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VOL 38
Nº 14

THURSDAY
APRIL 14
2022

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How Sweet It Is

by Andrew Tallackson

Ever sat before the ivory keys of a grand piano priced at nearly \$100,000? Intimidating.

Touching it, allowing your fingers anywhere near it, feels like a violation. A desecration of its perfection. Others drawn to Sweetwater's Piano Showroom go nowhere it, this Yamaha Premium Piano Collection S6X Polish Ebony work of art costing \$95,599. They settle into pianos in the more "affordable" section: \$25,000 to \$56,000, to be precise. Many commence with Beethoven's "Für Elise," that melancholy rite of passage for anyone serious about the piano. A scruffier fellow, decked out in jeans and a Pearl Jam T-shirt, opts for a more contemporary offering, Sarah McLachlan's wistful "When She Loved Me" from "Toy Story 2."

I hesitate.

"Come on, Drew, you gotta do it."

The prompting comes from 17-year-old Michael Smelser, part of the group I'm with that made the pilgrimage to Sweetwater just outside Fort Wayne. It's been on my bucket list, not just to visit Sweetwater, but



Andrew Tallackson, seated in the Sweetwater Piano Showroom at a grand piano priced at nearly \$100,000.



The front entrance to the Sweetwater campus.

to know what it feels like to play a grand piano like this. Something that might grace Symphony Center, the home to Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Michael's words do not fortify me. The opposite, in fact. I am briefly choked by doubt. But by then, more members of our group have entered the showroom. "Come on, Drew, let's hear it," they say, or some variation on that sentiment.

I approach the piano. Delicately caress the ebony surface. Sitting at the bench, I prop music in front of me. The opening piano passage of the "La La Land Suite," which I had the good fortune to play back in 2018 as a guest soloist with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. Memories of that night are hazy. Might have been nerves. Or maybe it was that, for those brief minutes on stage, the symphony positioned on the floor before me, any acute awareness disappeared and something else took over. Something inside me that knew the song backwards and forwards, shutting out any distractions. And then, it was over, jolted back to reality by audience applause. What happened during those six or seven minutes? No idea. That there wasn't a chorus of boos meant the performance was not an epic fail. To this day, though, any memory is fleeting at best.

Now, seated in this showroom, I want to hear it. That piano prelude in the "La La Land Suite." Blanketed by a cluster of friends, I begin to play. The touch, the feel of the keys, it is like little to no effort required. The sound that emerges is pure, deep and resonant. Whether that was my doing, or the buffer a \$100,000 grand piano affords, remains to be seen.

What I do know is this. It feels good. *Good golly*, it feels good.



Making the trip to Sweetwater, located at 5501 U.S. 30 West on the outskirts of Fort Wayne, has been on my radar for about a decade, but the stars never seemed to align. Life has a funny way of getting *in* the way. Family, work, the unexpected. All can postpone trips or projects until later dates that never do present themselves.

Continued on Page 4

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How Sweet It Is

Continued from Page 3



Located in Sweetwater's front lobby is the vehicle that started it all: the Volkswagen microbus that doubled as a remote recording studio.

But this was finally happening. A visit to Sweetwater, which hails itself as the country's largest online source for instruments and pro audio equipment. The Fort Wayne campus is a mecca of sorts for musicians. Everything you could possibly want or need, amplify it by 10. Or as Nigel Tufnel might say...to 11.

Where else can you peruse endless walls lined with violins, cellos, clarinets, trumpets, saxophones and electric guitars? Take a crack at a top-of-the-line drum kit? Flip through bins crammed to the edges with sheet music? Mull the latest in studio sound and recording equipment? And at this size and scope?

And that's only one section of the campus.

How did it all begin?

Founder Chuck Surack was a traveling musician who decided in 1979 he was done with touring. He wanted a home base, one that could cater not only to himself, but other musicians as well. Sweetwater's debut, believe it not, was as a remote recording studio in his Volkswagen microbus, a vehicle on display in the lobby of the Fort Wayne campus. He also had a recording studio out of his home.

Surack became a respected resource when the Kurzweil K250 programmable keyboard debuted in 1984; over the years, however, his services would grow and expand to where, by 1990, Sweetwater's annual sales reached \$6 million. By 1999, it had fully embraced the Internet as a sales mechanism. Seven years later, plans were under way for the U.S. 30 campus. Since then, it has added a warehouse facility and retail store. Today, it houses the corporate offices, distribution center, recording stu-

dios, performance venues, a music academy, cafes and, for the kiddies, a two-story-tall slide that, on this day, boasted more appeal for adults than children. A glance at the company's website, www.sweetwater.com, reveals a calendar of events that includes Rock Camp Spring Break '22 aimed at teens 12-18, a drum circle, performances by singer-songwriter Mike Dougherty, keyboardist Christian Martirano and disco-soul duo Desperate Electric, an open acoustic jam, and a guitar master class with Paul Gilbert. The group Need to Breathe is tapped to perform May 12 and '80s rock group Night Ranger on Aug. 10.

For any musician, you could get lost in it all.



The chance to visit Sweetwater arrived March 5. Those of us involved in the worship team at Journey Church, 6006 N. Fair Road, from musicians to singers to the tech crew, made a field trip of it. Sixteen of us in total, all heading to Fort Wayne in a caravan of four vehicles.



Kyle Oscarson tries out one of the electric guitars.

Upon arrival, we fled our vehicles like children barreling toward DisneyWorld, dispersing after taking a group photo to explore on our own.

After my initial crack at playing a \$100,000 grand piano, it was time to meet up with my fellow Journey Church travelers. They were easy to find.

Chris Smelser sat with headphones, playing a Roland drum set while his wife, Regina, offered feedback. Michael Smelser and Kyle Oscarson wasted



Chris Smelser tries one of the drum sets, chatting about it with his wife, Regina.

no time plugging electric guitars into amps.

This was not Kyle's first visit to Sweetwater.

"Playing at Sweetwater is really cool," he said, "because you're able to try out a lot of different instru-

ments and amps or whatever you're playing with and really experiment with how you want to sound. Then, you can work from there with what you want to purchase."

His twin brother, Brett, who plays cello with the worship team, explored Sweetwater's collection of the string instrument. Gently cradling one in his hands, plucking at the strings.

I decided to take a stroll through other areas of the campus. The cafe with its varieties of sandwiches and steaming cups of coffee. Even the two-story slide where, at this moment, it just so happened Janet Oman, a singer with the Journey Church worship team and the librarian at Crichfield Elementary School, decided to try it out for herself.

Then, we headed back to the retail store, where our worship team leader, Robbie Britton, was fiddling with a Realist five-string violin going for \$1,399. Robbie was like a kid at Christmas, an eager, almost pleading smile on his face squarely directed at his wife, Beth.

Continued on Page 6



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Wall after wall at Sweetwater is lined with musical instruments

How Sweet It Is

Continued from Page 5



"I want this," Robbie said. "I *really* want this."

Beth stood still, her head cocked to the side in the way wives do when they want to be supportive...but realistic.

"OK," she said, "is it a *want*, or a *need*?" Appropriate emphasis was placed on those two words.

"A need," he replied. "I want to learn this."

Beth, smiled, relenting, prompting a giddy response from her husband: "I'll work extra shifts to cover this."

Beth, smiling, pointed to all of us watching the transaction go down at the cash register. "You all get to hold him accountable for this," she said.

By that point, we'd been at Sweetwater two hours or so. The experience, coupled with the drive there, had made us a tad weary and, more to the point, exceedingly hungry. As we made our way out of the building, I snuck into the piano showroom one last time. One more look at that \$100,000 Yamaha piano. It no longer resembled some elusive entity. True, I'll never have the disposable income to make such a purchase. Even if I did, at that price, they probably should bury me in it.

But I'd sat before its keys. Dared to play it. Walked away armed with memories.

It was good. *Boy*, was it good.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



The two-story slide was too tempting for Janet Oman to dismiss.



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Community Donates Centennial Native Costume to Three Oaks Museum

The Region of Three Oaks Museum on March 30 received the donation of a handmade beaded Native American costume from the village's 1967 centennial celebration.

The costume, worn by resident David Savage at centennial events and promotions, ended up in a Coloma (Mich.) antique store sometime after his death in 1993. Kent Sechler and Three Oaks resident Pamela Dahms spotted it recently, posting a picture on Facebook.

Community members, led by Colleen Newquist, began a fundraiser to pay the \$295 cost and return the costume to Three Oaks. Ultimately, an anonymous donor paid the amount and all of the funds raised, which reached \$800, donated to the museum along with an additional \$200 contribution from Savage's niece, Teresa.

TROTOM President Chuck Sittig promised a 1967 Kennedy Silver Dollar from the Three Oaks Centennial to each of the donors.

Savage's adopted daughter, Andrea, was young



The centennial costume donated to The Region of Three Oaks Museum is flanked by TROTOM President Chuck Sittig (left) and Colleen Newquist (right), who spearheaded the fundraising.

when the costume was being made, but she remembers her father wearing it to several community events over the years. Also, a portrait of Savage wearing the feathered headdress that accompanied the costume always hung in the family home. Andrea said the headdress was a favorite of hers and her brother as they were growing up. Museum volunteers are considering ways to recreate the headdress to

complete the costume.

The costume will be displayed in the museum along with items from the centennial celebration, including souvenir dishes, buttons, ties and certificates. The celebration included several performances of "Growth of an Acorn" featuring local residents in an outdoor show at Memorial Field.

TROTOM, located at 5 Featherbone Ave., is open free to the public from noon-5 p.m. EDT Friday-Sunday on May-October. Visit www.regionofthreeoaksmuseum.com or email trotommuseum@gmail.com for more details.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details. Another drop-in opportunity is from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 16, at the Park Connection Office, which is located next to the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot. Projects can include working on invasive species, land and building restoration, or preparing for special events.
- **Native Plant Talks at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** From 10-11:30 a.m., regional botanist Nathanael Pilla and State of Indiana Botanist Scott Namestnik will present a historical and botanical journey through the Indiana Dunes, exploring local flora. From 1-2:30 p.m., local plant expert Steve Sass will discuss plant communities and their essential roles, including native plants in home landscapes and how they better ecosystems.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in April at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.



IDNP has jobs for four teens this summer.

The Youth Conservation Corps program is a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. April 30 is the application deadline. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 5-Aug. 13, and applicants work the entire length of the program. Crews perform work such as staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings and work as grounds maintenance (mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning restrooms) and trails rehabilitation.

No experience is necessary. Participants are selected by random draw from the pool of applications. They must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 5, but not turn 19 before Aug. 13, the end date of the program. The application is available through high school guidance offices or the IDNP Office at (219) 395-1772. The forms also are available at www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Beach Glass Butterfly Ornaments from 10:30-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, April 16.** Learn the art of wire wrapping and make a beach glass butterfly. The cost is \$7. Space is limited. Register by calling the Nature Center at (219) 926-1390.
- **Egg-Cellent Photo Hunt from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 17.** Stop by the Nature Center anytime to play the game with an Easter Day twist.
- **Garlic Mustard Pulling Party from 9 a.m.-noon Tuesday, April 19.** Part of National Volunteer Week, join other volunteers to remove invasive garlic mustard. Long pants and garden gloves are recommended. The Friends of Indiana Dunes provides snacks and water.

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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Michigan City Public Library

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

The front doors are open. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 14.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Spring Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.** Listen to, and share, stories about angels in everyday lives. Ange Benz leads the discussion.
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Characters, dice, maps and notebooks are provided. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Paper Circuits at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 20.** Youth 9 and older can learn how to make a paper-circuit wristband, a light-up greeting card or other project. Supplies are limited. Contact Youth Services at (219) 873-3045 for more information.

- **Needle Arts Club at 5:30 p.m. Mondays in April.** Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in April.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.



The Collector's Corner Breakfast returns after a two-year COVID hiatus, the event set for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 23, in the St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 W. St. John Road.

Tickets, which cost \$25, may be purchased at the library circulation desk; no tickets are sold at the door. The breakfast is catered by Portofino Grill, and Martin Papke from Kathy's Antiques, Chesterton, returns to appraise items. Each ticketholder may take one item for appraisal.



Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required. *Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.*

Drum Program

Anam Cara and Drumananda will present a drum program, exploring the instrument as a tool for self care and social connection, from 2-3:30 p.m. and 3-4:30 p.m. May 7-June 11 at Anam Cara Stables, 4298 E. County Road 1000 North, LaPorte.

Participants must commit to all six sessions. Applicants must write a brief essay about themselves and have included a guide with questions. All information remains confidential. Make submissions to stacey@anamcarastables.org by April 15.



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Easter Egg Hunt

Michigan City's Easter Egg Hunt returns Saturday, April 16, in Fedder's Alley at Washington Park.

Gates open at 11 a.m., with activities continuing until noon, when the hunt begins.

The event is a collaborative effort involving volunteers, businesses, police, fire, park department, Emergency Management and Special Events.

Children will be divided into various age groups. A dedicated Americans With Disabilities Act area is near the entrance. The age areas are: 0-3 (one parent per child will be allowed to accompany a child during the hunt); 4-6; 7-10; and 11-12. The city will provide bags to collect plastic eggs filled with candy and prize tickets. At the end of the event, eggs can be recycled by placing them in collection boxes.

No vehicles will be allowed past the Michigan City Senior Center parking lot. Parking will be in the main Washington Park lot (Lot 1) and Senior Center parking lot.

Bunny Hop

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host a free Bunny Hop, held open-house style, from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 16.

Children 13 and younger can look for "hidden bunnies," and collect a bag of candy at one of several stations. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

About the Cover

Take a little extra time to savor Bill Cavalier's Easter edition cover. See if you know the name of each popular rabbit, and check out the many ways Happy Easter is said by people across the globe.



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World Creativity/Innovation Week

The Center for Creative Solutions will host Northwest Indiana's World Creativity and Innovation Week on April 18-24, the theme being "Collaboration: Working Together Creatively."

A number of events will celebrate creativity and innovation throughout April. Most are free and open to the public. The center also will award area students and their organizations for innovative projects or products. The winners receive community recognition and a monetary prize. Students of any age are welcome to enter.

In conjunction with Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta and the B.R. Foundation of Michigan City, the center will present Tej Ram Gupta scholarships to three A.K. Smith Career Center students.

During the week, the board will bestow the CREO!, which honors a citizen or organization that encourages a culture of creativity and innovation in the community. CREO is a Latin word meaning "to create." It stands for Creativity, Regional, Excellence and Originality. Past recipients include:

- O'Merrial Butchee and John Davies, leaders of the Ivy Tech Gerald I. Lampkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center and Society of Innovators (2014).
- Dr. Rakesh and Bina Gupta, Michigan City leaders advancing community innovation (2015).
- Leigh Morris, LaPorte, a regional promoter of innovation in health care, government and non-profit organizations.
- Spark Labs of the LaPorte County Public Library.
- Ben Konowitz, LaPorte businessman, comedian and improv actor.
- Ed Beutner, Michigan City businessman and community leader.
- None awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Earl Adams, LaPorte, and Dr. Kuhn Hong, Michigan City (2021).

The public is invited to nominate a citizen or organization for the Student Innovation Awards or CREO! by contacting the center at creativity52@comcast.net or (219) 326-7259.



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NB Library Community Forum

New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will host a program about *Le Griffon*, French explorer La Salle's lost ship and arguably Lake Michigan's first shipwreck, at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 19.



van Heest

Shipwreck hunter and author Valerie van Heest will discuss the shipwreck and the many false discovery claims that emerged since its disappearance in 1679. She will share her ideas of what really happened to *Le Griffon*, formed as she searched for the ship with the Discovery Channel's Josh Gates to film an episode of "Expedition Unknown."

Van Heest has spoken at the library on a range of subjects, from the mysterious crash of a Delta Airlines flight to early passenger travel in the Great Lakes. Her program is part of the free Friends of the New Buffalo Library's Community Forum series now in its eighth year. Face masks are requested.

Art Barn School of Art

James Swanson will lead a guest artist workshop on K-9 portraits from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 22-23, at Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso.

Swanson is known for his Dog Day Month painting series. The workshop will begin with the initial painting's design, then move to the painting palette for color mixing, a quick demo with a paint-along, followed by a class critique.

The cost is \$260. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.



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“Windfall” is One Sneaky, Twisted Thriller

by Andrew Tallackson



Jason Segel (left) stars as a burglar who holds a couple (Lily Collins, Jesse Plemons) hostage in “Windfall.”

“Windfall” opens with music so intentionally melodramatic, we believe we’re in store for a throw-back thriller, something Alfred Hitchcock or Billy Wilder might have created.

Then, the story emerges as a home-invasion tale so droll and sneaky, it resembles early Coen brothers, with a final scene that makes you laugh *and* gasp out of shock. It’s not a comedy, per se, but it uses irony, and characters so acceleratingly hostile toward each other, to such an extreme degree that you delight in just how wrong everything turns out.

The new Netflix film opens with an unnamed burglar (Jason Segel) casually, maybe *too* casually, looting a home of its riches while the owners are gone. It’s one of those secluded residences perched along the edge of desert country. Possibly California or New Mexico. We never learn where, exactly.

Problem is, the owners arrive unexpectedly, and with the burglar still in the house. The husband (“Power of the Dog” Oscar-nominee Jesse Plemons) is the CEO of a powerful company, having written an algorithm that changed the corporate workplace in America. The wife (Lily Collins) seems nice enough, although there is tension in the words exchanged

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Windfall”

Running time: 92 minutes. Netflix. Rated R
for language throughout and some violence.

between her and her husband.

Once the burglar makes himself known, one thing becomes evident in the script cowritten by Andrew Kevin Walker (“Seven,” Tim Burton’s “Sleepy Hollow”): these three people are too smart for their own good. The story, in a way, is an arrogant comedy of errors.

The burglar eventually flees, the couple locked in their outdoor sauna, but returns after discovering a security camera right where his vehicle is parked. He returns to the house, hoping he can destroy the footage...but the couple has escaped.

What ensues for the three is an excruciatingly long 36 hours in which they taunt each other, not with violence — almost all of the film’s brutality is committed off-screen — but with their choice of words.

The more we get to know the husband, the more

it's obvious he is an arrogant pig. Where he actually taunts the burglar to accept more bribe money so he'll just leave. Be done with it. Plemons seems to enjoy flirting with sleaze. He hasn't been this surprising since his first big role on "Breaking Bad." If you recall the show's final season, he played a young man with all-American sincerity, but the moral dead zone of a contract killer. Here, as the husband grows weary of the burglar's lack of fortitude, Plemons comes out of his shell to create a man so entitled by wealth, he can't fathom anyone who does not think and behave exactly like him.

Collins ("Mirror Mirror," "Mank"), too, taps into something unexpected: domestic rage. Trapped in a marriage that leave her feeling minimized, insulted, the burglar is her window into unleashing all of her pent-up frustration. In the past, Collins had a way of coming across as window dressing: an object of beauty...but nothing more. Here, we see in the actress' face a devious awakening, an opportunity to reassert herself within, and possibly outside of, her marriage.

Charlie McDowell, the director of "Windfall," is married to Collins in real life, and that could be why he's culled the best out of her. He also has a mordant sense of humor, some of it so dry, it takes a bit to sink in. Take, for instance, the moment when the gardener (Omar Leyva) arrives to show the couple his handywork. Feigning normalcy, they follow him on a tour of all his landscaping projects on the property. You smile at how antsy the three are as the gardener shows off rock gardens. Then, still trying to impress upon the gardener that nothing is wrong, they sit inside, frustrated to no end, as they listen to him outside trimming the bushes.

What happens to the gardener is the first of three



The tension between husband and wife amplifies with each passing minute in "Windfall."

major shocks during the last act. Anything that can go wrong...does. But the movie does not end as you expect it will. Somehow, "Windfall" works in a little #metoo politics that bring everything to a wildly entertaining finish.

A distinct pleasure of reviewing movies is the one title that comes out of nowhere. No buzz or hype, but it catches you off guard. Where the more you think about it, the more you adore it.

I adore "Windfall."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Black Crab” Affords Noomi Rapace Another Tough Action Hero

by Andrew Tallackson



Noomi Rapace plays a woman coerced into taking a mysterious package across ice in “Black Crab.”

Behind-enemy-lines tales are a dime a dozen. In times of war, especially, they make for good action films or spy thrillers.

“Black Crab,” however, finds just enough of a means to reinvent it, with an urgency long since absent. It is by no means perfect, the vagueness of its overall threat diluting key scenes. But as a popcorn thriller, this new Swedish Netflix film looks great, features another terrific performance by Noomi Rapace and barrels toward a hugely satisfying finish.

Rapace may not be a household name in America, but movie geeks, we love her. She was the first Lisbeth Salander on film — the anti-hero of Stieg Larsson’s “Millennium” trilogy that began with “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” — before graduating to Ridley Scott’s “Prometheus” (2012) and, later, Season 2 of Prime’s “Jack Ryan.” She consistently plays women who know how to handle themselves in a world of men: not just physically, but intellectually and psychologically.

That’s the case in “Black Crab” which is based on a novel by Jerker Virdborg. As the movie opens, Caroline Edh (Rapace) is stuck in traffic, her teen daughter in the back seat, when civil war breaks out. What’s going on, we never learn. A few years later, though, Caroline now is a soldier and separated from her daughter. Sweden is in ruins, the



“Black Crab”

*Running time: 114 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-MA
for language and some violence*

most striking image being a skyscraper that looks like something big punched a hole in it.

Caroline is reluctantly recruited into what gets every behind-enemy-lines plot rolling: a mission most impossible. A suicide mission, to be accurate. She and other ragtag recruits must deliver two packages that could win the war — whatever the war is, mind you — by crossing an archipelago covered with ice. Ice, by the way, too thin for vehicles, so they’ll have to skate over it. The enemy, their attackers, will be everywhere, particularly by helicopter, but the insurance policy to keep Caroline involved is that her daughter is on the island where the packages must be delivered.

So, OK, it sounds kinda silly. An Olympic skating training video masquerading as a military action thriller. But once Caroline and her team venture out onto the ice, “Black Crab” becomes a thrilling, visually striking race to the finish. Director Adam Berg, making his feature film debut, achieves some haunting images of the group as they make their

way across a precarious surface that, from time to time, cracks beneath them. Rapace, again, creates a woman who is smarter than everyone around her, who can fight with the best of them, but also use her mind as an advantage against others.

The movie never does explain what's unfolding in Sweden. Doing so might have amped up the immediacy of what Caroline and crew are trying to achieve. At the midpoint, however, the contents of the two packages come to light, and it sets forth a moral and ethical dilemma for Caroline. We realize the story never was concerned about the "why" — the unfortunate predicament in which Sweden finds itself. Instead, the movie is more intrigued by contemplating a single issue: in war, how far are we willing to go to assure victory?

That may not be the things-go-boom twist action fans crave, but on an emotional level, "Black Crab" allows itself to go out with a bang on a more satisfying note. Rapace has taken Caroline about as far as



The action in "Black Crab" involves traveling across ice and venturing into precarious situations.

she can go, the character remaining true to herself from start to finish. Another worthy hero for an actress having played more than her share of them.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Long Beach Police Department in the Spotlight

Editor's note — This week, we continue our series on those who serve with Long Beach Police Department.

Deputy Marshal Jason Yagelski has a little more than eight years of dedicated service to the Town of Long Beach.

Yagelski, born and raised in Michigan City by Mark and Laurie Yagelski, always aspired to be a police officer, to follow in the footsteps of his Uncle Chris Yagelski, who recently retired from Michigan City Police Department. He began his law-enforcement career in 2006 with the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office. In 2010, he began working as a deputy marshal at Westville Police Department before joining Long Beach police in January 2014. Besides his career in Long Beach, he is chief marshal for the Town of Pottawattamie Park and a part-time deputy marshal for the Town of Trail Creek.

After graduating from Michigan City High School in 2002, Yagelski completed his associates degree in business from Purdue University-Northwest, later obtaining his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ivy Tech Community College.

Yagelski is proud to serve residents of Long Beach, Duneland Beach and Michiana Shores, striving to make his community a safer, better place. He wants to continue transparency within his community, maintaining professionalism and dedicated service while fostering positive relationships.

As he sees Long Beach characteristics of a resilient and evolving community, Yagelski wants to create a feeling of safety and security, interacting and getting involved with the community. Besides enforcing the laws and ordinances, you will catch him passing out goodie bags full of LBPD giveaways and taking pictures with young residents and visitors.

Yagelski has had many exciting moments in his career, yet getting to meet and take a photo with former Chicago Cub Anthony Rizzo and San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo during their visits to Long Beach was an amazing experience.

He enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Vaushna, and his two German Shepherds, Rush and Max, as well as family and friends. Outside of police work, he loves to watch sports, travel and maintain his physical fitness by weightlifting, but overall enjoys his life as a police officer and would not have it any other way.



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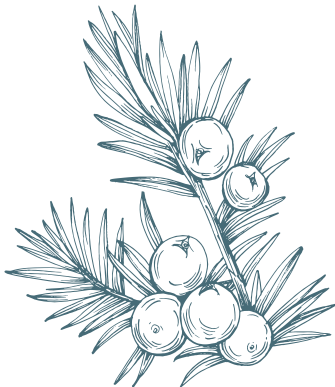
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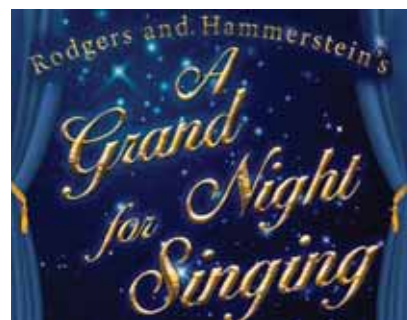
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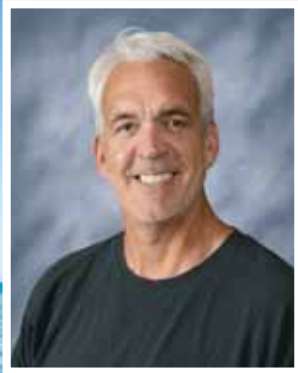
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Moon Bathing

Moon bathing?

Hear me out.

The other night, when the “baby moon” was growing up fast and getting ready for college, I took my trusty Canon PowerShot SX50 HS digital camera out on the back deck for “moon shots.”

Moon shots?

Hear me out.

I enjoy photographing the moon, in all its phases. Full moons, of course, make for the easiest subjects, but I have grown quite fond of capturing baby — or waxing — moons, both by the light of day and the light of the silvery moon. The latter is most challenging because my Canon, at least in my preferred “Auto” setting, keeps wanting me to pop open the flash and — what? — illuminate the lunar subject?

Come on.

No way is my flash going to reach the moon.

Just like humans have not reached the moon since the last century, but don’t get me started on that.

Before I start for the finish of this discourse on some things lunar, allow me to explain how I came to know of the so-called “baby moon.”

A few years back, we were out on a spring night in Southwest Michigan conducting a “frog survey” with naturalist Wendy Jones. While listening to frogs in various locations to determine their approximate numbers, we saw the moon

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



in the sky. Wendy announced it was a “baby moon,” saying the way to distinguish one from a “dying moon” was by holding one’s index finger opposite the moon. If the finger and moon formed a lowercase “b,” then it was a baby moon. If the moon appeared to the left of the finger and formed a lowercase “d,” it was a “dying moon.” Try it. You’ll get the hang of it soon enough. If I did, you certainly can.

Anyway, I’ll find a way in which to shoot a baby or dying moon with my Canon camera.

Why not?

It’s fun, and who am I hurting?

Certainly not the man and woman on the moon.

Now back to the whole “moon bathing” bit.

If one can freely use “sun-bathing” in a sentence, then one has every right to include “moon bathing” in one’s prose or poetry. To wit: The review of his book, Moon Bathing, was, in the view of some, quite scathing.

So moon bathing it is, and



One big, baby moon, just days before becoming the March “Worm Moon.”

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that is precisely what I was doing the other night with that big, fat baby moon that was fixin' to go full on March 18, the feast of St. Cyril of Jerusalem. (Sorry, my Irish and Italian friends, but the moon didn't decide to go full this year on either St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, or on the 19th for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph.)

But I digress.

As I fiddled with my camera and zoomed in on the moon, minus the aid of the tripod I foolishly gave away, I meditated on the fact that the moon figures into the annual dating of Easter.

Christmas in the West is fixed to Dec. 25. Doesn't matter what day of the week it falls, or the phase of the moon. Dec. 25 is Christmas Day.

End of discussion.

But Easter?

Oh boy.

We could go long here with an entirely new essay about the dating of Easter, in the West and the East. But let's just stick with the West for now and note that in 2022, Easter falls on Sunday, April 17. (Be it also known that Eastern Orthodox Easter falls this year a week later, on Sunday, April 24.) That's because western Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the "Full Moon Date," based on "mathematical calculations that fall on or after March 21."

Huh?

Well, according to one website, Easter is *"liturgically related to the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and the full moon."* But the church, and I do mean THE Church, does not date Easter on the astronomical date of either event.

Hey, go take a class at the College of Cardinals in Vatican City and they'll explain it to you. Pope Francis even will lay it out in Spanish, no less.

So, I was noodling all of that and plenty more lunar legends the other night as I shot the near-to-full

moon with my Canon camera. Not my Canon canon. But the canon of conventional wisdom clearly states that Canon makes cameras, not cannons. So there's no such thing as a Canon cannon, at least as far as I know.

All right.

Enough out of me.



Our late friend and neighbor, Sue Krusack, was our guide to all things on the Earth and in the sky.

But I do want to close this dodgy bit of doggerel by shouting out to the late Sue Krusack, who would regale us every month with folklore about that month's full moon. I can just hear her saying that the March full moon is the "Worm Moon." However, she would say, if it fell after March 21, it would have been the "Pascal Moon."

Sue knew.

Oh, did she ever.

But, alas, Sue "went over the moon" last August. While she left great big holes in our hearts, she did leave us with a love of nature and full moons that will illuminate the remainder of our own days.



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JROTC Supports School, Community

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps kept busy in March, supporting school and community activities.

It also competed in the March 5 regional drill championship at Purdue University-West Lafayette.

MCHS hosted the Boys Regional Basketball tournament March 14. Cadets provided parking support for the semifinal games in the morning and championship game at night. They also provided the Color Guard for the morning and evening games.

Of note, with a crowd of nearly 7,000 for the championship game between Chesterton and Penn, the crowd spontaneously sang The National Anthem. That motivated public-address announcer Stan Hargraves to exclaim, "That was awesome!"

"I think that our Color Guard, impeccable in their Dress Blue uniforms, and executing all of the drill movements precisely and crisply, had a lot to do with that reaction from the crowd," Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, said in a press release.

In between games, the cadets marched in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade. The wind-chill factor was in the teens the entire day and night. With the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the morning and a play at the school that night, cadets helped find and direct cars into parking spaces.



Cadets present the Colors before the regional boys basketball championship game between Chesterton and Penn.

"Our cadets showed their physical and mental endurance throughout the day and night supporting our school and community," Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, said in a press release.

Other events cadets supported were the March 11 dance at Barker Middle School, the setup and tear-down of the LaPorte County Garden Club Show on March 18-19, the International Lions Club convention in LaPorte on March 19 and the first home track meet March 30.

JROTC will continue to support the track season and other events through the end of the school year. They also will conduct a leadership camp in Wisconsin in June, and send cadets to national MCJROTC drill and leadership camps in the summer. The camps are at no cost to the cadet, funded entirely by the Marine Corps.



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First UMC Scholarships

May 5 is the deadline to submit applications for annual scholarships through First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The scholarships go to students entering an accredited college or trade school, as well as those continuing or resuming their education regardless of age. While some awards require church membership, five scholarships are open to the community:

- **The Richard Presser Scholarship**, named for the late local educator, goes to a graduating senior from Michigan City High School or Marquette Catholic High School.
- **The Timberlake Scholarship**, given in memory of Joan Thomas Timberlake and Diane Fike Timberlake, is open to a non-traditional student. The applicant must be a mother, at least 18 and an active member of any recognized church, synagogue or mosque. Residents of LaPorte, Porter and Berrien counties are eligible.
- **The Jean Kruse Scholarship** goes to a student pursuing an elementary education degree. Kruse was a longtime primary grade teacher in Michigan City.
- Nursing students may apply for the **Mabel Rhoades Scholarship** in memory of the registered nurse and nursing instructor who established the first post-op recovery room in Indiana.
- **The Swinehart/Bartholomew Scholarship** goes to an arts major living in LaPorte County. Applicants must have completed at least one year, studying vocal music, instrumental music, theater or visual arts. The Swinehart and Bartholomew families have been involved in local music and community theater for three generations.

Contact Higher Education Committee Chair Sue Cassler at susan.cassler@comcast.net or (219) 362-1421 for information or to obtain an application.

Master Gardener Community Grants

The LaPorte County Master Gardener Association will offer a Community Grant Program, the submission deadline being April 30.

The grants support individuals or groups to cover materials (not labor) for a gardening/horticultural volunteer project that supports the community, and furthers the association's mission to "Help Others Grow," educating about gardening.

Each grant does not exceed \$300. The number of grants is at the LPCMGA's discretion and the available money. Individuals or groups within LaPorte County are eligible. All requests must be made in writing using the application on the LPCMGA website at www.lpmastergardener.org. Only one application may be submitted per project. Two projects per organization may be submitted.



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Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff

Five jurors virtually reviewed and juried 426 applicants to determine the final 172 artists in this year's 60th Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff.

As KAC's largest fundraiser, proceeds support free year-round exhibits. The anniversary event is July 9-10, with tickets going on sale Sunday, May 1. Daily admission is:

- General Admission (guests 11+): \$5.
- Children ages 3-10: \$3.
- Children 3 and younger receive free admission; a ticket is required.

General admission tickets are good for one day, and same-day re-entry is accepted. Day-of tickets are cash only, while QR codes will be provided for credit card sales. Collector Experience packages start at \$130 (\$65 for KAC members) and include an all-weekend pass plus special benefits.

Returning this year is the Friday night Block Party, which allows time to socialize with participating artists, enjoy live music, artmaking activities and a cash bar. Tickets cost:

- Guests ages 11+: \$5.
- Children ages 3-10: \$3.
- Children 3 and younger receive free admission; a ticket is required.
- Free for KAC members.

Email updates are available at www.krasl.org/art-fair/tickets.

Judges for this year's fair were:

- Jessica Hightower, KAC teaching artist, communications specialist and artist.
- Nicolina Holt of Nicolina Holt Photography, a KAC teaching artist and University of Notre Dame Art Department office coordinator.
- Vincent Leman, a furniture designer, Dust Furniture.
- Kristin Perkins, a managing member of Kristin Perkins Glass Jewelry LLC.
- Kevan Truman, a retired third-grade teacher, and KAC volunteer and docent.

Krasl Art Center is located in St. Joseph, Mich. Visit www.krasl.org for more details.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

Closed: Saturday & Sunday

Harbor Country Hikers



Wildflowers at Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Mich.

Harbor Country Hikers will hike what some consider the area's prettiest wildflower trails at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 16.

Mike Latus will lead the hike at Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Mich. The park's outdoor explorer guide, he has a broad knowledge of nature, from geology to botany to astronomy.

The hike, about two miles long, will begin with a 15-minute introduction to local wildflowers. Guests should dress in layers, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and take plenty of water. The trek is rated moderate to difficult, with stretches of loose and packed sand.

Membership is encouraged; however, the public is invited, along with well-behaved dogs on leashes. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details.

Libraries to Receive Book Donations

River Valley Garden Club has donated nine gardening books to the New Troy and Three Oaks libraries.

A librarian from each site will receive the books at the club's April 19 meeting at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. The meeting, open to the public, is at 1 p.m. EDT.

Michigan Garden Clubs encourages the donations to promote a love of gardening in children. The list of books is: Goodnight Veggies, Diana Murray; Seeds Move, Robin Page; The Extraordinary Gardener, Sam Boughton; Tops and Bottoms, Janet Stevens; In the Tall, Tall Grass, Denise Fleming; Because of an Acorn, Lola Schaefer; UnderGROUND, Denise Fleming; One Little Lot, Diane Mullen; and Easy Peasy, Gardening for Children, Kristen Bradley.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513, email evpalulis@yahoo.com or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org for more details.



Spring 2022 Events
Supporting the
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Westville, IN
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www.catssociety.org
Facebook: INCatSociety

4/30—Earth Day

9am-1pm Porter County Expo Center

4/30—Craft Fair to Raise Funds for ICS Nursery Room Remodel!
10AM-4PM Sparta Dome, 1355 E North St, Crown Point

5/6 & 5/7—Mother's Day Flower Basket Sale

5/6-1pm-4pm, 5/7-10am-4pm At the shelter

5/21—TNR—Trapping 101

5:30PM-?? At the shelter

6/11 & 6/12—Aunt Kitty's Treasure & Trash Spring Yard Sale

Drop off donations Friday, 6/10 9am-3pm

Sale Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm

At the shelter

6/18—Lakeshore PAWS Pup Crawl

5pm-10PM Central Park- Downtown Valparaiso

ICS TNR Rummage Sale

June—Date/Location TBD

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LaPorte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The next date is April 18.

Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Earth Day Celebration

The event, which features Ranger Laura and other environmental booths, is from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Michigan Public City Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Daddy Daughter Dance

The event that features dancing and refreshments is Friday-Saturday, May 20-21, at the Luhr County Park Morgan Shelter

A maximum of 72 people are allowed each night. Times are 6-8 p.m. May 20 and 2-4 p.m. May 21. The cost is \$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Pre-registration and payment are required on or before May 12 or until full, whichever comes first.

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 3-8, with an adult required to participate. Times are 6-7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park's Morgan Shelter. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- June 1: The 3 B's Butterflies, Bees, Birds.
- June 15: Web of Life.
- June 29: Animal Encounters.
- July 20: Play Pod Exploration.
- July 27: What's That Smell.
- Aug. 3: Scavenger Hunt Fun.

Field Trips

Formal educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park. The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

Visit www.laportecountyparks.org for sample programs. Email natureniki@csinet.net or call (219) 324-5855 for details.

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 Pick-up 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 programs are planned:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, April 15.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Teen D&D from 5-7 p.m. Monday, April 18, in Meeting Room A at the main library.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.

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 for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

Ten-digit dialing is official for Indiana, Illinois and Michigan residents.

Those affected are: Indiana residents with (219) and (574) area codes; Illinois residents with (309) (618) and (708) area codes; and Michigan residents with (616), (810), (906) and (989) area codes.

A 10-digit call requires the three-digit area code and seven-digit telephone number, even when calling someone in the same area code. The change does not affect a current telephone number. In the case of the Illinois (708) number, the 10-digit number may have to use trunk code 1, which is known as 1+10-digit dialing, or national, format.

Why is this required? According to the Federal Communications Commission, "as more area codes begin to run out of new seven-digit numbers to assign, a second local area code may be added, requiring that area to transition to ten-digit dialing."

Exhibit Celebrates Avanti Anniversary



The Studebaker National Museum will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its Avanti with the exhibit "America's Most Advanced Automobile" through Oct. 30.

The museum will explore the Avanti's origin story and its place in the 1963 automotive landscape, contemporary reviews and road tests, and promotional materials and advertisements. Additionally, the exhibit will discuss the Avanti's early production difficulties, and its life beyond Studebaker.

The museum is located at 201 Chapin St., just west of downtown South Bend. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors 60+ and \$6 for ages 6-18. Call (574) 235-9714 or toll free at (888) 391-5600, or visit www.studebakermuseum.org, for more details.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



April 5, 2022

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Lady Strikers	27	13
2. Gutter Busters	23	17
3. Pin Ball Wizards	21	19

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Carolyn Wiggins	179
2. Mary Lou McFadden	176
3. June Salmon	166
4. Dottie Brinckman	161
5. Kathy Osborne	159
6. Holly Dres	150
7. Susie Lutz	148

SPLITS

Mary Clohessy	5-6
Susie Lutz	4-5-7

STRIKES

Dottie Brinckman	3
------------------	---



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Alzheimer's Research Update

The Alzheimer's Association Greater Indiana Chapter will host a free, in-person Research Updates program from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Cool-spring Ave.

The program will include the latest facts and figures regarding Alzheimer's and other dementias, modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors and why early detection and diagnosis are important.

Attendees will learn about biomarkers, why they are needed and ways biomarkers are used in dementia research. Other topics include the latest advances in clinical trials, treatments and lifestyle interventions.

Registration is encouraged, but not required. Visit www.alz.org/indiana/programs for more information and to register, or call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Strumming Away



Philanthropic Educational Organization Chapter BR's ukulele group met for its first lesson before the regular meeting March 24 at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. PEO member Janet Stefano taught the group.

Barker Mansion Sponsors Festival

Michigan City Special Events Director Terry Greetham announced a partnership with Barker Mansion as a Gold Level Sponsor of the Inaugural Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival, which is June 3-5 in Washington Park.

The festival is a three-day celebration of Michigan City's lakefront and beach. The centerpiece is a professional sand-sculpting exhibition and competition. Michigan City has partnered with The Sand Lovers LLC, a professional sand-sculpting and event-management company, which specializes in sand-sculpting events.

Visit tinyurl.com/yckrpa4r for details, including art, craft and merchandise vendor opportunities, as well as volunteer opportunities, or visit the Facebook page Michigan City Special Events. Visit www.thesandlovers.com to learn more about The Sand Lovers and professional sand-sculpting events.

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., is temporarily closed as renovations continue; however, a series of outdoor public events in the garden is planned this summer. The interior is scheduled to reopen in November and include the premiere of "The Legacy of Freight," a permanent exhibit celebrating the impact of the Haskell & Barker railroad freight-car company on Michigan City's history.

Plow Day Rescheduled

Due to heavy rainfall, the LaPorte County Draft Horse Association's 2022 Plow Day has been rescheduled to 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 24.

The antique plows have a difficult time cutting through saturated, muddy soil.

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will be open during the show.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has 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).

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.

Chesterton Art Center

April 30 is the deadline to submit artist applications for the 2022 Chesterton Art Fair set for Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 6-7, in Dogwood Park.

Now in its 63rd year, the fair draws artists and visitors from across the Midwest. It typically features more than 100 artists, live music, family activities, food vendors and free parking for nearly 4,000 visitors. Times are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Accepted artists will be notified by May 9.

Fair proceeds support the non-profit Chesterton Art Center, which provides educational and outreach programs, exhibits that showcase local and regional artists, and various community events and partnerships.

Visit tinyurl.com/57sap5eb for the application.



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

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American Red Cross

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

- IBEW 531, 2751 N. Old Indiana 39, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 16.

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

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, Dunebrook has announced activities that reinforce the community garden-metaphor theme: "Together, We Can Help Positive Childhoods Take Root."

In addition to blue pinwheels decorating Dunebrook, businesses and homes across the community, the following activities are planned:

- Through April 30 – Sponsor a Pinwheel Garden. Plant one at home or work, or surprise a friend with a pinwheel bouquet. Contact Lisa Scheller at lisa2@dunebrook.org for details.
- April 28 — Prevention Resource Open House, hosted by Family Advocates, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.
- April 28 — LaPorte United Methodist Church Annual Child Abuse Awareness Walk. Meet at the church, 1225 Michigan Ave., at 5:30 p.m. The event involves a short walk to the courthouse, then a return to the church for light dinner and fellowship. RSVP to (219) 362-2443.

The following businesses are supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month with Give Backs:

- April 10-16 — South Bend Chocolate Café at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets.
- April 10-16 — Kabelin's Ace Hardware, Michigan City and LaPorte locations.
- April 20-26 — Al's Supermarkets, Michigan City and LaPorte locations.

Visit www.dunebrook.org or contact Tammy Button at (219) 874-0007, Ext. 317, or tammy@dunebrook.org for more details.

REAL Services Luncheon

REAL Services will host its 26th annual Age of Excellence Luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT at The Century Center, 120 Doctor M.L.K. Jr. Blvd., South Bend.

NBC National News Journalist Anne Thompson is the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$50. Call (574) 284-7104 or email events@realservices.org for more information.



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In the Area

April 14 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 15 — PASSOVER BEGINS.

April 16 — Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m., Fedder's Alley, Washington Park.

April 16 — Free Bunny Hop, 1-3 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

April 17 — EASTER SUNDAY.

April 18 — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., Meeting Room A @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 20 — Spring Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

April 20 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3-5 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

April 20 — Paper Circuits, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Through June 30 — Local artist Elda Runzaitis, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.

Mondays in April — Needle Arts Club, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

In the Region

April 15-16 — "Honky Tonk Laundry," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (EDT): 7:30 p.m. April 15-16, 3 p.m. April 16. Tickets: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org, (574) 848-4116.

April 16 — Native Plant Talks, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 16 — Beach Glass Butterfly Ornaments, 10:30-noon & 1:30-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

Cost: \$7. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 16 — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EDT, Warren Dunes State Park, Sawyer, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

April 17 — Egg-Cellent Photo Hunt, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 19 — Garlic Mustard Pulling Party, 9 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 19 — New Buffalo Library Community Forum (Le Griffon shipwreck), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

April 21 — Open Mic Night with Jack Cunningham, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free admission; donations welcome. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org

Through May 15 — Guillermo Sotelo's "Broken Alphabet: A Love Letter to Graffiti," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Through May 28 — "University of Notre Dame: The Fabric of a Global University," The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors (60+), \$7/youth (6-17), free/members. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

Through Oct. 2 — "WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Through Oct. 30 — "The Avanti: America's Most Advanced Automobile," The Studebaker National Museum, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Sundays in April — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Vickers Theatre — *Opens April 15:* "Mothering Sunday." Not rated. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 14, 1759, composer George Friedrich Handel died in London at age 74.

On April 14, 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language was published.

On April 14, 1865, while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Washington's Ford's Theatre, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and fatally wounded by actor John Wilkes Booth. The president died the next morning.

On April 14, 1900, Andrew Riker won a 50-mile cross-country automobile race held on New York's Long Island. Driving the only electric car among the nine starters, he finished the course in 2 hours, 3 minutes, 29 seconds.

On April 14, 1912, the British luxury liner Titanic struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland on its debut voyage to New York. Early the next morning, it sank with the loss of 1,500 lives.

On April 15, 1817, the first American school for the deaf was opened in Hartford, Conn.

On April 15, 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

On April 15, 1865, following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson was sworn in as the nation's 17th president.

On April 15, 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in New York City.

On April 15, 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Bergen.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became baseball's first black major-league player when he debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day.

On April 16, 1787, "The Contrast" (by Royal Tyler), the first play written by a U.S. citizen, was produced in New York.

On April 16, 1789, President-elect George Washington left his home in Mount Vernon, bound for New York, for his first inauguration as U.S. president.

On April 16, 1833, John Mary Irenaeus St. Cyr became the first Roman Catholic priest permanently assigned to Chicago.

On April 16, 1867, Wilbur Wright, co-inventor of the airplane, was born on a farm near New Castle, Ind.

On April 16, 1940, Cleveland Indian's pitcher Bob Feller pitched an opening day no-hitter against the White Sox in Chicago.

On April 17, 1521, Martin Luther went before

the Diet of Worms to face charges stemming from his religious writings.

On April 17, 1961, operating on orders from President John Kennedy, about 1,500 CIA trained Cuban exiles launched the poorly-planned “Bay of Pigs” invasion of Cuba. The invasion failed, and most of the survivors were captured.

On April 17, 1964, Ford Motor Co. introduced the Mustang.

On April 17, 1970, the astronauts of Apollo 13 landed in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their craft.

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride between the Massachusetts towns of Charlestown and Lexington, warning American colonists of the approach of British troops.

On April 18, 1818, President James Monroe signed a bill creating the State of Illinois.

On April 18, 1858, rain began falling on the Chicago area and continued to fall for 60 consecutive days.

On April 18, 1906, an earthquake centered in San Francisco, followed by major fires, caused the loss of 700 lives.

On April 18, 1921, Junior Achievement, created to encourage business skills in young people, was incorporated.

On April 19, 1729, Italian Duke Antonio Fernando, ruler of Guastalla, rubbed his sore muscles with alcohol, caught fire and burned to death. The Duke never drank, having been warned by a fortune-teller that alcohol would kill him.

On April 19, 1865, the funeral for President Abraham Lincoln was held in the White House.

On April 19, 1892, in Springfield, Mass., Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage — the first American-made automobile — out of his shop for a successful drive.

On April 19, 1897, the first Boston Marathon was run from Ashland, Mass., to Boston. Winner John McDermott ran the course in 2 hours, 55 minutes, 10 seconds.

On April 19, 1910, after weeks of being viewed through telescopes, Halley’s Comet was reported visible to the naked eye in Curacao.

On April 19, 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “Carousel” opened on Broadway.

On April 20, 1812, George Clinton, the first vice president to die in office, succumbed at age 73.

On April 20, 1857, Chicago Mayor John “Long John” Wentworth led a raid on the “Sands,” a notorious North Michigan Avenue vice district.

On April 20, 1902, scientists Marie and Pierre Curie succeeded in isolating the radioactive element radium.

On April 20, 1949, Mayo Clinic scientists revealed they had synthesized a hormone to treat rheumatoid arthritis — named “cortisone.”

On April 20, 1972, the manned lunar module from Apollo 16 landed on the moon.

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Wall of Fame Nominations

Michigan City Area Schools is seeking nominations for the 2022 Wall of Fame.

The annual award, first presented in 1976, honors former school employees who made outstanding contributions to MCAS children. Employees from every area are eligible: administrators, custodians, food-service personnel, instructional assistants, maintenance personnel, paraprofessionals, teachers, transportation staff and secretarial staff.

To qualify, the candidate must have been employed by MCAS for a minimum of 15 years. Special circumstances may be considered for those not meeting that requirement due to hardship or death.

Candidates also must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Because retirees are occasionally called back to service, the date of separation is considered the official retirement date, not including subsequent employment by MCAS. Employees from schools that were independent before school reorganization, as well as those from schools no longer in existence, also are eligible. Death does not make a person ineligible.

All applications remain on file for three years. At the end of that time, candidates must be renominated. Forms and a complete list of past recipients are available at <http://EducateMC.net/WOF>

The nomination deadline is Friday, April 29. Contact Betsy Kohn at (219) 873-2000, Ext. 8365, or email bkohn@educateMC.net for details.

Garden Hotline

LaPorte County Master Gardeners are available through a free garden hotline to answer questions from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, April 18-Sept. 30.

Master Gardeners will answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. Answers include research-based materials produced by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other regional land-grant universities.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City-area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2010. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions also can be emailed to lpmastergardener@gmail.com

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Run Rose Run by Dolly Parton and James Patterson (hardcover, \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audio book. 439 pages.)

I admit it. I gave in to media hype and picked up a copy of Patterson's latest book, this time written with one of country & western music's greatest singers.

Sounds like an odd pairing, but fame and money just attract more of the same, I guess. Maybe I'm being sarcastic because this pairing has produced a book that is surprisingly entertaining from Page 1. I really liked it. I wasn't expecting that.

The theme is as old as time — a rags-to-riches story with a few bumps along the way. But it's the characters themselves and how the story is handled that make it so entertaining.

Patterson's been releasing books with unknown writers who produce a story he fleshes out. That's why he takes the majority of credit while the co-author's name is in small print beneath his. Look at this book. Whose name is first? I think that says a lot about who is running the show this time.

Could Patterson have written this book by himself? Of course. But I must admit, I was reading the story with Dolly's voice in my head. Quips about the music business and life in general sound just like something Dolly Parton would say. Patterson's amazing storytelling ability is evident in every page, but Dolly's voice is loud and clear.

Now on to the story...

The prologue kicks off with a woman jumping off a hotel balcony three stories high. Will the main character have a horrid ending? But then chapter one jumps back 11 months earlier...

"AnnieLee had been standing on the side of the road for an hour, thumbing a ride, when the rain started falling in earnest..."

Is it easy? she sang to herself.

"No it ain't

"Can I fix it?"

"No I cain't

"But I sure ain't gonna take it lyin' down."

A message to the world? Maybe so. Maybe a reminder she's not going back to whatever made her leave in the first place.

AnnieLee Keyes has been writing songs for a long

time for no one but herself. Now, she's heading east out of Texas, trying to hitch a ride in the pouring rain. Not a smart thing to do for a young, pretty girl.

It doesn't take long before a truck driver picks her up and proves my point. She gets away from him and finally makes it to Nashville. She finds a bar called the Cat's Paw Saloon and sees it has an open mic. She catches more than the attention of the bar crowd. She's also noticed by Ethan Blake, who just happens to be a studio musician for the great, and now retired, country singer Ruthanna Ryder. She's been more than just a singer. She's a country singing legend.

Ethan recognizes that same mega talent in AnnieLee and takes her to meet Ruthanna, who also sees maybe part of herself in the young woman. Problem is, AnnieLee is not being truthful to Ethan or Ruthanna about where she comes from and what happened to her in the past. That past comes sliding through the door when she is accosted by several men who give her a beating — not enough to kill her, but just enough to show her they can find her anytime they want.

AnnieLee is cagey about telling this to Ethan and Ruthanna, and the incident is put on the shelf for now because it's time for the C/W audience to meet Ruthanna's protege.

There's another scare for AnnieLee with these strange men

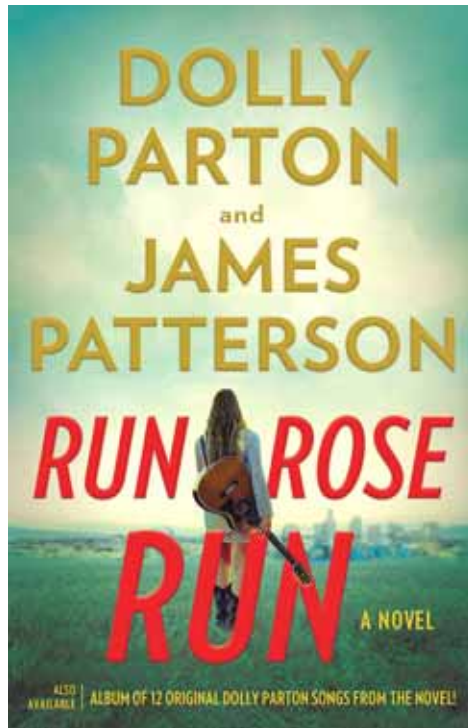
before Ethan steps in and becomes her bodyguard. Isn't it time she comes clean about her past?

Her first song gets a lot of air time. Ruthanna grooms her, and she makes the rounds of many venues, performing to eager audiences. AnnieLee seems destined to become the next Nashville sensation. Really? Do you think this story will end on a happy note so easily? Read it and find out! You won't be disappointed.

Patterson and Parton are icons in their respective businesses, but this joint venture shows it's never too late to hit one out of the ballpark.

Lyrics to songs in a new album by Dolly Parton, aptly called "Run Rose Run," are located at the back of the book. Book, album...all that's missing is a movie. Oh wait — a movie has been announced by Reese Witherspoon's media company — Hello Sunshine. Now, Run Rose Run is the whole package!

Till next time, happy reading!





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