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A Boost to the Morale

by Kim Nowatzke



Fifteen-year-old Ashanti closed her eyes and soaked up some final cuddles with the large black-andwhite draft horse, Abby. Asked if she would miss her new friend, she replied, "Yes, I might cry...I know I will cry."

It was Ashanti's last day of a four-week, 12-hour equine-assisted learning program available through a partnership between Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor. Held at Spring Creek Equestrian Center in Three Oaks, Mich., Ashanti's class was comprised of seven girls and one boy ages 11 to 16 who were from the club's South Haven campus an hour's drive away.

When the lessons began Nov. 6, it was the first time Ashanti had been on a horse. She became interested in the program when her friend, Makaiyah, also 15, applied for the program.

"I got out of my comfort zone," Ashanti explained. "...I learned that horses are a lot of hard work. It surprised me that they can't throw up and that they get scared at little things, like if someone runs."

Makaiyah, who also had never ridden a horse, said her takeaway from the program was "how to get on a horse and how to take care of them." She also couldn't forget how "their poop is shaped like big rocks."

Another student, Kalyn, said she had only ridden a miniature horse a few years back.



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"I've always wanted to own horses since I was little. I thought this would be a good chance to learn about horses," she said. "I learned how to care for horses, how to tack them and how to ride."

Kalyn was surprised that "they can't regurgitate anything so if anything gets stuck, it's very serious."

The only boy in the group, 11-year-old Max, said he would participate again in the equine-assisted learning program if he had the chance. He applied because it sounded like a subject he wanted to learn more about, and he wanted to try something new. He learned how to stay on a horse and the more challenging skill of trotting.

His favorite aspect of the class?

"Riding the horse," he said, "and learning about the different attitudes they have." Sherri Uleg, Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor marketing and communications manager, enthusiastically shared her take on the experience: "It's been very enlightening for the kids.

"They've been learning and understanding that the horses have their own personalities. They have feelings and emotions, and they understand what those cues are. They know when the horse's ears are forward and the head is to the side, it is happy and interested. A nibble on your shoulder means it likes you. At first, the kids were intimated. Now, they are excited."

The Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation was created in 2019 by president Alison Grosse, who is the owner/trainer of Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, along with Sally Bogert and Darla Glowacki. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, it provides equine-assisted learning programs on horse anatomy and behavior, riding, how



Kalyn is photographed with her horse, Klassy.



Ashanti is photographed with her horse, Abby, at Spring Creek Equestrian Center.

to feed, groom and care for a horse and barn care to local children and adults who might not have the opportunity to do so. In addition, the classes also help students build critical life skills, including responsibility, empathy, teamwork, communication, resilience and confidence.

"Through this alliance, children who may otherwise never experience the joy of horses learn first-hand that horses can boost morale, serve as a friend and a teacher, provide purpose and achievement, and offer a healthy alternative to other activities," Bogert said.

The excitement and positive experience witnessed by Liji Hanny, Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor chief operations officer and vice president of internal affairs, was evident as he passionately discussed the impact the program has on the youth. He is amazed by how "kids who've never been in this situation walk around and are comfortable," which helps build confidence and a belief that they can adapt and thrive in future situations.

"They have all enjoyed it and gotten confident really quickly," he said. "They go from walking by and being hesitant to not being able to walk by a horse without interacting with it. The personalities of these horses are so amazing. They remember you, too."

The partnership between Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor formed in 2021. The classes that began Nov. 6 and finished Dec. 4, with no class Thanks

Continue on Page 4

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giving weekend, were the third one in the program. The first, held in February 2020, had three girls and one boy, ages 7 to 13. The second was held in October, with eight girls ages 9 to 13.

Also on hand at the barn was 9-year-old Mia, who went through the program's first class. She decided to forego gymnastics in exchange for more time to pursue her love of horses. She now participates in shows and recently won blue ribbons with the horse, Classy.

"I learned a lot about horses' body parts and how they see," she recalled. "When you get to ride them for a long time, you can feel the movement in their body. It's fun for me to learn all that from this barn."

Her mother, Nicole Pender, felt the equine-assisted program has been helpful.

"She's learned everything about a horse – and more: love, responsibility, friendship," she said.

Mackenzie Kastl, BGCBH chief executive officer, also is pleased with the program.

"I am so excited that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor can partner with Spring Creek because I believe we can really create a cool partnership to give our kids in Benton Harbor an opportunity that they might never have in their lives," she said. "A lot of our kids who grow up in Benton Harbor never really have an opportunity to leave until they graduate or until they create a pathway to the future, but we can take kids at a young age and introduce them to something totally new. Give



Makaiyah, seen here riding her horse, Legacy, is the one who inspired Ashanti to pursue the program at Spring Creek Equestrian Center.



The program offers instruction on everything from horse behavior and riding to grooming and barn care.

them an opportunity to see a really different world and how diverse not just Southwest Michigan can be, but really how their futures can be."

Hanny wasn't just impressed by the horses used in the equine-assisted learning program.

"The people are so awesome here. They love the horses – it comes across immediately. The kids are conscious of this, and they are great role models for our kids to do the same," she said. "And, they (the staff and volunteers) show the same love, care and respect for our kids."

Empathy, caring and connecting are key components of the program, according to Bogert.

"While we are teaching them caring, what they are doing are building life skills," she said. "They are gaining confidence, responsibility and resilience."

A schedule for the next class has yet to be set, but Bogert hopes to double the number of children in the program this year.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor has been phenomenal to work with. We like to have the kids do as much as they can. Every time they come, they ask if they are riding today. I tell them, 'Yes, and you are going to clean the stalls too," she said with a laugh.

Daina Lyons, the Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation board secretary, describes the program as fruitful.

"It's an incredible opportunity for these children who had the desire to be around the horses to actually be around horses," she said. "I've heard them say, 'This has totally changed my life.' The horses completely respond to these children. They're big and scary and do unpredictable things sometimes. You find a peace in yourself to manage that."

(All photos by James Conlin.)

For more information

To learn more about Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation, visit www.springcreekhorseshelp. org, email info@springcreekhorseshelp.org, call (269) 756-3894 or visit the group's Facebook page.





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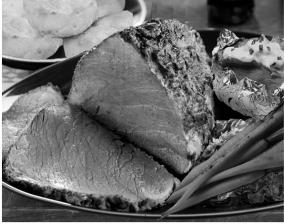
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LCA Spring Programming

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has unveiled a spring schedule that includes wine and canvas nights, classes, workshops, outreach events and tours.

Classes and workshops include:

- Painting for Young Artists (7-12): Saturdays, Feb. 5-26, 9:30-11 a.m.
- Wine and Canvas Night (21+): Friday, Feb. 18, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Drawing for Young Artists (7-12): Saturdays, March 5-April 9, 9:30-11 a.m.



- Mixed Media for Middle and High School (10-16): Wednesdays, Feb. 23-March 30, 5-6 p.m.
- Abstract Painting I & II (16+): Mondays, Feb. 28-April 4, 4-7 p.m.
- Beginning Mixed Media (18+): Tuesdays, March 1-April 5, 4-6 p.m.
- Advanced Mixed Media (18+):

Thursdays, March 3-April 7, 4-6 p.m.

- Sandcastle Writers (21+): Wednesdays, March 16-May 4, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Wine and Canvas Night (21+): Friday, March 18, 5-7:30 p.m.
- Felted Flowers Workshop (16+): Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Fused Glass Workshop (15+): Saturday, April 23, Noon-3 p.m.

Visit www.LubeznikCenter.org/Learning or call (219) 874-4900 to register. Scholarships for all ages are available thanks to Unity Foundation of La-Porte County and LCA's Dolly Fund.

The Teen Arts Council will continue to meet. Participants deepen their understanding of contemporary practices. The group meets from 6-7:30 p.m. every fourth Thursday. Register by emailing Nelsy Marcano at nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org

Free Family Day is from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, and features docent-led tours in English and Spanish of the current exhibit, "Nature Now."

Free gallery tours are available for small groups, organizations and other programs. Contact Executive Director Janet Bloch at jbloch@lubeznikcenter. org for more details. To schedule a children's tour, contact Marcano at nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org

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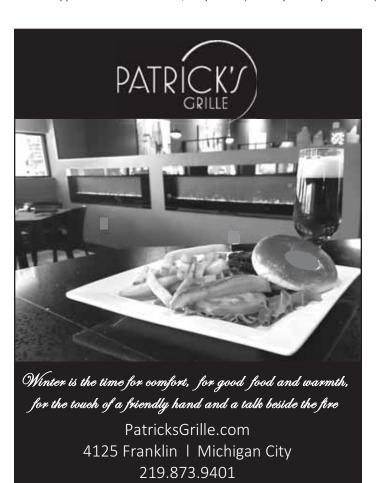




Knapp Elementary Takes Traveling Trophy for a Good Cause



Michigan City High School's Student Council presented a traveling trophy to Knapp Elementary School students and staff. After a final tally, Knapp collected the most food per student in the annual student council event held district wide. This year, the 11 MCAS schools collected more than 4 tons of food. Knapp collected the most at 2,684 pounds (or 7.12 pounds per student). All food collected went to The Salvation Army of Michigan City food pantry.



Art Barn School of Art

Feb. 28 is the deadline for the 28th annual Juried Art Exhibition at Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art.

The exhibit runs April 2-May 19, with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, April 9 (awards at 7 p.m.). It promotes original, quality two-dimensional works, as well as ceramic arts.

The event attracts aspiring and established artists from Northwest Indiana, the Chicago suburbs and Southwest Michigan. Artist James Swanson is the juror. Purchase and merit awards total \$4,000. Visit www.artbarnschool.org for details.

Also, two new exhibits are on display through Feb. 15:

- "Finding the Light in Dark Days: Works by the Duneland Photography Club."
- Works by Samantha Purze, who was in residence last October-November.

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

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, through Zoom. The link is tinyurl.com/3s6a6cfh.

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LCSO in the Spotlight



Brad Staats.

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

Brad Staats has been an LCSO member for 31 years and serves as its principal percussionist. He lives in Columbia City, travelling approximately two hours each way for rehearsals and performances.

Staats has more than 40 years experience with various corporations, including positions of superintendent, general manager and president, spending 17 of those years in the steel industry. Today, he is in demand as a manufacturing management consultant. He and his wife, Lin, have been married for 39 years and have two children, Kris and Katie, and four grandchildren.

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

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- MCPL Podcast: Discussions with Miss Dana at 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21. Miss Dana discusses upcoming library and local events, offers simple and quick recipes and talks about newer books about food. The episode goes live on Buzzsprout and YouTube.
- Needle Arts Club at 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 24 and 31. Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.
- Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26. 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.

- Grab and Go Crafts for Kids & Teens. Free take-home craft kits are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more information.
- Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft. A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Volunteers are needed for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at least one day a week during tax season (February-April). The IRS provides some training, and helpers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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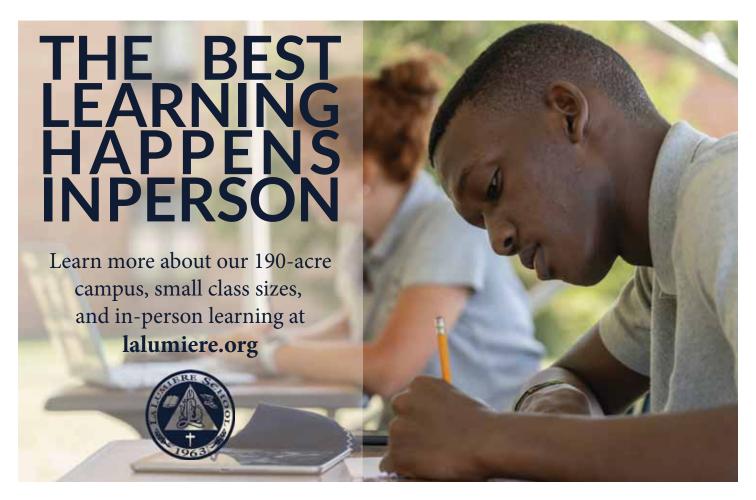
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"Licorice Pizza" Overstays Its Welcome

by Andrew Tallackson



Alana Kane (Alana Haim) finds herself attracted to the much-younger Gary (Cooper Hoffman) in "Licorice Pizza."

One day, Paul Thomas Anderson will stop making half-good movies.

He may not be a household name, but you know his resume. In fact, it is the profane vibe of "Boogie Nights" (1997), or Daniel Day-Lewis, ferocious as hell in "There Will Be Blood" (2007), that give you hope with each new picture. But consider the rest of his output: "Magnolia" (1999); "The Master" (2012); "Inherent Vice" (2014); and "Phantom Thread" (2017). Startling performances, intriguing ideas...and by the end you thank the stars it's over. Anderson has never met a running time he couldn't bloat. An engaging premise he cannot dilute. Characters that should have been excised.

His movies looks great – he's a master of flawlessly aping naturalistic 1970s cinema – and they garner plenty of Oscar nods, but I suspect that's because voters can pat themselves on the back for acknowledging independent filmmaking without actually liking it.

The title of Anderson's latest, "Licorice Pizza," describes its mismatched couple: two people who at first belong nowhere near each other.

That would be 15-year-old Gary Valentine (Cooper Hoffman, son of the late Philip Seymour Hoffman, an Anderson regular), who on picture day at high school – it's 1973 San Fernando Valley – an-

\star \star 1/2

"Licorice Pizza"

Running time: 133 minutes. Rated R for language, sexual material and some drug use.

nounces he's met the women he intends to marry. That would be 25-year-old Alana Kane (fetching newcomer Alana Haim), who works with the photography studio and is repelled by someone a decade younger hitting on her.

Or is she? What's intriguing about Alana, whose journey is the real story of "Licorice Pizza," is that she's in the prime of her life, but floundering, with no direction. Gary is a welcome distraction.

The kid is something else. A child actor with a few gigs up his sleeves, *and* a budding businessman. Whether it be selling waterbeds or opening a pinball machine parlor, he's like watching the soul of an old entrepreneur trapped in an acne-riddled body. In a sly move, he has a crew of "bros," all his age and younger, who join him on whatever business venture strikes next.

The first hour of "Licorice Pizza" suggests Anderson has recovered his gift for tossing agreeably disjointed characters together. Alana's family is played by her real-life parents and siblings, all of whom

wear their Jewish identity with pride. This is a rare portrait of a Jewish family that doesn't descend into stereotype and cheap laughs. As an actress, Haim has a real fire in her belly, with a killer smile to boot. And Hoffman, who has his late father's dogged persistence, is effortlessly likable as a kid you know will succeed as an adult.

Then, "Licorice Pizza" settles into its second hour and famous faces pop up, sucking all the life from the picture.

The second act is designed to redirect Alana to her heart's true desire, but it spins idly, with few payoffs. We get Sean Penn, as an aging actor inspired by William Holden, who invites Alana out to dinner, and to watch him in a Fonzi-like motorcycle feat. A complete waste of time and Penn's considerable talent.

There is the highly touted cameo by Bradley Cooper as famed producer Jon Peters. It's designed to ignite the same profane charge Tom Cruise gave "Magnolia," but whereas Anderson designed Cruise's character as an outrageous attack on male ego, Cooper simply rants about being obsessed with women. His eight-minute presence in the film is like watching someone with ADD deprived of Ritalin.

True, the sequence where Gary's truck runs out of gas generates itchy suspense. But by the third act, Gary loses his footing within the story as we get to Alana's final flirtation with adulthood: volunteering for a city councilman (Benny Safdie) running for mayor. A dead-on-arrival segment with a mildly amusing payoff.

There is a sweetness to "Licorice Pizza," much like Anderson's 2002 charmer "Punch-Drunk Love." That film, however, knew not to overstay its welcome, clocking in at a precise 95 minutes. "Licorice Pizza" runs 2 hours, 13 minutes. Anderson could have trimmed 45 minutes. Instead, the movie ends as most Anderson pictures do. You breathe a sigh of



Bradley Cooper's extended cameo in "Licorice Pizza" does not warrant the Oscar buzz it has garnered.

relief, thankfully it's finally over.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher. com

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"Swan Song" Moves You Like Few Movies Can Do

by Andrew Tallackson



Mahershala Ali and Awkwafina star as dying people who pay to have clones replace them in "Swan Song."

Mahershala Ali has two Oscars, his first in 2016 for "Moonlight," the second two years later for "Green Book." Neither prepare you for what he delivers in "Swan Song."

The Apple TV+ film sees the actor in dual roles, the story existing on the same level as Alex Garland's "Ex Machina" (2014). Both explore the thrill and danger of technology, but in the case of "Swan Song" it's the crushing consequence of love and sacrifice. Ali, who is surrounded by the best in the business, including Glenn Close, his "Moonlight" co-star Naomie Harris and Awkwafina, does something unexpected: consumes you in ways you don't see coming. Prepare to be deeply moved.

Written and directed by relative newcomer Benjamin Cleary, the story unfolds in the near future, where technology is more firmly integrated into society than ever.

Ali plays Cameron Turner, a devoted husband and father diagnosed with a terminal illness one amplified by crippling seizures — who decides not to tell his family. Instead, he visits a secluded mountainside facility where the head researcher, Dr. Scott (Close), can clone him. Not just physically recreate him in every detail, but transfer his entire consciousness. Every memory, every thought, every



emotion safely recovered from his body.

A lesser film would reduce the process to B-movie schlock: another mad-scientist variation on "Frankenstein" where the experiment violently backfires. But Cleary, who won a Best Live Action Short Oscar for 2015's "Stutterer," isn't interested in cheap thrills. He prefers to explore weighty issues, specifically whether Cameron can fully commit to the project. A clause in his contract states he can back out at any point. But if he stays, he has to work with the clone. Coach him. Support him. Once the clone is ready, it takes over, inserting himself into Cameron's family, while Cameron remains at the facility to live out his final days. Cameron also can't utter a single word about this to his family...or the experiment fails. They cannot know a clone lives with them. In turn, the clone has his earliest memories erased. In his mind, he is the real deal.

The moral predicament of "Swan Song" forces you to ask yourself, what would you do? Staring your own mortality in the face, could you go through with such a selfless act, shielding your family from grief so life goes on without you?

Cameron is on board with the process...until he watches his clone interact with his wife Poppy (Harris) through virtual communication. Then, doubt, regret and anger kick in, and Ali takes what up until now has been intriguing dual performances and does the remarkable. He breaks your heart. His performance teeters between selfish and selfless. We see his relationship with Poppy in flashbacks, from their courtship to the darkest of tragedies. This is a couple that has been put through the ringer. Ali and

is a couple that has been put through the ringer. Ali and Harris, scene after scene during the second half, bring us into their journey, one filled with beauty, joy and heartbreak. The emotions they achieve are real. Overwhelming. Laced with hope.

The intriguing thing about Close's performance is how boldly Dr. Scott sells the procedure to Cameron, how careful she is in making sure everything proceeds smoothly. But in scenes where she observes Cameron from a distance, Glose's whole body language is that of someone walking on pins and needles, still in awe and fear of new technology.

We also admire Awkwafina ("Crazy Rich Asians," "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings"), who continues to show an impressive range beyond comedy. She is Cameron's predecessor, her clone having replaced her in the real world a little more than a month earlier. Her scenes with Ali have a fragile tenderness to them: two waning souls clinging to each other for companionship.

You keep waiting for "Swan Song," like so much of American science-fiction, to sell its soul, to take the easy way out with action and violence. It never does. Instead, Ali and Harris play out a symphony



Mahershala Ali is dazzling in dual roles.

of emotions that grabs hold of you and never lets go. All of it restrained by most standards, but delivering the type of hearty, cleansing cry few movies achieve.

You won't forget "Swan Song."

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The Year in Television: The Best Shows of 2021

by Andrew Tallackson

Television, more so than ever, is giving the movie industry a run for its money.

Could be we appreciate TV more since it became the welcome reprieve to a global pandemic. Or maybe it's that television, especially streaming, has become braver, with bigger stars attached to challenging material.

As such, compiling a list of my top-10 shows from 2021 was not easy, with three just missing the cut: "Midnight Mass," "Shadow and Bone" and "Invasion." What made the list did so because it moved me. Made me laugh. Snuck in a surprise or two.

So, without further ado, here we go: My picks for the best TV shows of 2021.

1. "Mare of Easttown" (HBO)

The most engrossing, offbeat, emotional, brilliantly acted series of the year...or any year. In an Emmy-winning performance, Kate Winslet stars as Mare, a small-town police officer investigating a shocking murder, even as her personal life is in shambles. She lives in one of those communities where everyone knows each other...and each other's business. Their past binds them together. The series is as much about healing as it is tracking down a murderer. Winslet is a beacon of persistence amid despair, matched by: the great Jean Smart as Mare's acid-tongued mother; Evan Peters, who won an Emmy, as Mare's younger colleague; and in the performance of her career, Julianne Nicholson as Mare's close friend. The final episode is one twist after another, leading to the most wrenching revelation imaginable. Watch Nicholson: It's clear why she won an Emmy. She gives it 110 percent. That "Mare of Easttown" finds hope amid sadness cements it as a remarkable achievement.

2. "Resident Alien" (SyFy)

Some TV shows don't hit their stride until a season or two. "Resident Alien" achieved perfection in its first episode. The premise is "Starman" meets "Northern Exposure." An alien (comic god Alan Tudyk) crashes on Earth, assumes the form of a reclusive doctor, then tries to fit in with the locals. The humor comes from Tudyk's brilliant physical and verbal comedic skills. His alien in human form is like a 5-year-old with zero filters. He says and does as he pleases. The town is one of those charming, secluded hamlets where each individual is probably too smart for his/her own good. That leads to big laughs, genuine heart and a cracked-around-theedges tone. Season 2 kicks off later this month.



Kate Winslet (right) and Julianne Nicholson gave the performances of their careers in "Mare of Easttown."

3. "Lupin" (Netflix)

Released in two chunks — the first in January, the second in mid-summer — "Lupin" matches the breathless thrill of a heist picture, but over the course of 10 episodes. Inspired by literary gentleman thief Arsène Lupin, a crafty burglar (Omar Sy, his star wattage blindingly bright) sets out to avenge his father's death, the key players still thriving 20 years later. The episodes contain plenty of disguises and ingenious deceptions, each leading to cliffhanger endings where you can't help but binge further. With Paris serving as the gorgeous backdrop, "Lupin" is a rare TV experience where you can feel everyone making the most out of their time together.

4. "Sweet Tooth" (Netflix)

Apocalyptic shows are a dime a dozen. If characters aren't becoming zombie chow, then the world is a dreary mess. "Sweet Tooth," on the other hand, based on the DC comic, achieves the look and feel of a delicate fable. A pandemic has killed much of the population, but also transformed babies into half-human, half-animal creations. Gus (Christian Convery), the lovable title character, resembles a boy with antlers. He begins what all fabled characters do: embarks on a quest. In this case, it's finding his mother after his father dies. The journey involves humans who want to protect *and* harm him. The series never loses its footing. Like any good fairy tale, it's sweet, but with a sinister underbelly.

An Early Contender

HBO Max debuted its 10-episode "Station Eleven" in mid-December. Half the episodes dropped in 2021, the remaining five in 2022. By press time, the final episode had yet to air. So far, this extremely faithful adaptation of Emily St. John Mandel's 2014 award-winner is television of the highest order. A pandemic wipes out most of humanity, with a traveling group bringing Shakespeare to the scattered survivors. The story, told in non-linear fashion, is a meditation on loss, grief and hope, the message being that preserving the arts is one of civilization's greatest feats. The standout scene is Danielle Deadwyler's Miranda, who in a fearless outburst laments her decision to skip her ex-husband's play in favor of a business trip. Anyone who has placed work over loved ones will be profoundly moved.

5. "Ted Lasso" (Apple TV+)

The sports comedy that put Apple TV+ on the map never skips a beat. Season 2 saw its ragtag mass of soccer players, coaches and owners forging deeper bonds. The emphasis was less soccer-field action and more how these people thrive off each other's company. Jason Sudeikis lost none of his folksy charm as Ted, ditto Hannah Waddingham as the always in motion Rebecca, who falls for one of her players. The breakout star was Brett Goldstein's foul-mouthed Roy Kent, who can transform any scenario into F-bomb gold. Season 2 sets the stage for a battle between Ted and one of his assistants. I can't wait to see how it plays out.

6. "Hawkeye"/"WandaVision" (Disney+)

Marvel entered the streaming wars with no less than five shows in 2021: "WandaVision," "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," "Loki," "What If...?" and "Hawkeye." Jeremy Renner's Clint Barton/ Hawkeye is the red-headed stepchild of the MCU: the least developed of any Avenger. But "Hawkeye" finished 2021 as Marvel's most satisfying because it was the most character-oriented. No gimmicks, just Renner getting his due with a story that gave his character room to breathe. His chemistry with Hailee Steinfeld's Kate Bishop was the core of the show: a deft balance of humor and heart. Throw in the great Vera Farmiga as Kate's mother and, in a

Continued on Page 20

Continued From Page 19

continuation from "Black Widow," a scene-stealing Florence Pugh as Natasha Romanoff's sister, out for revenge.

"WandaVision," by comparison, showed Marvel's ability to think outside the box. For the first three episodes, it left us in the dark, with Elizabeth Olsen's and Paul Bettany's characters embracing a life suspiciously akin to vintage sitcoms. By the fourth episode, it trusted us enough to reveal the big secret. By that point, what might have been an elaborate gimmick emerged as an innovative study of grief. With each episode leapfrogging through decades of sitcom history, "WandaVision" made you laugh and nurse the lump in your throat. The icing on the cake? Veteran character actress Kathryn Hahn as a nosy neighbor: a feat of sneaky comic timing that garnered a well-deserved Emmy nomination.

7. "Cobra Kai" Seasons 3 & 4 (Netflix)

The rewards of a global pandemic are nil...but we do have COVID-production delays to thank for two seasons of the "Karate Kid" reboot in one year. That it lost no traction, that it maintained the same quality of writing, acting and directing is no small feat. This is how you transcend expectations: allow iconic characters room to grow, to be brave and flawed, all through mature insight and wild humor. Season 4's doozy of a twist sets the stage for one helluva confrontation come Season 5.

8. "The Morning Show" (Apple TV+)

The first season of Apple's news drama drew parallels to the Matt Lauer debacle. Season 2 allowed the stellar cast to pick up the pieces...but with COV-ID-19 looming on the horizon. The series remains a piercing examination of employees drifting in toxic environments, with Jennifer Aniston doing the best work of her career. The same for Billy Crudup as





Jennifer Anniston is doing the best work of her career in "The Morning Show" on Apple TV+.

the network CEO who blindsides everyone with his casual flippancy.

9. "Never Have I Ever" (Netflix)

No sophomore slump here. Mindy Kaling's teen drama was just as witty and outrageous as ever. And by emphasizing teens of color — people typically marginalized — the show blazes a trail without patting itself on the back. The writing is still razor sharp, the young cast dishing it out like pros. We love spending time with them — flaws and all.

10. "Squid Game" (Netflix)

This South Korean import became a global sensation, a hyper-violent mix of "The Hunger Games" and "The Most Dangerous Game" where the downtrodden are thrust into a life-or-death game. The violence is shocking, but as bleak social commentary, the series envisions a world where people are so disillusioned, they'll do anything to get ahead. The standout "Marbels" episode was the most grueling experience of the year: humanity's admirable highs and damning lows. Another season is in the works. Can it match the adrenaline shock, and the devastating drama, of its debut? We will see...

(Next week — my favorite films of 2021.) Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher. com

LaPorte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La-Porte. Dates are Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and 28, March 14 and 28, and April 11 and 18.

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

Joyful Movement Easy Exercises for All Ages

The free, low-impact program is at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22, and March 1, 8 and 15 at Luhr Park Nature Center.

Participants can sit or stand for exercises that involve stretching, meditation and balance. Pre-registration is required one week in advance for each date to reserve a seat and avoid cancellation.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. 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:

- Jan. 26 Flying Fun.
- Feb. 9 Night Watch.
- Feb. 23 Game Night.
- March 16 Hop, Drop and Roll.
- Mar. 30 Flower Power.

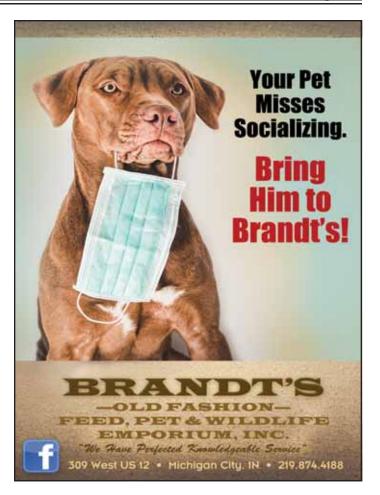
Feed the Birds this Winter

The free program, which involves making a bird feeder, is from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at Luhr Park Nature Center.

No pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Field Trips

Formal educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park. The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements. Visit www.laportecountyparks.org for sample programs. Email natureniki@csinet.net or call (219) 324-5855 for details.





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Olivia Colman stars as a middle-aged college professor on vacation in Greece in "The Lost Daughter."

In "The Lost Daughter," a reclusive college professor (Olivia Colman) relaxes while on vacation in Greece, observing a boisterous family on the beach. We don't catch everything said, nor the meaning behind what we do hear. But there is a tenseness to the exchanges. That beneath the surface, these people walk on eggshells.

Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, making her debut as writer-director, stages these scenes from the professor's point of view. The stage appears to be set for a "Woman in the Window" thriller.

Not exactly.

The movie, streaming on Netflix and based on Elena Ferrante's 2008 novel, has the slow-burn feel of a domestic thriller. In actuality, it is the most toxic portrait of motherhood since 2014's Australian horror fable "The Babadook."

You couldn't ask for a better acted movie. Colman ("The Favourite," "The Father") these days is doing the best work of her career. And Dakota Johnson, with this film, officially leaves the craptacular "50 Shades" trilogy in the dust

I'm just not sure what the point to it all is.

Colman's middle-age professor, Leda Caruso, comes with icy baggage. We see in flashbacks, with Jessie Buckley ("I'm Thinking of Ending Things") expertly handling duties as the younger Leda, a life where the idea of parenting is more intoxicating



Running time: 121 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language and sexual content/nudity

than the reality of it. Children are shrieking, pawing, clinging, clawing creatures that rarely afford a moment's rest.

Did the childhood of her daughters scar Leda's psyche? We're not sure, and Gyllenhaal toys with the possibilities. Leda does show empathy during a tense scare at the beach when Nina (Johnson) can't find her 3-year-old daughter. Leda joins the search and finds the girl, who wandered off to do a bit of exploring.

That apparent act of kindness on Leda's behalf draws Nina to her. Johnson, as Nina, has moments where she says nothing, just takes in Leda. What's dynamite about Johnson is, we can't tell what she is thinking. Is she attracted to Leda, or does she suspect the two are kindred spirits when it comes to parenting. Nina, in fact, appears at wit's end on the beach, not just by her children, but also by her brutish husband (Oliver Jackson-Cohen).

What we get from the magnificent performances by Colman and Johnson are women yearning for freedom. To be themselves, to not be defined by the



Dakota Johnson (left), seen here with Olivia Colman, is excellent as a frazzled mother vacationing in Greece.

wants and needs of their children. Colman is so fragile, so emotionally brittle, the ghosts of the past seem likely to break her at any moment.

Because Gyllenhaal carefully allows the unspoken tension to simmer, we brace for an explosion of violence. That's how big-budget American thrillers work. Psychological mind games climaxed by a frenzy of violence.

That is not what "The Lost Daughter" is about. Ironically, though, I'm still not sure the meaning behind it. That motherhood is a soul-sucking experience? That at some point, parents implode? That parenting reduces adults to selfish desperation?

Not sure. In terms of Leda's fate, Gyllenhaal keeps the final scene ambiguous, and it works. But in terms of a cathartic close, the movie lacks one. The film may just be an exercise in despair. I like what Gyllenhaal and her actresses are going for... without being especially satisfied by it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

 $N \in C$

In Memoriam

Brian Snell Potter was born March 25, 1921, near Manchester, England, to Alice (Snell) and Alfred Potter. His mother died in 1935, leaving Alfred to raise Brian and his young sister, Evadne, with the help of the children's aunts and uncles.

Educated at Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby, Lancashire, Brian earned the science prize, and began pre-medical studies at Liverpool University. He

was mobilized for officer training in November 1940 and commissioned to report as a second lieutenant to the British Army's science-oriented Royal Corps of Signals on June 21, 1941.

After taking a war-time convoy around Africa to Egypt, in 1942 Brian was attached to the British Army XIII Corps HQ mobile radio unit. (Camped in the Sahara Desert, he carefully shook out his boots each morning to ensure no scorpions were lurking inside.) After surviving an air attack, on his own initiative he alerted the U.S. Army office in Cairo that enemy aircraft had recognized and targeted the U.S.-built radio trucks; the trucks were redesigned.

In August 1942, Brian commanded radio units at the pivotal Battle of El Alamein. In mainland Italy in early 1944, he started a signals unit for bridgebuilding army engineers.

Promoted captain, he was posted to "the Black Cats" - the 56th (1st London) Infantry Division named after Dick Whittington's cat - where he transferred from radio to cable-laying. In 1945 the division reached Italy's Adriatic Sea coast and advanced north.

Just after midnight on April 1, supporting an amphibious assault across Lake Comacchio, Brian twice braved enemy fire to string wire cables linking forward commandos to HQ. He saw enemy defenders wave white flags as Allied fighter aircraft approached. On April 28, using a DUKW ("duck") amphibious truck assisted by two Sherman tanks, he strung a cable across the wide Po River, again under enemy fire.

After a brief home leave, Brian returned to Italy to serve another year in the occupation force, where he asked Allied officers about medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. In the summer of 1946, he was accepted to McGill University. While there, he met Margaret Jean Currie. They wed in June 1948, honeymooned at Niagara Falls and were married for 71 years. After completing his degree in 1950, attracted by the similarity of blue Lake Michigan to the Mediterranean Sea, Dr. Potter took a job as a GP in Kingsbury. He later practiced at the LaPorte County Hospital and in the Warren Building..

While in general practice in Indiana, a former instructor introduced him to the American Academy of Dermatology. He trained at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, was awarded a Fellowship in dermal pathology and later studied diseases of

the skin at St. John's Hospital in London.

Brian and Margaret raised four children, all sons: Michael (the late Jan Potter), Alan (Karen Ford), Brian Donald (Sue-Del McCulloch) and Geoffrey (Maureen). The Potters built a home in Duneland Beach in 1959, still standing.

Dr. Potter taught at the University of Chicago as an assistant professor. After a year in private practice in Denver, in 1962 he became tenured associate professor at the University of Illinois Chicago medical school. After this stint in academia and at the Veterans Administration hospital in Hines, Ill., he practiced dermatology for 25 years at the Coolspring

Medical Group in Michigan

City. He also earned a U.S. patent for dermatological diagnosis software and started a company, Expert Class Computing.

After a brief retirement, at 75 he was appointed section chief at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. Dr. and Mrs. Potter divided their last 20 years between Duneland Beach and West Palm Beach.

He and Margaret contributed much to the community, including supporting the Dunes Arts Foundation, Michigan City Public Library and the Save the Dunes Foundation, which eventually led to the creation of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dr. Potter was a lifelong supporter of WTTW-TV and classical music radio stations WFMT and WSND.

Brian and Margaret enjoyed two round-the-world journeys, by air and by sea (both of which were chronicled in *The Beacher*).

Margaret passed in July 2019, surrounded by her family, in Florida. Four months later, Brian moved to Pacific Beach, Calif., where this past March a huge family party celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary. He passed away in San Diego on Dec. 14, 2021, with family present. Brian is survived by his sons, grandchildren Joan Crandall (Kent), Alice Guittard (Jesse), Violet, Holden and Alexander, and four great-grandchildren.



Brian and Margaret Potter in 1950 at his graduation from McGill University.

LaPorte County Public Library

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

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pickup from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
 The following programs are planned:
- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 21. The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- Readers Corner Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room. Refreshments will not be served, but participants may take coffee or tea.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www. laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

Healthcare Foundation Grants

Feb. 25 is the deadline for Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte's grant portal for 2022 Cycle 1 grants.

HFL seeks proposals that impact its strategic priorities of "Healthy Children, Healthy Living, and Healthy Minds." The goal must be measurable results in one or more indicators HFL uses to monitor and track progress for each priority.

HFL also welcomes grant proposals to meet community health and wellness needs outside those strategic priorities. They must demonstrate a connection to HFL's mission and vision, and a commitment to measurable results.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant of more than \$25,000 must first submit a Letter of Inquiry by Jan. 21. All applications and LOIs must be submitted online through HFL's grant portal. Visit hflaporte.org/grantmaking-overview for details. Call (219) 326-2471, email contact@hflaporte.org or visit hflaporte.org for additional information.

Giese Church Photos



The staff at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, seek photos from over the decades of the Otto Giese miniature church. The photos can include people/family members. Email Danielle Adams to set up a time to scan the photos, or send scans directly, to assistantdirector@laportecountyhistory.org

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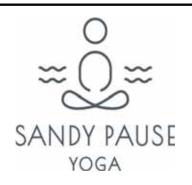
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Patrick's Grille Donates to Program

Patrick's Grille continues to support students in the A.K. Smith Culinary Arts Program.

Patrick's Grille General Manager Julie Krause recently completed a two-year term on its board. As part of her service, several students worked at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St., and its sister restaurant, Sunset Grille in Washington Park. Krause and Chef Rick Bruggeman continue to work with students through the program's advisory board.

PWE LLC, which owns the restaurants, also pledged to donate \$1 to the program for every hour worked by students.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

• Beach Discovery Walk at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

Meet a naturalist at the east side of the beach pavilion for a 45-minute exploratory walk along the state park beach. If conditions allow, snowshoes will be offered for free on a first come, first-served basis.

• The J.D Marshall Shipwreck Today & Long Ago at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22.

Meet in the Nature Center auditorium as a naturalist describes the Lake Michigan shipwreck story.

• Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops on Sunday, Jan. 23.

Learn the art of wire wrapping to make beachglass jewelry. Sessions are from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$7, and pre-registration is required. Space is limited. Register by calling (219) 926-1390.

• South Shore Line: The Way to the Dunes on Thursday and Saturday, Jan. 20 and 22.

The Midwest Rail Rangers, a partner with Indiana Dunes State Park, will present an on-board educational program that includes IDSP.

The eastbound program on South Shore Train 7 departs Chicago-Millennium Station at 8:45 a.m. Passengers can board at any of the five stations located in Chicago, as well as Hammond, East Chicago, Gary/Chicago Airport, Gary/Metro Center, Miller, Portage/Ogden Dunes, Dune Park or Beverly Shores. Eastbound programs terminate at Michigan City-Carroll Avenue at 10:27 a.m. Westbound programs are aboard Train 116, which originates at Michigan City-Carroll Avenue at 10:55 a.m.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Look for the car with yellow signs on the inside (normally towards the middle of the train). No reservations are needed. A regular train ticket is required. Visit www.mysouthshoreline.com for more details.

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.

Dunes Summer Theatre Auditions

Dunes Summer Theatre will hold auditions for its 2022 summer season from 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 22-23, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The summer schedule is:

- "Next to Normal" (May 27-June 12).
- "God of Carnage" (June 17-July 3).
- "Grand Night for Singing" (July 15-31).
- "Broadway at the Dunes Cabaret" (Aug. 12-14).

Proof of vaccination and masks are required. Visit www.dunesARTS.org/theatre or email dunestheatre@gmail.com for more information.

LCSO Music Director in Demand

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's music director is keeping her conducting schedule filled with guest appearances this season

In addition to her duties with LCSO, and as the University of Kansas director of orchestra stud-



Watson

ies, Dr. Carolyn Watson has guest conducted the Amarillo Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Austin (Texas) Symphony, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, as well as her long standing association with Interlochen.

She also is in demand as guest conductor of several All-State orchestras. On Jan. 16, she appeared with Pacific Lutheran University Honors Orchestra

in Tacoma, Wash. Her upcoming schedule is:

- Feb. 2 Colorado All-State Orchestra.
- Feb. 20 Washington All-State Chamber Orchestra.
- April 9 Nevada All-State.
- July 17: Interlochen Philharmonic.

Watson's next LCSO engagement is at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center in Michigan City. Guest cellist Hannah Collins will perform Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations." The LCSO also will perform the Overture to "La Forza Del Destino" by Verdi and Tchaikovsky's "Fifth Symphony." Tickets are available at www. lcso.net

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

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

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

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

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





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In the Area:

Jan. 20, 22 — South Shore Line: The Way to the Dunes (Midwest Rail Rangers). Info: www. mysouthshoreline.com

Jan. 21 — MCPL Podcast: Discussions with Miss Dana, 9 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. View on Buzzsprout and YouTube.

Jan. 22 — Beach Discovery Walk, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 22 — The J.D Marshall Shipwreck Today & Long Ago, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 22-23 — Costume/prop/rummage sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Everything \$1.

Jan. 23 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops, 10:30 a.m.-noon, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: \$7. Pre-registration: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 24 — Nature's Tiny Tots, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La-Porte. Registration: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Jan. 24, 31 — Needle Arts Club, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 25 — Joyful Movement Easy Exercises for All Ages, 8:30 a.m., Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Registration: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Jan. 25 — Readers Corner — Book Club, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 26 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3-5 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Advance registration: dwolf@mclib.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

Jan. 21 — Open Mic Night with Dirty Sally, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org

Through Jan. 20 — "An Eclectic Collection," acrylics by Joyce Dille, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Info: www.pinesvillage.org, (219) 465-1591.

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

Saturday-Sunday — Winter Fun-Snowshoeing, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www. nps.gov/indu for details.

Saturday-Sunday — Snowshoe Hikes in Miller Woods, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sat./1-3 p.m. Sun., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1824, www.nps.gov/indu for details.



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

- Kingsbury Elementary School, 802 W. County Road 400 South, 2:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25.

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.

The weekly deadline to submit listings for Upcoming Events is noon Thursday





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On January 20, 1887, the Senate approved an agreement to lease Hawaii's Pearl Harbor as a naval base.

On January 20, 1929, the first sound movie filmed outdoors, "In Old Arizona," was released.

On January 20, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt became the first American to be inaugurated for a third term as president.

On January 20, 1954, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," a play by Herman Wouk based on part of his novel <u>The Caine Mutiny</u>, opened on Broadway.

On January 20, 1982, George Hallas named Mike Ditka head coach of the Chicago Bears.

On January 20, 2008, Barack Obama was formally sworn in as president of the United States, becoming the first African American elected commander in chief.

On January 21, 1908, New York passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public. The penalty was a fine of \$5 to \$25, or imprisonment for up to 10 days.

On January 21, 1915, the Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

On January 21, 1942, Count Basie and his orchestra recorded "One O'Clock Jump" in New York for Okeh Records.

On January 21, 1954, the Nautilus, the world's first atomic-powered submarine, was launched at New London, Conn.

On January 21, 1996, at the 53rd annual Golden Globes, "Sense and Sensibility" won best dramatic picture; "Babe" won best comedy.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, <u>The Power of Sympathy</u>, was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1907, the premiere of the Richard Strauss opera, "Salome," with its "Dance of the Seven Veils," inspired vaudeville performers everywhere to do their version of the "naughty" dance. Directors of the Metropolitan Opera were so shocked by the opera, they prohibited further performances by the Met.

On January 22, 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" made its debut, in Princeton, N.J.

On January 22, 2001, Roy T. Brown, who played Cooky the Clown, longtime sidekick to Bozo the Clown, died in Elk Grove Village, Ill., at 68.

On January 23, 1789, Georgetown University was established at the future site of the nation's

capital.

On January 23, 1845, Congress mandated that national elections take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

On January 23, 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a degree in medicine. A native of Bristol, England, her degree was awarded by the Medical Institution of Geneva, N.Y.

On January 23, 1950, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, proclaimed Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered on the California property of John A. Sutter, leading to the famous "California Gold Rush," as well as to the infamous "forty-niners."

On January 24, 1908, the first public meeting of the Boy Scouts, founded by England's Robert Baden-Powell, took place in London.

On January 24, 1935, canned beer went on sale (in Richmond, Va.) for the first time.

On January 24, 1985, the space shuttle Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

On January 24, 1986, photos from Voyager 2 revealed 10 previously unknown moons were in orbit around Uranus.

On January 25, 1533, after having his marriage to Catherine of Aragon declared invalid, England's King Henry VIII secretly married Anne Boleyn.

On January 25, 1882, novelist Virginia Woolf was born in London.

On January 25, 1890, New York World reporter Nellie Bly received a tumultuous welcome after completing a round-the-world journey in 72 days, beating the fictional 80-day trip of Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg.

On January 25, 1915, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated transcontinental phone service with a call from New York to San Francisco.

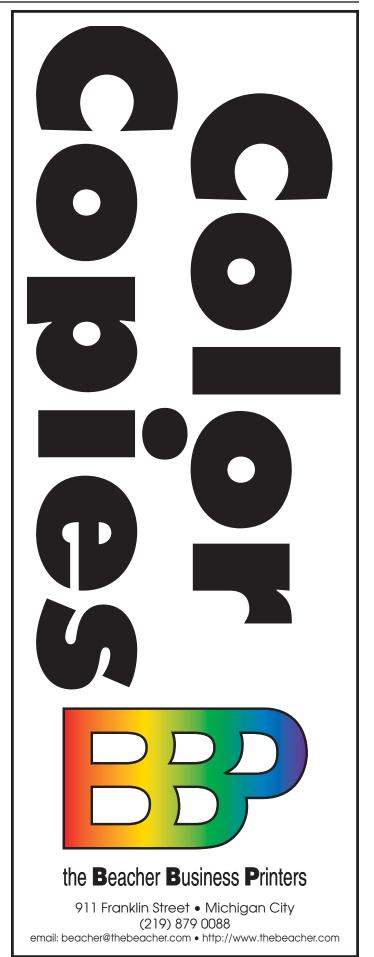
On January 25, 1959, the "jet age" opened in the United States when American airlines scheduled the first transcontinental flight (from New York to Los Angeles) of a Boeing 707.

On January 25, 1961, President John Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be televised live.

On January 26, 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library within the U.S. Capitol, a harbinger of the present "Library of Congress."

On January 26, 1918, to conserve meat and grain, World War I food administrator Herbert Hoover asked Americans to voluntarily observe "wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays; and meatless Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

On January 26, 1967, the "Great Blizzard of '67" began piling up snow (eventually totaling in excess of 2 feet), and bringing many Midwest cities, including Chicago, to a virtual standstill.



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

<u>Daughter of the Morning Star</u> by Craig Johnson (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 322 pages.)

Missing indigenous women. Indian superstitions. White supremacists. Murder.

Toss in a high school girls' basketball team and a Wyoming sheriff trying to make sense of it all. That's a pretty tall order, but I have a character who can handle it — Sheriff Walt Longmire of Absaroka County, Wyoming.

This is Book 17 in the series that has been on

many bestseller lists and garnered many awards. It's a modern-day Western that gives a reality check to the lives of the people — Native and white — who live in Wyoming and Montana.

Longmire is "the final letter of the law in Absaroka, the least populated county in Wyoming, the least populated state in America." But, his reputation from solving high-profile cases results in national attention. So it is no surprise Lolo Long, tribal police chief of the Northern Cheyenne in Montana, calls on him to help with death threats sent to her niece, Jaya "Longbow" Long, a basketball phenom with the Lame Deer Morning Stars High School team.

Jaya's sister, Jeanie One Moon, disappeared one year ago. Jeanie and a few friends took a bus to a party

in a nearby city. The bus broke down, the wind and snow picked up, the bus was fixed and the driver took off, without anyone noticing Jeanie was not onboard.

In the middle of nowhere, snow obliterating any footprints, Jeanie, or her body, was never found.

Now, Longmire is tasked with why anyone would send death threats to Jaya. She's only 18 and has no enemies who would want her dead. Most of her basketball team, coach included, might want to see her go away because of her lack of team spirit, but that doesn't mean they mean her harm.

Longmire meets up with his friend, Henry Standing Bear, a droll man. As Longmire's sidekick, he provides much dry humor along with plenty of Native Indian lore.

Longmire decides to look into Jeanie's disappearance first, as it might have something to do with Jaya's threats.

Meetings with the others who were on Jeanie's bus turn up nothing until he meets Lyndon Iron Bull. He was on the bus, but he remembers something he didn't tell the police: a week after her disappearance, outside his house... "all I could see was the fog and it was coming at me...Then I saw her, there in the fog — not her, but the absence of her." He claims it was Jeanie— stuck between the living and the dead.

Longmire seeks out Esther Small Song, "one of those half medicine women." She tells him Jeanie was taken by the Wandering Without — "a black spiritual hole that does nothing but devour souls."

With much skepticism, Longmire tells Henry Standing Bull about Esther's story and Henry re-

plies, "...the difference between us— I believe in everything until proven, whereas you believe in nothing until proven."

Longmire might change his mind when he chases his dog that runs away deep into a canyon after "something." Longmire feels a presence, but falls and knocks himself unconscious. He wakes to find he lost 1 1/2 days with no memory of what happened. Fearful for his life, Henry had called for a search party. Longmire now is not so sure about his past suspicion of Indian tales.

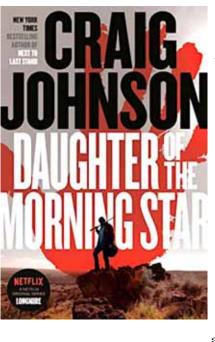
There's plenty of action at the girls' basketball games in Lame Deer. It reads like you're right there in the stands. The description of the game — both physical plays and mental games — is written precisely and realistically.

Meanwhile, the roof of the gym provides Longmire a cold chill as he chases...a ghost? But do ghosts shoot guns? There's also the red scarf that keeps showing up. The Cheyenne believe red is the only color spirits can see. Maybe Longmire will discover the mystery behind the disappearance of Jeanie One Moon and the Indian legend as well... or maybe legends need to stay where they are...as legends.

I see a possible sequel, as there is much more that could be explored.

In his acknowledgements, Johnson tells of his extensive research into the plight of Native Indian women, and how they have the highest statistics of being raped, murdered or having disappeared and never found. He mentions the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center in Lame Deer, Mont., as one group trying to make a difference. This information puts a cap on the whole book, making it much more than just a novel — it gives you something to think about.

Till next time, happy reading!





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