



Volume 37, Number 19 Thursday, May 20, 2021

# Darkest Before the Dawn

by Kim Nowatzke



Chanell Sanders stands with her book, *Will I Ever See Tomorrow*, in the non-fiction section of the Coolspring Branch Library. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

**A**s Chanell Sanders sat typing last year on public computers in the Coolspring Branch library, she would often gaze at the non-fiction section, dreaming the book she was creating would one day appear there on the shelves.

That vision came true with the publishing of *Will I Ever See Tomorrow*, appropriately, on Thanksgiving Day 2020.

In her book, Chanell pulls no punches. Everything about her life — the frightening lows, the inspiring highs — is put on the page for others to experience. As her book cover explains, “*Sharing my story in a way to make a change,*” she believes her journey of faith, hope and determination can influence and inspire those who read her words.

“I didn’t think that one day, my messy mess would turn into a message,” the 33-year-old Michigan City resident said.

Not all the memories from her past are bad. Born in Gary, she was the youngest in the family with three older brothers: Juan, Jamell and Carlos. She looks back fondly on growing up with them, and of time spent with her maternal grandfather. Her mother, Gloria Sanders, worked at a salon where, as a child, Chanell helped out as the “shampoo girl.” However, there were bad times,

too, as alcoholism ran strong in Chanell’s family genes. Her mother escaped an abusive relationship with Chanell’s father, hoping to create a better life for her family. And, during the summer of 2003, when Chanell was 15, her brother, Jamell, was tragically killed. At 19, he was a talented musician, both as a songwriter and instrumentalist. His death left her family reeling from the pain.

Chanell’s teen years, as a student at William A. Wirt High School in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood, were rife with struggles. In some respects, it was typical high school drama: gossip, rumors, pettiness among students. But Chanell found herself getting into more fights at school. Eventually, the school’s administrator required her to transfer to Gary’s West Side High School. At 17, she became pregnant during her senior year, her relationship with the father increasingly tumultuous over the ensuing years. Postpartum depression arrived after the birth of her son, Armon, on Nov. 24, 2005. Aiming for a fresh start, she at one point moved to Lafayette, Ind.

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How would Chanell describe herself during these years?

“I became rebellious and angry,” she said. “I lost sight of who I was and where I was going. I turned away from myself and became someone else – drinking – doing drugs – just coping. It led me to many devastating places where I was feeling unfit as a mother, and I wasn’t doing motherly things.”

Chanell even gave herself a new name.

“I was fighting with my demons and they were steady coming in attacking me,” she continued. “You live through it, and I was doing that with drugs and alcohol. I called myself ‘Sasha’ and told people that was my name. People were fans of Sasha ... They would say, ‘Where is Sasha? Is she coming out?’ It was me escaping. I had turned into something other than what was supposed to be.”

Eventually, Chanell hit rock bottom. What was the pivotal moment that turned her life around? It was when she became pregnant with her second son, Jordon. The product of an abusive relationship with a drug dealer, she considered terminating the pregnancy.

“I held my belly and looked down at it. I was almost 12 weeks. All I felt was happiness and a miracle inside me,” she wrote in her book.

There would be more bumps in the road, but Chanell persevered, eventually finding the right path of healing and recovery that would make her dreams come true.

Her “way out,” it seems, was modeling. Reaching out to a photographer on Facebook, she completed her first photo shoot at a nearby park.

“I used to drive past a beautiful field filled

with lots of trees, and inside that field was a beautiful pond,” she recalled in her book. “Every day I would drive past this field, an image in my head of me appeared, rebuilding my character. I had no clue why these images kept repeating themselves... It turns out the photo shoot would be in this field.”

Images of her posted on Facebook were an instant success. She started receiving contacts from modeling agencies. She and her photographer, Greg Morland, continued to work together with the “same vision and mission.”

In her book, she writes, “My photographer loved working with me and capturing my ideas and visions. We began working as a team. Every time I looked up, we were doing shoots and coming up with a plan to do something bigger. He was that friend in my life who gave me hope.”

As Chanell’s popularity grew, she signed her first modeling contract with *Certified Dime* magazine in 2012, appearing in five runway shows. But after about a year, she said, “It wasn’t for me. It was like Sasha coming out again, and I didn’t want that.”

In 2015, Chanell continued, “I knew God had a calling on my life. I knew I had to get out of there. I sold and gave away everything in my place, leaving Lafayette in the past.”

She moved in with her mother, who had relocated to Michigan City, where relatives lived, in 2013. She brought her modeling career back to her hometown of Gary, participating in two successful fashion shows, “Catching the Dream Runway Fashion Show” and “The Revolution Fashion Runway Show.”

Later, on June 29, 2019, she participated in a runway fashion show, “Fashion Cut.”

Chanell wrote in



Chanell at 29, with her two sons: Armon, 11, and Jordon, 7.

her book, *"I felt like a woman with purpose... Walking the runway made me feel as though I were walking on a road to success. I felt like everything was behind me, and I was no longer going that way. Modeling became my lifestyle, almost as though it was my medicine keeping me from dying. That (modeling) helped bring back my confidence. People were telling me how proud they were of me. It boosted my ego up. I felt like Chanell in a better way – doing something and going somewhere."*



Chanell walks on the runway in Los Angeles for "The Model Experience" during L.A. Fashion Week.

In 2020, Chanell submitted photos for a casting call and was accepted to participate in "The Model Experience" in Los Angeles during L.A. Fashion Week.

*"That was an experience!," she wrote in her book. I learned a lot about sacrificing time, money and energy into a goal," she said. "I had to push aside my pride and ask for the support I needed. It was a huge investment, paying for traveling costs, hotel expenses, Uber fare, food and so on. I managed to make my way. Everything was straight to the point — one rehearsal, one script and only one chance. Here I am. My biggest opportunity to show my talent in one of*

Continued on Page 4

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## Darkest Before... Continued from Page 3

*the biggest cities on the map. I was really there. I finally mastered one of my many life goals."*

Writing a book was a dream from childhood.

"I always wanted to write a book, even as a child of 8 or 9," she said. "I wrote a lot of poetry. I didn't know that God was going to give me this story to write. I had a sticky note hanging up in my room that read, 'Write A Book' in 2017. God knew He had a book for me to write, but I wasn't ready yet."



The cover of Chanell Sanders' book, *Will I Ever See Tomorrow*.

Once again, it was Face-book that influenced her. She responded to a writing boot camp ad on how to write a book in 21 days. Through that endeavor, she finished the piece in a month and self-published it.

"I couldn't even sleep. I looked for direction. The title hit me one day

while I was teaching. I worked on the computer here (at the Coolspring Branch Library) because I didn't have a computer during the time of writing and discovering my first book. That's how determined I was," she said. "As I repented to God, I was sharing the story with the world. It became a letter to God – me talking to Him. I didn't want to be ashamed – I wanted to be free."

On her website, [www.authorchanellsanders.com](http://www.authorchanellsanders.com), Chanell explains, "This book was written with a life-changing message for women who have battled with the loss of a loved one, been in a toxic relationship that may have left you broken or damaged, or have suffered from drug and alcohol abuse."

Today, Chanell is a proud single parent raising Armon, now 15, and Jordon, age 11. She is employed with The Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County as a program leader, and as a substitute teacher for LaPorte Community Schools Corp. She is working toward earning her associate of science degree in early childhood education at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Chanell held her first book signing in January at the Dialogue Book Bar in Gary. Subsequent events followed on Feb. 20 at Coolspring Branch Library and April 3 at River City Community Center in Lafayette. The book is available on Amazon and the author's website, and can be checked out at the Coolspring Branch Library.



Chanell Sanders, at age 8, with her family: (back left) her brother, Jamell, who passed away at 19, her brother, Juan, mother, Gloria Sanders, and brother, Carlos.

She is the cofounder of The Dynamic Book Club, a non-profit book club for authors and books lovers. A description of the club on her website seems to reaffirm the peace of mind of which she now embraces: "We are committed to rendering our genuine services selflessly to new and upcoming authors. With a heart full of love, gratitude and optimism, we support new and upcoming authors to start and finish their first book detailing their life stories. More so, we come together for guidance, resources, encouragement and new books to read to gain new information."



A school photo of Chanell Sanders in 1999, when she attended Gary's Nobel Elementary School.



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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.

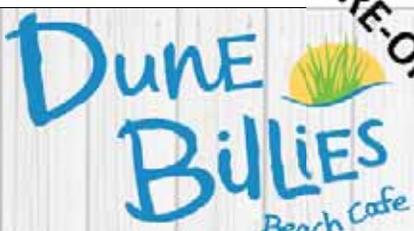
One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day. Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations). WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

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:
- Online Graphic Novel Club for Teens. This month's focus is Ngozi Ukazu's Check, Please!: #Hockey. The podcast is available May 21 at [www.buzzsprout.com/1354294](http://www.buzzsprout.com/1354294). Registration is required for the Zoom meetup Thursday, May 28. Email Jonathan at [YOnline@mclib.org](mailto:YOnline@mclib.org) at call (219) 873-3045.
  - Grab & Go Craft for Kids. Crafts are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.
  - Tinkercad Online 3-D Modeling. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/19vgzvx](http://tinyurl.com/19vgzvx). Participants ages 8-17 have six days to design, tinker and submit 3-D creations in the virtual MCPL-Tinkercad classroom. Dave Fink can meet via Zoom for participants seeking help. Email him at [dfink@mclib.org](mailto:dfink@mclib.org) or call (219) 873-3045.
  - Virtual Story Time. A new video will be posted to the website, Facebook page and YouTube channel at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Each video will be available for two weeks at [www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/](http://www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/). Stop by Youth Services to receive the craft project for the week.

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**A Classic Car Club Visit**



The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., welcomed the As-R-Us Model A classic car club from Crete, Ill., on April 30. The As-R-Us club is a family friendly organization. In existence for more than 20 years, it is an official chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. It sponsors meetings, events and road trips for members and their families, and promotes preservation of the Model A Ford. Club members arrived at the museum in 10 restored Model A's. Call the museum at (219) 324-6767 or email [research@laportecountyhistory.org](mailto:research@laportecountyhistory.org) for more details.



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After a year on lockdown, Footlight Players will open its doors to present “An Evening of One-Acts” on Friday through Sunday, May 21-23, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The performances are free. Times are 7:30 p.m. May 21-22 and 2 p.m. May 23. The one-act plays include: “The Cottage” by Paula Evans, directed by Debbie Bartholomew; “The Last Days of Digger,” written and directed by Dan Schaff; “Wingman” by Dean Johanson, directed by Janice Rice; and “I’m Herbert” by Robert Anderson, directed by Bobby Komendera. The cast includes: Denise Barkow, Donovan Barrier, Gary Bartholomew, Kathy Chase, Linda Didelot, Bobby Komendera, Laura Meyer, Thom Nelson, Maggie Reister, Nora Ryska, Mary Williams and Sandra Young.

The shows will be presented as readers theater and involve simple costumes. The production will run approximately one hour, with no intermission. No reservations are needed. Safety guidelines, including masks and limited seating, are planned.



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## Local Artist Wins Event Award

A Michigan City woman is a winner in the Michiana Annual Arts Competition on display at The Box Factory for the Arts.

Mary Whalen, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts' photography and digital media department chair, judged the works, selected 162 pieces from 90 regional artists. She also selected the Best of Show, six category awards and honorable mentions. Tami Miller of Krasl Art Center selected the sculpture award.

An awards reception and open house are from 5:30-8 p.m. EDT Saturday, June 19, at The Box Factory, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Guest moderator Pat Moody of Moody on the Market will present the awards at 7 p.m. EDT.

One of the category winners is Michigan City's Kei Constantinov for "Strumpets on the Rialto," an oil and acrylic. The other \$200 category winners are:

- Doug LaFerle, St. Joseph, sculpture, "Icarus."
- Zech Ray, Berrien Springs, Mich., watercolor, "Summer Lillies."
- Becky Rotter, Sodus, Mich., ceramics, "Trio in Black and White."
- Pamela DeMarris, Benton Harbor, Mich., photography, "Woman with Apples."
- Laurel Kuehl, Portage, Mich., pastel and drawing, "Veiled Light."
- Judy Hallisy, Saugatuck, Mich., miscellanea, "Peyote."

The \$1,000 Best of Show award went to Mary Amador, Goshen, for "Her Hiding Place." The piece is acrylic and colored pencil on a wooden panel with gold leaf and small crystals.

Honorable mention awards went to: Pam Nivala, sculpture; Pallavi Manjrekar, watercolor; Zech Rey, oil and acrylic; Kari Black, ceramics; Jay Wise, photography; Laurel Kuehl, pastel and drawing; and Denise Tackett, miscellanea.

The galleries are open from noon-4 p.m. EDT Fridays-Sundays. Visit [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org) or the Box Factory's Facebook page for more details.

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## LCSO in the Spotlight



JoFran Bendix.

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

Finishing her 48th year as principal horn, JoFran Bendix also is its only charter member.

Raised in LaPorte with musical influences like the late Ed Soetje, William Wagner, Guy Foreman and Eddie Burke, Bendix also is a longtime Michigan City Municipal Band member. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in art education, and was a Michigan City Area Schools art teacher for many years. In her visual art, she focuses on fiber, having had commissions and clients throughout the area.

JoFran and her husband, Garry, have a son, Christopher, who also performs with the LCSO on double bass and electric bass guitar.

## LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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

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

*The following program is planned:*

- Reader's Corner-Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room. Refreshments will not be served; however, participants may take coffee or tea.

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

## Free Entry to South Bend Museums

The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum in South Bend are joining museums in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, to offer free admission for all active U.S. military personnel and their families through Labor Day.

The effort is part of the Blue Star Museums program; a military ID is required. Admission includes visits to all exhibits, as well as guided tours of the Oliver Mansion. The museums, which are adjoining, are open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. EDT Sunday. Daily tours of the Oliver Mansion are offered.

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Blue Star Museums is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, Department of Defense and museums across the country.

Call (574) 235-9664 for The History Museum or the Studebaker National Museum at (574) 235-9714 for more details. Additional information is available at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org)

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### Chesterton Art Center

• **Mindy Milan will teach a “Warm Glass Fusing Class” from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 5.**

Students will create jewelry-size pieces, small plates, garden stakes and other items using glass-forming techniques. Watch glass melt in the kiln, and learn about the forms, colors and processes of fusing glass.



All materials are provided, with a \$10 material/firing fee paid to the instructor at the beginning of the class. The cost is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members, plus the \$10 material/firing fee.

Masks are still required. Hand sanitizer will be available and social distancing practiced. The classroom will be cleaned and sanitized upon students' arrival. All students must sign a waiver regarding COVID-19. There will be no make-up days for missed classes due to the pandemic.

Call or stop by the art center to sign up, or visit Eventbrite online and search for Chesterton Art Center.

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

### Garden Club Plant Sale

River Valley Garden Club's plant sale will feature locally grown bushes, trees, perennials and native plants from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 22, at Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert.

Members dig a variety of perennials, native plants, ground covers, bushes and small trees from their gardens.

The park is just north of Chikaming Township Center. Face masks and hand sanitizer are required. Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513, email [evpalulis@yahoo.com](mailto:evpalulis@yahoo.com) or visit [www.rivervalleygardenclub.org](http://www.rivervalleygardenclub.org) for more details.

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# Bob Odenkirk is in Rare Form in Often Hilarious, Twisted “Nobody”

by Andrew Tallackson



I like Bob Odenkirk. As snake-oil ambulance chaser Saul Goodman on “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul,” he plays sleaze like he was born into it. It oozes from his pores.

His new film, “Nobody,” has the nuts and bolts of a disposable Liam Neeson thriller. And in that actor’s hands, it would have been. But Odenkirk, the least likely of action stars, he sells it, reinvents the preposterous material as a darkly comic mix between Michael Douglas’ everyman-goes-haywire drama “Falling Down” (1993) and “A History of Violence” (2005), Viggo Mortensen’s crafty exercise in pulp fiction. The movie, now playing in theaters and through View on Demand, is guilty pleasure time of the highest order.

Odenkirk plays Hutch Mansell, who appears to be experiencing a middle-age drought. Director Ilya Naishuller cleverly achieves this effect by rapidly editing together the rituals of his life: wake up, clock in at work, eat dinner, miss Tuesday trash pickup, barely interact with his family, especially his Realtor wife (Connie Nielsen).

During a break-in at his home late one night, he fails to take a swing with one of his golf clubs at one of the burglars, right as his teen son (Gage Munroe) is punched in the face. Is his hesitancy a sign of weakness...or something darker, more complicated?

That’s the treat of Odenkirk’s sly performance. Unlike Saul Goodman, who wears his sleaze on the cuffs of his chintzy suits, we get the sense Hutch is hiding something. The ingenuity, too, of the screenplay by Derek Kolstad (“The Falcon and the Win-

★ ★ ★ 1/2  
**“Nobody”**  
*Running time: 92 minutes. In theaters and View on Demand.  
 Rated R for strong violence and bloody images, language  
 throughout and brief drug use*

ter Soldier”) is that it parcels out bits and pieces of Hutch’s backstory at just the right moments.

At first, it appears the late-night break-in snaps something inside Hutch. When he learns his daughter’s kitty cat bracelet is missing, he barrels out of his home like Liam Neeson after a kidnapped daughter. Later, on a bus ride home, he sits quietly, contemplating whether to silence five punks who’ve harassed everyone seated nearby. Turns out, Hutch can handle himself quite well, despite the wear and tear of middle age. Unfortunately, one of the guys he pummels is connected to Russian mafia.

What is Hutch’s story? No spoilers here. Suffice it to say, we get an onslaught of hoods after Hutch and his family, booby traps that suggest Hutch is the twisted incarnation of the “Home Alone” kid and the great Christopher Lloyd as Hutch’s father who, at 82, can still steal a scene like he owns it.

The violence is extreme, but in a Tarantino sort of way. It’s intentionally cartoonish as if to remind us not to put *too* much weight on the story. And by casting Odenkirk as Hutch, an against-type actor, the twisted laughs within the action only intensify because of how these goons repeatedly underestimate him.



Had everyone involved in “Nobody” taken it seriously, it would have teetered into a message movie, how middle-age tedium produces men ready to crack. But who wants to sit through that? “Nobody” leaves you with a goofy grin on your face, and it’s content simply to have achieved that effect.

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

Hutch (Bob Odenkirk) becomes unexpectedly tricky for Russian Mafia to kill during the finale of “Nobody.”

### Community Grant Applications

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County is accepting applications online for its 2021 Community “Power for Good” Grants through Friday, July 23.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in, or serving, LaPorte County residents. In addition, churches may request funds for non-religious purposes, such as community programs or projects. Governmental bodies, including townships and fire districts, as well as educational institutions, are eligible.

Applicants can review information at <https://uflc.net/grants/community-grants/> prior to starting the process. A committee of volunteers from throughout the county evaluates and awards grants of up to \$3,000 each. In 2020, Unity awarded nearly \$150,000 to projects and programs in the arts, environment, health and human services, education and community development through the Community Fund Grant process.

Contact Shannon Walker at (219) 879-0327, email [swalker@uflc.net](mailto:swalker@uflc.net) or visit [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net) for details.

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## “Things Heard & Seen” Keeps You Intrigued...Until the Awful Ending

by Andrew Tallackson



Catherine (Amanda Seyfried) orchestrates a seance, led by a friend (F. Murray Abraham), in “Things Heard & Seen.”

We haven’t had a tale like “Things Heard & Seen” in ages. Old-school horror, where a city couple relocates to the sticks, only to discover the home they’ve purchased has a dark, supernatural past.

Can a haunted house movie still scare us in an age of pandemic thrillers and rotted corpses coming back to life? Not really. We’ve pretty much seen it all, and “Things Heard & Seen,” now streaming on Netflix, is no different. The unraveling domestic drama, though, *that* is right on point. In fact, the human elements are so expertly spun, we roll with it...until a truly terrible ending.

Based on Elizabeth Brundage’s 2016 novel All Things Cease to Appear, the story is set in 1980, when the Claire family — mom Catherine (Amanda Seyfried), dad George (James Norton) and daughter Franny (Ana Sophia Heger) — leave Manhattan for rural Chosen, N.Y. He’s been hired as an art history professor at the local college. She, an art restorer battling an eating disorder, is willing to forego her career for his.

George, turns out, is a jerk. Selfish. Egotistical. A wandering eye that, in Chosen, leads to an affair with an acid-tongued student, Willis (“Stranger Things” star Natalia Dyer). And Catherine is savvy enough to know when her husband isn’t being

★ ★ 1/2

### “Things Heard & Seen”

*Running time: 121 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-MA for language and brief sexual situations*

truthful with her.

Certain elements of “Things Heard & Seen” adhere religiously to the haunted house chiller. Things that go bump in the night, like a rocking chair or door that move by themselves. Faint apparitions in the background. And, we have two locals, brothers Eddie (Alex Neustaedter) and Cole (Jack Gore), who show up out of nowhere, willing to lend a hand around the house. Do these two have a link to the house? Well, duh.

What’s refreshing, though, is the way George’s colleagues not only size him up quickly, but rally behind Catherine. They see her as an intellectual and artistic equal. And, they don’t care for how George treats her. My favorites are Oscar-winner F. Murray Abraham (“Amadeus”) as the kindly department head at George’s school and, in a wildly invigorating performance, “Better Call Saul” actress Rhea Seehorn as Justine, George’s colleague. Justine is no dummy. She’s on to him, all his secrets. Her every



Rhea Seehorn pretty much steals scene after scene.

confrontation with George amps up the tension, the actress seething with finger-wagging venom.

We appreciate, too, the way Seyfried and Norton circle each other in a wary dance of suspicion and resentment. Seyfried is a bundle of nervous anxiety gradually yielding to untapped strength and determination. Norton is fascinating to watch as George's schemes come back to bite him in the posterior, his body sagging downward into madness.

The supernatural elements of "Things Heard & Seen," though, are underwhelming to the point of barely registering. A creaky noise here. A gust of wind there. A few shadowy presences. Ironically, for a haunted house movie, it is the humans who are the scariest presences.

The drama does build...until the very end. How to describe it. Hmm. Well, it sucks. Having not read the acclaimed Brundage novel, a guess would be that something got lost in translation? Something that may have worked on the page, but with a more expert setup. Here, it comes across as pretentious, arty symbolism. We get what directors Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini (the wonderful "American Splendor") are trying to do, but it is deeply unsatisfying. It feels like a cheat, like we've been robbed of the payoff the story deserves.

Is it worth it, then, to bother with "Things Heard & Seen"? The performances are good, especially Seehorn as Justine. She's a zinger.

But the movie? Well...

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

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## Travel by Memory

You may recall the column that appeared Sept. 3, 2020, about the trip my friend, Randy Lober, and I took Sept. 26, 2019, to see the Detroit Tigers play the season's last home game.

What the column did not reveal is, I was compelled to get Randy to a game because he was dying of pancreatic cancer.

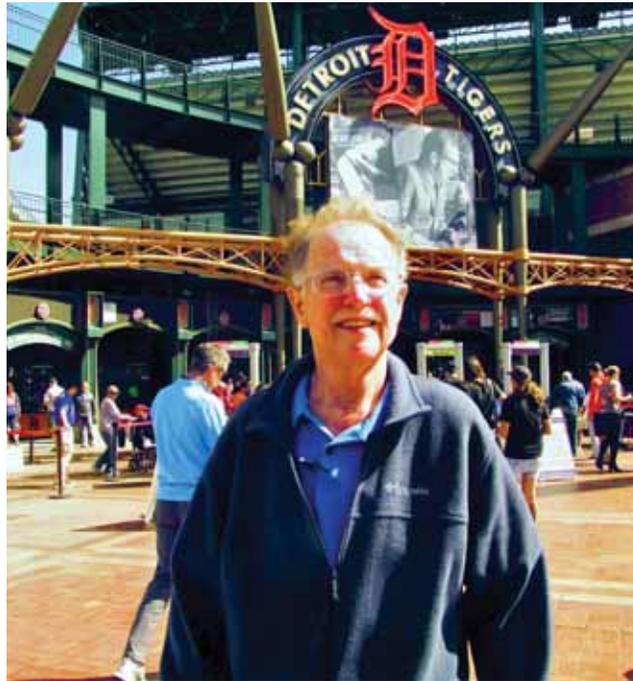
He passed away April 12, or as he said on his memorial card, *"I've just gone over the hill."*

Let me tell you, we delighted in knowing the man born as Floyd R. "Randy" Lober on Sept. 15, 1949, from the moment we met him in 1992. That was shortly after we moved to Michigan, and after we launched our Dunery Press publishing venture. Mary Lober was one of our first loyal readers, traveling from her home in Otsego, Mich., to our bookstore signing by the lake in Saugatuck.

Mary said we should get together as couples some time, and sometime later, we met Mary and Randy for a dazzling day in Kalamazoo, which isn't all that far from Otsego. In fact, we asked Mary and Randy if Otsego, and its sister city of Plainwell, were suburbs of Kalamazoo. No, they firmly informed us, Kalamazoo and Plainwell are suburbs of Otsego.

Mary and Randy Lober were high school sweethearts in Otsego. They would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, in Otsego, of course, on April 26, 2021.

Accepting as he was of his fate, Randy sportingly donned a black bow tie and celebrated early with his bride, at their home in Otsego, as their family, friends



Randy Lober arrives at Comerica Park on Sept. 26, 2019.



## Travels With Charley

by Charles McKelvy

and loyal dog, Tobey, looked on.

And so, we looked on with love as friends and family paid tribute to Randy at Winkel Funeral Home in downtown Otsego on April 16.

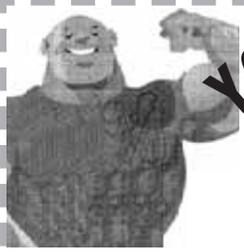
I recalled that amazing day I shared with him in 2019 when he drove me to and from Comerica Park in Detroit.

We sensed it would be our first and last baseball game together, but it didn't matter. We were just a couple of old guys out at a ballgame on an absolutely gorgeous fall day in the great state of Michigan.

I am a Michigander by transplant, but Randy was a Michigander by birth, loving nothing better than being out in the wild places of our state, hunting with Tobey and walking with Mary.

Randy, Mary, Natalie and I had some absolutely wonderful fall walks around South Haven after enjoying a long, lingering luncheon at Clementines. We even got Randy to admit that New Buffalo really is in Michigan by taking him and Mary to a rooftop luncheon at Stray Dog on, of course, another stunning Michigan fall day.

Such as that aforementioned fall day, Randy and I watched the Tigers snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory by losing 10-4 to the Minnesota Twins.



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The Kalamazoo River runs through Randy Lober's hometown of Otsego, Mich.

Oh well.

We had a great day of baseball, and even better drives there and back. I am so blessed to have heard Randy tell of his service to the nation as a communications sergeant in the U.S. Army, in what was then called West Germany. Yes, Sgt. Lober was a cold warrior through and through, and in that delightfully understated humor of his, he said he and his comrades were basically viewed as sacrificial lambs should the Cold War ever turn hot.

And, yes, Randy Lober could just as easily been ordered to serve in Vietnam. He gladly would have had the Army draw his name for service there. But he was equally proud to serve in Germany, and to work for a local phone company in the great outdoors of the Otsego area, his whole working life. Once in winter, he was up a ladder working on a

line when a motorist knocked his ladder out from under him, literally leaving him hanging. Randy always laughed that great laugh of his at that bittersweet memory.

And so, we were filled with bittersweet memories of Randy Lober, after his funeral on April 16, as we took a foot tour of his beloved Otsego.

What a lovely town, we kept telling Randy.

You picked the all-American small town in which to grow and go. The quiet, tree-lined residential streets, stately homes with elegant porches, not-quite-dazzling downtown business district and gently flowing Kalamazoo River all spoke to your character, and to the last words you told your dear wife Mary, before you "went over the hill" on April 12: "Tell everyone I love them."

Well, Randy Lober, let me tell you, after a walking tour of your hometown, the feeling is entirely mutual.

Fair winds and following seas, my friend.



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## “In the Earth” is Not the Scary Pandemic Thriller It’s Been Hyped to Be

by Andrew Tallackson



Alma (Ellora Torchia, foreground) and Martin (Joel Fry) investigate strange happenings in a dense forest in “In the Earth.”

To call “In the Earth” a “pandemic” thriller, let alone “terrifying,” is a gross aberration of the truth.

Since January’s Sundance Film Festival, social media has been abuzz about this micro-budgeted British import, that it exploits our anxiety about COVID-19 to achieve low-budget thrills. In fact, it helped writer-director Ben Wheatley (last year’s Netflix update of Hitchcock’s “Rebecca”) catch the attention of Hollywood, which snatched him up to direct a sequel to 2018’s jumbo-shark hit “The Meg.”

Thing is, “In the Earth” is another lame variation on “The Blair Witch Project” — a don’t-mess-with-Mother Nature, what-lurks-in-the-forest misfire.

The setup to “In the Earth,” available in theaters and View on Demand, is intriguing. A virus, the details of which are sketchy, has ravaged the planet, with scientists racing to find a cure. Martin (Joel Fry, “Yesterday”), having just ended months of isolation, joins a small team of scientists on the edge of a dense forest. He clicks with Alma (Ellora Torchia), and the two head out one morning on a routine equipment check. They’re attacked one night, then saved by a shaggy looking fellow, Zach (Reece Shearsmith), who pleads with them to turn a blind eye to his residence in the woods.

Things go south from there.

Wheatley shot “In the Earth” for next to no money, writing it in about 15 days and shooting the whole thing in about the same time. Cheapies like this



### “In the Earth”

*Running time: 107 minutes. In theaters and View on Demand.*

*Rated R for strong violent content, grisly images and language*

tend to have amateurs as actors, with the directors hoping for the best. But Fry, Torchia, Shearsmith and later, Hayley Squires as project leader Olivia, plunge headfirst into the material, creating a skit-tish, emotionally fried lot whose sanity, and grip on reality, quickly erode as it becomes apparent “something” exists in the forest. The look of the film, too, is assured, with Wheatley finding inventive ways to make the images look costlier than they are. It’s also refreshing that for once, for a horror movie, our heroes are actors of color. It is the wackos in the woods who are white.

But once Martin and Alma find Zach, then Olivia, “In the Earth” forgets it’s set amid a pandemic. In fact, it feels as if Wheatley tossed in the virus as an afterthought, like, “hey, we shot this during a pandemic, why don’t we mention one?” Because in the film’s last act, there isn’t much to it, just characters running around the forest, screaming, spouting mumbo-jumbo about something “in the earth,” along with irritating strobe lights and a lazily ambiguous ending.

Late last year saw another low-budget thriller,



Reece Shearsmith stars as a mysterious man hiding in the forest near where Martin and Alma are camped out.

“Songbird,” tap into our collective unease by setting its action during a pandemic called COVID-23. It, too, lapsed into the predictable, but at least it explored a world where people thrive and crumble amid self-isolation.

Do we find out what that “something in the forest” is by the end of “In the Earth”? Sorta. It’s more weird than scary. But by the end, I’d stopped caring.

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



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## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **World Biodiversity Day from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, May 22.**

May 22 is International Day of Biological Diversity. Join naturalists and Tim Ferguson at the North Orchard Shelter to view his Northwest Indiana Wildlife Educational Exhibit, which features diverse native taxidermy. Parking is available at the Nature Center or North Orchard Shelter.

- **World Turtle Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, May 23.**

Stop by the Nature Center for the celebration. Create a turtle craft from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. From 1-3 p.m., a naturalist will feed, walk and introduce four turtle species outside the Nature Center. Photo opportunities are planned.



- **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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## Indiana Dunes National Park

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

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

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

Upcoming programs include:

- May 22 — Pinhook Bog Hike.
- May 23 — Miller Woods Hike.
- May 28 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike.
- May 29 — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike.
- May 29 — Pinhook Bog Hike.
- May 30 — Miller Woods Hike.
- May 30 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike.
- June 5 — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike.
- June 5 — Pinhook Bog Hike.
- June 6 — Miller Woods Hike.
- June 6 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike.
- June 12 — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike.
- June 12 — Pinhook Bog Hike.
- June 13 — Miller Woods Hike.
- June 13 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike.

- **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](http://tinyurl.com/2r86ch6e) for details.

Park rangers are on duty to provide information, protect visitors and park resources and uphold the requirement.



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

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## 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:

- May 26 — Scat and Tracks.

### Free Family Fishing Nights

All ages are invited, with a limited number of poles and bait provided, from 5-7:15 p.m. Monday, May 25, at Luhr County Park's pond.

No fishing licenses are required, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required at least one day before each program.

### Easy Exercises for All Ages

The free program is from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, May 26, at Luhr County Park.

Physical therapist Diane Rich leads a head-to-toe walk-through of easy exercises to help keep muscles and joints limber. Masks are required. Call at least one week before the class to register.

### 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:

- June 9: "GERD — New Treatments for Relief of Heartburn & Acid Reflux," Dr. Conn.
- July 14: Nutrition, food groups and labeling, Stephanie Thomas.
- Aug. 4: Sleep disorders and their health effects, by Mindi Whittaker, Northwest Health LaPorte.

### Kids Fishing Fun Day

Co-sponsored by Northwest Indiana Steelheaders, the free all-ages program is from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, June 5, at Luhr County Park.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Home Run Hot Dog Concessions will be present. No pre-registration is required.



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## Salvation Army Youth Summer Camp

The Salvation Army of Michigan City is offering free summer camp to city youth, with modifications in place in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Youth summer camp has been a Salvation Army service for years; it was canceled last year due to the pandemic. This year, the corps has taken health and safety into consideration when deciding how to best offer the camp.

The experience is open to students living in Michigan City who are in first grade through age 17. The number of children attending will be limited. They will travel to and from camp in one group; there will be no contact with any children or adults outside of the group, aside from camp staff. Also, there will only be one trip to camp, rather than the multiple trips offered in previous years.

Campgoers will visit Little Pine Island near Grand Rapids, Mich., from June 15-17 and experience many of the same activities camp generally has to offer, including crafts, singing, campfires, swimming, cabins and character-building activities.

Campers must receive a COVID-19 rapid test prior to departing for camp. Healthline will be at The Salvation Army on June 14 to offer tests only to those children registered for camp.

The camp is free thanks to a grant from Duneland Health Council and community donations. All costs are covered, including transportation, meals, housing and activities.

Parents must call (219) 874-6885 before June 2 to schedule an appointment. Immunization records, insurance information and proof of residency will be required then. Visit [www.samichigancity.org](http://www.samichigancity.org) for more details.

## Environmental Science Summer Camp

Purdue University Northwest will host its second environmental science summer camp from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 28-July 2.

Open to high school students, the camp will take students into the field with visits to Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, the Munster landfill, local ponds and the Portage wastewater treatment plant. Working with scientists and engineers from biology, chemistry and physics, and construction engineering and management technology, attendees will gather air and water samples for analysis in biology and chemistry laboratories at the Hammond campus.

To be considered, students should send to Dan Suson at [daniel.suson@pnw.edu](mailto:daniel.suson@pnw.edu) an email consisting of their name, complete mailing address, high school name and grade they will start in the fall. The \$350 cost includes trips away from campus for field activities, as well as lunch each day.

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## Fernwood Botanical Garden

• **Outdoor Yoga from noon to 1:15 p.m. EDT Friday and Saturday, May 21-22.**

Join instructor Deirdre Guthrie for the all-levels class. Visit <https://spore-studios.com/yoga/> for details or to register.



*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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## Westchester Public Library

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

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

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

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

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



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## Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will reveal why Warren Woods fits the definition of a true forest primeval at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, May 22.

Hikers will learn from botanist/hike leader Bob Tatina why the 322-acre state park is called Warren Woods Forest Primeval. The trek winds under specimens up to 125-feet tall and girths greater than 5 feet in diameter. It also includes a stairway and some fallen logs.

Warren Woods is east of Red Arrow Highway on Union Pier/Elm Valley Road in Three Oaks. Recommended dress includes long pants, sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots, insect repellent and water. Participants should prepare for some damp trails. Social distancing and face masks are required.

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

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## Author Readings

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will offer a new series, "Once Upon a Thursday: Author Readings."



Hoppe

The virtual presentation of live readings by published authors kicks off from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 20.

David Hoppe, Long Beach, will read from his recent memoir, Mid-century Boy, about growing up in a Chicago suburb in the 1950s-early 1960s. Author Susan Neville calls it "part memoir, part cultural and historical criticism."



Crane

Elizabeth Crane is the author of two novels and four short-story collections, most recently the novel The History of Great Things and the story collection Turf. She received the Chicago Public Library 21st Century Award, and her debut novel, We Only Know So Much, was adapted into a 2018 film. She will read from her new offering, the memoir This Story Will Change, which Counterpoint Press will release in 2022.

The session is free and held through Zoom. Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900 for details.

## Garden Project Free Celebration

A free celebration involving the Walker Street Park Community Garden project is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at the garden space in Michigan City's Eastport neighborhood.

Lubeznik Center for the Arts has partnered with the garden site and Safe Harbor After School Program to implement a four-week art education program. It culminates in the completion of designed and decorated rain barrel artworks installed in the garden space.

LCA teaching artist Madison Wilson is leading students from elementary and middle school Safe Harbor sites, showing the impacts of community gardening, water and seed cycles, and identifying helpful garden insects and pollinators.

Students are creating 2-D works of the discussed insects and pollinators. Their drawings will be digitally scanned to produce vinyl decals applied to painted rain barrels that help irrigate the garden.

The May 22 event will honor the work by the artists and celebrate the garden project. Refreshments, artmaking and educational activities are planned.

Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900 for details.

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# Business cards



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## Native Plant Sale

Berrien Conservation District is taking orders for native wildflowers and grasses, the deadline being Thursday, May 20.

Orders must be picked up Thursday, May 27, at Love Creek County Park and Nature Center, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich. Some species will be available to purchase the day of the event, with pickup from noon to 4 p.m. EDT. Orders can be made at [www.berriencd.org](http://www.berriencd.org), or a form can be mailed upon request.

Native plants are adapted to the region's soils and climate, and require little maintenance once established. They have strong, extensive root systems that help rainwater infiltrate deep into the soil and protect it from erosion.

Love Creek admission will be waived during pickup. Call Berrien Conservation District at (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, for more information.

## Hey U.G.L.Y. Annual Contest

Designed to turn negatives into positives, Hey U.G.L.Y. is asking students to create positive acronyms for the words Dork, Fag, Geek, Hate, Loser, Racism, Moron or Stupid in its 18th annual contest.

Hey U.G.L.Y. stands for Unique Gifted Lovable You.

An independent panel of journalists, photographers and filmmakers will judge the entries for each category's most impactful work. First prize for each contest is a certificate, T-shirt, \$100 check and a press release sent out about the winners.

The deadline is May 31. All rules and regulations are available at [www.AntiBullyingContests.org](http://www.AntiBullyingContests.org).

Hey U.G.L.Y. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that empowers youth to be part of the solution to bullying, racism, substance abuse and suicide through self-esteem and empathy-building programs, curriculum, radio show and school assemblies.



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

- Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, May 20.
- Golden Living Center, 1700 I St., LaPorte, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., 3-7 p.m. Thursday, May 27.

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

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# A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher will continue the  
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**Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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

*Thank you for your patience  
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## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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 here you are my Mother.  
Oh Holy Mother 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 (please help my family). There are none that can  
withstand your power, O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us  
who have recourse to thee (say three times). Holy Mary, I place this  
prayer in your hands (say three times). Amen.

Say this prayer for three consecutive days each time followed by 3  
Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be to the Father.

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# NEWSLETTERS



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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**May 20** — “Once Upon a Thursday: Author Readings,” 6:30-7:30 p.m., Zoom, through Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900, [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**May 21** — Podcast through Michigan City Public Library’s Online Graphic Novel Club for Teens. Book: Ngozi Ukazu’s Check, Please!: #Hockey. Link: [www.buzzsprout.com/1354294](http://www.buzzsprout.com/1354294)

**May 21-23** — “An Evening of One-Acts,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Free. Times: 7:30 p.m. May 21-22/2 p.m. May 23.

**May 22** — Walker Street Park Community Garden free celebration, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City’s Eastport neighborhood. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org), (219) 874-4900.

**May 22** — World Biodiversity Day, noon-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**May 23** — World Turtle Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**May 25** — Reader’s Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 25** — Free Family Fishing Nights, 5-7:15 p.m., Luhr County Park pond, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Pre-registration: (219) 325-8315.

**May 26** — Easy Exercises for All Ages, 9-10 a.m., Luhr County Park pond, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Pre-registration: (219) 325-8315.

**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)

**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](mailto:jessicar@qas.org)

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

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

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

**Second Saturdays** — Free sunset yoga w/ Laurelee Sikorski, 1 hour before sunset (specific time TBD), Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

**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.

**In the Region**

**May 21-22** — Outdoor Yoga, noon-1:15 p.m. EDT, through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: <https://spore-studios.com/yoga>

**May 21-23** — “Red, White and Tuna,” Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. May 21-22, 3 p.m. May 23. Tickets: [www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/](http://www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/), (574) 848-4116.

**May 22** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Warren Woods Forest Primeval, Union Pier/Elm Valley Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**May 22** — River Valley Garden Club plant sale, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway. Info: (269) 426-3513, [evpalulis@yahoo.com](mailto:evpalulis@yahoo.com), [www.rivervalleygardenclub.org](http://www.rivervalleygardenclub.org)

**May 22** — The Great American Songbook with The Dean Allrick Trio/special guest Livia Gazzolo, 7 p.m. EDT, Acorn Anywhere! series, Allan Boyd Memorial Gazebo Garden @ New Troy (Mich.) Community Center. General admission/\$50. Reserved seating/\$75. Reservations: <https://ci.ovationtix.com>

**Through June 6** — New exhibits, “A Walk in the Woods: The Poetry of Landscape” & “Ralph Bower: Goshen Woodcarver,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri./1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8/college students & students 13-18, \$6/students 8-12. Info: [www.midwestmuseum.us](http://www.midwestmuseum.us), (574) 293-6660.

**Through June 6** — New exhibits, “Boom Bloom” & “The Undetectable Presence: A Selection of Sculpture,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Tuesdays/Fridays** — Open Studios for 18 and older, 1-4 p.m., Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Cost: \$5/day. Registration: [tinyurl.com/8hmejvp9](http://tinyurl.com/8hmejvp9)

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now showing:* “Dream Horse.” Rated PG. Times: 6 p.m. May 21 & 23, May 22 & 24. *Also:* “The Truffle Hunters.” Not Rated. Times: 2:45 p.m. May 21 & 23, 6 p.m. May 22. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3522. [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com)

Want your event listed in Activities?

*The weekly deadline is noon Thursday  
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# ENVELOPES



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On May 20, 1830**, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad published the first railway timetable.

**On May 20, 1852**, the first Illinois Central train ran from Randolph Street to the depot at 12th Street and Roosevelt Road.

**On May 20, 1868**, the Republican National Convention opened in Chicago's Crosby Opera House.

**On May 20, 1932**, Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland for Ireland, becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

**On May 20, 1993**, 93 million people tuned in for the final first-run episode of "Cheers" on NBC.

**On May 21, 1542**, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while in search of gold along the Mississippi River.

**On May 21, 1852**, the first train on the Michigan Central Railroad arrived in Chicago.

**On May 21, 1881**, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, also serving as its first president.

**On May 21, 1919**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a proposed constitutional amendment which would give women the right to vote.

**On May 21, 1959**, the musical "Gypsy" opened on Broadway.

**On May 22, 1761**, the first life insurance policy in the United States was issued in Philadelphia.

**On May 22, 1819**, the Savannah, the first steam-propelled vessel to cross the Atlantic, departed from Savannah, Ga.

**On May 22, 1868**, the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in cash, gold and bonds in the Great Train Robbery near Seymour, Ind.

**On May 22, 1992**, after a reign of nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson stepped down as host of NBC's "Tonight" show.

**On May 23, 1430**, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to England.

**On May 23, 1785**, Benjamin Franklin mentioned in a letter he invented bifocal glasses.

**On May 23, 1903**, Wisconsin became the first state to adopt a direct primary.

**On May 23, 1911**, President William Howard Taft dedicated the New York Public Library.

**On May 23, 1960**, Israel announced former Nazi Adolf Eichmann had been captured in Argentina.

**On May 23, 1994**, "Pulp Fiction" by American di-

rector Quentin Tarantino won the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm, for best film at the 47th Cannes Film Festival.

**On May 24, 1830**, the first U.S. passenger railroad service, a 13-mile journey between Baltimore and Elliott's Mills, Md., began.

**On May 24, 1844**, Samuel Morse transmitted the first public message by telegraph, a short statement sent from Washington to Baltimore.

**On May 24, 1883**, the Brooklyn Bridge, a masterpiece of engineering linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, was opened.

**On May 24, 1935**, the National League's Cincinnati Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies in the major league's first night baseball game.

**On May 24, 1958**, United Press International formed through a merger of the United Press and International News Service.

**On May 24, 1962**, Scott Carpenter became the second U.S. astronaut launched into orbit.

**On May 25, 1803**, poet Ralph Waldo Emerson was born in Boston.

**On May 25, 1844**, a reporter for *The Baltimore Patriot* became the first newsman to transmit a story by telegraph, reporting on a vote by the House of Representatives.

**On May 25, 1878**, Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore" premiered in London.

**On May 25, 1925**, John Scopes was indicted in Tennessee for teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

**On May 25, 1935**, Jesse Owens, competing in four events in 45 minutes, sets three world records and ties a fourth.

**On May 25, 1950**, 32 people died, and 24 were injured, when a street car collided with a gasoline truck at Chicago's State Street and 62nd Place.

**On May 26, 1521**, Martin Luther was banned by the Edict of Worms because of his religious beliefs and writings.

**On May 26, 1865**, the Civil War ended as the last Confederate troops surrendered at Shreveport, La.

**On May 26, 1868**, the Articles of Impeachment against President Andrew Johnson failed by one vote in the U.S. Senate.

**On May 26, 1907**, Actor John Wayne was born in Winterset, Iowa.

**On May 26, 1940**, the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

**On May 26, 1969**, the Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth after a successful eight-day dress rehearsal for the first manned moon landing.

**On May 26, 1996**, Thomas R. Anderson, who played a key role in building Kemper Financial Services into Chicago's largest money manager, died at 58.

# Stationery



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**WANTED: HISTORICAL MUSEUM DOCENTS**

Michigan City's Old Lighthouse Museum needs volunteers for 4-hour weekend shifts. No experience necessary. **Call Jim at (219) 872-6133.**

**Long Beach Summer Camp** is hiring camp counselors for Summer Camp 2021. Contact [longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com) for applications & information

**Town of Long Beach**  
**WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTING MANAGER**  
Part-Time Position, Thursday-Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The Water Department accounting manager will provide administrative, accounting and clerical support for the Town of Long Beach Water Department.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES** include but are not limited to: Office reception, customer service, record keeping and file management. Must have strong accounting background in Accounts Payable, General Ledger, General Ledger Reporting, Budgets and Bank Reconciliation. Cross-train with Accounts Receivable to assist residents with billing questions.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:** High school diploma or GED. Computer skills and knowledge of relevant software. Knowledge of accounting and office administrative procedures and systems, such as accounting, filing and customer service.

Qualified candidates should email their resume to: [LBWaterDept@lbpdn.com](mailto:LBWaterDept@lbpdn.com) or FAX to (219) 879-6099.

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**Yoga in the Gardens**

Instructor April Fallon will host the all-ages "Yoga in the Gardens" at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays, May 20-Aug. 26, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The one-hour classes cost \$15 each and are cash only, paid directly to Fallon. Take a mat and water, and arrive early to take the five-minute walk to the front of the Celebration Pavilion. More than enough space exists to ensure social distancing. Classes are held under the pavilion in case of rain.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

***The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah** (hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 448 pages)

*“Sometimes, when I close my eyes, I swear I can still taste the dust...”*

This week’s novel takes us back to the 1930s and the Dust Bowl that crippled the economy, and the lives of the people who lived and farmed in the middle of America. In the hands of Kristin Hannah, this part of American history brutally comes to life, the story so real you feel a part of it...

Elsa Wolcott is 25 in 1921. She and her parents live in the Texas Panhandle. As a child, she had rheumatic fever. Now, at almost 6 feet tall and plain of face, she has accepted her lot in life as a spinster: forever unmarried, never having children. Her parents make her feel like a burden on their middle-class family, and she mostly stays in her bedroom, reading.

On a whim, Elsa buys some red silk material and sews herself a dress in the “flapper” fashion. She sneaks out of the house one night headed for the local speak-easy, where she is turned away, and soon meets a tall, handsome young man...

His name is Rafe Martinelli. He’s Italian, and he’s only 18. He’s kind and makes Elsa feel pretty and wanted. They have sex that night, and many more nights afterward, until the inevitable happens — she’s pregnant.

Mom is horrified, but Dad drags her to the Martinelli house and dumps her in front of Rafe’s parents. They take pity on her and take her in, even though Rafe thought he was on his way to college the next day and, surprise, Elsa! He is engaged to another Italian immigrant. Needless to say, the engagement is off, college is off and Rafe and Elsa are married in a quiet ceremony.

Elsa proves to be a quick learner about farming, while Rafe falls to drinking and staying out late. Their baby girl is born and named Loreda. Six years later, Elsa gives birth to a boy they name Ant.

The story now skips to 1934. Middle America suffers drought and dust storms that seem to go on forever. Plants die on the vine, animals suffer and finally, food supplies run out, no money available to buy more. Foreclosure signs dot the landscape, and

people say they are packing up and going to California, billed as the “land of milk and honey.”

Hannah’s description of the Dust Bowl — both the effect on the land and on the people and animals — will make you reach for a tissue to cover your mouth from the dust and hide the tears that come unbidden to your eyes.

Rafe disappears one night, without a word, probably on his way west, and soon after a particularly bad dust storm, Ant develops what is called dust pneumonia. The doctor tells Elsa he will surely die if they stay in Texas.

Decision made — leave Texas for California. Elsa, Loreda and Ant pack up and say goodbye to the Martinellis, who refuse to leave their land.

Arriving in California, it doesn’t take long to realize this is far from the “land of milk and honey” they envisioned...

The small town they arrive in is flooded with people from any number of Dust Bowl states — but the Californians call them all “Okies,” showing contempt for them, as though they asked for all of this to happen to them.

Elsa parks their truck in a big field covered with other travelers like her. The news they hear is not good. Jobs are hard to find, and the town’s hospital won’t serve them, schools don’t want their children, and the police

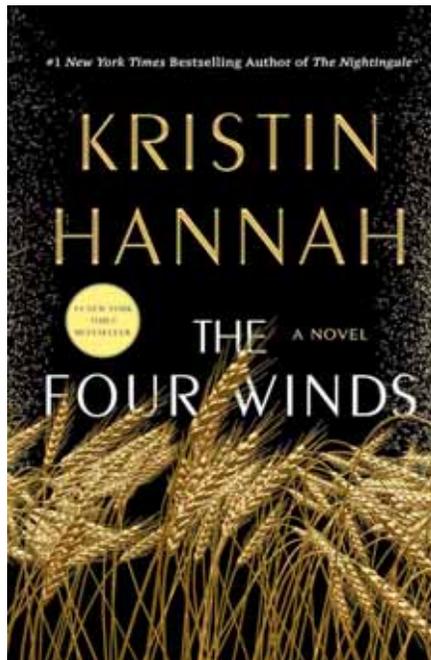
seem to enjoy hassling them.

Elsa hears about a cotton farm that is hiring. She has to line up with dozens of others early in the morning while the foreman picks out who would work that day. Each day, workers get a ticket showing their wages — it is used to buy supplies at the company store. Yup, no one gets paid in cash. Another lineup comes at the state welfare office for monthly money, but only after you live in California for one year.

The sorrow of these people comes off them in waves as food supplies dwindle, clothing becomes threadbare and children outgrow them, and sickness ravages the camp. Then the rains come, and the camp floods...When a person has nothing to begin with, is it possible for them to lose even more?

This is history that is close up and personal, and seen in the blood, sweat and tears of one family that represents a whole generation of families who refused to give up.

Till next time, happy reading!



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