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A Champion for the City

by Edmund Lawler

Katie Eaton needs no platitudes or glib talking points to speak persuasively about Michigan City's attributes and brightening future.

It's in her blood. She grew up in Michigan City, as did her parents and grandparents. Her three children make a fourth generation. If she didn't believe in the old industrial city making the sometimes-wrenching transition to tourism and technology, she wouldn't be here.

As president of Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, she's the voice of the business community. But she knows the larger community from a variety of perspectives: as a child who grew up in the heart of the city, as a student in Michigan City Area Schools, as a college and graduate student at Purdue University-North Central (now Purdue University Northwest) and as a manager of community development projects earlier in her career.

"I grew up in Michigan City. I never left. We lived near Ohio Street," Eaton explains from a conference room in the chamber's East Michigan Boulevard offices.

In her youth, Eaton says beyond attending church with her

family, she wasn't involved in community organizations. But that changed once she became an English and Communications major at PNC.

"It was through classes there that I got involved in some nonprofit work," she says. "Some of the professors encouraged us or even required certain projects to be done with community organizations. For example, I volunteered in classrooms of the area schools to assist teachers. And I did some market-

ing for the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City. That's what got me introduced to community-focused nonprofit work."

After earning her Master of Business Administration, she worked for Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana-LaPorte County as the area coordinator. She

was responsible for program management, volunteer recruiting and training, fundraising and other tasks. When Director Rudy Kohn retired, Eaton assumed his role.

"Working at Junior Achievement really put the bug in my ear to do more in the community," she says, "not just as a volunteer, but by getting involved in committees and boards."



Katie Eaton is photographed outside the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce office by *The Beacher's* Edmund Lawler.

Continued on Page 2

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A Champion... Continued from Page 1

In 2012, she left the workforce to focus on raising her and her husband Jeff Eaton's three children: daughters Renee and Addison and son Nolan. That allowed her to volunteer her leadership and marketing skills to a 2013 referendum backing new programs and aging infrastructure in MCAS.

With three children in the school system, she was passionate about its mission.

"As a product of MCAS, I firmly believe that public schools need to be supported by the entire community, the business community and residents alike," she says.

"The referendum campaign helped me understand the importance of public-private partnerships and the vital role of civic leadership and involvement," she continued, noting residents must understand where their dollars go when paying taxes.

However, the referendum failed.

"It was very heartbreaking," she says. "We were pretty positive it was going to pass. Life's not always fair in some circumstances."

Eaton learned a valuable lesson about the importance of telling a compelling story.

"And," she says, "it made me even more passionate for our public school system."

Nevertheless, MCAS moved ahead.

"We are fortunate to have the leadership of Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins. She's done an amazing job with limited resources," Eaton says of the longtime school superintendent and former Chicago Public Schools chief education officer.

After a two-year hiatus, Eaton returned to full-time employment by becoming the business services lead recruiter for The Center of Workforce Innovations in Valparaiso. In that capacity, she connected

Northwest Indiana employers with qualified job candidates.

"We worked alongside employers in the seven-county region, helping them recruit, test and train employees," she says. "For example, we would work with the steel mills when they had openings. In some cases, they might have 300 applicants for 50 positions. I also coordinated job fairs, career fairs and workshops. It was a fun job."

In 2016, Eaton was named manager of the Economic Development Corporation Michigan City.

"I saw it as an opportunity to come back from Valpo, where I'd been commuting, and work in Michigan City," she said. "I started to rebuild the relationships I had previously when I was with Junior Achievement."

At EDCMC, Eaton specialized in workforce-development projects, as well as recruitment and retention of businesses, with a focus on the city's existing businesses. One of the biggest projects was development of a 16,000-square-foot spec building at 6101 Cleveland Ave. for light industrial and distribution businesses.

"It was a new concept for Michigan City," Eaton explains. "The city would build it and hope that businesses would move in."

Holladay Construction Group, the private company in the public-private partnership, built the facility. The gamble paid off as companies like Marbach America, a high-tech multinational maker of die-cutting and thermoforming tools, began leasing space in the building in 2019.

She said the project arose from EDCMC research that found what manufacturers and distributors considering Michigan City looked for was space they could occupy relatively quickly, rather than taking months or years to build their own facility.

The EDCMC position also allowed Eaton to get



Katie Eaton has completed four marathons and 20 half-marathons, including the 2018 Rock 'n' Roll half marathon in Savannah, Ga.

involved in more organizations, including Rotary Club of Michigan City, which leads service projects and hosts weekly luncheons featuring speakers describing positive work in the community. She also served on committees focused on workforce development and quality-of-life issues, which are critical to making a place attractive to future residents and businesses.

Eaton's first day on the job as Chamber president was in November 2018. She recalls presiding over a ribbon-cutting ceremony and networking event that day. It was a bit overwhelming, but the events played into her well-honed social skill set.

Community involvement, she explains, "is part of who I am. I love meeting new people. I love learning about the direction people go and why they do, or the way organizations function. I'm a very curious person. By being involved in the community, I'm able to have conversations with one business that can prove valuable to another business."



In 2018, while with Economic Development Corporation Michigan City, Katie Eaton won the Up-and-Coming Woman of the Year Award from the Influential Women of Northwest Indiana.

She likens one of her roles at the Chamber to piecing together a jigsaw puzzle.

"I might be able to take a piece of something that does not seem to fit with an organization," she explained, "but I might share that knowledge with another organization where it might be a fit or even share it within our own organization."

The most important puzzle piece for Michigan City's future is the \$649

million Double Track Northwest Indiana project. Installation of a 26.6-mile second South Shore mainline track between Gary and Michigan City, and other improvements, will reduce travel time to Chicago's Millennium Station to 1 hour and 15 minutes by 2024. Rush-hour express trains to and from the new Franklin Street station will make the trip in a little over an hour.

"The Double Track project was a huge regional concept," Eaton says. "It's made the rest of the state and the Chicago market take notice of the force that Northwest Indiana can be."

Among the more prominent puzzle pieces expected to fall into place in downtown Michigan City in the next few years is the estimated \$80 million mixed-use project featuring a rebuilt South Shore

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A Champion... Continued from Page 3

Line train station, 12-story high rise with 208 luxury apartments, ground-floor retail and a 558-space parking garage.

Farther north at the “You Are Beautiful” site on Michigan Boulevard, developers are planning an estimated \$150 million mixed-use family housing development, a hotel and rooftop restaurant.

In the hospitality sector, two of the bigger recent improvements are the \$2.5 million expansion of Shady Creek Winery and the purchase by Burn ‘Em Brewing of a \$1.6 million former factory east of Blue Chip Casino at 1215 E. Second St. It plans to repurpose the factory and move most of its operation there later this year or early the next. Shady Creek celebrates its grand reopening and new production facility May 14.



Katie Eaton, pictured with her family on vacation in New York City in 2019.

Those hospitality and downtown housing projects and others come on the heels of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore’s designation as a national park, and last fall’s dedication of four more paved miles of Michigan City’s Singing Sands trail. It’s a critical link in the still-developing 60-mile Marquette Greenway bike trail from Chicago to New Buffalo, Mich.

“Combine those assets with a one-hour train ride to Chicago and an attractive lakefront and a zoo — how many communities our size can even say they have a zoo?” Eaton says. “We’re lucky to have many natural resources smack dab in a region surrounded by amazing communities like Chicago, Harbor Country and South Bend.”

She’s also heartened by the Chamber’s growing membership despite the social and economic disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. Membership stands at 372, about three-quarters of the members hailing from the 46360 zip code. Most are small businesses. The remaining quarter come from outside the immediate area, including out-of-town con-



Katie Eaton is photographed with a Chamber sign promoting its initiative to support local businesses.

struction, franchisor, insurance or marketing organizations.

But, Eaton says, there are two missing pieces to Michigan City’s future: people and housing.

“Workforce is the biggest issue with our employers, and housing is a big part of that,” Eaton says. “We just don’t have the workforce numbers we had 25 to 30 years ago. Talent attraction and quality of life become the biggest pieces for us. It’s an initiative that we will never stop working on.”

Working a giant jigsaw puzzle can be frustrating when the pieces fail to fall neatly into place. But Eaton says the rewards of being Chamber president far outweigh the challenges.

“The reward is the bigger vision of everything and seeing it come together,” she says. “I know there’s much more work to do, and I get to be a part of that. I am privileged to be a part of this community’s story.”

“But it’s not about me. It’s about the future generations,” Eaton says. “I want those small businesses and entrepreneurs who took a risk on Michigan City to succeed and have a great story to tell the community and to tell their kids and grandkids. Michigan City is a community where I hope my kids will want to return to or stay just as I did.”



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2/7

“Unbearable Weight” Lets Cage, and the Audience, Down

by Andrew Tallackson

My reaction when the first trailer dropped for “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” was instantaneous.

Yes, please.

Nicolas Cage, more or less playing himself, reduced to entertaining an alleged crime lord, played by everyone’s favorite Mandalorian, Pedro Pascal. Toss in Tiffany Haddish and Ike Barinholtz, two of my favorite comic actors as CIA agents, and you have can’t-miss comedy. Right?

First 15 or 20 minutes, a chuckle or two. The mid-section, crickets chirping. The finale, a character’s reaction that scores a laugh. What happened? Had the film caught me on a bad day? Couldn’t be. The advance buzz, alone, had me stoked.

Unfortunately, “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” plays like the first draft of a great idea. Truth is, it isn’t that funny.

Let’s start with Cage. An eccentric actor whose career has been all over the place, from curious voice choices (“Peggy Sue Got Married”), gnarly marketing stunts (the cockroach snack from “Vampire’s Kiss”), a well-earned Oscar (“Leaving Las Vegas”), hit popcorn flicks (“Con Air,” “The Rock”), overlooked gems (“Matchstick Men,” “The Weather Man”) and forgettable, often straight-to-home-viewing crap. You could have a field day with this guy: a savage satire akin to Billy Wilder’s “Sunset Blvd.,” where characters who *don’t* worship Cage skewer him for iffy career choices.

We get a smidge of that in “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent,” where a down-on-his-luck Cage gets career advice from his much-younger self, computer-generated to resemble his “Wild at Heart” character. But for the most part, director Tom Gormican, who wrote the script with Kevin Etten, appears in awe of the actor, hesitating to pick at the scabs. What could have been an actor having a laugh at his own expense never quite goes there.

The \$1 million paycheck that sends him to Spain links him up with billionaire Cage fanatic Javi Gutierrez (Pascal). Hot on Javi’s trail are two CIA agents (Haddish, Barinholtz) who coerce the actor into being their spy.

In essence, Cage ends up in his own Nicolas Cage

movie. This might have been a meta mindtrip, but Pascal is curiously muted. Having Pascal play Javi as frothing-at-the-mouth obsessed might have amped up the satire. When the movie does toss out an obscure Cage reference (“Guarding Tess”), again, there is no payoff. Even the movie’s running “Paddington 2” gag fails to have the desired impact.

Neil Patrick Harris has a bit part as Cage’s agent, but the script doesn’t hand him any clever dialogue. One of the film’s action scenes, where Cage and Pedro try to scale a rock wall, had its punch line



Nicolas Cage (left) and Pedro Pascal star in “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent.”



“The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent”

Running time: 107 minutes. Rated R for language throughout, some sexual references, drug use and violence.

spoiled by the trailer. We know the payoff, but the scene takes longer to wrap up. *Way* longer, to where it’s like squeezing blood out of a turnip.

As an actor, Cage’s still got it. Still has the screen presence. Then again, we knew that from last year’s “Pig,” which offered proof of his unappreciated talent. In “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent,” he seems game for fun. The movie lets him down.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Art Attack Returns After Pandemic Hiatus

by Edmund Lawler

Asking Rita Cochran to identify the top event for Art Attack 2022 is like asking a parent to reveal the name of their favorite child. Mum's the word.

But Cochran, the event's co-founder, discreetly allows that all 39 of the gallery receptions, artists' workshops and demonstrations, open houses, interactive exhibits and general fun with art, music, fashion and food throughout Harbor Country are her favorites.

The annual event, launched in 1993, makes a comeback Friday-Sunday, April 29-May 1, after a two-year pandemic absence.

"Art Attack is one of the few, if not the only event that encompasses all of Harbor Country," says Cochran, who co-owns Local Color Gallery in Union Pier, Mich., with her sister and event co-founder, Jennifer Cochran. "There are the visual arts, there is live music, there is food, there are demonstrations, fashion and more."

Asked to boil down Art Attack into two words, Cochran replied: "fun and eclectic." The event that attracts thousands of visitors from Chicago to South Bend, from Valparaiso to Grand Rapids, Mich., kicks off Thursday, April 28, at The Acorn in Three Oaks, Mich. The launch party is a new event for 2022. The 5:30 p.m. EDT reception is followed



Above and right: Posters for Art Attack events from previous years.



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at 7 p.m. EDT with a showing of the documentary "Rothko: Pictures Must Be Miraculous." The focus is the American Abstract artist Mark Rothko, who is closely identified with the New York School, a circle of painters that emerged in the 1940s.

After the film, former ABC7-Chicago entertainment reporter Janet Davies will moderate a discussion with Three Oaks resident Allen Turner, former chairman of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.

The launch party also is a benefit for Art Attack.

"The Acorn is very interested in promoting the arts and the area," Cochran says. "They came to us expressing interest in becoming part of Art Attack. The Acorn is a godsend."

Money raised will help promote future Art Attacks.

The event, Cochran explains, is an opportunity for a local business to showcase its creative spirit. Not all of it is paint on a canvas.

"We want the participating venues to turn their businesses into art forms," she said. "There is so much creativity here."

For example, Colleen Froelich, owner of her eponymously named kitchen and bakery in Three Oaks, will demonstrate her jam-making techniques. Guests will be treated to free samples of the preserves, and a mixologist will pair craft cocktail samples with the jams.

Customs Imports in downtown New Buffalo is sponsoring Art Attack's first Pallet Art Competition. Not to be confused with a palette, a thin board used by artists to mix paint, pallets are wooden skids that typically support materials and boxes while being moved by a forklift.

Students and community members who've applied their artistry to the rough-hewn wooden pallets will see their handiwork displayed and judged over Art Attack weekend at Customs Imports and down the street at Nancy's, the popular ice cream shop, which is co-sponsoring the new event. The overall grand prize winner pockets \$1,000.

Visitors are encouraged to drop their names in Art Attack paint cans at each venue for the opportunity to win gift baskets of goods from area business.

"We're proud that Art Attack has survived the pandemic," Cochran says. "The event not only helps support the participating business, but the benefits trickle down to all Harbor Country business that aren't even on this year's list."

Art Attack Participants

- The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks.
- Alapash New Home, 14 N. Elm Street, Three Oaks.
- Alapash Mercantile, 111 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Arbor 3 Arts, 15 S. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Brewster's Italian Café, 11 W. Merchant St., New Buffalo.
- Colleen Froelich, 19 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Covert Ceramics, 8821 Elm Valley Road, Union Pier.
- Customs Imports, 139 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo.
- A Drawing Room Gallery, 9 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Designer Cottagescapes of Harbor Country, 16201 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier.
- Drier's Meat Market, 14 S. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Fritz Olsen Sculptures & My Rescue Studio, 6914 W. Holloway Drive, Sawyer.
- Garden Grove Inn Bed & Breakfast, 9549 Union Pier Road, Union Pier.
- Goods & Heroes, 8 Maple St. Three Oaks.
- Grounded, 6 E. Linden St., Three Oaks.
- The Hidden Gem, 122 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo.
- Janis Kanter Studio, 7036 Holloway Dr., Sawyer.
- Journeyman Distillery, 109 Generations Drive, Three Oaks.
- Judy Ferrara Gallery, 16 S. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- Lake Interiors, 14906 Red Arrow Highway, Lakeside.
- Lakeside Inn, 15251 Lakeshore Road, Lakeside.
- Local Color Gallery, 16187 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier.
- Nancy's, 142 N Whittaker St., New Buffalo.
- P. & E.'s Bottle Shop, 2 Maple St., Three Oaks.
- Piece by Piece, 16142 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier.
- The Plum Tree, 16337 Red Arrow Highway, Union Pier.
- The Pokagon Fund Art Gallery, 821 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo.
- Poppy Hill Vintage, 22 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.
- The Region of Three Oaks Museum Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St., Three Oaks.
- School of American Music, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks.
- Stone's Throw Interiors, 9935 Town Line Road, Union Pier.
- Suzanne Koenigsberg Studio, 9843 Nolan Ave., Union Pier.
- Three Oaks Township Public Library, 3 N. Elm St.
- Twisted Frozen Yogurt, 122 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo.
- Vincent Studios, 308 Cherry St., Three Oaks.
- Vintage Goods, 1 W. Ash St., Three Oaks.
- Window Shopping + People's Property, 5857 Sawyer Road, Sawyer.
- WithInn Artists' PopUp Studio, 13662 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert.

Visit www.harborcountry.org/art-attack-2022 for a complete list of scheduled events.

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Good Citizen Awards

The Good Citizen essay winners.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter, held its annual Good Citizen event April 3 at Three Oaks United Methodist Church.

Three of the six local high schools submitted a Good Citizen essay, with three of the winners attending the ceremony. The other two were on spring break. The students are:

- Lillian Moore, River Valley High Schools, who anticipates attending the University of Northwestern Ohio for agribusiness and marketing.
- Karla Avina-Rios, Brandywine High School, who plans to work in physical therapy.
- Marika Ruppert, Niles High School, who will graduate with an associate's degree in general studies from Lake Michigan College-Andrews University.
- Jane Kaspar, Bridgman High School, who wants to study neuroscience, then attend medical school.
- Georgia Arvanitis, New Buffalo High School, who wants to pursue a career in kinesiology, in either athletic training or physical therapy.

Community Service Committee Chair Michelle Heit presented community service awards to two organizations: Neighbor by Neighbor, Linnea Berg, the executive director from Buchanan, and Red Bud Area Ministries, Jan Nowak Walters.

The "Woman in History" award went to Sarah Lee, a past chapter regent and great-grandmother to Chaplain Priscilla Lee Hellenga.

The 2021 Outstanding Chapter Member went to Teri Showalter, who has been a chapter member for two years and with the DAR for seven.

Compost Site Hours

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Community Concert Association

LaPorte Community Concert Association will host Sundae & Mr. Goessl at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at Kesling Intermediate School, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

The husband-and-wife duo blends blues, swing, country and Latin sounds. Performing hits from the 1920s to modern classics, they emphasize technique, technology and unique instrumentation.

Program highlights include: "Cheek to Cheek" (Irving Berlin); "S Wonderful" (George and Ira Gershwin); "Ain't Misbehavin'" (Fats Waller); "One Note Samba" (Antonio Carlos Jobim); "La Vie En Rose" (Louis Guglielmi); and "Caravan" (Duke Ellington).



Sundae & Mr. Goessl

The program is included for 2021-2022 season ticketholders. The public may buy tickets at the door. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Use entrance Door 14. Call (219) 362-5292 or (219) 362-8262 for more details.

Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage

The 13th annual Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage and Blessing of Motorcycles is Sunday, May 1, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

The public is invited. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Polish at noon, followed by the blessing of motorcycles and a picnic on the shrine grounds (menu items and prices vary; food will be sold in the Millennium Hall). The gift shop is open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The event is held rain or shine; motorcyclists who will not attend Mass, but would like to have their bikes blessed, should arrive before 1 p.m. and park on the shrine grounds where space is available. Call (219) 884-0714 for more details.



Spring 2022 Events
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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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Linocut Printmaking Workshop

Kelly Vander Kley will conduct a linocut printmaking workshop from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 7, at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

The printmaking studio is on the Riverwalk level and accessed through the building's lower east entrance. Participants learn to carve, ink and impress a linoleum block onto paper. Instruction includes image preparation, carving techniques, printing methods and editing. Each participant takes home three prints. All supplies are furnished with the exception of the linoleum block, which can be purchased from Vander Kley the day of the workshop. She suggests taking a pencil, black Sharpie and design ideas to the workshop.

Vander Kley is a print media technologies instructor at Van Buren Technology Center, where she teaches high school students graphic art and printing technology. She has master's degrees in art education and career and technical education from Western Michigan University.

The workshop fee is \$75 for Berrien Artist Guild members and \$90 for non-members. Register at www.tinyurl.com/yc4dzjz5 or by credit card by calling Box Factory at (269) 983-3688. Visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org or follow the Box on Facebook for more details.

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Arbor Day Celebration

NIPSCO and Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest will host the ninth annual Arbor Day Celebration at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 29 at the arboretum, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

The evening includes a planting ceremony, an evening walk to see previous Arbor Day plantings and free tree giveaways. A NIPSCO representative will offer tips on where to safely plant trees.

The giveaways include River Birch, Bur Oak and Eastern Wahoo — an alternative to the invasive Burning Bush. Trees are in 5-gallon buckets and come with instructions on how to care for them.

The celebration is free, but arboretum admission fees apply to non-members. Trees are available to those who pre-register at pnw.edu/arbor-day

Gabis Arboretum, along with Purdue's Hammond and Westville campuses, are recognized as a Tree Campus Higher Education with the Arbor Day Foundation. The arboretum also is a Level III accredited arboretum with ArbNet.

Harbor Country Book Club

Harbor Country Book Club meets at 1:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 28, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. The book is Bryon Stevenson's Just Mercy.



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FBC Opens for the Season

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, opens to the public for the season from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Daily admission is \$10 for 13 and older and \$7 for seniors; however, Thursday admission is \$5 for everyone. Children 12 and younger are free every day, as are active duty military with ID.

Memberships can be renewed or purchased at www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org. Membership includes year-round access, access to major attractions and gardens, picnics, bird watching, cross country skiing, trout and salmon fishing on Trail Creek (with appropriate license and membership), three miles of trails for hiking and walking (dog friendly), and reciprocal membership with special admission privileges and discounts to more than 200 American Horticultural Society Gardens.

Walk to Prevent Child Abuse

The 10th Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse, presented by LaPorte First United Methodist Church, is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday April 28.

The walk begins at the church parking lot, 1225 Michigan Ave. Participants then walk as a group down Indiana Avenue to the courthouse, where community leaders address the importance of child protection. LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody, Dunebrook Executive Director Dr. Tammy Button, Family Advocates Chief Executive Officer Jackie Dermody and Family Recovery Court Magistrate Pamela Munsey will speak.

Everyone is encouraged to wear blue as a symbol of Child Abuse Prevention. Those unable to walk can join the group on the courthouse's southwest lawn. Participants then return to the church for a light meal and fellowship. In the event of bad weather, the program will take place at the church. Call the church at (219) 362-2443 for more details.

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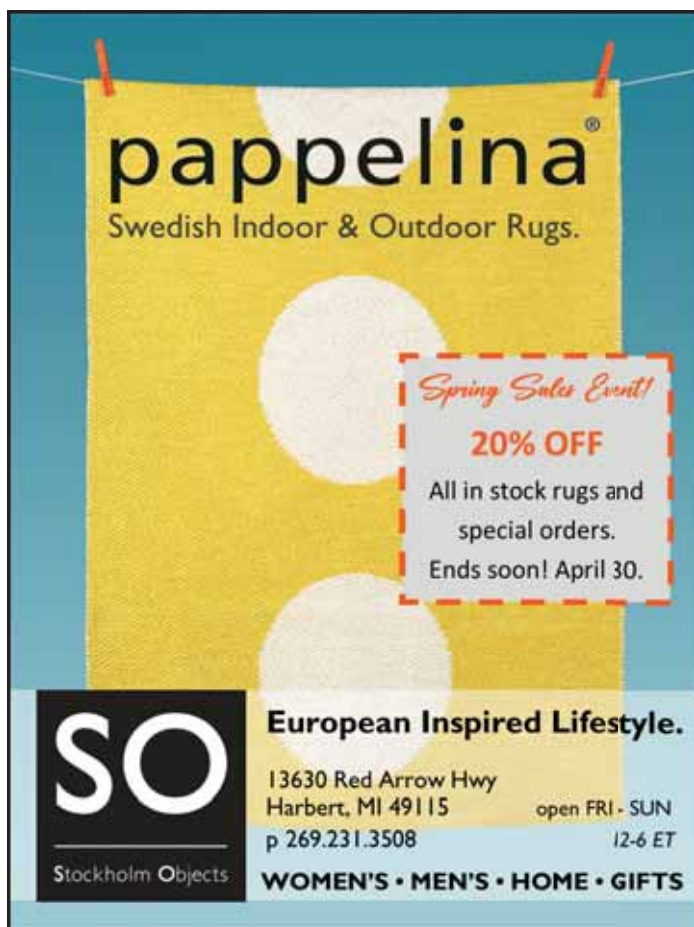
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A Cravin' for South Haven

We fell in love with South Haven, Mich., just weeks after moving to Michigan on June 27, 1987.

Natalie got this nifty notion that we should ride our bikes from River Valley High School near Three Oaks, Mich., all the way up the coast to Traverse City, Mich. A distance of some 300+ miles. We would be the alpha group of a new ride called —drum roll, please — the Shoreline Bicycle Tour.

And, yes, long before we made it to Traverse City, we were calling it the “Sore Butt Bicycle Tour.”

Perhaps suspecting that last bit about sore butts, I said, “Hmmm.”



We were first welcomed to South Haven in August 1987.

“No,” Natalie said. “You don’t understand. We’re not going to do the ride in one fell swoop. We leave on a Sunday and arrive in Traverse City on the following Saturday. We ride about 50 miles a day, and we stop every night in towns along the way, usually at local high schools. They schlepp our camping gear in a ‘SAG’ truck, and local groups will feed us dinner every night and breakfast the next morning before we head out. Lunch will be on our own, but there are plenty of cool towns along the way with cute little restaurants and whatnot. We can shower in high school locker rooms. It’s the perfect way to meet our new state of Michigan, and the first stop

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



is South Haven. I don’t know about you, but I’ve always wanted to see South Haven.”

I wanted to see it, too. I had heard nothing but good things about the crown jewel of Van Buren County since trekking up to Boy Scout camp near Whitehall, Mich., back in the 1960s. We had passed through South Haven on our way north, but never stopped to explore the city at the mouth of the Black River.

Now, thanks to my dear wife’s powers of persuasion, we are riding north from River Valley High School on a hot, humid Sunday in August 1987. Destination: South Haven.

We battle our way along the shoulders of busy streets in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, pedaling the roller coaster that is Blue Star Highway. There is no bike lane to speak of; passing motorists are speaking ill of us for daring to ride THEIR road.

I get a flat near Covert, Mich., and are assailed by the Michigan state bird: the ravenous deer fly.

South Haven is so, so faraway.

We will never get there.

Presently and persistently, we do.

The “SAG” truck is waiting for our weary band of some 200 cyclists. We unpack our gear, erect our little tent and head into South Haven High School for hot showers and a sumptuous fish dinner provided by a local group of anglers. We then spend our first night in South Haven trying to sleep through the clammy dampness.

Not a great introduction to the object of our escape fantasies. As in, “we’ve got a cravin’ to go to South Haven.”



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We awake the next day, a hot and sunny Monday, to a hearty breakfast in the high school cafeteria, then follow the carefully marked route through the heart of South Haven.

We fell in love with the river city that day as we crossed the Black River on a drawbridge; we sealed the deal when we befriended a fellow cyclist, Dr. Meg Warner, DVM. "Dr. Meg," as we came to call her, worked as a veterinarian in a South Haven clinic; she invited us to see her and the clinic after our big ride to Traverse City.

We accepted the invitation, thus falling in love with our South Haven dog, a mixed-breed little guy name of Pokey. He had the heart of a big, bad dog, but the diminutive frame of a Pekingese-beagle off-brand. Pokey was in the clinic's "pound" because the father of the family that owned him would not be seen in public with such a dorky, little dog. Especially one his wife and kids named "Pokey."

Alas, Dr. Meg said, no one wanted to adopt Pokey.

So there he was, all by his little lonesome, doing a happy dance for us. He knew we were his last chance before facing the needle.

So we adopted Pokey, posthaste, in September 1987.

Pokey, and Dr. Meg, brightened our lives for years, cementing our loving link to South Haven. Especially when Dr. Meg told us she was involved with a volunteer group forging a bicycle trail, on an

abandoned railroad right-of-way, from South Haven to Kalamazoo, Mich.

We saw what would become the Kal-Haven Trail become a reality; some of our happiest moments on the trail were our walks along its west end with Pokey. We knew those stout little legs had six miles in them, so we would walk him out to the three-mile marker, then head back to the trailhead.

Today, when we ride the Kal-Haven from the South Haven trailhead, we always point to the three-mile marker and say, "There's the Pokey turnaround point." We also point out the point at which that little South Haven native decided to take a plunge in the eponymous Black River. He survived, I am happy to say, and so did we.

And so do we return to South Haven every time we get that certain cravin'.

A cravin' for South Haven.



We always remember Randy when we gather with Mary Lober at Clementine's in South Haven. Randy Lober died in April 2021.

And, yes, I cannot close this appreciation of South Haven without a shout-out to Clementine's Restaurant. We meet in the rich and welcoming atmosphere of that downtown landmark with our dear friend, Mary Lober from Otsego, Mich., to celebrate our birthdays and such life events as the death in April 2021 of Mary's dear Randy. We enjoyed many a luncheon at Clementine's with Mary and Randy. Now, when we convene there to celebrate our enduring friendship, we fondly remember him.

And we look to the future — a future full of cravin' South Haven.

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“Everything Everywhere” is One Crazy, But Affecting Ride

by Andrew Tallackson



Evelyn Wang (Michelle Yeoh, center) protects her family, Waymond (Ke Huy Quan, right) and Joy (Stephanie Hsu), from unexpected threats in “Everything Everywhere All at Once.”

When a film like “Everything Everywhere All at Once” throws caution to the wind, pushing itself as far as it can go, there is no middle ground. Either you love it or hate it.

I love it.

Yes, it’s nuts. A bonkers mid-life crisis comedy-drama that zips through multiple universes, including one where mother and daughter exist as talking rocks.

Like I said, *not for all tastes*. But when you strip the story of all the outrageous chaos, this is a heartfelt tale, propelled by one of Michelle Yeoh’s best performances, that explores one woman’s quest for happiness and peace.

Yeoh (“Crazy Rich Asians,” “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”) is good in everything, but this is the first time where she’s front and center in nearly every scene. It’s a reminder that, not only is she a martial-arts dynamo, but she can handle outrageous comedy and poignant drama.

She plays Evelyn Wang, a near-60 Chinese American who runs a troubled laundromat with her husband, Waymond. She’s being audited by the IRS after incorrectly filing her taxes. Adding to the stress: Her exacting father (93-year-old character actor James Wong) has come to visit. Her daugh-

★ ★ ★ ★

“Everything Everywhere All at Once”

*Running time: 139 minutes. Rated R for
some violence, sexual material and language.*

ter, Joy (Stephanie Hsu, that comic firecracker from “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”), craves acceptance of her and her girlfriend. And it is during her meeting with the IRS auditor (a gleefully crass Jamie Lee Curtis) that her world finally cracks.

Now, let me take a step back for a moment. Evelyn’s husband, Waymond, is played by Ke Huy Quan. Back in the ’80s, you might recall, he made a name for himself on Steven Spielberg’s turf, first as Short Round in “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” (1984), then as Data in “The Goonies” (1985). He took a considerable break from acting, but now, at 50, he steals the show, alternating as a sweet, long-suffering husband and as a man who, in a flash, becomes something altogether different. A motormouthed, feverish version of the same person called Alpha Waymond. Turns out, multiple universes are at play. Countless realities that fea-

ture different versions of themselves. For Evelyn, that ranges from being an actress, to a martial arts expert, to being in a romantic relationship with the auditor, but in a world where they have elongated fingers like hot dogs.

(Stick with me, don't turn the page just yet. I get it. The movie's weird).

From there, Evelyn, through Waymond, learns how to slip in and out of these realities. And where she learns an evil presence is someone close to her heart.

Two of the producers on "Everything Everywhere All at Once" are brothers Anthony and Joe Russo: guys responsible for a fair share of Marvel hits, including "Avengers: Endgame," which also dashed through time to resolve itself. The directors, Dan Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, who refer to themselves as "Daniels," have a background in music videos. You can tell. Once Evelyn's world, or worlds, unravel, the movie is like someone with ADHD on LSD. Rapidly edited to convey the accelerating madness, the movie never stops. Just when you think it can't get crazier, along comes a character, a costume, an action scene or line of dialogue that pushes the story to the next extreme. The movie even teases you by suggesting it's all over. Nothing resolved. Everything up in the air.

Pure anarchy. That's what this movie is. And at nearly 2 hours and 20 hours, it may be *too* much. The talking rocks, the hot dog fingers. The story threatens to implode, too overwhelming for its own good.

Then, something interesting happens. Yeoh, who relishes appearing beautiful, haggard, frazzled — you name it — grounds the madness in Evelyn's own hurt. For all of the unruly lunacy, "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is about key universal truths. About living in the moment. About letting go of what "might have been" and savoring life's gifts. And particularly that kindness trumps hate.

Through Yeoh's transformation of Evelyn into a more centered woman — we see it in how she now gazes at her loved ones — "Everything Everywhere" at its core is an epic generational saga. A family put through the ringer by events beyond their control.



Jamie Lee Curtis is hilariously crass as a weary IRS auditor.

The movie's loopy anarchy ultimately is a metaphor for avoiding the toxic nature of "what if."

The final scene is intensely satisfying. Some may not arrive at that point. They may gather their things early and bolt from the theater. And I get it. Again, not for all tastes. But for those who hang on tight, this wild ride is worth it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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THE HUNT IS ON



Continued on Page 24

THE HUNT IS ON

Continued from Page 23

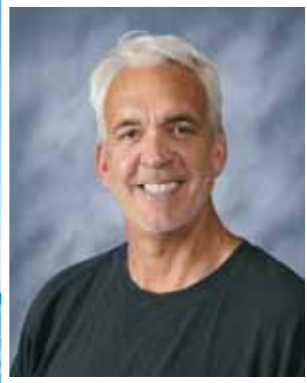
Michigan City's Easter Egg Hunt returned April 16 in Fedder's Alley at Washington Park, and the cold temperatures did not deter families. The event was a collaborative effort involving volunteers, businesses, police, fire, park department, Emergency Management and Special Events.

All photos by James Conlin



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Future Careers Expo Draws Enthusiastic Response

More than 75 companies, business professionals and retirees came together April 14 to meet and mentor students at the A.K. Smith Career Center's 2022 Future Careers Expo.

Many volunteers conducted mock interviews with students at the daylong event — an annual tradition for the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program. Companies, Armed Forces representatives and higher-education institutions also set up exhibit tables to speak with students about employment, apprenticeships and education opportunities. Many students dressed professionally, and all presented resumes to the interviewers. A team-building activity rounded out the day facilitated by A.K. Smith teachers.

"Every student I spoke with today told me that the career center has made a difference in their lives," Patrick's Grille General Manager Julie Krause said in a press release. "They said that the experiences they are having here have kept them on track academically; they feel career-tech classes have motivated them and kept them engaged."

Companies represented at the event included the Army National Guard, Blue Chip Casino, Bowen Center, The Color Lounge, Denmark College, Died-



Among the volunteers participating in mock interviews were (front to back) Dan Hogan, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Dina Gasaway, Winn Machine, and Stump Engibous, GAF Materials Corp.

rich Drills, Duneland Landscape, Four Winds Casino, GAF Materials Corp., General Insurance Services, Goodwill Industries of Michiana, Hair Cuttery, Horizon Bank, Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, Indiana University Northwest, IBEW 531, Iron Workers 395, Ivy Tech, Jet Fabricators, LaPorte Community School Corp., Lippert, Love Her Beauty, Michigan City Area Schools, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Michigan City Fire Department,

Michigan City Police Department, Milo Enterprises, Morris Inn and Notre Dame Conference Center, Ohio Tech, Otis Worldwide, Patrick's Catering and Events, Purdue Northwest, Ridge Napa Auto Parts, Southwestern Michigan College, Shear Madness Hair Studio, Starbucks, Sullair, Superior Ambulance, Universal Technical Institute, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Valparaiso University, Westville High School and Winn Machine.

The career center serves juniors and seniors from six county high schools — LaCrosse, LaPorte, Michigan City, New Prairie, South Central and Westville — and New Buffalo High School. Programs provide dual college credits and certifications in 14 disciplines, including Automotive, Construction, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary, Education Professions, EMT, Energy, Fire Science, Health Careers, Manufacturing, Video Production, Welding and General Career Skills.

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Career Center Team Wins Event



Pictured are Sara Emery (from left), Sara Villa and Grant Ott-Large.
Not pictured is Jake Ellis.

A team representing the A.K. Smith Career Center won the state championship in Television (Video) Production on April 9 at the Skills USA competition in Indianapolis.

The event required teams of two students to produce a 60-second video based on the theme "United As One," showing how individuals can unite during difficult times. Videos were judged based on industry standards, including the quality of video and audio, and the conveyance of the theme to the viewer.

Four A.K. Smith students, all students at LaPorte High School, took top honors in the competition: Jake Ellis and Grant Ott-Large won first place, and Sara Emery and Sara Villa took second place.

Ellis and Ott-Large will advance to the SkillsUSA Nationals, held in Atlanta in June.

A.K. Smith offers a course in radio/television production at LaPorte High School that is available to all students in LaPorte County schools. The instructor is Don Varda.

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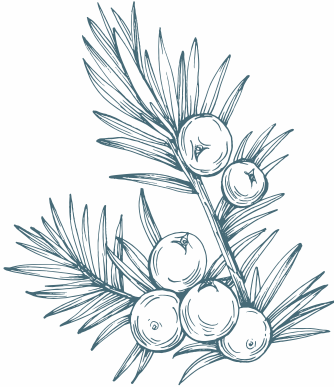
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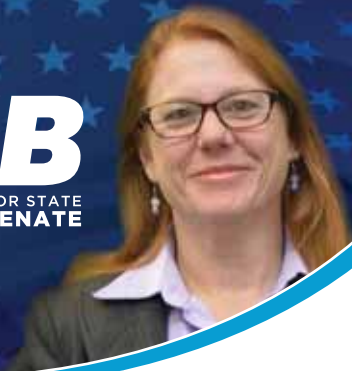
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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Birding Hike with the Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, May 1, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Guests car pool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars and dress for the weather.
- **Woodland Wildflower Hike from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City.** Join a ranger to view woodland flowers. The Heron Rookery trail runs along the Little Calumet River, with the hike starting at the east parking lot. Passes are required.
- **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.



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 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

- **Breakfast with the Birds at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30.** Join naturalists at the Nature Center for refreshments, then help put out seeds for the birds.
- **SSSSSSSSSSsssssnakes at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 30.** Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the Indiana Dunes' native snakes.
- **Wildflower Wander at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 1.** Meet at the Nature Center for an easy discovery walk to see which woodland spring wildflowers are blooming.

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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For More Information or to download a schedule of events go to harborcountry.org/art-attack-2022

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.

Daddy Daughter Dance

The event that features dancing and refreshments is Friday-Saturday, May 20-21, at the Luhr County Park Morgan Shelter, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

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.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. 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 8 – "A Better Way of Caring as a Caregiver," Debbie Carriveau.
- July 13 – "Atrial Fibrillation (A Fib) Heart Health," Jacob Swider, Northwest Health invasive cardiology director.
- Aug. 3 – "Ear & Hearing Care," audiologist Jessica Nichols.

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.



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Harbor Country Hikers



Spring wildflowers at Love Creek County Park.

Harbor Country Hikers will conduct the second in its series of wildflower hikes at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 30, at Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich.

Led by Derek Pelc, Berrien County's chief naturalist, the hike includes peeks at ephemeral spring wildflowers, from trillium and hepatica to Dutchman's breeches and toothwort. Pelc will give a brief introduction at the Nature Center.

The route is a little more than two miles and rated moderately physically difficult, with some hills. Guests should wear: long pants, preferably tucked in; a sun hat; sturdy shoes or boots; and insect repellent. They also should take plenty of water. Depending on the weather, there may be muddy areas. The group follows CDC COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional.

Membership is encouraged; however, the public is invited. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for details.

NB Library Community Forum

Author-historian William Hazelgrove will spotlight early 20th century scam artist Cassie Chadwick at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 3, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program, part of the Friends of the Library's Community Forum Series, is based on Hazelgrove's new book, *The Brilliant Scam of Cassie Chadwick*. Born Elizabeth Bigley in Canada in 1847, the woman later known as Cassie Chadwick married for money three times and took part in various scams. She spent a fortune on travel, jewelry and clothes. In her greatest con, she claimed to be the illegitimate daughter of Andrew Carnegie, borrowing from gullible banks on forged notes from him. Chadwick was arrested in 1904 and convicted of conspiracy to defraud a bank. She died in prison in 1907.

The program is free. Face masks are requested.

Seedling Sale Fundraiser

The Berrien County Conservation District will holding its annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Fundraiser Sale on Friday-Saturday, April 29-30, at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Times are (all Eastern) 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 29 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 30.

Customers who placed orders can pick up at this time. A variety of bare root evergreens, deciduous trees and shrub seedlings will be available for purchase in bundles of five, 10 or more. Fruit tree seedlings will be sold individually. Quantities are limited. Rain barrels and composters will be offered along with books on nature and related subjects. A limited number of strawberry, rhubarb and asparagus plants will be available.

Enter through the main entrance by the office. Visit www.berriencd.org for more information.

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2. Mary Lou McFadden	168
3. Kim Stokes	165
4. Susan Kieffer	164

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking 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:
- **Author Event: Roxy Wiley from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Wiley will discuss the updated and expanded version of her book DIY Camp Grandma.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, April 29.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Teddy Bear Tea Party — Kids (3-10) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 30, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** The party will help celebrate Mother's Day. Visit the website to be placed on the wait list.
- **Computers 101 from 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 3, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Learn the basics of how to use a computer mouse and keyboard. 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.

Art Barn School of Art

The following program will be offered:

- **Creativity Lab from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 14.** Children ages 5-9 learn basic skills using a variety of media. Techniques include drawing, painting and mixed-media collage. The cost is \$55. Visit www.artbarnschool.org to register.

The Art Barn School of Art is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 for more details.

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:

- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Star Wars Day — May the Fourth Be With You at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 4.** Get a light-saber, make crafts and complete Jedi training for a certificate. The drop-in program is for ages 8-18.
- **In-Person Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays through May 18.** Join the Story Time Crew for stories, activities and crafts. Children through age 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Check out story time videos through the library Facebook page, YouTube channel and website. Take-home craft kits are still available.



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.

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 through 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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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.

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."

Shirley Heinze Spring Hike

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a "Walks with Shirley and Friends" hike from 9-11 a.m. EDT Saturday, April 30, at Bendix Woods, located on Timothy Road south of U.S. 20 in New Carlisle.

A St. Joseph County Parks interpretive naturalist will lead hikers through Bendix Woods to explore spring wildflower blooms: wild ginger, purple spring cress, wild geranium, yellow trout lilies, bloodroot, blue phlox and Canada violets.

Group sizes are limited to 15 hikers. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley

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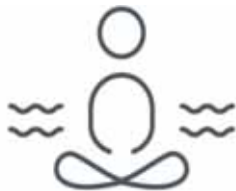
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American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, April 28.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., 2-6 p.m. Thursday, April 28.
- LaPorte High School, 602 F St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, April 29.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 3.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4.

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.

Volunteer Expo

Leadership LaPorte County will host a "Volunteer Expo" from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds Community Building, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The goal is to raise awareness of organizations providing services, and connect youth and adults to those organizations in need of assistance.

Admission is free. Call (219) 325-8223, email info@leadershiplaportecounty.com or visit www.leadershiplaportecounty.com for more details.

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The History Museum

The following programs are scheduled:

- **The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum will host an open house from 4-6 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 28, for those interested in volunteer opportunities.**

Attendees learn about becoming docents at The History Museum's 38-room Oliver Mansion and the Studebaker National Museum's exhibits, as well as other volunteer opportunities.

Reservations are required by contacting Stephanie McCune-Bell at (574) 235-9664 or smccunebell@historymuseumSB.org, or Maria Drevet at (574) 235-9714 or mdrevet@studebakermuseum.org

- **"Insights in History" will focus on the new exhibit "Unveiled: Wedding Traditions" at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, May 4.**

Deputy Executive Director Kristie Erickson will discuss the bridal gown worn by Anna Oliver in 1885, a wedding kimono from Japan, along with men's and women's jewelry, accessories and other items showcased in the exhibit. Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by May 2. A tour of the exhibit will be offered.



The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org for more details.



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In the Area

April 28 — Author Event: Roxy Wiley, 1-2:30 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 28 — 10th Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse, 5:30 p.m., LaPorte First United Methodist Church, 1225 Michigan Ave. Info: (219) 362-2443.

April 28 — Leadership LaPorte County “Volunteer Expo,” 4-7 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds Community Building, 2581 W. Indiana 2. Info: (219) 325-8223, info@leadershiplaportecounty.com, www.leadershiplaportecounty.com

April 28-May 1 — Cirque Italia, Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets parking lot, 600 Wabash St. Times: 7:30 p.m. April 28-29, 1:30 p.m./4:30 p.m./7:30 p.m. April 30, 1:30 & 4:30 p.m. May 1. Tickets start @ \$10. Reservations: www.cirqueitalia.com

April 30 — Teddy Bear Tea Party — Kids (3-10), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Wait list: www.laportelibrary.org

April 30 — Woodland Wildflower Hike, 1-3 p.m., Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

May 1 — First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

May 1 — Season begins, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

May 1 — LaPorte Community Concert Association, Sundae & Mr. Goessl, 2 p.m., Kesling Intermediate School, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets at door: \$20/adults, \$5/students through high school. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

May 4 — Star Wars Day — May the Fourth Be With You, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through June 30 — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, 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.

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

Tuesday in May — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 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.

In the Region

April 28 — Harbor Country Book Club, 1:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Book: Bryon Stevenson’s *Just Mercy*.

April 28 — Art Attack Launch Party featuring the documentary “Rothko: Pictures Must Be Miraculous,” 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$20, \$45/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 29 — NIPSCO & Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest ninth annual Arbor Day Celebration, 5:30 p.m., the arboretum, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

April 29 — Steve Poltz and Abe Partridge, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30, \$55/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 29-30 — Berrien County Conservation District Tree and Shrub Seedling Fundraiser Sale, Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, 9122 U.S. 31, Berrien Springs, Mich. Times (all Eastern): 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 29/9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 30. Info: www.berriencd.org

April 30 — Breakfast with the Birds, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 30 — Shirley Heinze Land Trust “Walks with Shirley and Friends” hike, 9-11 a.m. EDT, Bendix Woods, New Carlisle. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley

April 30 — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EDT, Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

April 30 — Joe George w/ Abbie Thomas Trio, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$20, \$45/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 1 — Birding Hike with the Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 1 — Wildflower Wander, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 1 — Opening reception, “Fiber Art ’22” by Duneland Weavers’ Guild, 1-4 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Style show/2 p.m. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

May 1 — Mark Hummel’s Blues Survivors, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25, \$50/reserved. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 3 — Friends of the Library’s Community Forum Series, author-historian William Hazelgrove,

6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

May 4 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Info: www.historymuseumSB.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.

Chesterton Art Center

Two annual exhibits are planned in May.

"Fiber Art '22" by Duneland Weavers' Guild runs May 1-30 in the front upper gallery space. An opening reception featuring the artists, items for sale and prize drawings is from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 1, with a style show at 2 p.m. Guild members have created original handwoven and knitted shawls, scarves, linens and wall hangings.

The Guild has met monthly for more than 70 years. Meetings are held through Zoom or at Three Moons Fiberworks, Chesterton. Visit www.dunelandweaversguild.org for more details.

The second offering, the CAC Youth Art Exhibit "Dream Big," runs May 1-30 in the lower gallery space. An opening reception is from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

CAC's youth program focuses on modern art movements and changes monthly. Students started in September with American Realism and are moving through the western art-history timeline through Pop Art.



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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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

This Might Hurt by Stephanie Wrobel (hardcover \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 319 pages.)

Darling Rose Gold was Wrobel's first novel and a runaway hit, even shortlisted for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. So many twists and turns, I got dizzy reading! So it is no surprise the hype is on for her second novel. It's well-deserved. Each of her books is unique, enthralling and jaw-dropping. Here's the lowdown on this one...

Natalie Collins works hard at her job in marketing. Her younger sister, Kit, is a free spirit, which is another way of saying she doesn't have a clue what she wants to do with her life. She'd make many mistakes, but Natalie is always there to help. Therein lies the problem. Kit wants to be her own savior, not depend on Natalie every time she gets in trouble. However, it never seems to work out for her.

That's why, six months ago in July, Kit emailed Natalie and told her *"she'd found this self-improvement program on an island in Maine. The courses are six months. During that time you aren't supposed to contact family or friends because inward focus is the goal..."* The place is called Wisewood.

Oh, great. She doesn't even have time to tell Kit how wrong this sounds. And now, six months later, Natalie receives an email from Wisewood with no name attached, just — *"Would you like to come tell your sister what you did — or should we?"*

So, who sent the email? Kit isn't supposed to have access to a computer.

Phone calls to Wisewood either are deflected or not answered. What has Kit gotten herself into this time? Time to book a trip to the coast of Maine.

From the minute Natalie steps onto the boat for Wisewood, characters jump out at you in spades. Gordon, the boat operator, tries to talk Natalie into leaving. He's cagey about where Kit is at the moment. Staff have shaved heads, and the whole thing adds up to "cult" in Natalie's mind. Only the other guests seem normal: like overworked execs needing to recharge or housewives who feel they no longer have an identity outside their families.

Natalie tries to hide her cell phone, but it disap-

pears. A sweater she puts in a drawer later shows up on a hanger in the closet — a message that nothing at Wisewood is sacred or hidden? And where is her sister? When she finally finds her, the meeting is anything but friendly. Kit is angry for Natalie showing up; visitors are forbidden, and now, she has no desire to leave. She even claims not to know about the email Natalie received.

A storm prevents Natalie from heading back to the coast, so there might be time to persuade Kit she is not helping herself. To discover more about Wisewood, Natalie decides to walk the grounds. She can't shake the feeling she is being followed, so when she sees a door partly hidden in the hedges marked "Staff Only," she slips in.

Her walk in the woods is not productive, almost losing her way, and almost losing her life.

Even the staff have secrets to keep, and just who is "Teacher," and why is she never seen?

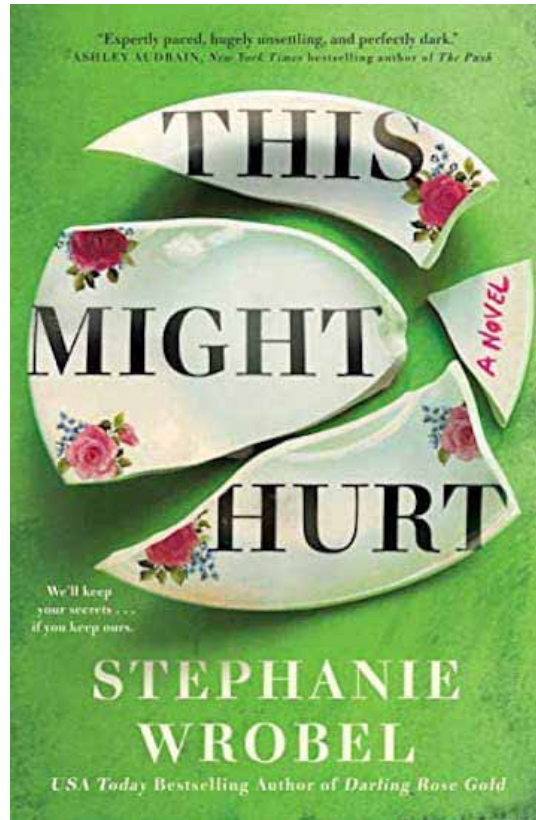
Meanwhile, in-between chapters on Kit and Natalie is the story of two sisters you might at first think are them. They are raised by a sadistic father who gives out points for behaviors both good (+) and bad (-), and punishment if they don't add up. The one sister falls under the spell of the life history of Houdini, swearing to follow in his fearless footsteps. How this

story blends — eventually — with Natalie and Kit's story makes a more tangled web of lies and deception. Can Natalie's love for her sister save her from the clutches of Wisewood? It seems to be more holding her hostage than actually helping her.

Wrobel provides palpable tension as suspense builds to a crescendo, then comes crashing down to keep the real story out of reach. The novel is by turns angry, loving, self-absorbed, even naive and thrilling. Family relationships take us to the breadth and depth of the good and the bad, how even as adults, we question our lives and decisions, looking to smooth-talking strangers to tell us who we really are, and how we can become our *"Maximized Selves,"* as Wisewood preaches.

This psychological thriller will have you flying through the pages to get to the twisty ending. You're gonna love it.

Till next time, happy reading!



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