Quaid), a local fisherman and former two-time Bisbee’s champ, unable to cough up the entry fee, he’s paired with *Casa Hogar* to compete in the event.

Can grumpy old Wade get along with the rowdy *Casa Hogar* bunch? Can this motley crew work together and win the top prize? Would Netflix really



“Blue Miracle”

Running time: 95 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-PG

fork out money for a movie where an orphanage tosses kids out, their hopes and dreams shattered? I mean, seriously, who would watch that mood killer?

No, “Blue Miracle” is designed as emotional uplift, but what’s refreshing is how director Julio Quintana, who wrote the screenplay with Chris Dowling (For King & Country’s faith-based film “Priceless”), doesn’t sugarcoat the world in which these kids live. The streets around *Casa Hogar* are filled with violence and despair. Omar, in fact, struggles with loss from his own childhood, so he understands why the youth in his charge behave the way they do.

Quaid may be channeling every “Old Man and the Sea” cliché, but he hurls himself so completely into the role, Wade doesn’t feel calculated. The anger and resentment are pitch perfect, his gradual softening tempered by performances from child actors who don’t come across as smart-alecky Disney extras. They are likable teens hoping for the best.

Along the way, the movie delicately handles an



"Blue Miracle" is inspiring without being corny.

important lesson on winning by achieving, not cheating, and of the role a father plays in the lives of his children.

At the end of "Blue Miracle," we see *Casa Hogar* today. Light years away from the slum it once was because of the Bisbee's tournament. We are moved. Not terribly so, but moved nonetheless because we know its much-improved state came through a lot of heart and determination.

Words that sum up "Blue Miracle," too.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Awake” Finally Hits Its Stride During Second Half

by Andrew Tallackson



Jill (Gina Rodriguez, center), Noah (Lucius Hoyos) and Matilda (Ariana Greenblatt) make a desperate trek to a research facility in “Awake.”

“Awake” is a dynamite idea for a ticking-clock disaster movie, and with a good actress in the lead.

Too bad the first half is, well, such a snooze.

Now streaming on Netflix, “Awake” is about the apocalypse, but then again, what sci-fi thriller isn’t these days. But for once, we’re not dealing with flesh-eating ghouls or mutated monsters, more an extinction level event with characters racing against time to save themselves.

Talk about an intriguing premise. Jill Adams (Gina Rodriguez, of “Jane the Virgin” fame) is a recovering addict working security detail at a local college when she picks up her kids one night from their grandmother’s house. Seems grandma (Frances Fisher) is their caretaker after Jill’s drug use. And the family – teen son Noah (Lucius Hoyos) and younger daughter Matilda (Ariana Greenblatt) – is in the car no more than a few minutes when it loses power. All the vehicles around them, in fact, stop functioning, resulting in a crash that hurls the three of them into a lake.

Yes, it’s apocalypse time, and we get the requisite image of the city from above, in chaos, smoke trailing into the sky, sirens blazing below.

But brothers Mark and Joseph Raso, who wrote the film, with Mark directing, botch the storytelling here. Every disaster movie has a scene where the disaster, itself, is explained, either through broadcasts or large gatherings. It gets the characters,

★ ★ 1/2

“Awake”

Running time: 96 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-MA

and we as the viewers, acclimated to the “what” and the “why” of the situation. In “Awake,” the threat is that, for reasons unknown – either a solar flare or Electromagnetic Pulse – power is out and no one can fall asleep. Within a week or so, everyone will go crazy from the exhaustion, their bodies shutting down before the inevitable. A terrifying threat...but the movie feels like it’s missing a scene. A transition where mass realization sets in. Instead, Jill, after being unable to sleep through the night, basically goes, “oh, we can’t sleep,” and sets off with her kids to reach a medical facility.

How boring is that? A big reveal staged with underwhelming nothingness. Ditto the ludicrous church scene where the congregation, now lacking sleep for two days, behaves like a murderous cult, eyeballing Matilda as fresh meat for a blood sacrifice. No transition from mournful parishioners to stark-raving lunatics.

But then, Jill makes the precarious trek to find the research facility. Rodriguez is very good here: tough, emotional, scrambling for a solution as her mind slips. The more intimate nature of the story, of Jill facing her own mortality to save her kids, gives



Gina Rodriguez and Ariana Greenblatt are dynamite together.

“Awake” the queasy tension the early scenes lack. And by the time the three arrive at the medical research site, all hell breaks loose in a blaze of terrifying chaos, but with Rodriguez, Hoyos and especially Greenblatt at the center of it, fighting for survival. Greenblatt, on a roll with this film, “In the Heights” and last year’s “Love and Monsters,” is a young actress to watch for: She’s a corker.

The last half of “Awake” delivers. Had the Raso brothers reconsidered their lame approach to the first half, they might have yielded a B-movie triumph. Instead, it’s just OK.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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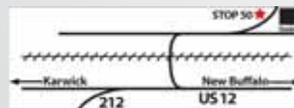
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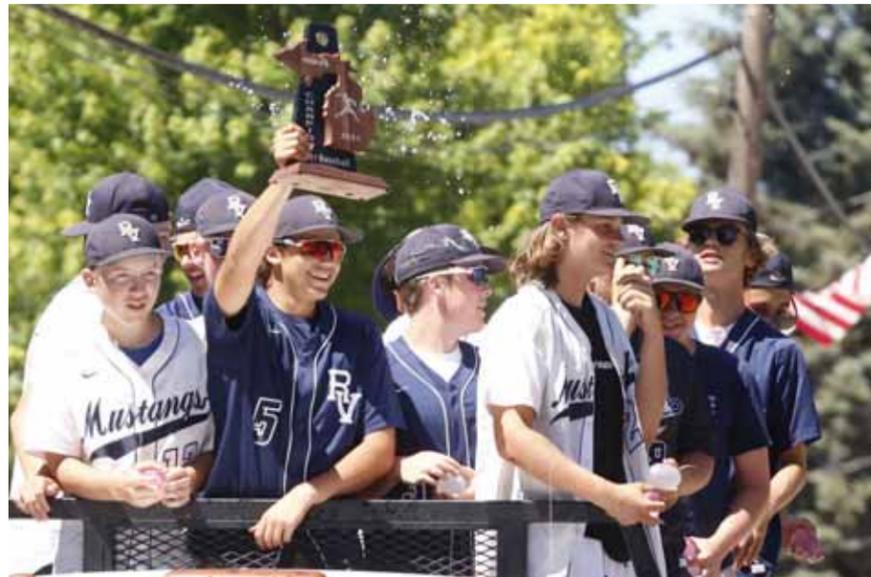
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A Beautiful Day for a Parade



Continued on Page 26

Virtual parade no longer! The Three Oaks, Mich., community gathered to celebrate an annual tradition, the Flag Day parade, on Sunday, June 13. Last year's parade was viewed online due to the pandemic. This year, the event included a flyover by a World War II military plane over downtown Three Oaks. *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski was there to capture images from the festivities.



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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 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 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 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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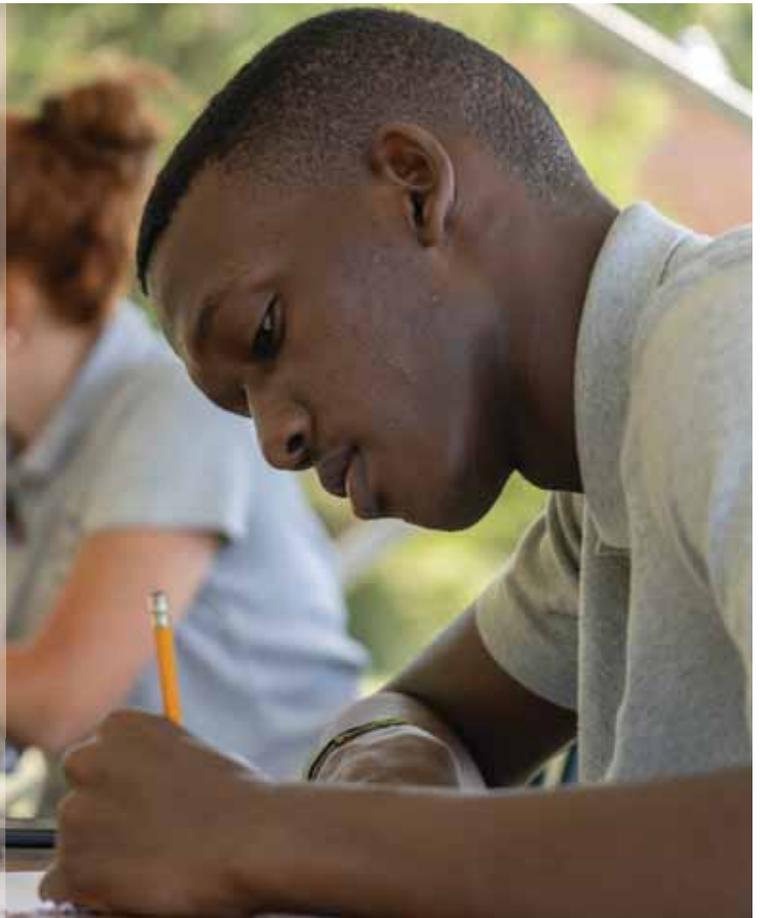
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La Porte County Parks



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:

- 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

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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.

Under the Shady Tree – Story Time

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

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

Make reservations at least one week before the program.

Family Fishing Nights

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

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

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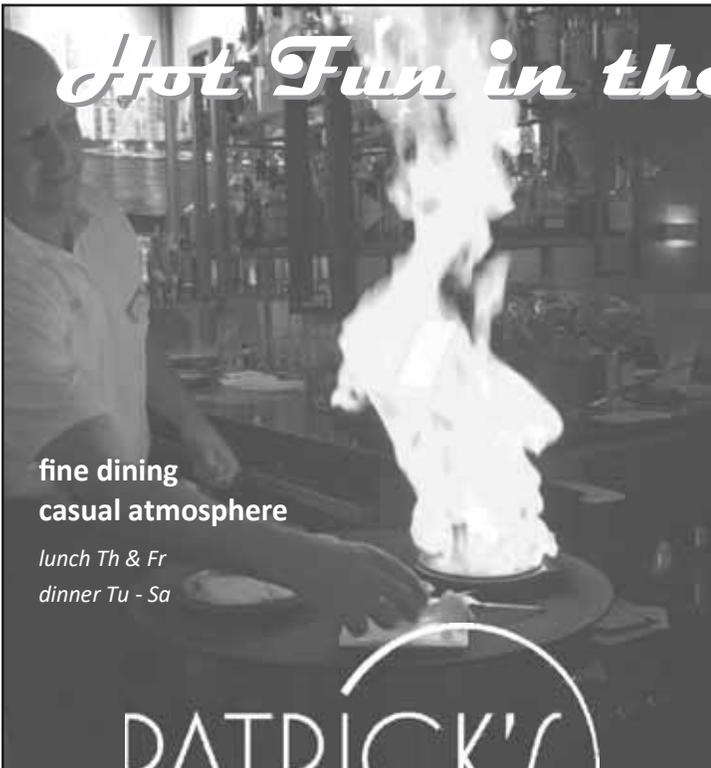
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DAF 70th Anniversary Gala

Dunes Arts Foundation's 70th anniversary gala, complete with live entertainment, is from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square.

Steve Scott is the master of ceremonies, the food provided by Panini-Panini. Entertainment will be performed from the following Broadway shows:

- 1950s: "South Pacific."
- 1960s: "Cabaret."
- 1970s: "Jesus Christ Superstar."
- 1980s: "Les Miserables."
- 1990s: "Rent."
- 2000s: "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."
- 2010s: "Working 2012."

The performers include Lynnette Li, Jay Espano, Emily Franks, Caroline McKinsey, Thomas Tong, Joshua Torrones and Andrew Flasch.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., during which time people can view auction items. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., entertainment from 7:15-7:45 p.m. and a silent auction at 7:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$100. Register at www.dunesarts.org/tickets or call (219) 879-7509.

Renaissance Academy Summer Camp

Renaissance Academy, 4093 E. U.S. 20, will host a summer camp through Aug. 5

Students will spend time outside immersed in nature, try new languages, put on plays and create 3-D models. Pricing for full days (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) starts at \$65 for the first week and \$50 for each additional week. Half days are available.

Visit tinyurl.com/3fx8ucr4 or call (219) 878-8711 for more information or to sign up.



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Gabis Arboretum Concert Series



The outdoor Acorn Concert Series resumes at Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest this summer after it was canceled last year due to COVID-19.

The series includes four outdoor concerts:

- Johnny V's Wildflowers: A Tribute to Tom Petty, June 26.
- The Steepwater Band: A Blues Rock Experience, July 30.
- Marrakesh Express: A Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Experience, Aug. 21.
- Heartache Tonight: A Tribute to The Eagles, Sept. 17.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m., opening acts start at 6 p.m. and headliners start at 7:30 p.m.

The series is a fundraiser for the arboretum. Tickets are available at www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts or at the gate the day of the concert. Tickets, which are \$15 in advance, increase to \$20 for non-members the week of the concert. Children 12 and younger are free. Food, beer and wine will be sold. Dogs are permitted, and guests can take picnic items. Outside alcohol is prohibited.

Gabis is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.




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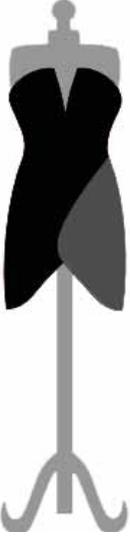
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Child Advocates of the Year

Family Advocates honored volunteers who represent LaPorte County children and youth during a recent volunteer appreciation banquet.

Ashlan Siford was named Child Advocate of the Year for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. Married to Jeremy Siford, she just gave birth to her first child, Cooper. The marketing director at MTM Realty Group, she owns a multimedia company, Ignited Media. She began volunteering in 2019. In a press release, CASA Director April Greetham described her as “an amazing volunteer who took on two difficult cases. She worked with all involved to make sure there was a positive outcome for the children.”



Siford

Natalie Conlon also was named Child Advocate of the Year. She has been a volunteer advocate and mentor for at-risk youth since 2019. CYA Director Brenda Stellema read a letter written by the mother of Natalie's youth: “Natalie is an amazing advocate for the youth she serves, but she also promotes Family Advocates as an agency. We've called on her to participate in program-impact projects such as recruitment videos, and she's always stepped in to provide whatever support she could.”



Conlon

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will take an insiders' tour of Friendship Botanic Gardens with naturalist Jude Rakowski at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 27.

The 1.5-mile hike should last about two hours and is of moderate difficulty. The nature-filled sanctuary in Michigan City features formal gardens, interactive nature displays and wilderness trails. It is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Long pants, preferably tucked in, sturdy shoes or boots, insect repellent and plenty of water are recommended. HCH observes federal and state guidelines, so mask wearing is optional.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com for additional details.

Good Citizen Yard Sale

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter, will hold a Good Citizen Yard Sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Friday and Saturday, June 25-26, at 6284 Shanghai Road, Eau Claire, Mich.

All funds support the chapter's efforts with scholarships and education, veterans aid and women's issues.

LCSO in the Spotlight



Trey Bradshaw.

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

Trey Bradshaw is new to LCSO, serving as acting principal flute. He began his studies in the sixth grade back in Florida and, after a rocky start as last chair in a 20-person section, fell in love with music.

He now has degrees in flute performance from Indiana University and the University of Miami, and played with National Orchestral Institute, Miami Classical Music Festival and Opera Maya Festival Orchestra. He is spending two months this summer in Breckenridge, Colo., performing with the National Repertory Orchestra.

Outside of performing, Bradshaw is an educator with a private flute studio full of students from across Northwest Indiana.

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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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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Baroque Concert

Michigan City Messiah Inc. will present its Baroque Concert — a first in the organization's 56-year history — at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The chorus will help present Vivaldi's "Gloria" with the following soloists: soprano Kimberly Jones and mezzo-soprano Kristin Gornstein. Pat Lee will provide accompaniment. Nic Orbovich is the violin soloist.

The program is an example of Michigan City Messiah branching out to explore choral masterworks, Director Philip Bauman said.

"When considering the level of talent and enthusiasm the choir possesses, I felt the time had come to branch out and explore more repertoire," he said in a press release. "What a shame to limit our activities to just once a year."

Also included on the program are Handel's Coronation Anthems "Zadok the Priest" and "Let Thy Hand be Strengthened."

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the chorus has been restricted to invitation only, with between 8-12 per section, and with social distancing and masked rehearsals.

Concertgoers also are invited to attend an open dress rehearsal at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 26, at the performing arts center.

Tickets, which are free, are available at www.mcmessiah.com or picked up at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Donations toward concert expenses are welcome.

Brass Quintet Concert

A blend of music and history will dominate "Victory: Sounds of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 29, in The History Museum's Tuesley Amphitheatre.

The brass quintet will perform a 45-minute concert of military music and brass quintet favorites. Between selections, museum curators and Conn Selmer representatives will describe ways musical-instrument manufacturers answered the call to service by producing items for the Armed Forces.

The "Manufacturing Victory" exhibit is presented by South Bend's The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum. Open one hour before and 30 minutes after the performance, it chronicles the area's history of defense production, and explores the role of business leaders and line workers.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. EDT, and reservations are required. Admission is \$10, or \$5 for members. Reservations are online at www.historymuseumSB.org. Active military and veterans may call (574) 235-9664 to reserve free tickets.

Call (574) 235-9664 for more details. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.

Reins of Life Volunteer Training



Anyone interested in volunteering with the non-profit Reins of Life Inc. can attend a session from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 25, at the Michigan City facility, 9375 W. County Road 300 North.

Reins of Life offers therapeutic horseback-riding lessons to adults and children with disabilities. It has been slowly, but steadily, adding new riders in light of COVID-19.

During training, volunteers learn about the history of Reins of Life, its mission and programs, and how to groom, tack and lead a horse. Closed-toe shoes are required. Participants must be at least 13, and parents must sign paperwork for anyone 18 and younger. Horse experience is not required. Each training session is limited to six people.

Call or text Beth at (219) 276-7849 to register.

SAM Receives Pokagon Fund Grant

The Pokagon Fund awarded a \$10,000 grant to The School of American Music to support ongoing, quality, affordable music education, the funds supporting scholarships and free concerts.

SAM received its first Pokagon Fund grant in 2013 shortly after its debut in Three Oaks, Mich. Now, it will celebrate its 10th anniversary and launch a Future Fund endowment campaign.

The Pokagon Fund supports local governments, non-profits, charities and other organizations that enhance life in the Harbor Country region, as well as Dowagiac, Hartford and South Bend, Ind. Ninety percent of the grants are for projects affecting Harbor Country residents, with 10 percent going to projects benefiting surrounding tribal land-consolidation sites in Hartford and Dowagiac, Mich, as well as South Bend.

Visit <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com> or call (269) 409-1191 for more information on SAM or the Future Fund Endowment Campaign.



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Family Advocates Partners with MCAS to Support Middle-Schoolers

Family Advocates' Community Youth Advocate Program has launched a new effort to support middle-school students through community-based mentorship and advocacy.

The CYA Program initially will partner with Barker Middle School, receiving referrals to work with students needing support outside of school hours. Mentor/advocates also will provide support throughout the summer, and serve as a bridge into the next school year, which is especially important for eighth-graders transitioning into high school.

According to Brenda Stellema, Family Advocates CYA director, the mentoring/advocacy program was developed in partnership with MCAS in response to needs identified as students moved to virtual-learn-



Pictured are (from left) CYA Program Director Brenda Stellema, CYA Volunteer Steven Kile, Barker Middle School Principal Lucas Snyder and Arielle Smith, a Barker Middle School counselor.

ing platforms during the pandemic.

"For some youth, it has been a struggle to participate in learning, and barriers to support or resources keep them disconnected from success," Stellema said in a press releases. "Due to situations beyond their control, some find it necessary to work or tutor their siblings, falling behind in their own progress."

CYA is actively seeking adults to serve as volunteer mentors for the program. No formal experience is necessary, other than a desire to help a teen

in need a few times a month. Comprehensive training is provided, and the time volunteers invest is flexible. Call (219) 234-3385 or visit www.lpfamilyadvocates.com for more details.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

• **SSSSSnakes Alive!** at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 26.

Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.

• **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike** at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 26.

Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the sinking of the J.D. Marshall just offshore of Indiana Dunes State Park.

• **Frog Frolic** at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 26.

Learn about frogs of the dunes while heading out on an easy walk.

• **Bird Walk** at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 27.

Take binoculars or borrow a pair for an easy walk searching for birds.

• **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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Special Thanks

June 5 was the Ninth Annual St. Stanislaus/Trail Creek 5K Run/Walk, which was held in cooperation with The Town of Trail Creek at Nelson Park.

Ryan Bausback, Sarasota, Fla., and a Long Beach native, won the race with a time of 16:42. The female winner was Natalie Krause, Valparaiso, who placed fourth overall, with a time of 20:00.8.

We want to thank The Town of Trail Creek, President Jennifer Heath, council members and Treasurer Joshleen Denham for their support and cooperation, and Town Marshal Stephen Dick and Rob from the Trail Creek Street Department.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, the race participants and many volunteers. This fundraiser was for the parish capitol campaign for needed church repairs.

Special thanks to our sponsors: St. Andrews Products, Robert Tylicz Appliance for Robert's donation of the beautiful plaque awards he handcrafted and other additional support, Members Advantage Credit Union, Kim and Mike Marks, Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel, General Insurance Services/GIS, Castle Ford/Lincoln, Snyder & Associates, Horizon Bank, Front Door Real Estate, Larry Dalton Heating & Cooling, St. Joseph Young Men's Society and Tom Appel Attorney at Law.

We also want to thank the many volunteers, including photographers Paul Kemiell and Jill Wozniak. We could not have held this event without all of their help. We also want to thank St. Luke Church for allowing us to use their lot for parking, *The Beacher Weekly Newspaper* and *The LaPorte County Herald-Dispatch*.

Hope to see you again next year June 4, 2022.

Patrick Kroehler
St. Stans 5K Race Director
Brother Shaun Gray
Committee Member
Kathi Hale
Committee Member
Susan Snyder
Committee Member



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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, June 28.
- American Legion, 107 N. Flynn Road, Westville, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, June 30.

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.



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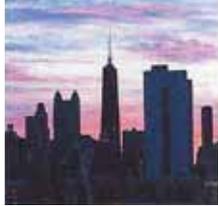
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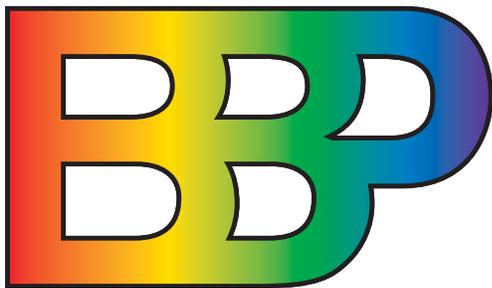
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KAC Summer Art Markets

Summer Art Market on the Green returns to Krasl Art Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT the fourth Saturday of each month June through September.

Purchases directly support the artists, and guests are encouraged to explore KAC's sculpture and gallery exhibits. Held on the recently redesigned outdoor grounds, individuals in five 10x10 artists' tents will sell handmade artworks ranging from \$15-\$250. Food vendors and art activities that support KAC will be available.

The June 26 artists are: T.J. Schwartz, ceramics; Miranda Skibbe, paper; Jeff and Theresa Heaton, mixed media; Boo Lee Studios, ceramics and jewelry; and Eliot Schlaak, ink and watercolor.

Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Visit www.krasl.org/events/art-market/ or call (269) 983-0271.

In Memoriam

Charles "Chuck" Hahn, 84, passed away Nov. 9 after contracting COVID-19.

Chuck was a Shoreland Hills resident with his family in the 1960s-1980s after building a house on Lindenwood Drive.



The family will host visitation from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 8, at Dykes Funeral Home, 2305 N. Campbell St., Valparaiso, and from 9-10 a.m. Friday, July 9, at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1855 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, with the Mass of Christian burial celebrated at 10 a.m. at the church. Burial is at approximately noon at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens, Michigan City.

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A Generous Boost



Pokagon Fund Executive Director Dan Petersen (left) presents a \$3,000 check to Chuck Sittig, The Region of Three Oaks Museum board president. The award will help upgrade technology used in cataloguing and tracking thousands of items in the museum's collection. The museum will upgrade its accessioning software, and buy a new computer and camera to photograph incoming items.

LBCC Women's Golf Leagues
9-Hole League
June 10, 2021

Flight A

Low Gross — Peg King.
 Low Net — Janet Andreotti.
 Low Putts (Tied) — Carol Excell, Donna Hennard.
 Birdie — Carol Excell (5).
 Sunken Approach — Carol Excell (5), Julie Doyle (8).

Flight B

Low Gross — Linda Wilson.
 Low Net — Linda Wilson.
 Low Putts (Tied) — Pat Bailey, Susan Keeley, Gloria McMahon, Cornelia Sullivan, Barbara Ward, Linda Wilson.

Flight C

Low Gross — Sarah Blank.
 Low Net — Tina Sonderby.
 Low Putts — Rima Binder.
 Sunken Approach — Rima Binder (4, 6).

Flight D

Low Gross — Jude Stahmer.
 Low Net — Jude Stahmer.
 Low Putts — Regina Bradley.
 Birdie — Sally Allen (5).

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

June 23-July 3 — “8-Track: The Sounds of the ’70s,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed.-Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$16-\$17, discounts/seniors & students. Reservations: info@canterburytheatre.org, (219) 874-4269.

June 25-27 — “Alice’s Heavenly Folly,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15 (\$10/children 12 & younger). Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org.

June 26 — The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 26 — Dunes Arts Foundation 70th anniversary gala, 6-8 p.m., Barker Hall @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Tickets: \$100. Registration: www.dunesarts.org/tickets, (219) 879-7509.

June 26 — Frog Frolic, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 27 — Bird Walk, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 27 — Michigan City Messiah Inc. Baroque Concert, 3 p.m., The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Free. Reservations: www.mcmessiah.com

June 28 — Wizard in Training, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

June 29 — Readers Corner — Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

June 30 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Mark Sudeith, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

June 30 — 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

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

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Opening reception: 3-7 p.m. Friday, July 2. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Wednesdays — Virtual Story Time, 10 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E.

Fourth St. Info: www.mclub.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/ 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

June 24 — New Buffalo Friends of the Library Community Forum (focus: Ring Lardner), 7 p.m. EDT, Zoom. Link: www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

June 25-26 — DAR Rebecca Dewey Chapter Good Citizen Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, 6284 Shanghai Road, Eau Claire, Mich.

June 26 — Summer Art Market on the Green, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd, St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org/events/art-market/

June 26 — Acorn Concert Series, Johnny V.'s Wildflowers: A Tribute to Tom Petty, Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Gates/5:30 p.m., opening act/6 p.m., headliner/7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15, \$20/non-members week of, free/children 12 & younger. Reservations: www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts

June 27 — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EDT, Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

June 29 — "Victory: Sounds of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet," 6:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum's Tuesley Amphitheatre, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org. Info: (574) 235-9664.

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.

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

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:* "Finding You." Rated PG. Times: 2:45 p.m. June 25-27, 6 p.m. June 28. *Opens June 25:* "Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation." Not rated. Check website for times. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522, www.vickerstheatre.com

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Girl Who Died by Ragnar Jónasson (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 289 pages.)

Newspaper ad: *“Teacher wanted at the edge of the world.”*

Nordic noir. That’s what they call it. And that’s what this is. A dark, brooding tale of secrets past and present, and a young woman who isn’t as timid as she thought she was...

It’s 1985, and Una lives in Reykjavík, Iceland, as a supply teacher — we say substitute teacher. Her best friend, Sara, finds the advertisement listed above and brings it to her. They are not kidding about the job being at the end of the world; Una would have to travel to the village of Skálar, way in the northeast corner of this island country, at the end of the Langanes Peninsula. Population: 10 residents.

Why in the world would such a small place need a teacher? Una doesn’t really care about the reasons, she just needs a change of scenery. Besides, it includes free accommodations, plus a salary.

She lives alone. Her father died and her mother has remarried, and her best friend, Sara, also now married, has little time for her. So what’s holding her to Reykjavík? Nothing.

She applies and gets the job, probably because she is the only applicant. Soon, it is goodbye Reykjavík, hello Skálar.

Una is to live in an apartment in a house owned by Salka, who’s on the town council and put out the advert. She has one daughter, Edda, 7.

The one other student is Kolbrún, 9, and the daughter of Inga and Kolbeinn. He’s the ladies’ man, at least he thinks he is, but he only comes across as creepy.

Then there’s Gunnar and Gudrun, owners of the Co-op next to their house, and the fishery owned by Gudfinnur (Goffi) and his wheelchair-bound wife, Erika.

“The sea was the sole reason that anyone lived here.”

Hjördis is unmarried and owns a farm inherited from her family. Thor lives on the property and helps work the farm. Now, if your math is good, you will see there actually are 11 people living in Skálar. Apparently, the residents don’t want anyone to know Thor lives there. Hmmm. Wonder why.

There once was an American base there during World War II, but quickly closed at the war’s end. Any tourists come in the summer to see the ruins of the base — there’s nothing much else to see. There

you have Skálar.

“Bleak” doesn’t do the weather justice. It’s cold, windy and dark. Doesn’t sound like a place for a young woman in her 30s, but Una has decided to make the best of it for one year. Until...

Coming up on Salka’s house that first night, she sees a little girl in the window and assumes it’s the daughter. She is dressed in white and stares out the window at Una. But Salka insists Edda already went to bed earlier. Another hmmm.

Kolbeinn is the one who tells Una a girl died in Salka’s house in 1930 and haunts the place — her room is now Una’s apartment. *“I’m not saying I believe in ghosts, you know, but there’s no doubt people have had some odd experiences there.”*

How much are we ruled by the power of suggestion? Is Una dreaming what she has learned about the dead girl...or is she actually standing at the foot of her bed?

Nightmares can seem so real, right? And the song Una keeps hearing makes her wonder what is real and what is not. But her credibility is overshadowed by her obvious love of wine. Maybe it’s time to stay sober, Una.

It becomes increasingly clear there is more than one secret the residents of Skálar want to keep buried...oops, I didn’t mean to say that.

The Christmas celebration soon arrives, and everyone gathers in the little church....but one will not leave there alive.

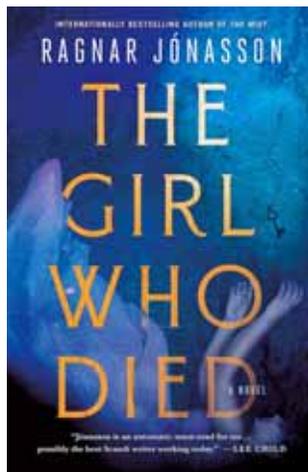
A horror story? A murder mystery? And what happened to the man who came to town looking for Hjördis, but no one claimed to see except Una?

The characters are straight out of a psychological mind-boggler. Kolbeinn with the roving eye, Goffi with the assurance of the alpha male and Gunnar and Gudrun who like to talk, talk, talk — is all that talk meant to hide something? Una is attracted to Thor, and it seems he is attracted to her, but something keeps him at arm’s length. What’s he hiding from? Will all be revealed? Maybe, maybe not.

If the hot weather is getting to you, this tale will cool you off in a New York minute!

Jonasson was born in Reykjavík, Iceland. He has sold more than two million books in 32 countries. Ever since Stieg Larsson burst onto the literary scene in America with The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, Scandinavian authors have wowed us with dark murder mysteries that keep us chilled to the bone. If you’re interested, check out Jónasson and Larsson, as well as Camilla Läckberg, Jo Nesbø and Henning Mankell, among others. You won’t be disappointed.

Till next time, happy reading!



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