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# THE BIG CHILL

by Edmund Lawler

**N**othing stokes Rusty Malkemes' gritty spirit like a brutal winter's day on Lake Michigan. Icy spray from his surfboard glues shut his eyelashes as he dodges ice slabs the size of refrigerators while battered by 10-foot waves whipped by frigid gusts from the north. His iced red beard and eyebrows would put an Arctic explorer to shame.

What might seem like an extreme form of masochism is just another day at the beach for Malkemes, who surfs the south end of the big lake from Whiting, Ind., to St. Joseph, Mich., 12 months a year. He did pass last month when the lakefront turned into a tundra.

Malkemes braves the lake's wintry hostility in exchange for a shot at a needle-in-a-haystack wave he can ecstatically ride to a frosty shore. Rinse and repeat the madness.

The otherwise

sane 30-something husband and father who runs a successful commercial photography business in St. Joseph says, "The coldest I ever surfed was in

December 2015 near Whiting, Indiana. The wind chill was 20 below."

Protecting the native Floridian against the fierce winds and water temperatures hovering just about freezing is a high-performance hooded wetsuit made of neoprene, a permeable rubber compound. Neoprene booties and gloves cover his extremities. For his exposed face, he slathers on a thin layer of Vaseline. So far, no frostbite. And because it's the Great Lakes, no shark bite.

Once he's generated body heat by paddling through the frothy surf to a launch point on the waves, Malkemes says he's relatively comfortable—and can stay that way for up to two



Rusty Malkemes, sporting an ice beard, has surfed in wind chills of 20 below. (Photo courtesy of Mike Killion)

hours. Although he's surfed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, he never takes Lake Michigan lightly.

"I've had more trouble paddling out on some bigger days on Lake Michigan than I've had on the Pacific Ocean," he says. "The Great Lakes are no joke. We all know what the 30-foot waves on Lake Superior did to the Edmund Fitzgerald."

We certainly do. "The church bell chimed 'til it rang twenty-nine times for each man on the Edmund Fitzgerald," go the lyrics to Gordon Lightfoot's famous song about the 1975 tragedy on Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay.

Malkemes is acutely conscious of the risks of Great Lakes surfing, which can be higher in the winter: bigger, more violent waves, stronger currents, the risk of hypothermia and, of course, the ice — on the face, in the water and on the shelf along the shoreline. And lake waves are more rapid-fire than the ocean's: four- to five-second intervals versus the ocean's 15 to 30 seconds. The onslaught of ice-cold lake waves can pin down surfers who have been swept off their boards.



A surfer rides the waves at Silver Beach as a kiteboarder catches a breeze in the background. (Photo courtesy of Rusty Malkemes).

But when he's in the water, it's all good. He'll stop at nothing to get there.

"I grew up in southwest Florida, and I went to the beach all the time with my mom and my sister. I just love the water and anything to do with the water," says Malkemes, whose family moved to the Milwaukee area when he was in middle school. His wife's job in western Michigan brought them to the eastern side of the lake after college.

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# THE BIG CHILL

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“If I’m stressed about anything, it all kind of washes away when I hit the water,” he says. “A handful of times, I will go out on my lunch break or right after work. As soon as I hit the water after a stressful day, everything is OK.”

There’s the sheer exhilaration of riding a force of nature that surfers can’t quite explain to someone who has never been on a board.

William Finnegan, author of *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of his days tramping around the world in search of great waves, beautifully captures the surfer’s mindset: “Yes, I had been bewitched by surfing as a kid — trotting dreamily down a path at dawn, lit by visions of trade-blown winds, rapt even about the long paddle to the Cliffs. The old spell had been broken, at times, or seemed to be. But it always lay there, under the surface, dormant but undestroyed while I knocked around the far world, living in waveless places — Montana, London, New York.”



Ryan Gerard has ridden all kinds of surfboards. (Photo courtesy of Ryan Gerard).

Ryan Gerard, owner of Third Coast Surf Shop, and credited with creating a culture and community around Lake Michigan surfing, completely understands why some locals continue to hit the water after the curtain drops on summer and wetsuits become a necessity.

“A lot of people are perfectly satisfied surfing from June to October,” he says. “But for the surfers who are really passionate about it, it’s hard to wait until the next summer without surfing. It’s really quite simple: If you want to keep surfing, you’re going to be doing it when it’s cold out if you live in the Great Lakes region. It certainly takes some extra gumption to go out there when it’s cold.”

There are three seasons to Great Lakes surfing,

according to Gerard. The most popular is summer, from about May to mid-September. Next is fall from mid-September to mid-November, which some surfers insist is the best because the water temperature is relatively mild, and the swells from the north and northwest drive big waves to the south end of the lake. Finally, there’s the big chill of winter through early spring when only the gnarliest surfers ride the cold waves.

A graduate of St. Joseph High School in South Bend, Gerard says recent technological improvements in wetsuits allow surfers to be more comfortable on the water deeper into the off-season. He learned to surf in Michigan City’s harbor in the summer of 1998 at what the local surfers call “The Elbow,” the point where the pier juts to the northwest. “We would even surf inside the harbor mouth,” he says. “On big days, the waves are big enough to push through the harbor mouth and break inside the harbor.”

Gerard was smitten. Surfing now owned his soul. He headed west to Santa Cruz, Calif., the next year where he built surfboards and rode big, rolling Pacific waves nearly every day.

He returned two years later to finish college at Northern Michigan University in Marquette on Lake Superior, which he surfed summer and winter. With a laugh, he noted there isn’t much of a distinction between winter and summer surf there because the water in the greatest lake is always frosty.

As he worked his way through college, he incubated plans to open a surf shop: not back in California, but in Michigan, better known for automobiles and harsh winters. Not long after graduating, he presented his business plan to bankers in South

Bend. They considered the idea of the Great Lakes’ first surf shop to be original and charming, but too risky for a start-up loan.

Gerard’s father ended up loaning him the money. In May 2005, Gerard’s surf dream took shape in a New Buffalo bungalow across the street from Oink’s Dutch Treat Ice Cream on U.S. 12. In 2011, he opened a second Third Coast shop in St. Joseph, which has become the flagship. Although Third Coast does not currently have a retail presence in New Buffalo, it plans to continue offering kids’ beach day camps and renting kayaks and paddle boards in New Buffalo.

“Surfing changed my life,” Gerard muses. “My life has revolved around surfing, and it has been

guided by surfing. I met my wife through surfing. Our business revolves around surfing. Our vacations even revolve around surfing. It is a deeply important part of my life.”

Third Coast’s website has long been a content hub for Great Lakes surfers. The site includes a primer called “Lake Surfing 101,” a blog about surfing activities, safety information, a guide on wetsuits and a well-clicked surf forecast.

Scratch a surfer and you’ll likely discover an amateur meteorologist. Surfers watch the weather as carefully as they watch the waves. Mike Killion, a Chicago professional photographer who surfs beaches year-round from the Second City through the Indiana Dunes to Silver Beach in St. Joseph, says the best waves on southern Lake Michigan are often generated by swells hundreds of miles to the north.

The lake, which stretches more than 300 miles



Surfer Mike Killion makes his way along the shore in warmer times. (Photo courtesy of Mike Killion)

from north to south — from the Straits of Mackinac to the steel mills of Gary — has the greatest north-south “fetch” on the Great Lakes. A swell, which consists of wind-generated waves, proceeds down the lake, finally dying as it breaks near the shore to the delight of surfers.

If the wind is blowing from the northeast, surfers on the Illinois and Wisconsin shorelines will work the waves; if the wind is blowing from the north, west or northwest, surfers in Indiana and Michigan will hop on their boards, Killion says.

But there’s even more science to good waves.

“There are a lot of little meteorological idiosyncrasies at play here,” says Killion, who bought his first board from Gerard’s shop in 2005 when he was a teen. “You want the energy of the swell to push the waves to

shore. Yet, you also want an offshore (off the land)

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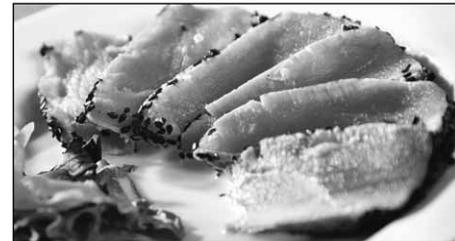
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# THE BIG CHILL

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wind to hold up the wave's face so it doesn't crumble right away. It creates a cleaner, more consistent wave."

In addition to the science, surfers need to be aware of safety, Killion says.

"Do your research and understand the dangers," he stressed. "Know what the rip current is doing. Know what is going on beneath the surface. As they say: 'When in doubt, don't paddle out.'"

Smart surfers should not venture out alone. That's especially true in the winter "because there's no one on the beach to help you out," Killion says.

Dave Benjamin is executive director of the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project, whose goal is to reduce the fatal and non-fatal drownings on the lakes. In 2020, 56 people drowned on Lake Michigan alone, primarily in the more populated, tourist-intensive southern half of the lake. No surfers were among the fatalities last year.

In fact, the organization has never recorded a fatal drowning of a surfer on the Great Lakes since its tracking began in 2010. Although surfers plunge into big waves and sometimes get caught in rip currents or in currents along piers or jetties, none died on the Great Lakes in the past decade while pursuing their passion. The big reason, according to Benjamin, is that surfers are tethered to their boards, which serve as oversized flotation devices. Wetsuits also provide some buoyancy.

But Benjamin, an all-seasons surfer on Lake Michigan, knows firsthand about close calls. In 2010, while surfing the day after Christmas off the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, a wave knocked him off his board. He landed on his back as two more waves in quick succession poured over him, keeping him briefly submerged. He took in water, choking. His wetsuit also took in water. The 34-degree water flushed his wetsuit, reaching his arms and chest.

"I experienced what's called cold-water shock that causes a strong urge to inhale," Benjamin says. To make things worse, the Velcro strip of his surfboard leash that wrapped around his ankle came undone.

"When I surfaced, I could see my board getting dashed against the iced-over rock wall. This was the first time I was ever without my board," says Ben-

jamin, who had only begun surfing the year before. The two companions he was surfing with were at least 100 yards away and focused intently on the horizon in search of the next good wave.

"I was starting to panic, which is the first stage of drowning," he says, "and that makes it difficult to survive. I was exhausting myself."

He collected his wits and began to float on his back, a critical survival tactic. He needed to get to shore, but what's called a structural current was dragging him parallel to the rock wall on the shoreline. To escape the current, he backstroked farther out into the water, then drifted safely to the beach. The buoyancy of his wetsuit — although flushed — helped him wash safely, but spent, ashore.

Afterward, he blamed himself for committing a series of foolish mistakes.

"First of all, too much male bravado, feeling invincible," he admitted. "I was trying to go after every big, crazy wave I could."

His second mistake was being overly confident in his ability to swim, which he'd done since childhood.

"I always assumed that my swimming skills would be enough," he says. "But they weren't. You have to have a survival strategy in any body of water — and I didn't have one in that water," referring to the turbulent, frigid water with a 15-foot wall of ice-caked boulders looming a short distance away.

His third mistake was being inattentive to his equipment. He was aware the Velcro wrap of the leash was becoming worn. He figured he'd fix it next time.

Lessons learned, Benjamin continues to occasionally surf in the winter, which he says isn't necessarily more dangerous than hanging 10 in the summer. Surfers just need to be more careful to avoid the kind of mistakes he committed.

Winter surfing may not be such an outlier, after all. Author William Finnegan gets the final word on this: "*Call it endless winter. Summer is part of the popular iconography of surfing. Like much of that iconography, it is wrong. Most surfers in most places, north or south of the equator, live for winter. That's when the big storms occur, usually in the higher latitudes. They send forth the best waves.*"

Rusty Malkemes couldn't agree more. He'll continue to chill out on the fierce, wintry waves until the return of the gentle summer sun.



Ice collects on the hood of Tim Haadsma's wetsuit. (Photo courtesy of Rusty Malkemes).

### Art Barn Juried Art Exhibit

April 2 is the submission deadline for The Art Barn School of Art's 27th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, which runs May 15-July 8.



Carleen Rivera's "Masked," the 2019 Best in Show.

The exhibit promotes the creation and recognition of 2-D works. This marks the first year for photography and ceramic submissions. The juror is Randall Roberts of Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art. Purchase and merit awards total \$2,000. Visit [tinyurl.com/3d7znjhs](http://tinyurl.com/3d7znjhs) to register.

All proceeds generated by the exhibit, aside from awards, support Art Barn educational programs and exhibitions.

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# “WandaVision” is Marvel’s Greatest



An episode in “WandaVision” offers an ode to the 1980s sitcom “Family Ties,” with Wanda (Elizabeth Olsen) and Vision (Paul Bettany) in the roles of the show’s parents.

by Andrew Tallackson

“WandaVision” may be the most enjoyable time I’ve had with a TV show in some time. Part of the fun, in fact, has been watching the court of public (social media) opinion tilt from confusion to the a-ha moment when everyone couldn’t get enough.

Haters are still hating, though, with some likening it to “The Last Jedi” of the Marvel universe. That’s geek code for “sucky.”

Divisive? You bet. And the show is meaningless to anyone who hasn’t been around since Tony Stark suited up as Iron Man. But for the rest of us, Marvel’s greatest risk, for all its trippy, high-concept execution, actually is a meditation on grief. Super heroes, on film and in television, experience tremendous loss, but they’re depicted as impervious to pain. Not just the physical type, but the crippling psychological loss of losing a loved one. This is about what the scars look like.

The nine-episode limited series, which just wrapped on Disney+, fits into the MCU (geek code, dear reader, for Marvel Cinematic Universe) by unfolding three weeks after the events of “Avengers: Endgame.” Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen), a.k.a. Scarlet Witch, is living in Westview, N.J., with Vision (Paul Bettany), the android and former Avenger we all thought died in “Avengers: Infinity

Wars” (2018).

“Westfield,” for all intents and purposes, is a second cousin to the idyllic Wisteria Lane of “Desperate Housewives.” Picture-perfect families. Lavishly-manicured lawns. Well-behaved girls and boys who listen to their mommies and daddies.

It’s not reality. In fact, during the first three episodes, Wanda and Vision appear trapped in old sitcoms, riffing on “I Love Lucy” in the 1950s, “The Dick Van Dyke Show” in the 1960s, “The Brady Bunch” in the 1970s and “Family Ties” in the 1980s. The “characters” don’t speak like they do today. Instead, everyone embraces the rhythm, the cadence, of old-school sitcoms.

Indeed, what turned viewers off at first is that Marvel isn’t ready to let us in on the joke. They *want* us confused, scratching our heads, muttering to ourselves, “What the heck is this?” And by intentionally forcing the laughs, the actors hammering away at the punch lines as if they realize they’re delivering a zinger, we are struck by how “unfunny” the “funny” dialogue is. The result is a disconnect. We feel like we’re supposed to be laughing, but we’re not. Sure, everything looks and feels right, particularly subtle shifts by decade in the sets, furniture, appliances, clothing and lingo...but why does the show come across as bad TV?

# Risk...and For My Money, It Works

The early argument against “WandaVision” targeted Disney’s decision not to release the entire series at once, but weekly, episode by episode. This was a case, naysayers stressed, where bingeing would have eliminated the warped sense of reality.

I disagree.

We are an instant gratification society. That’s what bingeing has created. But what about the rewards of patience? The risk of “WandaVision” is that it asks you to trust you’re in capable hands. That this will make sense. And it does. Before then, there are visual hints that darker forces are at work. Flashes of color in a black-and-white world. A scratchy voice from the unknown. Teasers that burst through the fantasy.

The fourth episode ends up being the game-changer. It shows us the disorienting first few minutes after the Avengers reversed “The Snap.” It is epic in scope and emotion. And, it introduces three key characters:

- Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris), the adult daughter of Air Force pilot Maria Rambeau, first introduced in “Captain Marvel.” She is a captain in S.W.O.R.D., which stands for Sentient Weapon Observation and Response Division.
- Jimmy Woo (“Ant-Man” alumnus Randall Park), an FBI agent working with S.W.O.R.D.
- Darcy Lewis (“Thor” scene-stealer Kat Dennings), a S.W.O.R.D. astrophysicist.

Talk about a lively trio. Parris (TV’s “Mad Men”), wow, what an ideal role model: a strong, smart, beautiful black woman who knows how to take control and run with it. Park and Dennings deserve their own show, feeding off each other like the snark version of Mulder and Scully.

(Seeing these three together is a reminder that Marvel is one of the few franchises to grasp the fact

that we are a diverse people.)

The buzziest performance comes from Kathryn Hahn as nosy neighbor Agnes. You’ve seen her in everything, from “Anchorman” and “Step Brothers” to “Parks and Recreation.” The actress, as they say, is having a moment. All her comedic talents are on full display here, brilliantly embodying the comedy stylings of each successive decade, while also permitting sly, darker elements to creep up. This is the series that will elevate her to star status.

Critics often dismiss actors in Marvel films as coasting. Not really acting, but at service of the genre. They do not get the credit they deserve, and that is true with Olsen. “Avengers: Age of Ultron” gave her a career boost, but in films like the powerful “Wind River” (2017), she is quietly affecting. In “WandaVision,” we admire the physicality of her performance, transforming each decade into a new sitcom trope. But it is when Wanda’s grip on reality appears tenuous, where flashes of rage, resentment and loss snap out of her, that the actress is phenomenal. Startling, even.

Reviewing a series like “WandaVision” is tough because each new episode relinquishes another piece of the puzzle. The twists and turns are plenty. And, yes, the finale, the big finish of Episode 9 has the Marvel fanbase in a tizzy. Some are disappointed a potential link to the “X-Men” universe is reduced to a disposable, throwaway gag

(one with ties to Kirk Cameron’s “Growing Pains”). Or that there’s too much comic-book action.

Some of these quibbles might be true. But “WandaVision” proves yet again Marvel won’t ever rest on its laurels. It refuses to lounge about in its comfort zone.

For me, the risk of “WandaVision” pays off.

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



Above: Teyonah Parris as Monica Rambeau.  
Below: Kathryn Hahn as Agnes.





## As Fan Service, “Coming to America 2” Delivers

by Andrew Tallackson

Eddie Murphy and Shari Headley star in “Coming to America 2,” now streaming on Amazon Prime.

“Coming to America 2” made me happy.

Out of all the box-office hits Eddie Murphy cranked out in the ‘80s, the one we hold most dear is “Coming to America” (1988). We still quote its dialogue, we still marvel at all the kooks Murphy and Arsenio Hall play buried under that Rick Baker makeup. It’s sweet-and-salty fun.

If ever a time existed for a sequel, it was five years or so after the original’s release. Thirty three years later is a tad late for another go at it, and like most sequels, it’s pointless. Heck, there’s even a scene – one fantastic wink to the audience — where two characters trash sequels, reboots and remakes as utterly useless.

In the end, though, who cares. As fan service, “Coming to America 2” gives us what we desire out of a sequel. And, boy, does it have heart. Everyone has so much affection for these characters, is so thrilled to be back, the laughs are big and generous.

Streaming on Amazon Prime, “Coming to America 2” embraces the trend of most nostalgia trips today. From “Star Wars” to “Cobra Kai,” the aim is simple: honor the spirit of the original, scatter contemporary twists here and there.

In this case, Prince Akeem (Murphy), now king

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Coming to America 2”

Running time: 110 minutes. Amazon Prime. Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content, language and drug content

of Zamunda, is celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary to his Queens-born Lisa (Shari Headley, aging phenomenally) when his dying father (James Earl Jones) announces two things. One, since only having daughters, he must find a rightful male heir. And to his surprise, he has one, having been seduced and drugged by self-professed “ho” Mary Junson (“SNL” vet Leslie Jones) during his first trip to the States. Secondly, Akeem’s father wants a big bash before he dies.

That party yields the first batch of uproarious sight gags, starting with the great Morgan Freeman himself narrating the festivities, and musical cameos by En Vogue, Salt-N-Peppa and Gladys Knight, the last belting out the appropriately retitled “Midnight Train to Zamunda.”

Soon after, Akeem and best friend-aide Semmi (Hall) head back to Queens in search of Akeem’s son. And what would a trip to Queens be without a

stop at the local barbershop where the same quartet of friends, most played by Murphy and Hall in makeup, are still trading salty quips. Now, no way in heck these old coots would still be alive 33 years later...but again, we don't care. The laughs spill out of these guys. They haven't missed a beat, churning out one hysterical jab after another.

Akeem does his find his son, Lavelle (Jermaine Fowler), who is unemployed and desperate for work. Lavelle isn't a very interesting character. And Wesley Snipes, who wrestled away scenes from Murphy in "Dolemite is My Name," is curiously flat as General Izzi, who marches into a room like he's on "Soul Train," but beyond that adds little comedy or drama. Jones, on the other hand, as Lavelle's loose-lipped mother, is like a raunchy tsunami, plowing through everyone she meets with off-color humor. She is comic napalm. People have balked at the movie's PG-13 rating...but Jones pushes the laughs as far between PG-13 and R as she can possibly can.

Now, it doesn't take a genius to figure out where the movie is headed. Akeem's daughters will protest Zamunda's insistence on male heirs as rulers, Lavelle may prove himself worthy as a prince, blah, blah, blah. Do we care? No. What we savor is director Craig Brewer (Murphy's "Dolemite" director) and writers Kenya Barris, Barry W. Blaustein and David Sheffield — the last two having worked on the original — bringing back just about everyone from the first film. Few stones are left unturned. We savor the nods to the original. The joy Murphy, Hall and Jones have in behaving like comic buffoons. The last 10 minutes, in fact, are pure joy.

You catch my drift. If you're a fan of the original, you won't be disappointed.

Everyone else, well, don't bother.

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



Leslie Jones (right) pushes the humor as far as a PG-13 rating can go.



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## “Boss Level” Delivers Hilariously Snarky Twist on “Groundhog Day”

by Andrew Tallackson



Roy Pulver (Frank Grillo) takes on a sword-wielding assassin, Guan Yin (Selina Lo), in “Boss Level,” now streaming on Hulu.

“Boss Level” is my kind of movie: snarky, violent, with just enough of a brain to suggest everyone’s in on the joke.

The premise isn’t new: a cheeky sci-fi riff on “Groundhog Day.” We’ve had our share, where characters stuck in time loops repeat the same day, over and over again. Alien invasions (“Edge of Tomorrow”). Zen comedy (“Palm Springs”). Horror comedy (“Happy Death Day”). Young Adult franchise (“Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children”).

“Boss Level,” which just debuted on Hulu, doesn’t reinvent the wheel...but I smiled a lot. Laughed out loud on several occasions. Marveled at the brisk nature of the storytelling. Admired the big-name cast, including Naomi Watts, Mel Gibson, Michelle Yeoh, Ken Jeong and Will Sasso, who lend hefty support to finally-getting-his-star-turn Frank Grillo.

Don’t know the name? You’ve seen Grillo before. The B movie veteran, chiseled like a Michelangelo creation, has appeared in everything from Marvel films (“Captain America: The Winter Soldier”), to “The Purge” series, to TV shows like “The Shield” and “Prison Break.” Never the lead like he is here, and as retired special forces soldier Roy Pulver, he is hilarious. It’s like watching Deadpool’s grizzled older brother.

The inspiration behind “Boss Level,” directed and co-written by Joe Carnahan (“The A-Team,” “The Grey”), is that Roy has been repeating the

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Boss Level”

Running time: 94 minutes. Hulu. Rated TV-MA for graphic violence, language, brief nudity

same day for months. Each time, he awakens to a sword-wielding hit man and a guns-ablazing helicopter. For Roy, it is routine, his voiceover narration explaining the specifics to us with hilariously resigned defeat. Carnahan stages the action with a sly wink. Roy has charted out each day with the precision of a nuclear physicist: when the latest assassins’ arrive, alternate consequences if he doesn’t survive and the exact moment of death that resets the chain of events.

But if “Groundhog Day” taught us anything, it’s that only when the hero accepts his shortcomings, admits his flaws and embraces change, does the time loop loosen its grip. What Roy learns is that his ex-wife, Jemma (Watts, reliably tense), was working on a project that tinkers with time and, if mishandled, leads to the planet’s demise.

The fun of “Boss Level” comes from Roy piecing together the puzzle, all so his day advances further along. Carnahan briskly avoids his film becoming monotonous, focusing only on each new hurdle until Roy gets it right. And through it all is Grillo, charging through scenes like Sylvester Stallone crossed



Naomi Watts is reliably intense as Roy's ex-wife.

with Chandler Bing. Physically imposing, but smart-alecky, undermined by his overconfidence.

The movie's best confrontation is between Roy and the outrageously funny Selina Lo as Guan Yin, who brandishes a blade with the best of them, triumphantly shouting her name after every kill. These two spar amid banter about "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Carnahan amps up the laughs: first with the shocking violence of Roy's initial defeat, then by Guan Yin's insistence on having the last word.

Like "Groundhog Day," "Boss Level" allows Roy to reach a pivotal catharsis. In this case, it's that up until now, he failed as a husband and father. The scenes between father and son are affecting without being goopy. Just enough emotion to afford Roy the humanity necessary to have us root for him.

The final image of "Boss Level" is perfection: Carnahan's way to deliver a wink – literally – to his audience. His film has all been in good fun, and we've enjoyed the ride.

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

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## Dunes Summer Theatre Plans Two Free, Outdoor Shows

Dunes Arts Foundation will present two live outdoor performances, "Forever Plaid: The Musical" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," as Dunes Summer Theatre's 2021 season.

Performing outside will offer a socially-distanced setting, DAF Managing Director Elise Kermani said in a press release. The patio will open one hour before performances for pre-show snacks and drinks.

"We are offering these two performances free to the public as a thank you to our community that stood by us through the pandemic," she said.

The new season opens with "Forever Plaid" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. June 4-20 (Fridays-



Flasch



Scott

Sundays). The story centers on a 1950s quartet performing popular tunes of the era, including "Three Coins in a Fountain," "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" and "Sixteen Tons." DAF Artistic Director Tito Sanchez-Williams is the show's director. Andrew Flasch, who was the music director for 2019's "Working: A Musical," returns as the show's music director.

Next up is "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with performances from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 9-25 (Fridays-Sundays). The romantic-comedy is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays and contains multiple subplots, director Steve Scott said in a press release.

Scott is Dunes' resident guest director and an artistic associate at Chicago's Goodman Theatre. He was the Goodman's producer for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2017. He lives in Long Beach with his husband, Ted Hoerl.

Reservations are required, and donations are welcomed. Details will be available at [www.dunesarts.org](http://www.dunesarts.org). DAF also offers summer classes for children and youth. More information about children's programming can be found at [www.dunesarts.org/youth-theatre-classes](http://www.dunesarts.org/youth-theatre-classes).



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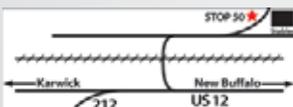
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### Post-COVID World Virtual Series

Purdue University Northwest continues its series of virtual conversations with PNW scholars and community experts on the subject "On the Other Side: PNW Examines the Post-COVID World."

The next program, "Cyber Security," is from noon to 1:15 p.m. Monday, March 22. The challenges, threats and opportunities confronting cyber security were great prior to COVID-19. As virtually all facets of life migrated further into cyberspace during the past year, the work of cyber security specialists has grown. PNW, in fact, received a \$5.9 million grant from the U.S. National Security Agency for cyber security research and training.

Panelists include: Niaz Latif, dean, PNW College of Technology; Robert Johnson, president and chief executive officer, Cimcor Inc.; and Keyuan Jiang, department chair of PNW Computer Information Technology and Graphics.

The free event is through Zoom, and registration is encouraged. Full details and the link are at [www.pnw.edu/other-side](http://www.pnw.edu/other-side). Rachel Clapp-Smith, academic director of The Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest and interim associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at PNW, will moderate. The program also is livestreamed by WJOB through Facebook Live at @WJOB.1230.

Visit [www.pnw.edu](http://www.pnw.edu) for more details.



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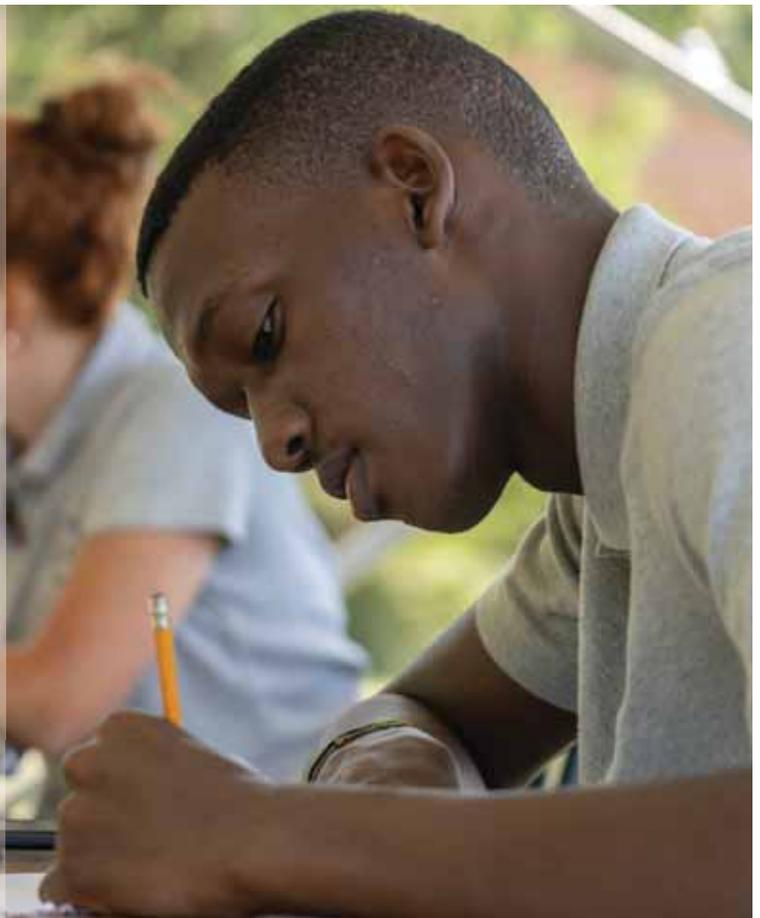
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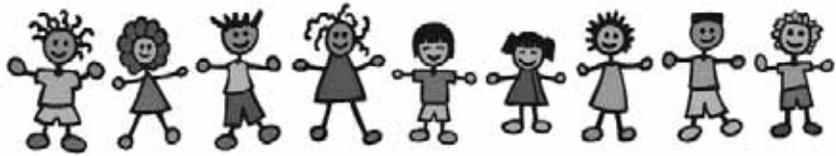


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- Parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID
- Proof of residency (a utility bill, property tax bill, lease agreement, public assistance documentation, etc.)
- A record of your child's immunizations and proof of lead screening.  
By August 18, 2021 your child must be up to date!  
(You'll also be asked for emergency contact info for your child.)

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## Hoosier Star Auditions

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will hold auditions for the 16th Annual Hoosier Star competition on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte.

Sponsored by Horizon Bank, NIPSCO, Northwest Health and Duneland Media, the competition is open to amateur singers — individually or as duets — throughout Indiana and Berrien County, Mich.

Times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Contestants are divided into two age groups: Youth Division (17 and younger) and Adult Division (18 and older at the time of auditions). Ten finalists — five from each age group — advance to the final event for a chance to win monetary prizes and the title of “2021 Hoosier Star Winner.”

The 10 Hoosier Star finalists perform with LCSO members Saturday, Sept. 11, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium. The audience and a judges panel choose each age division’s winners. First- and second-place winners receive \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Audition forms are available at <https://lcsso.net/events/hoosier-star/>. The registration fee is \$20 per person or per duet and requires separate registrations. Contestants should preregister for a guaranteed time slot. Applications must be received by March 15 to be eligible and receive a time slot. Walk-in auditions will be available at the end of each day.

Hoosier Star is open to amateur soloists and duets only. No group performances may enter, and both competitors in a duet must be from the same age division. For auditions, applicants may provide their own accompanist, use a CD with no lead vocals, supply a digital MP3-capable device or sing a capella. Email [hoosierstar2018@gmail.com](mailto:hoosierstar2018@gmail.com) or call (219) 362-9020 for more details. Applicants will be notified of their assigned audition date and time within a week prior to auditions.

## LCSO in the Spotlight



Beth Oeseburg.

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

Beth Oeseburg is in LCSO’s first violin section where her husband, Jeff, and son, Brad, also are members.

She began violin studies at 7 in Kalamazoo, Mich. At 16, she was part of the Blue Lake International Orchestra. Later, she graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor’s degree in violin performance.

With LCSO, she served as concertmaster for two years and assistant concertmaster for two years. She also serves as assistant concertmaster for Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and often performs with South Bend Symphony Orchestra.

Oeseburg has a strong passion for teaching and is an artist in residence with St. Joseph (Mich.) Public Schools, as well as a private instructor for the Citadel Dance and Music Academy in Benton Harbor, Mich., and The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich. She is the director of the Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra Concert Strings and coaches flute sectionals at Upton Music School.





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### Foundation Easter Egg Hunt

The Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt with Horses at 3 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 27, at Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

Admission is free. Children also can have their photos taken with the Easter Bunny and a pony, with horses available to pet. "Baskets of Horse Love," which contain items for young horse lovers, will be sold, with all proceeds benefitting the foundation. Baskets can be purchased in advance or at the event. A raffle is planned for one extra-large basket that will include a free riding lesson, Horses of Spring Creek 2021 Calendar and Spring Creek T-shirt

Those who plan to participate should email [algrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:algrosse@yahoo.com) to ensure enough eggs are available. Masks and social distancing will be enforced.

The foundation raises scholarships to provide local, low-income and special-needs children and adults with an equine-based educational program. Visit <https://springcreekhorseshelp.org/support> for details.

### Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher will provide an overview of Harbor Country's local trails and natural features at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 20, at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve.

Fisher will discuss where the 20-plus trails are and what to expect. Afterward, he will lead a 2.5-mile hike of moderate difficulty through the preserve, which consists of just more than 263 acres and hosts at least eight distinct ecosystems.

The park is located on Warren Woods Road east of Red Arrow Highway. The group will gather in the pavilion parking lot. HCH observes social distancing guidelines and face masks.

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

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## Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place.

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

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

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

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

Two new databases are available. Newspapers.

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

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

The following virtual programming is scheduled:

- Great Decisions returns through Zoom. Limited discussion booklets are available at the circulation desk. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- 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.
- Checkers!. Color a checker board, follow the instructions and play with checkers made in 3-D printers. Sets are limited to one per family.

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

## Arboretum Guided Experiences

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest is offering 90-minute outdoor experiences led by trained volunteer naturalists.

Options include: wetlands; woodlands; prairie; gardens; Railway Garden; and golf-cart tours for up to five people. The Railway Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays-Sundays May 1-Oct. 31. Arrangements can be made to open other days for an additional fee, depending on availability.

Guided experiences cost \$4 per person in addition to admission fees (the program fee is waived for chaperones and Scout leaders). Admission fees are \$25 per minibus (9-16 passengers) and \$45 per tour bus or school bus (17+ passengers). For groups arriving in separate cars, the cost is \$10 per carload. If the carload contains a Gabis Arboretum member, the entire carload is free. Guided golf cart tours cost \$25 per hour in addition to admission fees.

Reservations, required for groups larger than 16, can be made by emailing [gabisarboretum@pnw.edu](mailto:gabisarboretum@pnw.edu) at least one week before a visit. Self-guided experiences are free with admission. Print out guides or maps before arriving.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 444 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

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## New Upgrades Unveiled at Luhr County Park



**Above:** Inside the new “Shagbark Shelter.” **Right:** New multipurpose exercise equipment at the Kiwanis Shelter.



Luhr County Park features numerous upgrades, including the new “Shagbark Shelter” that seats more than 100 people.

The 94-acre park, located just south of LaPorte at 3178 S. County Road 150 West, features four ecosystems, upland forest, wetland, prairie and stocked pond. The new shelter includes a bean bag toss, large grill and new restroom. A grant made additional parking spaces and a raingarden possible.

Visitors also will experience newly paved trails and overlooks to see 15 acres of restored prairie with trails to hike and wildlife. The land will be permanently protected from development, park superintendent Jeremy Sobecki said in a press release.

In addition, new multipurpose exercise equipment is installed under the Kiwanis Shelter and suitable for all fitness levels.

Instrumental in all these improvements was sup-

port from the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, LaPorte County Park Foundation and other local agencies.

The Nature Center will reopen on April 6 after being closed since COVID-19 hit.

Visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for additional information.

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## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **First Day of Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt all day Saturday, March 20.**

Play anytime during the day, using a camera to spot sights of spring along a mapped route. Stop by the Nature Center for directions. No pre-registration is required. Prizes will be awarded thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Hike at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21.**

Meet at the Nature Center for a one-mile flat walk describing one of Lake Michigan's shipwreck stories. Pre-registration is required.



- **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.

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

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

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

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## Indiana Dunes National Park

The National Park Service has implemented a mask requirement for employees, visitors, partners and contractors.

The move supports President Biden's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, aiming to protect those who live, work and visit national parks.

At Indiana Dunes National Park, face masks are required in all park buildings and facilities, including the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education and Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk pavilion. Masks also are required on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, including on narrow or busy trails, overlooks and in historic homes.

As conditions are subject to change, visitors should check the park's website and social media channels for updates before a visit. Visit [tinyurl.com/2r86ch6e](https://www.tinyurl.com/2r86ch6e) for details. Park rangers are on duty to provide information, protect visitors and park resources and uphold the requirement.



The park is offering virtual ranger chats for teachers and students through a variety of media.

The programs can cover a wide range of topics and grade levels. IDNP educators can customize programs to meet teacher preferences. For example, the park can bring Max, the milk snake, into a virtual classroom to teach about animal adaptations.

No Maple Sugar tours at Chellberg Farm are planned, but a virtual presentation about maple sugaring, complete with activities and connections to the area's history, is offered.

Visit [www.nps.gov/indu](https://www.nps.gov/indu) or [www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS) for a list of programs, then call the scheduling office at (219) 395-1885 for details.



Snowshoes are available for free checkout from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, with at least a 2-inch snow base required, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

Snowshoe sizes are available for kids and adults. They can be used to explore the three-mile-long Miller Woods trail system that leads visitors on an easy to moderate hike through oak savanna and dune habitats. Inside the Douglas Center are exhibits, a live animal display and "Nature Backpacks" stocked with supplies and nature guides. Wear a face covering when inside the center and maintain social distancing on the trails.



*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](https://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

### Community Student Art Exhibit

The Community Student Art Exhibition, which showcases youth from Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties, is viewable online, with special events planned in the next few weeks.

Each year, Berrien Regional Education Service Agencies, The Box Factory for the Arts and Krasl Art Center collaborate to present a professional, juried art exhibit featuring hundreds of works by local students. They can be viewed now at [tinyurl.com/8vukx4jx](http://tinyurl.com/8vukx4jx)

The 2021 Best in Show artworks will be on view March 19-April 25 at The Box Factory for the Arts. A free virtual reception and awards ceremonies is Thursday, March 25. It will be streamed through KAC's YouTube channel at [tinyurl.com/zxjdf3zb](http://tinyurl.com/zxjdf3zb)



2021 Community Student Art Exhibition  
Artist: Sora Henth  
New Buffalo High School (17)  
2021 Emerging Artist Award Winner

Elementary ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. EDT and middle and high school at 6:30 p.m. EDT. The elementary exhibit features awards in 2-D and 3-D (first place and second place) and the Jan Stevens Family Memory Award (\$75 cash award in 2-D, 3-D and video). The middle and high school exhibit features awards for first, second and third place in 2-D, 3-D and video. Sponsor awards include the Sarah E. Cayo Memorial Art Award (\$500) and the Box Factory for the Arts Emerging Artist Award (\$500 to a senior pursuing the arts in college). Both exhibits award the Berrien RESA Scholarship Awards (\$50 art scholarships for one student per school). All award winners will be featured in the Best In Show exhibits, and all 2-D artworks are professionally framed by Papachi International Custom Framing.

The Best In Show artworks will be on view in the Whitlow (elementary) and Williams (middle and high school) galleries at The Box Factory, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Additional information will be posted at [tinyurl.com/hs9d3h7p](http://tinyurl.com/hs9d3h7p)



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## Fernwood Botanical Garden

### • “Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series” from 2-3 p.m. EDT Saturday, March 20.

Andrea Wulf will discuss “The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World.” Writings by the scientist and explorer (1769–1859) inspired naturalists and poets such as Darwin and Goethe, as well as politicians like Jefferson and Bolivar. He described Earth as a living organism humankind could easily destroy, and predicted harmful, human-induced climate change in 1800.

Wulf is an award-winning author of five books, including The Founding Gardeners and The Invention of Nature, both of which appeared on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. The Invention of Nature won more than a dozen international awards and has been published in 26 languages.

The cost is \$40, or \$32 for members.

*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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## CYA Virtual Trivia Night

Family Advocate’s Court Youth Advocate Program will host a virtual trivia night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1.

Matt Hammond from Hambone’s Trivia will co-host an online version of his Indy-Famous Trivia Party. Registration, open for teams of four to six people, costs \$50. Event T-shirts, mulligans and an additional round opportunity are available for purchase at [www.lpfamilyadvocates.com](http://www.lpfamilyadvocates.com)

Proceeds from the event support CYA efforts for youth and volunteer recruitment and training. Contact CYA Program Director Brenda Stellema at (219) 324-3385 or email [bstellema@lpfamilyadvocates.com](mailto:bstellema@lpfamilyadvocates.com) for more details.

The CYA Program helps youth find potential and achieve goals through mentoring guides. This year’s theme is “Reach for Your Dreams Wherever You Are.”

## Three Oaks Survey

Officials in Three Oaks, Mich., are conducting a survey through April 1 to improve its website and communications.

Village and township residents, business owners, visitors — anyone who engages with Three Oaks — is encouraged to participate. The three-minute survey is at [www.threeoaksvillage.org](http://www.threeoaksvillage.org), the village facebook page or at [tiny.cc/ThreeOaksWebSurvey](http://tiny.cc/ThreeOaksWebSurvey).

Paper copies are available in the Three Oaks Village Hall lobby, 21 N. Elm St.

## Raised Bed Soil Drive

Michiana Lions Club is sponsoring a Sand Castle Shelter raised bed soil drive.

Those who want to help can buy bags of the soil and drop them off at the Keys to Hope Gardens, 1005 W. Eighth St.

Contact club member Jamie Miller at (219) 363-9618 for more details.

## Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee will hold a virtual meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 18. The Zoom link is [tinyurl.com/4vzbzet8u](http://tinyurl.com/4vzbzet8u)

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### TCU Foundation Supports SAM



SAM board member Ryan Van Plew-Cid receives a check for scholarships from the TCU Foundation.

More music students in Michiana can enroll in classes thanks to a new grant awarded to The School of American Music in Three Oaks, Mich.

The TCU Foundation, a charitable arm of Teachers Credit Union, kicked off the year with a gift in January to SAM's scholarship program.

Now in its 10th year, SAM provides music education to students of all ages interested in playing an instrument or voice instruction. The school also presents summer shows and Free Family Concerts, where advanced SAM students join professional musicians on stage.

With an eye toward sustaining SAM's commitment, the school has made scholarships the focus of its Fund for the Future campaign, a 10-year drive to establish SAM's endowment. The gift from TCU advances that ambition.

SAM board president Garth Taylor said funding the scholarship program provides a safety net

"The generous support we have received secures a learning opportunity for many students during what could otherwise be impossible times," Taylor said in a press release. "We're grateful to those who are with us on this mission."

## American Red Cross

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

- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 23.
- La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, LaPorte, 2-6 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

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

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**March 20** — St. Patrick's Day 5K Color Run, 7:30 a.m., Notre Dame Catholic School, 1000 Moore Road. Registration/fees: [tinyurl.com/vx93cwum](http://tinyurl.com/vx93cwum)

**March 20** — First Day of Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt, all day, Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**March 21** — 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.

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

**Through Mid-March** — A Shroud of Turin replica & exhibit, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. daily, Queen of All Saints' Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Info: [www.qas.org](http://www.qas.org).

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

**Through March 31** — Duneland Photography Club exhibit, "Seasons Change and So Did I," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Masks, social distancing practiced. Info: [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com), (219) 926-4711.

**Through June 5** — New exhibits, "Lost and Looking" & "Pipelines and Borderlines: The Art of Survival," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

### In the Region

**March 20** — "Meet the Greats: Fernwood Virtual Lecture Series," Andrea Wulf, 2-3 p.m. EDT, through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$40, \$32/members. Info: (269) 695-6491, [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org)

**March 22** — Purdue University Northwest virtual conversation, "On the Other Side: PNW Examines the Post-COVID World," noon-1:15 p.m. Info/registration: [www.pnw.edu/other-side](http://www.pnw.edu/other-side)

**March 24** — Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana online program, "Living with Lewy," 11 a.m. EDT. Free. Registration: (574) 232-4121, [patty@alzni.org](mailto:patty@alzni.org)

**March 27** — Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation annual Easter Egg Hunt with Horses, 3 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [algrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:algrosse@yahoo.com)

**Through March 28** — New exhibits, KAC Members' Show & local ceramist Jennifer Zona, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT Fri.-Mon. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org), (269) 983-0271.

**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.*

**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, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. 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:

- April 14 — Owl Prowl.
- April 28 — Flower Power.
- May 12 — Timber.

**Migratory Bird & Scavenger Hunt**

The program is from 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at Luhr County Park.

Stop by the Nature Center to pick up a self-guided scavenger hunt.

**Nature's Tiny Tots**

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. April 12 and 26 and May 3 at Luhr County Park. Call at least one week in advance to register.

**Rock Painting Craft Make and Take**

The free program is from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Take two favorite rocks to paint. All ages are welcome, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies are available while they last. No pre-registration is required. Mask must be worn.

**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:

- May 12: "Soil Health, Garden Tools and Pruning 101" by Sacha Gee-Burns.
- June 9: "GERD — New Treatments for Relief of Heartburn & Acid Reflux," Dr. Conn.
- July 14: Nutrition, food groups and labeling, Stephanie Thomas.

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On March 18, 1909**, Elinar Dessau of Denmark used a shortwave transmitter to converse with a government radio post about six miles away in what is believed to have been the first broadcast by a ham radio operator.

**On March 18, 1931**, Schick Razor Co. began marketing the nation's first electric razor.

**On March 18, 1951**, Herman Wouk's war novel, The Caine Mutiny, went on sale.

**On March 18, 1965**, somewhere in the wild blue yonder, the first spacewalk took place when Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether. He remained outside the spaceship for approximately 20 minutes.

**On March 18, 1967**, the passenger ship Torrey Canyon ran aground on Seven Stones Reef.

**On March 19, 1813**, Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone was born at Blantyre. Famous for making the continent of Africa known to the world, Livingstone is best known for Stanley's search throughout Africa to find him, and of Stanley's famous words when finally they met, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

**On March 19, 1831**, robbers removed \$245,000 from City Bank in New York, gaining the dubious distinction of participating in the nation's first bank holdup.

**On March 19, 1859**, "Faust," an opera by Charles Gounod, premiered in Paris.

**On March 19, 1925**, the 1-1/2-cent Warren G. Harding stamp went on sale in Washington, D.C.

**On March 19, 1953**, the Oscar ceremonies in Los Angeles were televised for the first time.

**On March 20, 1815**, Napoleon Bonaparte entered Paris in triumph, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

**On March 20, 1928**, children's TV personality Fred Rogers was born in Latrobe, Pa.

**On March 20, 1942**, during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, having left the Philippines for Australia, vowed, "I shall return."

**On March 20, 1965**, Martin Luther King led more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators as they began a march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

**On March 20, 1984**, Walter Mondale won the Illinois Democratic presidential primary.

**On March 21, 1790**, Thomas Jefferson was ap-

pointed as the first U.S. secretary of state, serving in that position for three years.

**On March 21, 1916**, Frank Marshall took on 105 other chess players at the same time at a Washington, D.C., tournament. His final score was: 82 wins; 8 losses; 15 draws.

**On March 21, 1928**, Chicago's 19th Ward boss Joseph "Diamond Joe" Esposito, as the result of a dispute with a bootlegger, was slain near his home at 800 S. Oakley Blvd.

**On March 21, 1956**, "Marty" won best picture at the Academy Awards and its star, Ernest Borgnine, won best actor.

**On March 21, 1963**, after three decades of housing some of America's most notorious criminals, including Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly, the Alcatraz Federal Prison, located in the middle of San Francisco Bay, was ordered closed by then Atty. General Robert Kennedy.

**On March 22, 1630**, colonists in Boston were forbidden to gamble. A law was passed that stipulated "...all persons whatsoever that have cards, dice or tables in their homes shall, under pain of punishment, make away with them before the next court convenes."

**On March 22, 1874**, the Young Men's Hebrew Association was founded in New York.

**On March 22, 1894**, Montreal and Ottawa were the participants in hockey's first Stanley Cup game.

**On March 22, 1895**, Auguste and Louis Lumiere showed their first movie in Paris.

**On March 22, 1963**, the Beatle's first album "Please Please Me" was released in Britain.

**On March 23, 1743**, Handel's "Messiah" had its London premiere. During the "Hallelujah Chorus," a captivated King George II rose to his feet. The audience rose with the King, and the tradition of standing during the chorus was born.

**On March 23, 1752**, the first Canadian newspaper, *The Halifax Gazette*, was published.

**On March 23, 1806**, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the Pacific Coast, began their journey back east.

**On March 23, 1965**, America's first two-person spaceflight began as Gemini 3 blasted off carrying Virgil Grissom and John Young.

**On March 24, 1783**, Spain recognized the independence of the United States.

**On March 24, 1883**, long-distance telephone service was first inaugurated between Chicago and New York.

**On March 24, 1932**, New York radio station WABC broadcast a variety program from a moving train in Maryland.

**On March 24, 1955**, the Tennessee Williams' play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Bone Canyon** by Lee Goldberg (hardcover, \$24.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 265 pages.)

*“This is what it has come to...I’m so hated by my fellow cops that they want me dead.”*

That’s a pretty strong statement, but once you meet Eve Ronin, youngest homicide detective with Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, you’ll understand — you’ll understand jealousy and plain old sexism.

Eve just happens to be in the right place at the right time when she takes down a man beating a woman in a parking lot. What makes the press take notice is that the man she KO’s is a well-known actor who played a tough guy on TV. Eve is then dubbed Deathfist.

The publicity comes at a time the department is under scrutiny by the press for wrongdoings by cops out on the street. She is given her choice of a new assignment and picks the homicide division. Good for her, bad for the other officers who think she is nothing more than a celebrity hound — after all, this is the land of Hollywood, where everyone waits for their big break.

*“I’m not in this job to be loved by my fellow officers.”*

*“Then congratulations,” Duncan said. “You’re succeeding brilliantly.”*

What the others don’t realize is that Eve just wants to be a good cop and bring justice to the victims. Duncan, a longtime cop, knows this. He is her partner and a few weeks from retirement.

Problem is, people are seeking out Eve to make a TV series about her life and job — big money to be made! She keeps turning them down, much to the chagrin of her mother and father. He is a so-so director. Her divorced mother wants to be an actress, but never makes it beyond being an extra.

As the story unfolds, Eve and Duncan head out to an area in the hills almost leveled by a forest fire. One of the houses saved is home to a Hollywood screenwriter, who happens to find a human skull in his backyard. More pieces of the body are scattered around... *“The fire wiped the hills clean, exposing everything that’s been hidden in the brush and ravines for years...”*

Forensics discovers the body was of a young woman, Sabrina Morton, missing for the past six years. She was gang-raped by three men and started an

investigation of her own after police assumed she was partying too hard and — well — maybe it really wasn’t rape after all. It wasn’t long after that, Sabrina was reported missing by her parents.

The bones show clearly she was killed. To protect the guilty because she was getting too close to who they were? That theory holds water as Eve finds out a friend of Sabrina’s, Josie, was with her that night and also raped, but she wouldn’t file a report. Did that save her life?

Six years ago or not, Eve follows up on the Morton case despite much opposition within the department. Josie tells her Sabrina remembered all three men had a particular tattoo on their ankle. Funny, so do a number of cops at the station...

As the CSI group still looks over the screenwriter’s backyard, they discover a finger bone. More parts of Sabrina Morton?

*“You don’t understand...We’ve already recovered all of Sabrina Morton’s fingers.”* Oh boy, Eve, in for a penny, in for a pound.

The second victim is Debbie Crawford, 57, living next door to a rich and arrogant actor who has done some pretty outrageous things to her, making him a prime suspect.

Eve has her hands full, no doubt, but with her partner’s faith in her abilities, she defies the other cops and continues her investigation. Did I mention Sabrina’s rape kit never got processed, and now it seems to be missing...a positive clue or red herring?

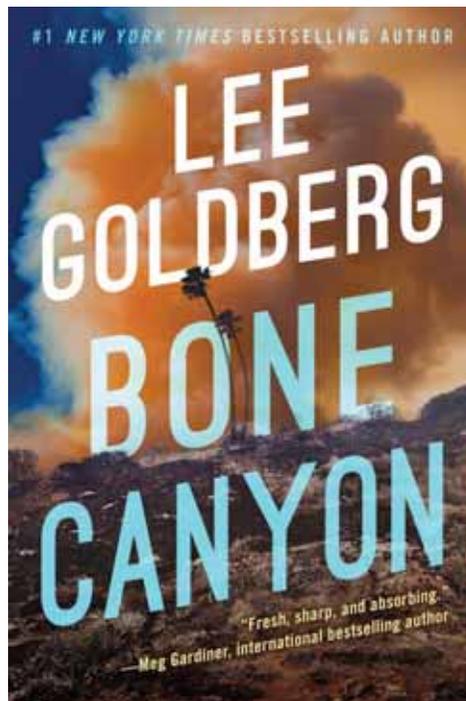
This is the definition of compulsive reading. One clue leads to another, the story is tight and keeps you guessing until the stunning reveal at the end.

Goldberg also knows how to add some humor to the grim murders, as clashes with Eve’s family, a physical therapist and all those who want to make a blockbuster TV series of her will make you smile, even a laugh-out-loud moment.

Characters are realistic, and the story is a police procedural that takes you around the station as much as the crime scene, giving a close look of police hierarchy and infighting.

This is the second book in the Eve Ronin series, and I hope it won’t be the last. You can’t help but cheer for Eve. I know I did, because she is a woman of principles, someone you want to succeed, as a cop, not as a blond bimbo on some TV series.

Till next time, happy reading!



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### Ingredients

- 2 - 3-4lb Corned Beef flats or points
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- 1 - Bag of carrots
- 1 - bag of peeled & halved red potatoes



Cut up vegetables and place in bottom of large roasting pan. Place corned beef on top of vegetables and cover beef with contents of spice packet and a few bay leaves. Add 2-3 of water to cover bottom of pan and cover TIGHTLY with foil. Bake at 325\* for 4-4 1/2 hours or fork tender. Slice against the grain. Add butter to vegetables and season with salt and pepper.

***Bain taitneamh as! Sláinte!***



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