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# A Passion for Fitness

by Kim Nowatzke

As a group fitness instructor at LaPorte County Family YMCA's Elston Branch, Sam Duthoy tells his Balance class students that "Slow is pro," and "Imagine you're walking on a tightrope. Can you do one more lap? Yes, you can!"

His positive attitude, gentle — yet persuasive — encouragement and genuine passion for fitness make the 58-year-old perfect for the job. His knowledge and enthusiasm in helping others and giving back to the community are inspiring and motivating.

The 30-minute class, designed for all fitness levels, focuses on improving balance through core-centric strength and stretching. Armed with a chair, floor mat and exercise band, the participants range in number from two to eight on any given class day.

Duthoy leads class members in exercises that include holding on to chairs while slowly balancing on one leg, walking along the perimeter of mats, standing on their "tippy toes" for one full minute, focused marches across the room, assum-

Group Fitness Instructor Sam Duthoy demonstrates a move during a Balance class at the LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

ing the classic "tree" yoga pose and a variety of stretching exercises.

"Remember to breath in through your nose and out through your mouth," Duthoy told his class as they focused on an exercise designed to promote hip mobility.

Signs placed around the room that read "Be Your Best – Earn Your Rest," "You Are Stronger Than Your Excuses" and "Keep Breathing" offer more tips and motivation.

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The class ended with a few minutes of quiet meditation on the mats.

Afterward, Carol Spreitzer, one of the participants, shared, "Sam's very serious about the workouts and always trying to keep you motivated. He's always positive. Because he's so fit, he's such a role model."

Her classmate, Lori Lake, credits Duthoy for helping her to slow down.

"It gives you time to sort out your mind and body together," she said.

Duthoy began as a YMCA instructor in September after completing the required 10 hours online of training, which includes training in safety, emergency first-aid, CPR and how to operate a defibrillator. In addition to Balance, he teaches Boot Camp, Boot Camp Aquatics, Core Strength and Gentle

Stretch for about 12-15 hours a week.

But, Duthoy's interest in fitness began as a young adult.

"It started with a group of friends," he explained. "It was a social aspect. I've met a lot of good friends. I've met clients in my (interior) design business over the years."

Duthoy spent the last 30 years going to gyms in Chicago, including East Bank Club.

"I learned a lot of this from one of their cream-of-the-crop instructors," he said, adding he uses social media, especially Instagram, to learn new exercises, poses and more.

"It's a fantastic resource for learning and staying current," he said.

Duthoy has owned a home in Long Beach since 2012, but made the full-time move from Chicago last year. He became a LaPorte County Family YMCA member about a year ago.



Lori Lake (front) and Judy Shiozaki (back), led by Group Fitness Instructor Sam Duthoy, use exercise bands during the Balance class at LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.





Carol Spreitzer focuses during the Balance class at LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

"I love this place," he said. "It's truly diverse – economically and ethnically. There's something for everyone – all ages, shapes and sizes. There's a lot of social interaction."

And, he feels like he's come full circle. Growing up in Minnesota, he took Saturday morning swim lessons at a YMCA.

Kathy Workman, LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch program director, said the Balance class is "a great thing – it's especially popular with our older people that come in the morning. Slips and falls are a huge problem, and we're trying to combat that."

She cited comments from other YMCA members as testimonies of Duthoy's success. For example, one woman in her 60s said she now is more flexible in her hip joints than ever before, while another admits she's never moved as freely as she does now.

"Sam had been a member for several months when he expressed an interest in teaching and shared his passion for fitness," Workman said. "I knew Sam would be a perfect fit with his calm, encouraging personality. Sam is always very caring and helpful, which is a trait that the members are drawn to. His classes are very effective, but yet he makes them fun and allows for modification for all fitness levels."

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# A Passion... Continued from Page 3

YMCA “regular” Eileen Heisler, Beverly Shores, has been working out at the Elston Branch since it opened six years ago. During that time, she has seen many exemplary exercise instructors, including Duthoy.

“He was alone in the pool doing a curious mixture of moves that looked like yoga positions and stretches,” Heisler said. “Those of us in the adjacent Aqua-Tabata class couldn’t help but be mesmerized by his solo movements. In time, our class was in need of a leader for Monday’s Aqua-Tabata Boot Camp, and Sam volunteered his unique style of water workout. It’s really a workout — a strenuous workout for a full hour. Sam says that we’re aiming to have ‘shoulders like boulders. Really.”

Sam is a great example of the volunteer spirit that is a big part of the Elston YMCA Branch, Heisler added.

This sense of community — and making a difference in it — is something Duthoy recognizes as well.

“We are very fortunate that our member base is generous,” he said, “both in donating equipment and volunteering their time.”

The Elston branch has just more than 2,000 members and is one of three in the association under LaPorte County Family YMCA. The other two are in LaPorte and at Long Beach Community Center. The branch offers more than 40 aerobic classes weekly, including those in the pool, that are modifiable for all fitness levels.

“We serve our community in many ways, offering a low-cost option for families to keep their kids active in sports and aquatics programs, and also offer many free community family events to get families involved,” Workman said. “The population we serve considers the Y their second home and finds it as a place to not only work out and get healthy, but a way to connect with others and create lasting friendships.”

Heisler agreed.

“The Y’s activities allow us to seamlessly meet new people with shared health and social interests,” she said. “‘Pool friendships’ afford dual opportunities to share an interest in physical health and satisfy the human need for companionship.”

Another one of the classes Duthoy teaches, Boot Camp, is more of an intense workout with fast-paced conditioning exercises to help members reach their fitness goals. The class description reads, “... *be ready to be pushed to new limits!*”

In an area of the YMCA’s Elston Branch only accessible to those 18 and older, Duthoy leads participants in squat jumps with a ball, tricep extensions with a machine and a “preacher’s walk,” or “farmer’s walk,” with a tire and more. Each station includes 45 seconds on and 15 seconds off.

Duthoy inspires YMCA members with the reminder that “consistency is key. That is true with so many things.”

He stresses that the right mindset, good organization and an accountability partner are further keys to success.



A class participant works on his balance at the LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch.

Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

“Get everything ready the night before, so there’s no excuses,” he suggested. “Just start slow and progress up. Just take walks. Walk on the treadmill. Have fun with it. Don’t consider it a ‘workout.’ Go with a buddy. Do stuff that you enjoy. That’s the key. Pretend you’re a second-grader at recess.”

He also stresses that healthy eating, in addition to exercise, is a critical component to overall fitness.

“If your goal is weight loss, 80 percent of it is diet,” he said. “There needs to be a caloric deficit. It took a while to gain weight. It’s going to take a while to lose it.”

Duthoy and Workman are excited about a new YMCA program with a “teaching kitchen” that is still in the works. Through a partnership with Franciscan Alliance, the idea is to conduct community classes on healthier snacks, meal planning, cooking with kids and more. Plans are to hold a test run with staff members first.

Duthoy said the most satisfying part of his job is hearing the progress YMCA members make.

“When they exclaim, ‘Wow, I can touch my toes now!’ or they are standing up straighter,” he says, “to me, that is the most satisfying part.”

For Duthoy, the motivation behind his new part-time gig at the YMCA is simple.

“I wanted to give back to the community and help others,” he said. “I’ve seen other techniques and wanted to share them with people here.”





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## Musical Revue "Jerry's Girls" on Tap at Footlight Theatre



Appearing in "Jerry's Girls" are (from left) Danielle Bilderback, Debbie Bartholomew and Emmie Reigel.

"Jerry's Girls," the award-winning musical revue celebrating Broadway composer Jerry Herman, runs Feb. 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Directed by Laura Meyer, the show includes selections from musicals such as "Mame," "Hello, Dolly!," "La Cage Aux Folles," "Mack and Mabel," "Milk and Honey" and "Dear World." The cast includes Debbie Bartholomew, Danielle Bilderback, Emmie Reigel, Kristin Allison, Kathy Chase, Adrianna LeDonne, Tara Lonzo, Deb Reason and Jill Ritchie. Lee Meyer is the musical director, with choreography by Bilderback. Jessica Landis is Laura Meyer's assistant, while Bobby Komendera is the production manager. The crew includes Bartholomew as costumer, Chase on hair and makeup, Chris West as the lighting designer, Jim Snyder as the set designer, Joy Davidson as the set dresser and Chris Whybrew as the scenic artist. Lee Meyer performs on keyboard and Noel Carlson on drums.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets cost \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. There is no assigned seating, and reservations are strongly recommended. Wearing a mask is required.

Make reservations at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org), (219) 874-4035 or in person at the box office.

## Senior Center Weather Change

Michigan City has begun a procedural change for Michigan City Senior Center, which no longer will close when Michigan City Area Schools does.

The center will remain open unless a State of Emergency is declared or the mayor declares a snow day. Senior Center Director Tara Miller urges members to use caution in the parking lot and sidewalks/walkways during adverse weather.

Many programs are run by volunteer instructors, so programming could change or be canceled without notice due to inclement weather.

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## Michigan City Historical Society Receives \$10,000 Contribution



The Peter C. and Charlene J. Kesling Foundation donated \$10,000 to Michigan City Historical Society so it can restore the Hutchinson Fountain, oil house and workshop at Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road.

The Hutchinson Fountain was presented to Michigan City at a city council meeting in 1909 in memory of William B. Hutchinson. He was elected mayor in 1876 and again in 1878 before serving in the Indiana State Senate in 1880. He also was the founder and president of Citizens Bank.

The fountain originally was located at 10th and Franklin streets before moving to 10th and Wabash streets. Vandalism saw it become an eyesore in the mid-1960s. The Historical Society relocated it to Old Lighthouse Museum in 1981. Today, there is no water flowing in it; however, the new contribution could restore it to full use.

The oil house was constructed around 1906 to contain the flammable oil that created the flaming light atop the lighthouse. The brick on the oil house will be tuck-pointed and the steel door repaired. The workshop building will receive new window sills and a paint job.

Pictured from Michigan City Historical Society with the \$10,000 contribution are (from left) President Jim Retseck, Treasurer Johnny Stimley and Vice President Josh McIntyre.

## TimberNook Camps at Arboretum

Registration is under way for the second season of TimberNook Northwest Indiana camps at Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest.

Children at last year's summer camps built forts and towns, climbed trees, made tire swings, "fished" in the creek, developed systems of government and kingdoms, searched for hidden treasure and used a giant soapy slip. Plans this year include tiny villages, living out classic children's stories and large-scale sensory exploration.

Summer camps are:

- May 30-June 3: Castaways, ages 7-12, \$325.
- June 13-17: Barefoot and Buckets, ages 4-7, \$220.
- June 27-July 1: Sensory Adventures, ages 7-12, \$325.
- July 11-15: Enchanted, ages 5-9, \$220.
- July 25-29: Storybook, ages 4-7, \$220.

Spring registration for Tiny Ones programs — walking through age 5 and their accompanying adult — are open along with field trips for home-school programs. Tiny Ones programs are from 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 29 and May 6, 13 and 20. Babies in arms and adults are free. Toddlers ages 5 and 6 cost \$15 per child. Registration and more information are available at [www.timbernook.com](http://www.timbernook.com)

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

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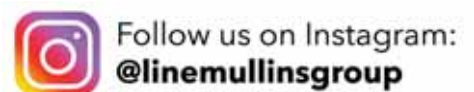
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## Harbor Country Hikers



A "bluebird day" is a sunny day after an overnight snowfall.

Harbor Country Hikers will lead a bluebird day hike through the Three Oaks Township Conservation Area and adjoining Kesling Nature Preserve at 2 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 5.

A "bluebird day" is a sunny, clear day after an overnight snowfall.

The two hiking venues — a combined 200 acres — are home to diverse plants and wildlife, fishing and bird-watching spots. The Feb. 5 hike will meander through winter prairies, flatwoods, uplands and floodplains, alongside deep ravines and under a canopy of mature trees.

The group will meet in the township parking lot, 8505 W. Forest Lawn Road, Three Oaks. Attendees should dress for the weather and take plenty of water. The hike is rated moderately physically difficult, and there may be muddy or icy areas.

HCH follows federal and state COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional. Membership is encouraged; however, hikes are open to the public. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. HCH offers an all-terrain Rollator — an outdoor walker with oversized wheels — on a first-come, first-served basis by email at harborcountryhikers@gmail.com.

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## COVID 2 Real Estate Market

As soon as I began to hear about airline delays and people having trouble traveling over the holidays, my phone began to ring with appointments to see properties. One house had six showings from the day after Christmas to the day after New Year's. We got an offer for the property, then everything went silent again. The scares dissipated quickly, it seems. I call that new reaction "Covid 2 Market."

The MLS numbers for the period from Nov. 1-Jan. 27 for my "Indiana Lakefront" market that stretches from Beverly Shores to the Michigan line within a mile or two of Lake Michigan for last year and this year indicate an overall downtrend.

The number of closed sales last year was 49; this year, it's 27. Dollar Volume last year was \$26.1 million; this year, it's \$13.5 million. Last year, 34% of properties sold in 30 days or less for 93% of list price; this year, 66% sold for 99% of list price. Fewer properties sold for closer to the last listed price in a shorter time this year.

The number that sent me back to double-check was the number of residential listings on the market on Jan. 27, 2022. Eight residential properties are available today as I write this column. Inventory has been decimated!

Some soft information gleaned from talking to buyers and other agents indicates that not only is inventory a big problem, but more buyers are being scared off by the cost and availability of contractors to do upgrading. Buyers only want houses that need no improvements and meet their needs perfectly.

So fix up before you list. Your listing will be one of the very few for sale. That is good. It should sell for 99% of asking price in fewer than 30 days if you priced it right and it needs no work for the buyer to move in.

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## LCA Receives Challenge Grant

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has received a \$25,000 cash-reserve fund challenge grant from the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

GDFF launched the program to help eligible arts organizations create or increase an existing cash reserve with a \$25,000 matching grant. Such a reserve can help manage cash flow, support a new initiative or weather a change in funding through temporary draws that are later replenished.

The challenge grant is an opportunity for LCA to focus on long-term sustainability while continuing to offer exhibits, arts education and outreach.

LCA has until Dec. 31 to raise \$25,000 for the cash reserve fund. GDFF will match the \$25,000 raised. Gifts must be from new donors, lapsed donors or increased amounts over the prior year from current donors. A lapsed donor is anyone who has not made a gift in the prior two years.

Visit [www.LubeznikCenter.org/Donate](http://www.LubeznikCenter.org/Donate) or contact Executive Director Janet Bloch at (219) 874-4900, Ext. 101, for more information.

## Historical Society Museum

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will celebrate Black History Month in February.

Displays throughout the museum will spotlight many prominent black men and women in LaPorte County, including doctors, humanitarians, pianists and everyday people. Visitors can hear about Michigan City's Elite Youth Center and hear Hazel Harrison's piano playing.

In celebrating "Love in LaPorte," the museum will feature wedding dresses from different eras. Every Saturday in February, the museum's assistant director, Danielle Adams, will wear a wedding dress around the museum. Also, a new scavenger hunt is planned.

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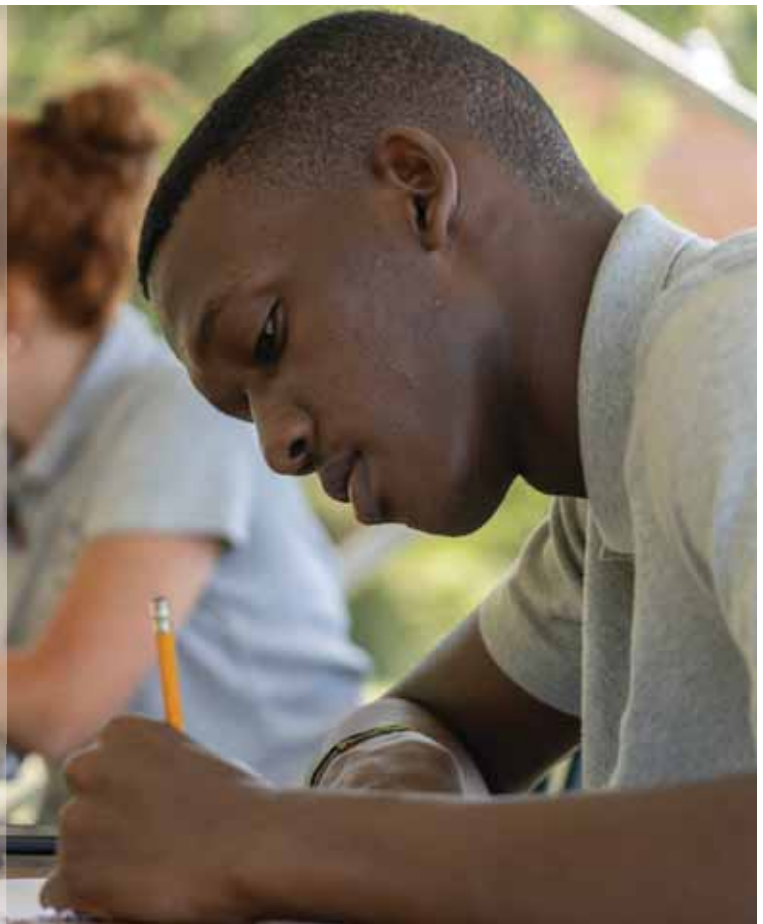
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**“Ricardos” Is a Fascinating Look at TV Legends***by Andrew Tallackson*

Nicole Kidman stars  
as Lucille Ball and  
Javier Bardem as  
Desi Arnaz.

A restless unease, for me at least, dominates the early scenes of “Being the Ricardos.” Writer-director Aaron Sorkin (“The Trial of the Chicago 7”) can make dialogue crackle like logs on a fire...but I couldn’t buy Nicole Kidman and Javier Bardem as Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. I mean, we’re talking about two of the most recognizable faces in 20th century television. Doesn’t matter what generation you identify with — Boomers or Xers — some station, somewhere, is airing episodes of “I Love Lucy.”

So when we first see Kidman and Bardem in character, Lucy on the defensive over Communist accusations and Desi’s alleged infidelities, my reaction was, nope. Bardem looks too old, Kidman like she’s wearing a Lucille Ball costume.

But you know what? Sorkin, his stars and arguably the year’s best ensemble make you forget whether or not Kidman and Bardem resemble their inspirations. “Being the Ricardos” becomes an engrossing peek into a marriage, the nature of celebrity, TV in its golden era and a time when society’s grip on gender would not relax.

Streaming on Prime, the movie charts one tumultuous week in 1952 on the set of “I Love Lucy,” specifically prep for Episode 204 in which Lucy tries to make peace between a squabbling Fred and Ethel. Sorkin marches through the table read, blocking the actors and filming before a live audience. The story proceeds in non-linear fashion, bouncing be-

★ ★ ★<sup>1/2</sup>**“Being the Ricardos”***Running time: 131 minutes. Amazon Prime.**Rated R for language*

tween the production schedule, flashbacks and the on- and off-set tension not just between Lucy and Desi, but also their co-stars, writers, producers, directors and studio chiefs.

This may be the first depiction of Vivian Vance, as Ethel, that elevates her from the shadow of Ball’s star wattage. Vance is played by Tony winner Nina Arianda in a wow of a performance: a fascinating depiction of reluctant restraint. Vance is a legitimate talent relegated to frumpy second fiddle, her on-screen husband Fred — Oscar-winner J.K. Simmons, superbly sweet and salty — more than 20 years her senior. You can feel the moments where Vance is ready to erupt, yet Arianda reins her in with astonishing control.

Ditto Tony Hale as Jess Oppenheimer, the producer and head writer of “I Love Lucy.” His performance is a knowing mix of exasperation and defeat in Lucy’s presence on set.

That, in fact, is where Kidman blossoms. Dismissing Ball as “difficult” would be to define her through male eyes. Kidman is fearless in scenes where Lucy has to remind people she has a brain, that she is not





Nina Arianda is outstanding as Vivian Vance.

the ditz she plays on TV. Sorkin's kinetic dialogue is Kidman's weapon. She uses words, her dogged determination, to steamroll past male studio heads who lace every conversation with patronizing drivel. So when we arrive at moments when Lucy stands her ground – studio heads initially balking at Desi being Cuban, mentioning Lucy's pregnancy on air – what we get from Kidman is feminism in its earliest, most potent forms. We also witness a performer not content to dumb down her character for a quick and easy laugh.

As "Being the Ricardos" juggles its many players, and juggles them well, the chaos leads to the night the episode is filmed, right as a newspaper prints a scathing headline that "*Lucille Ball is a Red.*" As Lucy, her costars and her writers sit backstage, in the shadows, there is an unspoken camaraderie that is undeniably moving. Whatever their differences, the endgame — the desire to make people laugh — humbles them into admiration for each other.

By spending time with these people, observing behind-the-scenes highs and lows, Sorkin gets us to admire, more so than ever, the brilliance they achieved. We are mesmerized by it.

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# Winter Wonderland

As soon as the heavy snowfall began, we asked our photographer, Bob Wellinski, to head out and capture images from around the area. We hope you enjoy what he found.





## “The Tender Bar” Takes a Sweet Look at Dysfunctional Family

by Andrew Tallackson



J.R. (Tye Sheridan, right) finds wisdom and solace with his Uncle Charlie (Ben Affleck) in “The Tender Bar.”

“The Tender Bar” is like comfort food. It doesn’t rock your world, where you’re terribly moved by it, but it introduces people you care about. Enough so, you’re glad to have spent time with them.

The Amazon Prime film, directed by George Clooney and featuring one of Ben Affleck’s better performances, is based on the memoir by J.R. Moehringer, a journalist who won a Pulitzer back in 2000. It is based on his youth and his days at Yale, but being lifted from fact does not mean we haven’t seen it before. Like many accounts of dysfunctional families, it embraces the idea that we need to chalk up messy childhoods to character-building experiences...and move on from there.

The difference, though, what makes “The Tender Bar” rise above the familiar, is the lack of sentimentality Clooney and Oscar-winning screenwriter William Monahan (“The Departed”) invest in their characters.

J.R., played by adorable newcomer Daniel Ranieri as a child in 1970s Long Island, grows up without his mildly successful father (Max Martini) in the picture. His dad is simply “The Voice” on the radio, spinning top 40 hits. His mother (Lily Rabe) leaves the marriage, moving in with her family. And it’s one sizable extended family, Grandpa Maguire (the great Christopher Lloyd), puzzled as to why his children can’t fly the coop. Lilly’s brother, Charlie (Affleck), owns the popular watering hole, The Dick-

★ ★ ★

### “The Tender Bar”

*Running time: 106 minutes. Amazon Prime. Rated R for language throughout and some sexual content*

ens Bar, down the street. He’s no dummy. Quite literate, in fact. Life, though, never seemed to swing in his favor. Ditto their sister and her sizable brood.

All of them, crammed into one modestly sized home. But, as J.R. admits, “everyone should have an Uncle Charlie.” He’s the father figure in J.R.’s life. The one who dispenses the best wisdom. The one who listens to him. The one who introduces him to a love of reading...and to all the lovable misfits who populate The Dickens Bar.

Affleck doesn’t treat Charlie as a larger-than-life saint. He’s just a good guy, a smart guy who accepts his lot in life. In other films, Affleck has a way of coming across as smarmy. Performances that feel like performances, where you catch him acting. But here, he seems at peace. Grounded in likability, never defeated by his predicament. Sweet, without being suffocating. Precisely, as J.R. says, the kind of uncle every child deserves.

Tye Sheridan (“Ready Player One”) takes over as J.R. during his Yale days, and “The Tender Bar” charts his journey as a writer, first for the Yale stu-



Christopher Lloyd (left), seen here with newcomer Daniel Ranieri, steals his every scene in "The Tender Bar."

dent paper, then briefly at *The New York Times*. J.R. hasn't discovered his voice yet as a writer. His passion. He's just spinning his wheels. Ditto his love life, which finds him trailing that one elusive college love (Brianna Middleton, "Tick...Tick...Boom!") without hope of a life together.

We expect "The Tender Bar" will lead to a life-altering catharsis, what with everyone in J.R.'s inner circle telling him he can't move forward until he reconciles the relationship with his father.

But Clooney doesn't drive the story toward a teary resolve. In fact, the understated, almost comic means with which he approaches the climactic reunion is far more effective than any syrupy close. The film's message is that, while we can't choose our biological ties, we can embrace the real parents in our lives. We are reminded of that as images unfold while the credits roll, an intriguing way of driving home that point. Clooney's warmth, his tender restraint win you over. He's sold us on these people, their lives and the unbreakable bond between them. Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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## MCHS Athletic Department Unveils New Fitness Center, Weight Room

Students, teachers and staff at Michigan City High School have a new way to focus on fitness.

The high school athletic department recently hosted an open house to show off the renovated Fitness Center and Weight Room. With its first major remodel since the high school consolidation in 1995, the fitness center had a major face-lift, including all new equipment and flooring. With a price tag of more than \$103,000, the project gained support through a \$75,000 Healthcare Foundation of La-Porte grant.

Included in the renovation are six new fitness-quality cardio machines – four treadmills and two elliptical machines – as well as 12 new weight stations with adjustable benches, and all-new dumbbells and racks. The room has three large-screen monitors for training videos, and rubberized fitness flooring. Still to come are glass entry doors and a fob entry system.

“This upgrade was definitely needed,” MCHS Athletic Director Craig Shaman said in a press release. “With this new equipment, we can serve a lot

more of our student population, not only through sports teams, but by expanding our Strength Training classes as well. We also hope it encourages more of our staff to use it to get more active and improve



Photo by Jessica O'Brien

their overall health and fitness.”

The center is available to all MCHS sports teams, and serves five Strength Training classes offered through the physical education curriculum. As an added bonus, teachers and staff can use the facility during free periods and after school hours.

The center also makes it easier for student-athletes to receive specialized workout routines when recovering from injury.

Students interested in using the facility outside of classes or school programs can contact the athletic office to make arrangements.

## Tree/Shrub Seedling Fundraiser

The Berrien County Conservation District is taking orders through April 15 for its Annual Tree and Shrub spring fundraiser.

A variety of bare root seedlings of evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees are available, along with strawberry, rhubarb and asparagus plants. Rain barrels and composters are available.

Quantities are limited. Orders may be placed at [www.berriencd.org](http://www.berriencd.org), printed from the website or sent by mail by calling (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3, and leaving a message.



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## Flyin' Irish Invitational

The Notre Dame Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps will welcome 48 teams from around the nation to participate in the 36th Annual Flyin' Irish Invitational Basketball tournament Friday-Sunday, Feb. 4-6.

Participating teams consist of students participating in ROTC programs at different universities, representing the Army, Navy and Air Force.



Students in the tournament hail from ROTC programs at different schools.

Starting in 1985 as a small regional event, the tournament has grown to where in 2019, more than 800 players from 56 different teams traveled to Notre Dame to compete.

This year, the tournament is in the Joyce Athletic Conference Center next to the Notre Dame Football Stadium. Different games will run on six courts simultaneously throughout the weekend, leading up to the men's and women's finals Sunday. The championship game will be streamed through the Flyin' Irish Invitational Facebook page and in person at the JACC, with current university COVID restrictions in place and available on the Notre Dame COVID visitor policy page.

The reigning men's division champion is Marquette University, which again returns to South Bend to defend its title. Also returning are the previous victors for the women's division, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Trying to dethrone the champions are Notre Dame's Army, Navy and Air Force teams, which hope to keep the trophy under the Golden Dome. Notre Dame's teams are made up of cadets from the university and six other regional schools, including Saint Mary's College, Holy Cross College, Indiana University-South Bend, Bethel College, Valparaiso University and Trine University.

The tournament is free and open to the public. Visit [tinyurl.com/2mu39u9x](https://tinyurl.com/2mu39u9x) or contact cadet Sarah Wells at [swells4@nd.edu](mailto:swells4@nd.edu) for more details.

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## In Memoriam

Ellen Franks Newsom, 79, died Jan. 18, 2022, following a short battle with mesothelioma.

Born to Alice and Wendell Franks on April 8, 1942, in Baltimore, Md., Ellen grew up on the sandy shores of Lake Michigan in Long Beach. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, after which she became a registered nurse. While at Michigan, she met her future husband, Walter Newsom, and they were married in 1964 in Michigan City. Their honeymoon was a two-month, 11,000-mile tent camping trip in a VW Beetle visiting 18 western states and 20 national parks, the first of many adventures they would share.



Upon their return, they made their first residence in Ithaca, N.Y., where Ellen practiced nursing with the New York Department of Public Health. In 1970, they moved to Columbia, Mo., where Walt received his Master of Business Administration and a doctorate. Ellen was a homemaker with their two children. In 1974, they moved to Starkville, Miss., as Walt joined the faculty at Mississippi State University. Ellen resumed her nursing career at the Starkville Children's Clinic and during summers at Camp Bratton Green until her retirement.

A quiet leader, Ellen was president of her high school student body, college dorm, Mississippi State University Newcomers Club, P.E.O. and Daughters of the King and Senior Warden of her church. A lifelong Episcopalian, she was active in a wide variety of ministries at the Church of the Resurrection for 47 years, and held many leadership positions at the parish and diocesan levels.

Ellen and Walt were well-traveled as they ven-

tured to all 50 states, 101 countries and all seven continents together. Ellen paraglided in the Swiss Alps, piloted a plane across Tanzania, kayaked in Antarctica, snorkeled with whale sharks in the Philippines, floated for 19 days in the Grand Canyon in a wooden dory and hiked to the Arctic Ocean in Alaska.

She was an avid quilter with the Golden Triangle Quilters Guild who took delight in making quilts for other people, particularly newborns. Many of Ellen's family and friends sleep well under one of her beautiful creations.

Be it greeting first-time church attendees or comforting sick babies, she was sweet and compassionate to friends and strangers alike, and a gracious and kind soul.

Ellen is survived by her husband of 57 years, Walt, Starkville; son, Matt Newsom, spouse, Martha, and grandsons Jack and Will, Charlotte, N.C.; daughter, Emily Cook, husband, David, and grandsons Tanner and Tyler of Bartlett, Tenn. She also has two brothers, Dan Franks and spouse, Kim Swanson of Clearwater, Fla., and Martin Franks and spouse, Sherry, of Washington, D.C.; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A private, family funeral will be held at the Church of the Resurrection, Starkville, with inurement in the church columbarium. A public memorial service and celebration of her life will follow later this spring.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Ellen, make memorial contributions to the Ellen Newsom Memorial Fund at Church of the Resurrection ([www.ecrstarkville.com/give](http://www.ecrstarkville.com/give)), the Seeds You Sow capital campaign at Camp Bratton Green/Gray Center in Canton, Miss. ([www.graycenter.org/giving](http://www.graycenter.org/giving)) or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)).

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## In Memoriam

**Antonio "Tony" Petti**  
**Nov. 17, 1932-Jan. 24, 2022**

Antonio "Tony" Petti, 89, Michigan City, passed away at 5:40 a.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at Franciscan Health-Michigan City.



The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Jan. 28 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Buffalo and 10th streets, with the Rev. David Kime officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery. Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel handled the arrangements.

He was born Nov. 17, 1932, in Roccaspromonte, Italy, to the late Rafael and Annuziata Petti. On April 27, 1952, in Bronx, N.Y., he married Lucy L. (Petti), who preceded him in death on Sept. 24, 1998.

Surviving are a son, Joseph (David Bradley) Petti, and daughter, Nancy (Vincenzo) Palmieri, both of Michigan City; two grandchildren, Anthony (Renee) Palmieri and Angela Palmieri, both of Michigan City; four great-grandchildren, Cameron Scott, Ava Scott, Addison Scott and Luca Palmieri; two brothers, Giuseppe Petti, Italy, and Luigi (Teresa) Petti, New York; a sister, Esterina "Esther" Venice, Michigan City; numerous nieces and nephews, along with his old sidekick, David Novak, Michigan City. He was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Giavanna Scott, brother, Giovanni Petti, and brother-in-law, Nicholas Venice.

Tony was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was devoted to his family and his business, Petti's Grocery. Everyone who knew him knew how hard he worked for 70-plus years taking care of his community. Tony took great pride in supplying Polish sausage to people for all of their needs. Even the last two weeks in the hospital, his concerns were getting his business stocked for the people. Tony will be greatly missed, but his legacy of always helping the less fortunate will be talked about forever.

Contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St., Michigan City, IN 46360, or Interfaith Food Pantry PADS, 1001 W. Eighth St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

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## Shirley Heinze Land Trust

A Long Beach resident is among three new board members elected to three-year terms with the Shirley Heinze Land Trust board of directors.

Bets Fleek, who currently serves on the fundraising committee, is a retired information-technology executive and volunteer. A certified Indiana Master Naturalist and watercolor artist, she grew up in the Indiana Dunes, where she was inspired to observe the cycles of nature, and continues these observations with her grandchildren. She lives in Long Beach with her husband, Mark Schoonaert.

Since 1981, the land trust has protected, restored and maintained Northwest Indiana's natural communities, including tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune and swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, fens, bogs and riparian habitat.

## Indiana Dunes National Park

The National Park Service has approved an Indiana Dunes National Park entrance fee that begins March 31.

The new revenue will help fund the Marquette Greenway Bike Trail, visitor services, parking and transportation improvements for a park that has seen attendance increase from 1.7 million visitors to more than 3 million since its 2019 name change.

The fee only affects the national park, not Indiana Dunes State Park. Costs vary depending on the method used to enter:

- The per person/walk-in/bike-in/boat-in rate is \$15 (up to a maximum of \$25 per family).
- Motorcycle pass is \$20.
- One- to Seven-Day Vehicle Pass is \$25.
- Annual Pass is \$45.
- Commercial Fee for a Motor Coach (Bus): up to \$100.

Holders of the following federal land passes will not pay an entrance fee: Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Veterans, Military and Gold Star Family Pass, Fourth Grade Pass, Access Pass (for permanent disability) and Volunteer Pass.

The Entrance Pass (1-7 days) and Annual Pass will be available at: Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, seasonally at West Beach Entrance Station or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). The Annual Pass will be available March 1 and the Entrance Pass on the first day fees are collected: March 31. There are plans to have local vendors such as gas stations or other retailers near the park sell passes. More information will be available when vendors are confirmed. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit [www/nps.gov/indu](http://www/nps.gov/indu) for more detail.

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

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **Sensational Spiders at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5.**

Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for spider show 'n tell to develop a new appreciation for the creatures.

- **Cocoa & Crafts from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6.**

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium to make a craft using items found in nature.

*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.*

## LCSO in the Spotlight



Aleksandra Kemble.

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

Aleksandra Kemble is in her first year with LCSO, serving as principal flutist. A native of Slovakia, she came to the U.S. in 2002.

Kemble holds a Doctor of Arts from Ball State University. Besides loving orchestral and chamber-music collaborations with her colleagues, she is an educator who holds several university positions as adjunct faculty of flute. She also is trained as a Suzuki method educator and enjoys being multilingual, which she jokes allows her to joke in several languages.

## New Save the Dunes Director

Betsy Maher, who has more than a decade in non-profit experience, is Save the Dunes' new executive director.



Maher

Maher has worked in areas such as volunteer management, human resources, fund-raising and special events. She has a master's degree in public administration and a senior certification in human resources. She recently served as director of volunteer services at Lincoln Park Zoo, where she built a community of volunteers and interns, and oversaw staff training. Under her leadership, the volunteer program received a national award for excellence in volunteer engagement. She also led the zoo's intern program, with the goal to make all internships paid and advance the zoo's diversity efforts.

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## In the Area:

**Feb. 4-6, 11-13, 18-20** — “Jerry’s Girls,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org), (219) 874-4035, @ box office.

**Feb. 5** — Sensational Spiders, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 6** — Cocoa & Crafts, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 7** — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room A, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Feb. 8** — Joyful Movement Easy Exercises for All Ages, 8:30 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Registration: (219) 325-8315.

**Feb. 8** — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room B, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Feb. 8** — Pajama Time, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Coolspring Branch meeting room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Feb. 9** — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3-5 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. New player registration: <https://bit.ly/33naKdf>. Info: [dwolf@mcilib.org](mailto:dwolf@mcilib.org), (219) 873-3045.

**Through March 31** — Local artist Kristy Kutch, 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.

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

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

## In the Region

**Feb. 3** — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EST, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Admission: \$5, members/free. Info: (574) 293-6660.

**Feb. 4** — Matt Schofield Live, 8 p.m. EST, The

Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45/general seating; \$70/reserved. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Feb. 4-6** — 36th Annual Flyin' Irish Invitational Basketball tournament, The University of Notre Dame Joyce Athletic Conference Center. Free. In-person, streaming on Flyin' Irish Invitational Facebook page. Info: [tinyurl.com/2mu39u9x](http://tinyurl.com/2mu39u9x), [swells4@nd.edu](mailto:swells4@nd.edu)

**Feb. 5** — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EST, Three Oaks Township Conservation Area/adjoining Kesling Nature Preserve. Meet @ township parking lot, 8505 W. Forest Lawn Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [harborcountryhikers@gmail.com](mailto:harborcountryhikers@gmail.com), [www.harborcountryhikes.com](http://www.harborcountryhikes.com)

**Feb. 5** — Reins of Life Inc. 24th annual Kelsey Meekhof Memorial Dinner & Auction, 5:30 p.m. EST, The Armory, 727 S. Eddy St., South Bend. Tickets/info: [tinyurl.com/3ekmckn6](http://tinyurl.com/3ekmckn6)

**Feb. 5** — The Chicago Experience, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40/general seating; \$65/reserved. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Through Feb. 15** — "Finding the Light in Dark Days: Works by the Duneland Photography Club," works by Samantha Purze, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 462-9009, [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org)

**Through March 26** — "Shadow, Mooring + Undercurrents," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Opening reception: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 5. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org)



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

- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more details.*

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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.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

***It's a Wonderful Woof* by Spencer Quinn** (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 262 pages.)

This is Book 12 in the highly successful series about Bernie Little Detective Agency and Bernie's best friend, partner and compadre, Chet.

Chet is the narrator of all the stories for a good reason: Chet is a dog. If you ever wondered what was going on between those two twitching ears on your dog's head, this is the place to start. Spencer Quinn has dog-speak down to an exact science. His ability to translate Chet's musings into English is nothing more than astounding — sometimes amusing, sometimes amazingly thoughtful.

One thing for sure is that, to Chet, Bernie is the smartest human in the room.

It's the Christmas season in the Arizona desert town Chet and Bernie call home and, as usual, finances are a little tight.

Leaving a holiday party hosted by the Muertos motorcycle gang (don't ask), Chet and Bernie happen upon a man getting beat up in an alleyway. After the would-be attackers are dispersed, Bernie sees the victim is Victor Klovsky, a private eye wannabe. Bernie tells him maybe it's time to find another line of work...

Not long after, 10 days before Christmas to be exact, Bernie is visited by one Lauritz Vogner, a strange man with a strange request.

Before explaining his job, Vogner offers Bernie \$5,000 cash — to begin with — followed by \$50,000 "at the successful conclusion of your work." Vogner hints at research only, maybe in the field of art and history. This whole thing, even the money, sounds wrong for Bernie, so he gives Vogner Victor Klovsky's name and number.

The whole incident is forgotten until Bernie gets a call from Elise, Victor's mother. She is worried because she hasn't heard from him for several days, and that isn't like him at all. Especially because he always lights the candles for Hanukkah each night. Will Bernie look for him? She will even pay!

Bernie says no to the money, but yes to looking into where Victor might have gotten off to.

Victor's bike is missing, and Elise remembers seeing a man who matches the description of Lauritz Vogner leaving their home recently. Now, Bernie is interested. A paper with "Flight into Egypt" and \$500

cash are the only clues Bernie finds in Victor's room. Later that day, Victor's bike is found at the bottom of a steep trail out of town...Victor nowhere in sight.

Bernie's search leads him to the *Nuestra Señora de los Saguaros*, the ruins of a 17th century mission. It was closed down and sold. The Sonoran Museum of Art was over-bid by a group called People for Preservation, part of the Friends of Merisi. What was their interest in an abandoned mission in the middle of the desert? Bernie discovers a stone in the mission with the name Merisi on it. He finds out it might refer to the famous 17th century painter Caravaggio.

Knowing nothing about art, Bernie's search leads to the priory's former business manager, Walter Lessig, who directs him to Professor of Art Marco Folonari. Bernie is learning more about art than he ever thought he wanted to know.

Next problem — someone else seems to be missing — Lauritz Vogner. Bernie tracks down the hotel where he is staying...too late. The late Vogner is reclining in the bathtub in a pool of his own blood. This just gets curiously and curiously as Bernie finds a key hidden in a roll of toilet paper. It has a letter and

number on it. Looks like a key for a gym locker? But what gym? Did Bernie know Vogner was a P.I. from Madrid, Spain? He does now.

Throughout, Chet is by Bernie's side, trying to figure out what is going on, but trusting that Bernie will work his magic and solve the case. Too bad Chet can't communicate because at the mission, his nose — the best in the business, he will tell you — picks up some interesting smells that could lead Bernie to an answer to all his questions. Maybe the rumors that the mission is cursed are true after all...

Christmas Eve will either tell all or end all as Chet and Bernie find themselves running for their lives up a mountain trail they can barely see in a fast-falling blizzard.

Chet is a most unusual canine whose look at human life and speech can be humorous, questioning and sometimes almost philosophical. In Chet's own words: "There's a lot of fun to be had in the business...I couldn't wait for...for whatever was going to happen after now."

One thing's for sure: After you read a Chet and Bernie book, you will look for more of them. *Adios, amigos!*

Till next time, happy reading!





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