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Celebrating the Creative Spirit

by
Connie
Kuzydym



The Harbor Arts board today includes (from left) Allen Turner, Greta Pope, David Knoebber, David Fink, Pat Werhane, Janet Blake and Carrie Ehler. Not pictured is Roman Pickens.

For years, artists, arts patrons and entrepreneurs have been drawn to the beauty and tranquility of Southwest Michigan, either settling here permanently or as a second-home retreat.

They arrived in Harbor Country communities like Michiana, Grand Beach, New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Union Pier, Lakeside, Harbert and Sawyer. A landscape of sandy beaches, rolling countrysides and wooded areas filled by orchards, craft breweries, distilleries, wineries, eateries, antique shops, art galleries and a vibrant art community.

These individuals helped shape the “arts” in Harbor Country by eventually forming Harbor Arts, a nonprofit whose slogan, “Celebrating the Creative Spirit,” says it best.

Now, nearly a quarter of a century later, a sense of collaboration and camaraderie still exists amid those who love the arts and call Harbor Country home. Working together, Harbor Arts assists those

wanting to enlarge the scope of quality entertainment brought to the area. Events are held throughout Harbor Country, especially in Three Oaks, where three entertainment venues are within walking distance of each other.

Twenty-four years ago, Jon Vickers, then co-owner of Vickers Theatre in Three Oaks, along with Kim Clark and David Fink, co-owners of Warren Woods Inn in Union Pier, saw a need for family friendly entertainment in the area. The three, along with Chicago theater producer Jonathan Pitts, created a live show with various performance artists for Art Attack, Harbor Country’s annual self-guided spring arts festival.

Shortly after the creation of Harbor Arts, Clark and Fink sold their bed and breakfast. Clark, being a writer, needed space for his theater workshops. The two also saw how the community appreciated what Harbor Arts was doing. With that in mind,

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Celebrating the Creative Spirit

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they began their quest to locate a live performance space. Seeing potential in the old Warren Featherbone Company building, despite the leaky roof, collapsed floors and dirt road, they purchased the property. After completing their renovations, the former factory became home to The Acorn Theatre, which provides a wide genre of live entertainment.

Harbor Arts' first board consisted of Vickers, Fink, Susan Henshaw, a visual artist in New Buffalo, and Sandy Brown, a local banker. The group's inaugural year, 1998, heralded three events in Three Oaks.



One of the earliest Harbor Arts offerings:
Shakespeare in the Park in Three Oaks.

First was Shakespeare in the Park, a summer series at Dewey Canon Park done in collaboration with Chicago's Tripleway Theatre Company.

"We introduced a lot of people to the joy of Shakespeare," Fink, a past Harbor Arts president, said. "It brought a lot of kids...It really made it accessible and easy to enjoy the arts."

The next production, "Commit Art!," featured best-selling satirist David Sedaris, actor Adrian Danzig and several Chicago performers and artists.

The first year wrapped up during the holiday season with Festival of Lights, a dozen, approximately 25-foot-tall outdoor sculptures made from lights designed by artist James Kuhn that graced downtown Three Oaks.

Throughout the years, Harbor Arts has had its hand in numerous projects, including iRock/Jazz Festival, children's programming, a speakers series, Air Force Jazz Band and most recently *Sonos de Mexico* Ensemble sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The board has done numerous long-running programs, such as the Sounds of Silents film festival at Vickers Theatre. Jon Vickers selected the movies, then hired musicians to create and perform original scores.

Historic Radio Theatre, the brainchild of artist David Knoebber, Harbor Arts' current president, and treasurer Janet Blake was another well-received project. The group partnered with Radio Harbor Country (WRHC) to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast. They partnered with The Acorn Theatre to present holiday radio plays "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street." Their final production at New Buffalo High School was "Pinocchio" featuring students and performers from the New Buffalo and Three Oaks areas.

"We've taken on a lot of projects, some we do on our own. Sometimes, we're a fiscal agent, but generally, somebody comes to the board with a project," Fink said. "We decide, does it fit our mission? Is this something we want to help with? Then, we have to figure out how much involvement we have."

One inspiring aspect of Harbor Arts is its assistance with Opera at The Acorn, the Three Oaks Theatre Festival and Harbor Country Radio.

Opera at The Acorn, formed in 2006, provides an affordable opportunity for listeners to experience quality opera. The inaugural season of Three Oaks Theater Festival, launched in 2013, exposed the area to professional live theater. With assistance from Harbor Arts, along with grants and support from a foundation and community sponsorship, both organizations received non-profit 501(c)(3) status.

"We enabled them," Fink said. "We provided the resources for them to get on their feet and walk on their own."

Harbor Arts also was instrumental in helping Radio Harbor Country (WRHC 106.7) in its earli-

est stages. In 2000, Harbor Arts applied for a Federal Communications Commission license “permit to build” a low-power FM community radio station.

“WRHC likely would not have happened without Harbor Arts,” Vickers said. “The application to the FCC, which was completed by Harbor Arts, needed to be a non-profit organization.”

It took five years to raise capitol, build studios and procure equipment. The station began broadcasting in January 2006 under the umbrella and license of Harbor Arts.

“Jon Vickers had the radio station, so there was an overlap of the two boards,” Knoebber said. “We helped them get started, but it wasn’t a Harbor Arts project. Harbor Arts helped do it.”

Blake further explains, “When they (the radio station) expanded, we kept the license here, so they were able to expand and be licensed under two different organizations.

Today, the radio station is thriving. Community members have created and produced more than 85 hours per week of original programming, including talk radio, music, live remote broadcasts, PSAs and local and community news. Its new studio recently opened on U.S. 12 in Sawyer, Mich.

“That was a great seed — look at how this all grew,” Knoebber said. “They have done well.”



Music in the Park has remained a popular event initiated through Harbor Arts.

Music in the Park, Harbor Arts’ signature event, is a free concert series providing a wonderful musical experience at Dewey Cannon Park. Reminiscent of Ravinia, but on a smaller scale, concertgoers take their own seating, food and drinks to enjoy an evening of music on the lawn by the gazebo. Performers who have graced the stage include the Southshore Concert Band, Andrew Fisher Quartet, The Bergamot & The Newports.

Harbor Arts also supports the yearly Three Oaks Poet Laureate program, where poets can present their work to an audience at Music in the Park.

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UPCOMING SHOWS

Billy Gilman

FRI 8/5 8 P.M. ET



The Chicago Experience

SAT 8/6 8 P.M. ET



Tab Benoit

TUE 8/9 7 P.M. ET



The Backups & The Get Downs

WED 8/10 7 P.M. ET



PettyBreakers

THU 8/11 8 P.M. ET



An Acorn Evening with Mark Giangreco

SAT 8/13 8 P.M. ET



Find more events at

acornlive.org

Celebrating the Creative Spirit

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The board has hosted special benefits. Knoebber recalls two. Art & Music of the Evening featured an opera singer and art exhibits by local artists. The other honored local Oscar-nominated director John Hancock for his acclaimed 1973 film “Bang the Drum Slowly,” which gave Robert De Niro’s career a considerable boost and scored Vincent Gardenia a Best Supporting Actor nomination.



Harbor Arts helped honor local Oscar-nominated director John Hancock’s 1973 film “Bang the Drum Slowly.”

Listening to board members talk about their nearly 25 years together with Harbor Arts, one cannot help but admire what this small group with a passion for the arts has accomplished.

“We’ve done a lot of things through the decades. I would say it’s either run by the board, done by a member or overseen by the board,” Fink said. “We’re an umbrella organization for many things. We saw a need. We wanted to do arts projects. We saw a value to having a non-profit umbrella that would allow us to do projects that we wanted to do.”

Earning non-profit status allowed Harbor Arts to apply for grants to support projects and receive tax-free donations.

“We could do free music in the park,” Fink said. “We pass the bucket, but it’s not funded fully by people throwing money in a bucket. It’s funded other ways. As a for-profit, it’s really tough to do stuff like that.”

Twenty-four years later, Harbor Arts is going strong and growing. Board members look forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary next year. Ideas are being tossed around as to what that will look like. Board members are thankful for the artistic opportunities their group helps provide.

“I think that having free or inexpensive community events...really help create community...it allows people some exposure of personal growth, joy and communal sharing of that experience,” Fink said. “There are so many benefits to various arts projects. Having an organization that funds, curates and oversees these things provides the com-

munity with a standard of quality that I think it is important and valuable.”

Since 2020, when COVID-19 hit, Blake says she has seen what Harbor Arts gave to the community as people struggled through the pandemic and all of its challenges.

“We were fortunate to have a venue outdoors. We were able to, unlike other groups in the area, continue and have a full season even through the roughest time of the pandemic,” she said. “People could come, stay 6 feet apart, wear a mask, sit outside in the sunshine and hear live music. The joy it brought to people was amazing. We doubled the attendance because people were so desperate for a way to get out.”

Knoebber believes when a community is exposed to the arts, the organization, and the community, receive an education of sorts.

“Almost all the events that we have put on through the years, there was an element of education...Harbor Arts brings the audience to the entertainer, and the entertainer to the audience,” he said. “That’s our goal. We’re including everyone in Harbor Arts in teaching them about the arts, all the different genres and getting the enjoyment, education from it, camaraderie, meeting other members of the community they may have never met before.”

Vickers is no longer in the area. After helping make his art-house movie theater a key destination point for the area — the late, great film critic Roger Ebert was a fan — he spent a decade as founding director at IU Cinema on the Indiana University Bloomington campus.

However, he said, “I am so pleased to see Harbor Arts reach 25 years; a major accomplishment in itself. Organizations like this are critical conduits for the arts (from individual artists and productions to venues and organizations) to institutional funding sources, volunteers and even donor and patron bases. They help fund and launch fledgling projects which often become annual mainstays in a community. Without Harbor Arts, many of Harbor Country’s cultural offerings would not be there for the community and its artists.”



Harbor Arts partnered with Radio Harbor Country (WRHC) to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Orson Welles’ “War of the Worlds” radio broadcast.



The Sonos de Mexico Ensemble that was sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.



The holiday radio play "It's a Wonderful Life."

Music in the Park Events

- Aug. 6 — Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, "All's Well that Ends Well."
- Aug. 13 — Douglas Blue Feather, Native American Flute (sponsored by Pokagon Fund).
- Aug. 20, Edgar Wilbury Experience, rock covers.
- Aug. 27, Modern Vultures.
- Sept. 3, Newport Blues Project, rock and blues covers.

Visit www.harborarts.com for more details.

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Great Lakes Grand Prix Returns to Michigan City



The 13th annual Play Tradez Great Lakes Grand Prix again will feature offshore boats racing along Lake Michigan's shores, in addition to a weekend of events that includes live entertainment, the popular boat parade, food and drinks.

The schedule is:

Thursday, Aug. 4

- 5:30 p.m. – Ribbon cutting at Sunset Grille.
- 6-8 p.m. – VIP party at Sunset Grille.
- 7-11 p.m. – Aftermath playing classic rock and country at Washington Park beach.

Friday, Aug. 5

- Noon-10 p.m. – Food court open.
- 5-8 p.m. – “Shop • Sip • Support Local” hosted by Lake Life Social Events in downtown Michigan City.
- 6-10 p.m. – Race Team Welcome Party sponsored by CMR at Washington Park beach.
- 7-11 p.m. – SmartyPants playing dance hits at Washington Park beach.

Saturday, Aug. 6

- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. – Four A's Vintage Car Show.
- 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. – Free parking/shuttle service at Ames Field, with overflow parking at 1501 Wabash St. (former St. Anthony parking lot).
- 9 a.m.-10 p.m. – Food court open.

- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – VIP tent open at Washington Park Boardwalk (10 a.m.-2 p.m. – brunch served).
- 10:30 a.m. – Boat racing.
- 10:45 a.m. – National Anthem
- Noon-10 p.m. – Great Lakes Grand Prix Block Party hosted by Lake Life Social Events in downtown Michigan City.
- 1-3:30 p.m. – Offshore testing.
- 1 p.m. – Bags tournament: noon registration/12:45 p.m. blind draw. The cost is \$20 per person, and the money goes to prizes.
- 6-8 p.m. – Great Lakes Grand Prix Boat Parade on Franklin Street
- 7-11 p.m. – Point'n Fingers playing classic rock at Washington Park beach.

Sunday, Aug. 7

- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Free parking/shuttle service at Ames Field, with overflow parking at 1501 Wabash St. (former St. Anthony parking lot).
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Food court opens.
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – VIP tent opens at Washington Park Boardwalk (10 a.m.-2 p.m. – brunch served).
- 10:45 a.m. – National Anthem
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m. – Boat racing.

Visit <https://greatlakesgrandprix.com> for more details.



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Art Center to Present 63rd Annual Chesterton Art Fair



The 63rd annual Chesterton Art Fair, which draws artists and visitors from across the Midwest, is Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 6-7, at Chesterton's Dogwood Park.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. The event features more than 80 artists, live music, family activities, food vendors and free parking. Offerings by the exhibitors include painting, glass, wood, leather, sculpture and jewelry. Fair organizers anticipate nearly 4,000 visitors.

Entertainment begins at 10 a.m. each day. Aug. 6 includes Patti Shaffner, Billy Foster, Marco Villareal and Ross + Young. Aug. 7 includes Alexis Bratsakis, Mike Owens, Leann Stutler and Captain Ambivalent. Food vendors include Dog Days Ice Cream, Big D's Eats and sweets from St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church.

Tickets cost \$5, while children 12 and younger are free. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.chestertonart.org or at the gate.

Proceeds from the fair support the non-profit Chesterton Art Center, which provides educational and outreach programs that serve hundreds of students, a calendar of exhibits that showcases local and regional artists, and various community events and partnerships.

Fair organizers anticipate nearly 4,000 visitors to the annual event.



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“Gilligan’s Island” Docks at Footlight Theatre

The beloved '60s sitcom “Gilligan’s Island” is reborn as a two-hour musical in the latest show at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The story’s favorite “little buddy,” Gilligan (J. Swindell), Skipper (Thom Nelson) and Professor (Ken Siegfried) lead the castaways in a comedic search for an escape off the island when they encounter an ancient legend found on hieroglyphs. Des a mysterious visitor (Lexie Passmore) have the answers?

The TV show’s creator, Sherwood Schwartz, conceived the musical with his son, Lloyd. Schwartz’s daughter and son-in-law, Hope and Laurence Juber, wrote the music and lyrics.

The Footlight production, which includes 18 original songs, is directed by Tony J. Thomas. The cast also includes Rick Henderson as Thurston Howell III, Kathy Chase as Lovey Howell and Joy Scott as Mary Ann. Michael J. Thomas is the assistant director, with Adrianna LeDonne serving as vocal director, Denise Barkow as choreographer and Lara West as producer.

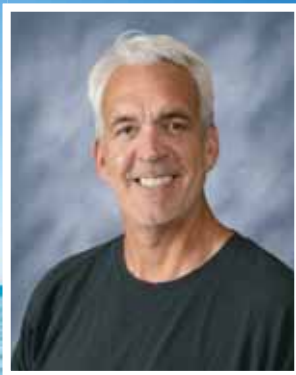
Show dates are Aug. 5-7, 12-14 and 19-21. Times are 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and younger. Visit www.footlightplayers.org or call (219) 874-4035 for more details.



Rick Henderson stars as Thurston Howell III and Kathy Chase as Lovey Howell in “Gilligan’s Island.”

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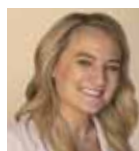
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"High Dosage" Tutors Needed

As Michigan City Area Schools prepares for the start of classes in August, the district again seeks retired educators, future educators and community members to assist students who have fallen behind academically due to COVID-19.

MCAS began high-dosage tutoring as a pilot program at several schools last spring and hopes to increase the number of tutors this year. The tutors work with students at the elementary and middle-school level in language arts, reading and math. Students in groups of no more than four meet with tutors for 30 minutes per day, three days per week, during the school day.

According to MCAS Director of Curriculum Cathy Bildhauser, high-dosage tutoring is effective because tutors can pinpoint specific gaps and address them with individualized catchup plans.

Tutors are paid \$15 per hour, with retired teachers receiving their most recent hourly wage. The schedule can be flexible, based on the tutor's availability. All training and curriculum is provided by MCAS.

Visit <http://educateMC.net/highdosage> for an application or more information.

Leprechaun Hunt

The annual Leprechaun Hunt, which benefits The Share Foundation, is Sunday, Aug. 7, at Shar-ing Meadows, 6357 N. County Road 300 East.

Gates open at 11 a.m., with the hunt from noon-5 p.m. Visitors can search for one of 33 leprechauns hiding on the site's 185 acres, with prizes totaling \$5,600. Food and other entertainment is from noon-6 p.m. Food includes barbecue ribs, chicken, corned beef, hot dogs, pulled pork, hamburgers, tacos, nachos, roasted corn, beer, wine, soda and desserts.

The cost is \$60 in advance for adults, or \$70 at the gate. Seniors 65 and older cost \$50 in advance, or \$60 at the gate. Children 13 and younger are free.

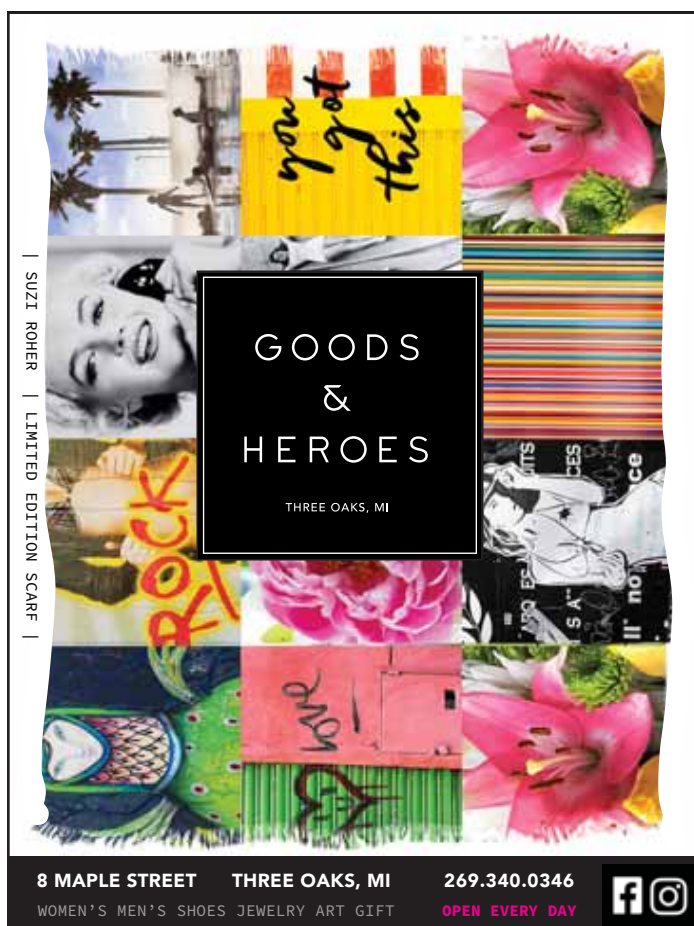
Visit <https://sharefoundation.org> for tickets or more information.

Sinai Temple Golf Outing

The annual Sinai Temple golf outing, held in memory of Ed Frank, is Friday, Aug. 12, at Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 N. Indiana 39.

Registration starts at 7 a.m., with the shotgun start at 8 a.m. The \$99 fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart use, free breakfast and lunch at Portofino Grill, mulligan and raffle tickets. Golfers will participate in the longest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. Tee sponsorships are available for \$99.

Contact Carolyn Berkowitz at (219) 877-7541 or carolyn.berkowitz@gmail.com, or fax Sinai Temple at (219) 874-4190 for more information.



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Indiana different from Michigan

I prepared my year-over-year report for the Michigan lakefront running from the Indiana line to Bridgman last week. Total number of sales down 20%, prices down a few percentage points, total \$Volume down. But when I looked at sales above \$1 million for residences, the downward trend was much steeper in every stat.

So, I had to see how the Indiana lakefront compared to Michigan. Granted, my Indiana search is just along Lake Michigan and does not reach out 5 or 6 miles away from the lake like my Michigan study did. But both marketplaces consist mostly of second homebuyers. Here are the numbers for all sales in our Indiana lakefront area from July 28th to July 28th for each year and then over \$1 million.

| Year | Units sold | Med Price | Aver DOM | Total \$Vol |
|-------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| | All Sales | | | |
| 20-21 | 205 | \$539k | 75 | \$113.M |
| 21-22 | 160 | \$539k | 39 | \$105.6M |
| | Sales Over | \$1,000 | 000 | |
| 20-21 | 11 | \$1.4 M | 165 | \$18.5M |
| 21-22 | 16 | \$1.4 M | 45 | \$28.8 M |

For all sales, the market went down in every number except for Median Price. Prices stayed even, but everything else dropped. The drop in market time is about the only positive stat for 2022 vs. 2021 for the market as a whole.

But when we looked at sales for \$1 million up, the number of units went up, the median price stayed the same. Days on market came way down. Total \$volume jumped up.

The fact that the median price in both groups stayed the same surprised me. The fact that the upper end market in Indiana surged when Michigan sales dropped precipitously puzzles me. Explanations???

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MMAA Spotlight Exhibit

Elkhart's Midwest Museum of American Art will present a new spotlight exhibit, “Michiana Master's Series,” through Sunday, Aug. 21.

The series acknowledges individuals who have accomplished high honors in their field, using the Elkhart Juried Regional as a starting point. The current exhibit of 25 sculptures features John Mishler, Goshen College associate professor of art. He is a past recipient of two Best of Show awards in the annual Elkhart Juried Regional, as well as more than 20 Purchase Awards in the last four decades. His outdoor sculptures



Mishler

can be seen across America in businesses and private homes, including five outdoor sculptures in Elkhart.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for ages 8-12, \$8 for ages 13-18 and \$8 for college students with ID. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St. Email info@midwestmuseum.us for more details.

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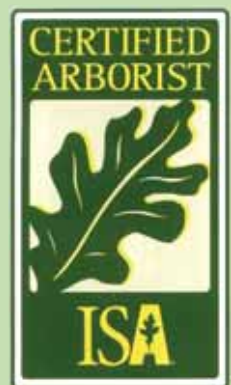
Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

1. Don't prune ANY oaks from April 15th to September 30th. Oak wilt spreads readily during this time. Oak wilt will immediately kill any infected trees and will spread to your trees via root grafts if your neighbor prunes their oaks and they get infected. There is no treatment or cure for infected trees. Prevention is your Only choice.
2. Don't "spike" your trees. Spiking causes wounds that lead to infection and tree decline. Anyone who spikes trees is causing long-term damage to the trees.
3. Avoid damage to the roots. Large trucks cause soil compaction and digging up roots cause frayed wounds that can't heal and create access points for pathogens (fungi) that start root rot and weaken the trees structural stability. Lawn mowers can also cause damage to the root flares.
4. Keep a good amount of natural leaf litter and organic matter covering the roots under the canopy. Blowing leaves away from your trees can kill the fibrous roots by drying the exposed soil.
5. Consult an ISA Certified Arborist before doing anything to your tree.

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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 library has begun changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. A section above the front entrance will have specialized color lighting for seasonal themes. The expected completion date is Sept. 16. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will be closed while work is done in them.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Board Game Bonanza! from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.** Play a variety of board games while eating pizza. Registration is recommended, but drop-ins are welcome. Sign up at tinyurl.com/2hefs86z
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10.** Youth ages 9-17 get an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No

prior experience is necessary. Participants get a free 3-D print of their creations (printing time is limited to five hours per participant). Registration is required. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.

- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10.** 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.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in August.** 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.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** 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.



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.)

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“The Gray Man” is Pure Escapism

by Andrew Tallackson



Ryan Gosling stars in the title role, playing a CIA assassin on the run from his own agency.

“The Gray Man” is a case where people made a big-ass movie just for the heck of it. No social relevance, no historical importance. Just a globe-trotting good time.

In other words, my kind of movie.

I haven’t read Mark Greaney’s 2009 novel, nor the 10 ensuing works in the series that made the author an action favorite. Based solely on the film, the plot is pure formula. A conspiracy-within-a-conspiracy chase where the cat is forever within reach of the mouse. But as adapted into this \$200 million Netflix tentpole — reportedly the streaming giant’s most expensive release — it’s been writ large by the talent behind two Captain America movies (“The Winter Soldier,” “Civil War”) and two connected “Avengers” tales (“Infinity War,” “Endgame”). Directors Anthony and Joe Russo, joined by writers Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, treat Greaney’s tale as grand escapism, with enough star power, action and handsome scenery to make you almost forget you’ve seen this story a zillion times.

In the movie’s efficient setup, we learn senior CIA official Donald Fitzroy (Billy Bob Thornton, subdued) lures a convicted murderer out of prison by promising freedom if he becomes a CIA assassin, part of the covert Sierra program. That convict (Ryan Gosling) is renamed Six.

Eighteen years later, Six is in Bangkok to exterminate his latest target. Turns out, though, it’s a member of the Sierra program with all the dirt on CIA official Denny Carmichael (Rege-Jean Page).



“The Gray Man”

Running time: 129 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of strong violence and strong language.

Before you can say “Tom Clancy, anyone?,” Six is Denny’s new target. Denny, played by the “Bridgerton” star like a wounded alpha male, will stop at nothing to wipe out Six.

So, yeah, “The Gray Man” does not rewrite the conspiracy thriller playbook. In fact, the plot essentially exists on autopilot. But it is in the details — character embellishments, flashes of nasty wit — that make you give a damn. Six defends himself like he’s auditioning for “Cobra Kai,” busting out with all types of martial arts moves. But Gosling does not play him like a hero. He’s rather quiet, actually. He reeks of a wounded past sculpted by violence.

Speaking of violence, cast against type as former agent-turned contract killer Lloyd Hansen is Captain America himself, Chris Evans. Having played Marvel’s patron crime-fighting saint for more than a decade, Evans is practically frothing at the mouth to go bad here. He’s enjoying himself. Lloyd makes no apologies for being ruthless. He can shoot and kill an attacker, then shoot him again as if it’s a bored afterthought. He’s dangerous enough to give Six a run for his money.

And run Six does. Much of the production budget for “The Gray Man” clearly went toward the con-



Chris Evans plays a contract killer out to stop Six.

stant change of scenery, from Washington, D.C., to Prague, France, Croatia and the Czech Republic. Plus, the Russo brothers, as directors, come from the Christopher Nolan school of filmmaking. Big, muscular action sequences. First up is a precarious drop inside a plane falling apart piece by piece. Then, we get the most spectacular setpiece: an extended chase and shootout through the streets of Prague that begins with a noble sacrifice, then one wow of a finish, complete with Gosling atop an overturned streetcar that's wiping out everything in its path. Rare does movie action leave me breathless, but this sequence, alone, makes "The Gray Man" worth a look.

The movie's best special effect? That would be "Knives Out" breakout star Ana de Armas in another thrillingly unpredictable performance as a CIA agent who comes to Six's aid. De Armas, with Daniel Craig's Bond swan song ("No Time to Die") and now "The Gray Man," is becoming an expert in chipping away at male ego, particularly Gosling's Six, who assumes it's the man's job to save the distressed damsel. No so with de Armas. Repeatedly, she is the one with the last-minute saves.

By the end, the Russo brothers lay off the gunplay and explosions so Gosling and Evans can duke it out in an old-fashioned fist fight.

Again, everything in "The Gray Man" is pretty much what you'd expect...but you don't care. This is a movie that goes out of its way to entertain you, spending money like chump change to deliver the goods. And it does.

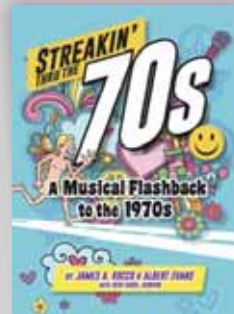
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In the Driver's Seat

Reins of Life Inc., 9375 W. County Road 300 North, hosted its first Driving Fun Show on July 24. The event emphasized Therapeutic Carriage Driving, which it started in November 2019. Those in the audience could watch drivers compete and cheer Reins' therapeutic driving students and volunteers. All photos by Bob Wellinski



In the Driver's Seat

Continued from Page 27





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Didn't Say Didn't Ask

Just as the Google Lady proclaims, "Prepare to turn right," an opening in the long white picket fence appears. I edge my daughter's red Honda Fit into the preschool parking lot. The colored lane markings look like a jigsaw puzzle. Rolling down the passenger window, I flag down a staff member.

One of the preschool workers comes over. "Hi, Jack!" she says to my nearly 3-year-old grandson.

To me, she says, "Do you want to do a drop-off or walk him in?"

Much like the clatter in the Honda's car engine, the young woman's question perplexes me. I rack my sleep-deprived brain. Before my daughter left for her 12-hour shift at the hospital, had she or the nanny mentioned a drop-off option? Should I have asked more questions of my son-in-law before he left for the airport at dawn?

I glance in the back seat. Behind his blue-framed glasses, Jack beams at me.

"Um. Drop-off," I say, biting the inside of my lip.

While the woman frees Jack from his car seat, I coo in my sweetest grandmother voice. "Bye, Jack. See you after school! I hope you have a great day."

In one steady motion, the young woman hooks Jack's dinosaur print backpack over his slender shoulders, slips his small hand into hers and pulls him to the safety of the curb. There, he tugs against

That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



her grasp, contorting himself so his eyes find mine through the Honda's open window. My goodbye wave is more carefree than I feel inside.

As the passenger window rolls up, I see Jack's shoulders slump. His little pink mouth freezes into a perfect "O." It hangs there like that as if he has just been slapped. When his lower lip quivers and curls, I suspect a wail is forthcoming. And this is when I know that somehow, despite my best efforts and good intentions, I've screwed up. My lower lip curls, too.

I shift the clanking red Honda Fit out of the drop-off lane and pull into a space in the lot. Fishing in my purse for my cell phone, I swear at myself for making Jack unhappy, then I curse my daughter's misbehaving Honda. I add United Airlines to the list of culpable suspects contributing to my frustrated state. Them for canceling my flight yesterday and for rescheduling it so late in the day, I arrived after the barbecue leftovers were stowed and my daughter's family tucked into their cribs and beds.

Parked in the red Honda Fit, I scroll through text messages on my phone. I unearth the two I received from my son-in-law upon touching down in Newark. The first one alerted me that I was expected to get Jack to preschool by 8:30. The second was a picture of the school, an address and a few cursory instructions: If you have time, read The Big Blue Truck before walking into school; Don't forget his lunchbox and sun hat; During the car ride, give him the white sippee cup filled with warmed, whole milk.

This morning as the nanny and I hunted for Jack's black-and-white Velcro sneakers, I'd quizzed her about the instructions and added questions of my own like: "How do I operate the car seat," and "Are there any tricks to driving the Honda?"

She'd smiled benignly while burping 6-month-old Otto. "When I drop Jack at school, I don't read the book. The car seat is easy. Jack climbs right in. All



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you do is buckle it."

The nanny's simple answers made me feel like I was overthinking my role this week as car pooler and second set of hands. Certainly, there were many more questions I could have asked, and even more information the nanny could have offered in return. Yet, she was busy with the baby, and I was overdue for a second cup of coffee. Besides, Jack clamored at the door with his backpack, lunchbox and sunhat, so the anxiety I felt about driving him in a strange car to an unknown destination was quickly sidelined.

I let a huge sigh settle over the Honda's dashboard, wishing I'd reread my son-in-law's texts before setting out this morning. If I had, then perhaps Jack would have been happier at drop-off. Despite the nanny's remark, I could have read the book. And I should have parked and walked Jack into the preschool. I plug my daughter's home address into Google Maps and restart the red Honda Fit. As I accelerate and merge into traffic, the engine's rattle increases, overpowering the music on the radio. I should mention this to my son-in-law, I think. Which causes me to consider the morning's events.

I'm struck by the importance of stepping outside of our own immediate discomfort so meaningful conversation is possible. And how crucial it is to ask second-level questions and offer helpful details in return. Both asking for and offering extra information have the power to ease tension, to help avoid conflict and facilitate greater joy all around.

At a red light, the Honda comes to a clanking stop, and I puzzle what can be wrong with the car. In the strip mall ahead, I spy a coffee shop. As I wait for my order in the drive-thru lane, I query Siri for the closest Jiffy Lube. I'd hate for the Honda's engine to fail as I tote my grandsons around all week. Two long sips of strong brew shift my brain into gear. I text my son-in-law: Is the Honda due for an oil change? Would car-crazed Jack enjoy such an errand after school? A moment later, my thoughtful questions are rewarded with a thumb's up emoji and smiley face blowing a kiss. Day 1 of grandma duty is back on track.

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)



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Countless Swimming

Did you know you can easily count your laps, or lengths, at the Michigan City Family YMCA pool by advancing beads along a string?

Well, now you do.

And, if you ever have the pleasure of swimming at the Michigan City Y, you'll find the beads conveniently placed at each end of the pool, in your lane.

Been there-done that, along, I am happy to say, with the right honorable Drew Tallackson himself. Yes, dear *Beacher* readers, our beloved editor is quite the aquatic ace.

And, yes, it is fun to track one's progress up and down that lovely 25-yard expanse of indoor water.

Likewise, I have many a friend who tracks his/her progress in the pool with watches and electronic devices they wear in their ears or even on their pinkies.

They track their distance.

They monitor their heartbeats.

Their devices tell them how many strokes they take every length.

Some devices play specially selected music as they swim.

So-called "smart goggles" apparently give swimmers read-outs during and/after workouts. One company claims its smart goggles can track your entire workout and record every detail.

There you go, swimmers.

And look at the piles of "swim stuff" that appear on deck.

Baffling, to this 70-something swimmer from the old days, when we didn't even wear goggles to swim meets.

Hey, I'm just plain ol' Charley the Tuna. That's right. I was known in high school, back in the 1960s, as "Charley the Tuna." Or simply "Tuna." That was due entirely to a popular StarKist ad from the 1960s featuring, of course, the aforementioned Charley (they spelled it Charlie, but what did they know) the Tuna. Charlie wasn't good enough for StarKist, so he never ended up in a can, as his buddies did. My swim-team buddies from that golden era of being blinded by chlorine thought it was hilarious "that only the best tuna" went in the StarKist can. And so, they started calling me "Charley the Tuna," or simply "Tuna." The moniker stuck like a hook in a tuna's mouth.

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



Me after a "70 for 70" swim at South Shore Health & Racquet Club in St. Joseph, Mich. Seventy lengths for seventy years. This year, it will have to be "72 for 72," which is slightly over a mile.

I couldn't shake my TUNA title, as much as I tried. Then, one day, I accepted it as a badge of honor. That was the day of a swim meet at a Chicago Park District pool somewhere near a school that didn't have one.

As we assembled on the deck to begin our meet, we all noticed a man swimming steadily back and forth in a far lane. A lane reserved just for him. We learned he was none other than the legendary Ted Erikson. Alas, Erikson died in December 2021 at 93, but before he did, he became the first person to swim across Lake Michigan in 1961. When we saw him in action that afternoon, he was training for his epic English Channel swim. Yes, in 1965 Ted Erikson became the second person to swim the Channel round trip — England to France and France back to England. He set a 30-hour and 3-minute record that stood for a decade until his son, John Erikson,

shaved off three minutes.

TED ERIKSON!!!! THE TED ERIKSON. Swimming back and forth in our pool in preparation for an assault on the English Channel.

WOW!! That sure got our attention.

And what really galled us was that after we got done racing past him during our various races, Ted Erikson just kept on a goin'. Steady as he went. Erikson was beautiful to behold as he opened his turns and held a steady beat. The man clearly had

for the love of swimming. That's basically what Ted Erikson told us after his record-breaking Channel swim; it's what I tell myself every time I hop in a pool or the lake. Erikson, who swam well into his 93rd year of life, said to do it all your life.

Ted Erikson's timeless advice has been repeated of late by friends in the know. They counsel swimming without all the counting, measuring and quantifying. No watches, clocks, gizmos or beeping in your head. No pool tunes. No piles of swim stuff at the end of your lane.

Just slap on your suit and goggles, and a bright-colored cap for warmth, visibility and hair control. Then, hop in the surf and start swimming. Ease into it slowly and ease out of it slowly, and maintain a steady pace in the middle. See where it takes you, and stay in the moment because some of life's very best moments occur while swimming.

Well, do listen to this old sea dog gas on about discovering, or re-discovering, an ancient trick. Like George Gordon, Lord Byron, swimming that tumultuous strait in Turkey now called the Dardanelles. Lord Byron, that Scottish poet with the club foot, swam what was then called the Helles-

pont in the early 19th century for the pure pleasure of swimming the Hellespont. He's still famous for that daring feat more than 200 years later. But he didn't swim the swim of swims for fame or glory. He swam it for the pure pleasure of countless swimming that it was.



Ted Erikson swam here, here being 57th Street Beach in Chicago.

his sights set on amazing targets. It should be noted from his obituary in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on Dec. 2, 2021, that he once swam the 28 miles from the Farallon Islands — a haven for great white sharks — to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. He instructed the boat captain who accompanied him to shoot any shark that got too close. None did, apparently, because they knew a swimming legend had entered their chilly waters.

So we, too, swam with *the* Ted Erikson, just before he swam round trip across the English Channel and set a long-standing record for it.

All we had trained to do was swim 50 butterfly and 100 IM ("individual medley") and 200 freestyle, but that clockwork adult was preparing for something really, really big. And he was doing it with ease and efficiency. And he was still at it when we concluded our meet and exited the natatorium.

Impressive, no?

We were most impressed with Ted Erikson a short time later when we invited him to speak at our annual swim-team banquet. He told us the best way to train for any open-water distance swim was a technique that I now call — drum roll — Countless Swimming.

With countless swimming, a swimmer just swims



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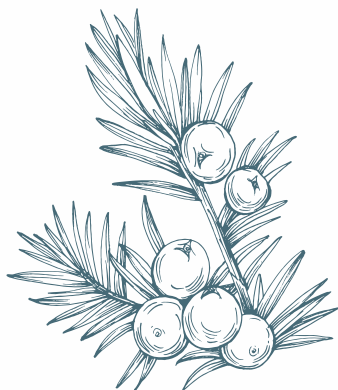
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LaPorte County Parks



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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, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Aug. 3: Scavenger Hunt Fun.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30). The schedule is:

- Aug. 3 — "Ear & Hearing Care," audiologist Jes-

sica Nichols.

- Sept. 14 — Pairing Your Plants for Multi-Season Display, Sacha-Gee Burns, Solid Waste District of LaPorte County.
- Oct. 5: Medicare 2021 Overview, SHIP Supervisor Megan Rogers.
- Nov. 2: Managing Stress with Moria Cogwell, The Crossing wellness specialist.

Inclusive Playground Grand Opening

A ribbon cutting is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.

The new sensory-rich environment enables children to develop physically, socially and emotionally. Refreshments will be provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Family Fishing Nights

The next free all-ages outing is from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Luhr County Park pond. A limited number of poles and bait will be available. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required at least one day before each program.

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.

Call (219) 324-5855, visit www.laportecountyparks.org or email natureniki@csinet.net or for details.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 4 and 11.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 4 and 11.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. The program is limited to 20 participants. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
- **Beach Fun Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fridays, Aug. 5 and 12, at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.** Join staff for activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming. Passes are required.
- **Mount Baldy Sunset Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays, Aug. 5 and 12, and 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Experience sunset views of Lake Michigan and Chicago from during the ranger-led tour. Passes are required. Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays in August.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger from 8-9 a.m. Saturdays, Aug. 6 and 13, at Central Avenue Beach.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll along the beach and learn about the origins of the Great Lakes and Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Central Avenue Beach parking lot. Passes are required.
- **Biking & Birding from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at West Beach.** Take bikes, with the park providing binoculars, during the trek that offers basic birding techniques. Passes are required. The parking lot is at 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.
- **"Is it a 'Birdie' or an 'Eagle'?" from 7-9 a.m. Sundays in August at Dunewood Campground off Golf Wood Road, Beverly Shores.** Join a ranger to walk through a relatively unexplored area of the park. Birders of all levels are welcome. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the park. Passes are required.
- **Migration Birding Hike from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 7, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Join a birding expert from the Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society for the monthly birding series.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in August.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** 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.

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.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **J.D. Marshall Shipwreck Stroll from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 4.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a 1.5-mile flat walk to the beach and back.
- **Who Goes Where? from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 5.** Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium to learn how physical/behavioral adaptations help animals survive diverse Indiana Dunes habitats.
- **S'mores Day Fun from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.** Learn about the history of the treat, then try different variations.
- **Hummingbird Banding Demonstrations from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6.** From 8:30-9:30 a.m., meet at the Nature Center as bander Allen Chartier discusses attracting, feeding and research on hummingbirds. From 9:30-11 a.m., Chartier will catch, band, then release any birds that visit the Nature Center's feeders.
- **Critter Dinner from 10-11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 8.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.
- **"Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O" from 9:30-10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to help fill bird feeders and play the game.
- **High Dunes Hike from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10.** Meet a naturalist at the nature center for a hike to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes.

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.



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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



July 7, 2022

Event: Regular Golf

A FLIGHT

Low Net — Jean Guerin.

Low Putts — Carol Excell, Sue Luegers.

Birdies — Jean Guerin, No. 16.

Sunken Approaches — Not available.

B FLIGHT

Low Net — Nancy Trainor.

Low Putts — Gloria McMahon.

Birdies — Not available.

Sunken Approaches — Not available.

C FLIGHT

Low Net — Tina Sonderby.

Low Putts — Sally Allen.

Birdies — Not available.

Sunken Approaches — Not available.

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Jude Stahmer.

Low Putts — Jeanne St. Peter.

July 14, 2022

Event: Wild About Golf Guest Day

FRONT NINE

First Place — Donna Andreotti, Jill Rhiner, Janet Andreotti, Roxanne Warble.

Second Place — Rise Wendt, Monica Tynan, Julie Cronin, Sue O'Connell.

Third Place — Beth White, Trish Anen, Ann Vogt, Lisa Shanahan.

BACK NINE

First Place — Julie Doyle, Julie Johnson, Joanie Doyle, Margie Doyle.

Second Place — Mary Lee Montague, Lisbeth Hayes, Cindy Levy, Mary Lou Huffman.

Third Place — Julie Burns, Anne Camins, Ashley Hinton, Roberta Oshea.

July 22, 2022

Event: Regular Golf

A FLIGHT

Low Net — Janet Andreotti.

Low Putts — Kathy Kenefick.

Sunken Approaches — Kathy Peters (No. 5).

B FLIGHT

Low Net — Amanda Ferlmann.

Low Putts — Marci Meyer.

C FLIGHT

Low Net — Tina Sonderby, Jude Stahmer.

Low Putts — Kathy Chlystun.

Sunken Approaches — Barb Hall (No. 18).

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Regina Bradley.

Low Putts — Regina Bradley, Peg Carey.

Sunken Approaches — Jeanne St. Peter (No. 3).



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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League



July 19, 2022
Event: Low Net

A FLIGHT

First Place — Katherine Lee.
Second Place — Vicki Hill.
Third Place — Aimee Sullivan.

B FLIGHT

First Place — Peg Cooney.
Second Place — Jean Guerin.
Third Place — Amanda Ferlmann.

C FLIGHT

First Place — Tina Sonderby.
Second Place — Nancy Reinert.
Third Place — Kathy Chlystun.

July 26, 2022

Event: Guest Day

Congratulations to our winning teams!

First Place Team: Julie Doyle, Mary Frances Grote,
Bridget Van Eekeren, Anne Humphrey
Second Place Team: Peg King, Maureen Hochberg,
June Salmon, Kathleen Beeler.
Third Place Team: Gloria McMahon, Paula Harn-
ach, Diane Rubey, Kacky Fetzer.

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Metamorphis Traveling Theatre



Metamorphis Traveling Theatre has acquired a quintet of plays by Terry Mann about a long-married couple. Judith Joseph and Doug Moon take the title roles in "Margaret and Pickles: Episode One." Janet Lustick is the music director. The performance is at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, at Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Call (219) 872-4813 for details.

Down on the Farm Hoedown

The Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation will host "Down on the Farm Hoedown" from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 6, at Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

The event includes a mock horse show class and trail rides (weather permitting), games, face painting, line dancing, concessions, bake sale, apparel and craft sales, and Hot Rod Snow Cones. Children can have their photos taken with S'More, the pony, and there will be horses for children to pet.

All proceeds benefit the foundation, a nonprofit that provides an equine-based educational program on horse behavior, barn and horse care, and horsemanship for local, under-resourced children and adults.

Anyone planning to attend should contact Allison by text at (269) 756-3894. Visit <https://springcreekhorseshelp.org/> for more details.



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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 will
 be published after the favor is granted.

CYA Summer Camp

The Community Youth Advocate Program hosted a two-day mini camp for teens this summer, with 15 youth participating in tie dye projects, slime making and an Uno tournament.

Plans to visit Luhr County Park to fish were postponed due to extreme heat; however, the camp concluded with a cook-out, providing food and games for the campers.

The mission was to provide fun for participants while integrating social, emotional skills within activities. Campers received a three-month pass to the LaPorte County Family YMCA for attending both days.

LaPorte Circuit Court funded the camp. CYA is planning a "Cabin Fever" STEM camp sometime in early 2023.



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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10.

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

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In the Area

Aug. 4 — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Washington Park's Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater.

Aug. 4 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Cripple Creek/7 p.m.; preconcert: 350 West/6 p.m. **Aug. 3:** LaPorte City Band/7 p.m. Info: contact@artsintheparklaporte.com

Aug. 4-6 — Canterbury Summer Theatre, "Sylvia," Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: (219) 874-4269, info@canterburytheatre.org. Info: www.canterburytheatre.org

Aug. 4-7 — Play Tradez Great Lakes Grand Prix, Washington Park, Uptown Arts District. Full schedule: <https://greatlakesgrandprix.com>

Aug. 5 — Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 5 — Board Game Bonanza!, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 — "Gilligan's Island," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Aug. 6 — Four A's Car Club free car show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Washington Park. Free park admission. Info: (219) 363-5736.

Aug. 6 — First Saturday Art Class, 10-11 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$10. Registration: longbeachactivities@gmail.com

Aug. 7 — Leprechaun Hunt, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., The Share Foundation, Sharing Meadows, 6357 N. County Road 300 East. Cost: \$60/advance for adults, \$70/gate; seniors/\$50 in advance, \$60/gate; children 13 & younger/free. Reservations/info: <https://sharefoundation.org>

Aug. 8 — Teen Anime Club, 4:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 9 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 9 — Virtual Author Talk with Liz Moore, 8-9

p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18037>

Aug. 10 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 10 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Registration: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Through Sept. 30 — Michigan City Art League, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church's Legacy Center, 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. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through Oct. 21 — "moniquemeloché presents...", Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Tuesdays in August — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: farmersmarketmichigancity@gmail.com

Saturdays in LaPorte — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas. Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

Sundays in Michigan City — The Dockside Artisan Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Millennium Plaza. Free parking.

In the Region

Aug. 4 — J.D. Marshall Shipwreck Stroll, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 4 — BoDeans, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$55, reserved/\$80. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 4-6 — The Common Concert Series, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Buchanan, Mich. Entertainment: Aug. 4/Dean Allrick Trio, Aug. 5-6/Chippewapalooza. Info: The Common-Buchanan, MI (Facebook).

Aug. 5 — Who Goes Where?, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 5 — S'mores Day Fun, 7-8:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 5 — Billy Gilman, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$55, reserved/\$80, VIP/\$105. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 6 — Hummingbird Banding Demonstrations, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 6 — “Down on the Farm Hoedown,” 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: (269) 756-3894, <https://springcreekhorseshelp.org/>

Aug. 6 — The Chicago Experience, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$40, reserved/\$65. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 6-7 — Chesterton Art Fair, Chesterton’s Dogwood Park. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat./10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$5, children 12 & younger/free. Advance tickets: www.chestertonart.org. Tickets also sold at gate

Aug. 7 — Migration Birding Hike, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 8 — Critter Dinner, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 9 — “Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O,” 9:30-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 9 — Tab Benoit with Lightnin’ Malcolm, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$55, reserved/\$80. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 10 — High Dunes Hike, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 10 — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 10 — The Backups & The Get Downs – Midwest Made, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$15, reserved/\$40. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Through Aug. 21 — “Michiana Master’s Series,” Elkhart’s Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/ages 13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Hours (Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: info@midwestmuseum.us

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.

Thursdays in August — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra 2022 Summer Pop Up Concert Series, 4 p.m. EDT, On the Green at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Bluff Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Aug. 4: Richard Neckerman and Helen Lukan. Info: www.smso.org

Thursdays in August (Aug. 4 & 11) — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road parking lot between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Thursdays (Aug. 4 & 11) — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 6-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Limit 20 participants. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Fridays (Aug. 5 & 12)/Sundays in August — Mount Baldy Sunset Hike: 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays/9-11 a.m. Sundays, parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Saturdays in August — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9 a.m.-noon, parking lot @ 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Saturdays in August (Aug. 6 and 13) — Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger, 8-9 a.m., Central Avenue Beach. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street. Info: (219) 926-5513.

Sundays in August — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 2-4 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road, U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Sundays in August — “Is it a ‘Birdie’ or an ‘Eagle’?”, 7-9 a.m., Dunewood Campground off Golf Wood Road, Beverly Shores. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: “Elvis.” Rated PG-13. Time: 6 p.m. Aug. 4. *Also*: “Where the Crawdads Sing.” Rated PG-13. Check website for times. *Also*: Paintings by Annie Hickman through late August. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickers-theatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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Hatchet Island by Paul Doiron (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 307 pages.)

Nothing like a suicide on Page 1 to get your juices flowing. Evan Levendowski stops in the middle of a bridge and calmly jumps into the canyon. That's just the teaser for a whole lot more to come.

"Somewhere in the dark spruces, a bird sang a few notes, then went silent. I recognized the tune. It was a parula, a warbler that had no business being awake before dawn.

"Maybe it had a nightmare," Stacey whispered.

"Can you blame him, living here?"

The "here" Stacey is talking about is Baker Island, one of a number of islands off the coast of Maine. It is the site of the Maine Seabird Initiative Restoration program to keep puffins and terns from becoming the next extinct species. The program is headed by Dr. Maeve McLeary, a crusty old woman who has devoted her life to the project.

Currently on the island, besides McLeary, are interns Kendra Ballard, Hillary Fitzgerald and Garrett Meadows. And, the aforementioned Evan was an intern for Maeve.

The initiative is funded with private donations, not from state or federal agencies. It also is harassed by local lobster fishermen who want Maeve and company to leave. They are angry at her backing a proposal to close part of the Gulf of Maine to help prevent the extinction of whales. Threats abound, with shots fired at the bird observation blind.

Now we come to Stacey Stevens, a former state biologist and on-again-off-again boyfriend Mike Bowditch, kayaking to Baker Island. They planned the trip as a chance to reconnect, until...

Stacey is contacted by Kendra, a former college roommate, to come to Baker Island with Mike and his badge and gun. Strange request, but Mike is an investigator for the Maine Warden Service and Baker Island belongs to the state. Maeve hasn't been seen for several days, and Kendra is worried — both for her safety and state of mind.

Kayak trip along the coast suddenly becomes a rescue mission...and maybe a lot more.

Nothing is ever easy for Mike as Kendra sends him and Stacey over to nearby Ayers Island to see if Maeve is meeting there with Clay Markham, one of her largest donors.

There's an obvious hierarchy on Ayers Island, with rich and famous photographer Clay and wife Alyce owning it and nearby Hatchet Island, a former quarry. It becomes obvious they call all the shots within the small community. Everyone is

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



tight-lipped, and Mike is sure the Markhams know more about Maeve than they're letting on.

Clay is a professional and famous photographer, although his choice of subjects is, well...subjective and creepy. Like the exhibition of live children posing as corpses. Nice, right? Creepy also describes Markham's assistant, Justin Speer and his wife, Brenna. Rounding out the "family" in the mansion are two blond, beautiful young men serving as — house staff?

Arriving back at Baker Island the next morning, Mike and Stacey are greeted by total silence at the camp. It doesn't take long to step into a blood-bath as the two female interns have been brutally killed, then gruesomely posed after death — eyes wide open. Garrett is nowhere to be found, but Mike later traces his footprints to the other side of the island — the group's skiff is missing. And still no Maeve.

Police, Coast Guard and a sheriff soon overrun the island — each with his own agenda and ideas of what happened. One sheriff has decided Garret, who is black, must be the killer since he is missing.

Characters float in and out of the pages, some seeming like the murderer, some not so much. It's the twists and turns that Doiron puts in his story, and the quirks of the characters, that make you realize you haven't a clue as to who did it. This isn't a game of checkers — it's chess with the final checkmate looking more and more out of reach. Mike must play the game or become the next victim. Time for Mike to put his tracking skills to work.

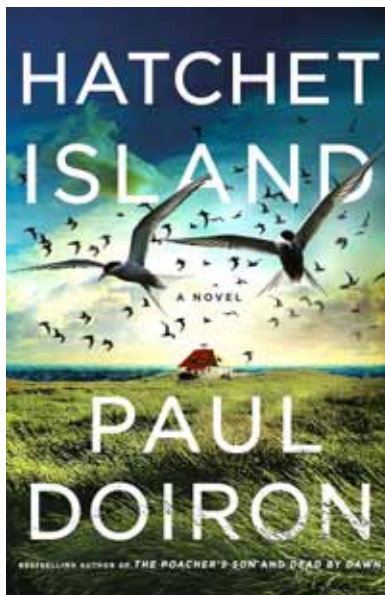
Yes, everything seems to be happening on Baker and Ayers islands, but soon Hatchet Island will play a very big part in Mike's final showdown...and it's a doozy!

This is the 13th Mike Bowditch novel, and Doiron is not slowing down. The beautiful Maine landscape is artfully presented, making it one of the best arm-chair travels you will read — it always plays a big part within his exciting murder/mysteries.

Reminder: There is a sprinkling of salty language here, but not enough to take away from the intriguing story.

Doiron and his wife live on the Maine coast, and he is a registered Maine guide specializing in fly-fishing.

Till next time, happy reading!





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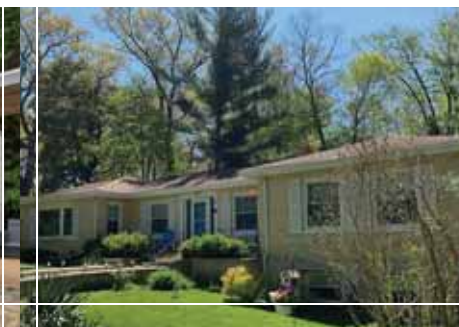
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