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# “Extra” Special

*Editor’s note – The following article is not designed to impart any religious beliefs on readers, but to convey the experience of being an extra in a TV show that is becoming a global phenomenon.*

*by Andrew Tallackson*

In the predawn hours of June 7, the sky not yet touched by the pinks of daybreak, one of the first groups of weary travelers dropped into the seats of a bus that would usher them to their destination.

Sleep tugged at their eyes, yet a feverish anticipation united them. Their appearances contained little traces of the modern era. Like a gaggle of Biblical shepherds who’d abandoned their flocks.

The latest passenger stepped into the bus and paused. A 40-ish woman with a cheerful smile and deep Texas drawl, she seemed briefly overwhelmed, that a gift too long deprived now appeared before

her. Her right hand fluttered above her heart.

“Good morning, ‘Chosen’ family. How y’all doing?”

The bus erupted with a chorus of “woohoos” and “welcome aboards.” The woman’s smile deepened.

“I’m so excited,” she admitted, “I could just shout.”

Shortly after, the bus rumbled to life, carrying the now adrenalized passengers along a 10-minute route. With seven minutes to go before the clock reached 6 a.m., dawn began to break, tossing the faintest traces of light into the sky.

And then, there it was. The permanent site in north Texas, on 900 acres, designated for “The Chosen,” the

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A huge sign carved in white, and a gorgeous sunrise, greet us as we arrive on the set of “The Chosen.”

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faith-based Biblical series that tells the story of Jesus Christ through His disciples. Those of us on the bus were among an estimated 12,000 people who arrived from all 50 states and 36 countries to appear in several days of filming for the upcoming third season. The scene at hand: “The Feeding of the 5,000.” The Biblical event is known as the “miracle of the five loaves and two fish,” where the Gospel of John recounts how Jesus took two fish and five loaves, provided by a child, to feed 5,000 of His followers.

The crowds departing the bus, welcomed by staff and volunteers, took it all in. Passing through an archway and coming upon the word “Chosen” carved out in all white. The sky above it dissolving into blues and whites so clear, it was postcard perfect.

This was it. We were about to become extras in “The Chosen.”

### A Little Background

People frequently ask what my source is for ideas of what to write about or review for *The Beacher*.

It's Facebook.

And why wouldn't it be? The entertainment industry understands that we as a culture are so attuned to social media, why not promote itself through that medium. And not just movies. Facebook is my source for the latest books, plays, music, TV shows and streaming services. If something isn't promoted in short bursts through social media, then its promoters aren't doing their job.

That is how I learned about “The Chosen.”

The early Facebook images were of actor Jonathan Roumie as Jesus. However, the accompanying verbiage was hardly archaic. In fact, the post read, “Ready to binge Jesus?”

That caught my attention.

Faith-based stories of all faiths inspire me. They broaden my perspective, deepen my appreciation of what moves and inspires us, so my understanding of the world is not limited to my own bubble of an existence. Christian films and television, however,

have a less-than reputable reputation acknowledged even by Christians. Major studios or TV networks shy away from them for fear they lack box office or viewership potential. That leaves directors wanting to tell Christian stories scrambling for finances and creative talent. And for every well-made piece of Christian storytelling, like “The Shack” or “I Can Only Imagine,” there are countless others that crash and burn on impact.

“The Chosen” largely is the brainchild of Dallas



My buddy, Dale Knouse, and I on the bus that would take us to the set. Dale, ever the diehard “Star Wars” fan, brought his “Baby Yoda” with him.

Jenkins (2017’s “The Resurrection of Gavin Stone”), who wanted to approach the Bible outside the studio system, and through a means never before attempted. He aimed to tell the story of Jesus Christ, but through the eyes of those who knew Him best. His disciples. Backstories now get fleshed out. Fringe characters leap to the forefront. The aim is to remain true to Scripture, but also to the historical context of the time. Jewish customs and practices are emphasized. The show’s advisors, including rabbis, review scripts and offer not just Biblical insight, but also cultural and sociopolitical context.

The goal is to produce seven seasons made available free to viewers. Currently, it is available through “The Chosen” app, as well as YouTube, Pea-



cock, Amazon Prime and Angel Studios. The app allows viewers to “mirror,” or send, an episode to a SmartTV.

Two seasons have aired thus far. Season One debuted in 2019 and Season Two in 2021. Season One remains the highest crowdfunded TV series or film to date, generating more than \$10.2 million from more than 16,000 investors. By last year, viewers had contributed \$40 million overall.

Curious about the show’s Facebook presence, I brought it up to a good friend, Dale Knouse, while having lunch one day. He smiled, then reached down into a bag he’d placed on the floor beside him.

“Here,” he said, handing me a DVD of Season 1. “This is for you. A gift. I want to know what you and



Esther, a fellow extra on the set, helps fix my headpiece.

Alice think.”

“Thank you,” I replied, looking the DVD over. “We’ll get started on it.”

We binged all eight episodes in less than a week.

We cried. Laughed. Replayed scenes so their desired impact achieved full affect.

This was unlike any Biblical program we’d seen. It felt real. Authentic. People from the Bible imbued with human qualities. Honorable, flawed, searching for answers. Quiet moments achieving genuine power. The message, the themes, driven home in a way that never felt oppressive.

Flash forward to March of this year. Dale texted me. The week leading up to the wedding of his eldest son, David, would I be interested in joining him for a trip to Midloathian, Texas, where the crew of “The Chosen” would film “The Feeding of the 5,000” for Season 3.

Now, let me take a step back for a minute.

Dale and I met in 1999 when I wrote an article about die-hard “Star Wars” fans before the release of “The Phantom Menace.” Dale conducted the interview by telephone, from St. Anthony Hospital, holding his newborn son, David, about an hour after he was born.

When Dale commits his fanboy interests to some-

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## UPCOMING SHOWS

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**Mike Dawes**

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**WED 7/13 7 P.M. ET**



**State of the Unity w/ The Bergamot**

**THU 7/14 8 P.M. ET**



**The Brit Pack**

**SAT 7/16 8 P.M. ET**



**Mike Struwin Band**

**WED 7/20 7 P.M. ET**



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thing, he commits with a capital C.

That the passage of time had leapfrogged from David's birth to his forthcoming marriage – mind blown! That Dale, a generous soul, was offering me the chance to appear as an extra in my new favorite TV show, well, how could I say no?

## Texas Heat in June

As the automatic doors at Dallas Love Field Airport swish open to reveal lingering taxis, buses and Ubers, the Texas heat consumes you. It cooks every portion of your body. The air feels dry. Baked. Like its ability to invigorate you long expired. It strips you of any desire to eat.

As Dale wraps up the paperwork for the rental vehicle, one thought persists. If I've begun waving the wimp flag this early in the trip, how will I survive decked out in full Biblical attire on the set?



Dale checks his costume before filming commences on the set.

## The Day of the Shoot Begins

The simultaneous alarms on Dale's and my cell phones – a precautionary measure in case one device fails its task – bludgeons us into a semi-state of lucidity. Having prepped and packed for the shoot the night before, we are able to leave the hotel just outside of Dallas by 4:15 a.m. It is a "balmy" 73 degrees. Forecasts place the day's temperatures at 96 degrees with cloudless skies.

Midloathian is about 25 miles southwest of Dallas. The state highway we travel is mostly desolate, what with the day being in its infancy. A few vehicles and semis. Industrial complexes and chain stores that dot the landscape are dark, shuttered before the work day begins.

We arrive at the Midloathian ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, an imposing structure looming before us, at 4:53 a.m. Perfect timing, as our registered arrival is slated for 5 a.m. A line of cars efficiently winds its way toward the parking lot, where volunteers guide us to designated spots. Up first is a COVID test to confirm we do not have the virus. Dale and I both



Director Dallas Jenkins moves around the set in between takes.

did the required rapid PCR test a few days earlier, and this test also puts us in the clear. We receive our lanyards identifying us as extras.

Moments before we step onto the bus, volunteers check our bags as a safety measure, to ensure no one is carrying dangerous items. Nearby is a father and son. Their day together as an extra is the son's birthday gift. Both are all smiles. A volunteer kindly asks me to remove my baseball cap, to make sure "nothing" is under there. I remove the cap, then comically point to my bald top. "There really is *nothing* under there," I say, deadpan. The woman erupts with laughter, then gently swats me on the soldier, indicating I'm clear to head for the bus.

## On the Set

The bus drops us off at the expansive set with two minutes to go before 6 a.m. Owning the land is The Salvation Army's Camp Hoblitzelle, which signed a multiyear lease so the cast and crew of "The Chosen" can film there. A 30,000-square-foot soundstage contains recreations of Capernaum and other landscapes.

Because Dale and I are among the earliest to ar-



Actor Jonathan Roumie, as Jesus, speaks to the extras.



rive, we will be among the first to be filmed. The day's many extras will arrive in waves to balance out the number of people congregating in one place. And like the countless individuals now present, we take in our surroundings, almost with an air of disbelief that we are actually here. Large-scale tents offer reprieves from the intensity of the heat. An air-conditioned gift store contains everything from clothing, to DVDs to books. A row of shelters contains barrels with light breakfast snacks and drinks. Over the course of the day, the crew of "The Chosen" will heavily push water and electrolytes during updates and announcements, reminders of how to beat the scorching temperatures. There's also a First Aid area for anyone who succumbs to the heat's taxing demands. For the kids, there are two bounce houses, a large-scale Connect Four game, blocks and corn-hole games. Rounding out the layout is a tent with key props, costumes and other items used during seasons one and two.

After a quick bite to eat, Dale and I plant our belongings near the huge stage where, not only will radio personalities join the crew in providing updates, but live entertainment will break up the monotony of downtime on the set. And not just any entertainment, but big-name Christian acts like The Bonner Family, Micah Tyler and Big Daddy Weave.

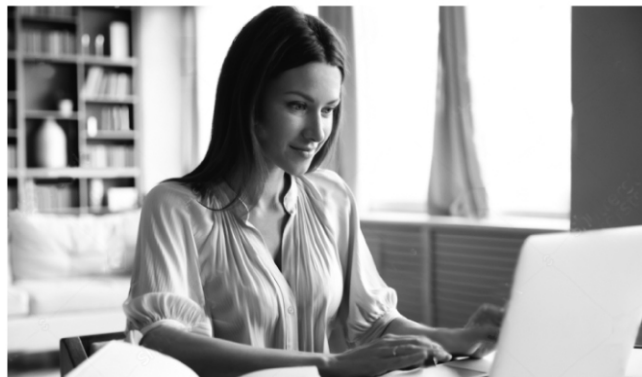
Seated just outside one of the tents, I indulge

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A somewhat shy extra just feet away from me during filming.

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in a quick bite to eat: a banana and chocolate chip muffin. A striking woman seated nearby notices my headpiece is not on properly. The costume, itself, is a loaner courtesy of Bonnie Quigley and LaPorte Little Theatre Club. The woman offers a bit of advice on how to adjust it. When rapid fidgeting does not achieve the desired results, I confess to needing her help. Her name is Esther, and without a fuss, she stands and



Actors Joey Vahedi (left) and Jordan Walker Ross speak with one of the crew members.

makes the proper adjustment in a matter of seconds.

## The Big Moment Arrives

At 9 a.m., it is time.

Everyone who arrived early is asked to make the short trip to a grassy area blanketed by a copse of trees. We space ourselves out by arm's length so the 500 extras present leave the impression there are far more folk on their way to hear Jesus speak. Everyone's concentration is broken as director Dallas Jenkins walks by. Jenkins has made himself readily accessible to viewers from the start, leading weekly livestreams where he shares anything and everything about "The Chosen." People who know "The Chosen" well feel they know him with the same good authority. So, his presence initially excites everyone out of focus, requiring a moment or two to redirect their energies back to the task at hand.

Then, filming starts. A large crane elevates the camera high above us for a sweeping shot of the crowd. We have been advised not to look at the camera. Look straight ahead. We do. Over the next 10 minutes, Dallas will do two more takes. With three takes now in the bag, he's satisfied with the shot.

## The Really Big Moment Arrives

Another 1,000 extras arrive. We are seated on a mildly sloping hill. Dallas frequently bobs and weaves through us, a smile on his face. A friendly "hello" or "excuse me" as he makes his way to the camera crew. I get to know a few of the people nearby. To my left is a young married couple from Muncie, Ind. I share with them that I'm from Michigan City. "Indiana?," the guy behinds us utters, excited. "I'm from New Castle." Seems the Hoosier State is well-represented.

Excitable screams ripples through the crowd. Muffled applause. The actors have arrived. Shahar Isaac at Simon Peter. Giavani Cairo as Thaddeus. Jordan Walker Ross as James. And finally, Roumie as Jesus. The applause grows thicker. Crew members from makeup and wardrobe touch up the cast amid the oppressive heat, which is now close to the 96 degrees that will not relinquish its grip.

Dallas grabs a bullhorn to address the crowd. Too lazy from the heat to write, I grab my cellphone, concealed in a period-style bag, and hit record on the voice recorder app: *"From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for being here. We are doing something very special here. Couple things I want to share. When we are rolling...and you put your modern things away, that includes your cell phones. While we are in between shots, it's fine for you to pull your phones out and get pictures and videos. When we are filming, please hide your phones. Don't try to sneak in a shot or two. It's very distracting to the actors, and it also shows up on camera. Please be patient, but regardless of where you are sitting, don't assume you are off-camera. We can see you and the actors can see you."*

And with that, Dallas heads off to finalize things before filming commences. Nearby is a young actor in heavy attire as a Roman soldier. He's sweating profusely from the heat, but in agreeable spirits.

"How's everyone doing?," he asks those seated nearby. He is greeted by a chorus of "greats" and "wonderfuls." A woman seated on the ground asks of him, "Where are you from?" The implication is obvious. How far, like the rest of us, did he travel to get here. What she didn't take into account is that, by being one of the Roman soldiers, he is one of the paid cast members. The actor, however, doesn't miss beat a beat. He reverts to character and replies, "Why, Rome, of course!" The response elicits a huge laugh for the crowd.

The moment of truth arrives. The cameras start rolling and Roumie, as Jesus, begins speaking, the actors as disciples nearby. His words are captured by boom mics and not projected through speakers. Doing so would create feedback for the sound crew. We hear bits and pieces, knowing that, only when the episode airs will we experience it in full.

Later, Dallas has the crowd practice cheering so it doesn't sound rehearsed. So the applause ris-

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es and falls like a normal crowd. Satisfied after a few tries, Dallas heads back to the cameras, ready to film. He captures precisely what he wants after a few takes, then announces it's time for lunch.

## Down Time. Lots of It

With the next waves of extras arriving, we have down time. Plenty of it. Five, possibly six hours if shooting falls behind schedule. Lunch consists of a Subway-style sandwich, chips, a cookie and water. Dale purchased a large umbrella the day before, and we crash beneath it, catching some ZZZs in the stifling heat. I take out my cell phone and film a selfie video for Facebook where I apparently look like Death warmed over. The post elicits warnings from family and friends to stay hydrated.

The 15-minute Big Daddy Weave concert lures us out from our makeshift shade, as does the most unforgettable moment: most of the cast, in costume, on stage. Kind, generous actors, humbled by the presence of so many extras. Each talks about how the show has impacted their life, but more so, how moved they are by the reactions of the fans. Isaac, born and raised in Israel, shares with the crowd that, being well-acquainted with the Sea of Galilee, the temperature there is even higher than what we are experiencing today.

## The Big Finish

By 6:30 p.m., all 5,000 extras will assemble as Dallas films Roumie, as Jesus, speaking again. The idea this time is to convey the broad scope of people present. Dale and I perched at the far back, on a weedy rise in the landscape. Convinced the camera will reach us. The production crew issues the same warning: Staff will be present between takes with water and electrolytes. However, anyone not feeling well now or between takes, let someone know immediately. Better to address it with the cameras *not* rolling than to stop production. Over the next 90 minutes, about four people will leave the set courtesy of medical staff. The day's heat had not relented, even with the first few shades of night creeping into the cloudless sky. For the first time that day, a brief hint of concern hits me. We'd been on the set more than 12 hours. My head was starting to hurt. I'd consumed enough water and electrolytes to float



The view from our bus as thousands of extras line up for buses taking them back to their vehicles.

a boat. A woman next to me, a Sudanese professor living in Minnesota, smiled at me, nodding. The maternal look on her face conveyed she understood what I was experiencing. "Almost done," she whispered, reassuringly.

Fifteen minutes later, the production manager alerted the crowd they were about to get "the martini shot," which is Hollywood-speak for the final shot of the day. The production manager then backtracked, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, saying that, in the context of "The Chosen," it would be more appropriate to call it the

day's "wine shot."

That was it. That was the shot in the arm needed to keep going. Everyone perked up, seated with a renewed vigor. The cameras rolled. Dallas asked the crowd to be patient. He wanted another take. Minutes later, the cameras were rolling. Then came those magic words from Dallas.

"OK, everyone, that's a wrap for today. Thank you very very much."

## Looking Back

By the time this article goes to press, it will be exactly one month since that day on the set. The questions people ask fall into the same categories. Did I meet any of the cast? When does the episode air?

The show was on a tight schedule, so the moment when the cast arrived on stage was as close as we got to them. Dallas and his wife were available at the Midloathian ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium after the shoot, willing to stay as long as it took to meet and thank every extra. But by that point, Dale and I were wiped out. Plus, Dallas had said hello to me, walked directly passed me, many times that day.

As for when the episode airs, "The Feeding of the 5,000" marks the finale of Season 3, which means it won't be seen until sometime in 2023. Honestly, whether Dale and I make into any shots is irrelevant. It was the experience, itself, that will stay with us. Knowing we were part of something special. We arrived on the set that day early, amid total darkness. We left the set with the darkness of night approaching. In between was all the joy, light and newfound memories we could possibly need.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)





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## Michigan City Designated as a Bird Town

by Kim Nowatzke



Mary Nell Murphy holds up a sign Michigan City received for its recent Bird Town designation through Indiana Audubon.

Michigan City has joined the flock of other Indiana cities that earned the title of Bird Town.

It recently received the designation from the Indiana Audubon at the eighth annual Indiana Dunes Bird Festival.

"I wanted Michigan City to get recognized for being a birding destination and for the conversation work that they do. We are a key location between the lake, the dunes and the parks," said Mary Nell Murphy, a local birder who coordinated the city's application. "I encourage other nearby towns to apply so that the majority of Northwest Indiana will be represented."

Michigan City now is the 16th Indiana community to be named a Bird Town. Nearby, Beverly Shores, Chesterton and Porter bear the distinction.

"This designation shows Michigan City's committed effort to provide natural communities for our resident birds and other wildlife," Indiana Audubon Executive Director Brad Baumgardner said.

Through a collaboration with the local Potawatomi Audubon, Murphy started the application right before COVID-19 hit in 2020, resuming the process

this past spring. It took her a few weeks to complete the necessary paperwork, then about 30 days for processing by the Indiana Audubon.

Modeled after the "Tree City USA" program and the successful Bird City Wisconsin, the concept of Bird Town Indiana began in 2013.

*"Indiana Bird Towns are those that both the public officials and citizens demonstrate an active and ongoing commitment to the protection and conservation of bird populations and their habitats," as stated on [www.indianaaudubon.org/birdtownindiana](http://www.indianaaudubon.org/birdtownindiana). "These members belong to Audubon groups, nature preserves, land trusts, bird clubs, museums, garden clubs, school groups, chambers of commerce and other eco-minded businesses that can come together for effective planning, development and implementation of bird conservation issues locally and statewide."*

The applying city must achieve seven out of 21 criteria, with two in Category 1 and one in each of Categories 2, 3 and 4.

Murphy said the most challenging requirement was Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds. To fulfill this, she gave a PowerPoint pre-



sensation on Bird Safety at a Potawatomi Audubon monthly meeting.

Murphy obtained three Bird Town Indiana signs and spoke at a Michigan City Common Council meeting encouraging city leaders to display them.

"My goal is to have the city post these along with the Tree City signs," she said.

Michigan City has been designated by the Arbor Foundation as a Tree City for the past 22 years. Murphy said it's not necessary to reapply each year for the Bird Town title.

"It's wonderful to get this official recognition for Michigan City since our community does so much for birding, and since birders have such an impact on this area," Murphy said.

She says the most recent Indiana Dunes Bird Festival, headquartered at Indiana Dunes Visitors Center in Porter on May 12-15, brought in about 650 attendees from 31 states.

"That's a lot of people dining, shopping and lodging in our area," she said. "If you enhance your local birding habitats, that will bring in birders. Birding brings in birders that spend money in our community. It's a win-win – on food, lodging and ice cream."

The Indiana Dunes Bird Festival included field trips, an annual bird-calling competition, a keynote speaker and Dunes Birds in Art, a collection of artists celebrating bird life in the Indiana Dunes area.

According to [www.indianabirdingfestival.org](http://www.indianabirdingfestival.org), "Birding in the Indiana Dunes is the best the state has to offer. With its rich biodiversity, varying habitats and miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, the Indiana Dunes is a hotspot for migrant birds. The Indiana Dunes Birding Festival celebrates the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities with the goal of positively impacting visitors and local residents through environmental education, conservation initiatives and support of the local economy."

At [www.indianaaudubon.org/birdtownindiana](http://www.indianaaudubon.org/birdtownindiana), reasons listed for becoming a Bird Town include making a statement for community pride, increasing community activism with the chance to build active partnerships between private and public sectors, and improving the local environment.

It listed saving and making money as an additional reason.

"Birders in the U.S. bring in \$85 million in economic growth each year. Bird Towns also become better eligible for eco-friendly grants," it explained.

Last of all, the Indiana Audubon noted Bird Town residents share a common interest among multiple demographics.

"Watching birds is just plain relaxing and reduces stress," the website pointed out.

Murphy encouraged others to bird, adding we live in a great area for it.

"Folks enjoy birding year-round in Michigan City. This past winter, there were multiple sightings of Snowy Owls at the lighthouse, and in the fall we can

all hear and see the Sandhill Cranes flying over in the hundreds. Plus, many songbirds pass through or nest here in the summer months," she said. "During COVID, many people took up birding as a safe, outdoors, fascinating hobby. It's like a puzzle trying to identify the various birds based on colors, wing bars, habitat – and for some birders, they can identify birds by ear."

Murphy and her husband, Eric Salstrand, moved here five years ago from Chicago's Hyde Park area after she retired from an information technology job at The University of Chicago.

"We would come out here on weekends to enjoy national and state parks, and it was a natural fit," she said. "I've always had a love of nature. I used to teach high school natural science management classes when I first got out of college with an agriculture education degree from the University Wisconsin-Madison. My brother still calls me 'Nature Girl.'"

Since relocating, Murphy has been an active member of the community. She is president of the Meals on Wheels LaPorte County board, and serves on the LaPorte County Parks and Recreation Board, and the Michigan City Tree Board.

"I'm delighted to see Michigan City recognized for all it has done and is doing," she emphasized. "The Sustainability Committee, the Audubon groups, the new Karwick Nature Park/Cheney Run and just all the backyard birders. I hope this gets more people to our town to enjoy the birds!"

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# GREAT LAKES GRAND PRIX 2022 Tentative Schedule



## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>

Golf Outing @ Michigan City  
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Noon / 11 am Registration  
After party @ Creekside Bar and Grill

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## THURSDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>

5:30 pm ..... Ribbon Cutting @ Sunset Grille

6-8 pm ..... VIP Party @ Sunset Grille

7-11 pm ..... AFTERMATH playing classic rock  
& country @ Washington Park Beach

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>

Noon-10 pm Food Court Open

5-8 pm ..... Shop • Sip • Support Local hosted by  
Lake Life Social Events in Downtown MC

6-10 pm ..... Race Team Welcome Party sponsored  
by CMR @ Washington Park Beach

7-11 pm ..... Smarty Pants playing top dance  
hits @ Washington Park Beach

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>

8 am-3 pm ..... Four A's Vintage Car Show

9 am-10:30 pm .. Free Parking/Shuttle Service  
@ Ames Field, 2501 Franklin St.

(Overflow parking at 1501 Wabash St. /Former St. Anthony Hospital parking lot)

9 am-10 pm ..... Food Court Open

9 am-4 pm ..... VIP Tent open @ Washington Park Boardwalk  
10am-2pm — Brunch Served

10 am-4 pm ..... Boat Racing

10:45 am ..... National Anthem

Noon-10 pm ..... Great Lakes Grand Prix Block Party hosted by Lake Life  
Social Events in Downtown Michigan City

1 pm ..... Bags Tournament - noon registration - \$20 per person  
@ Washington Park Beach

6-8 pm ..... Boat Parade on North Franklin Street - Shuttle pickup/  
drop off at Washington & 7th Streets

7-11 pm ..... Pointn' Fingers playing classic rock  
@ Washington Park Beach

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>

9 am-4:30 pm .... Free Parking/Shuttle Service  
@ Ames Field, 2501 Franklin St.

(Overflow parking at 1501 Wabash St. /Former St. Anthony Hospital parking lot)

9 am-5 pm ..... Food Court Open

9 am-4 pm ..... VIP Tent open @ Washington Park Boardwalk  
10am-2pm — Brunch Served

10 am-4 pm ..... Boat Racing

10:45 am ..... National Anthem

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Sun 11-8**



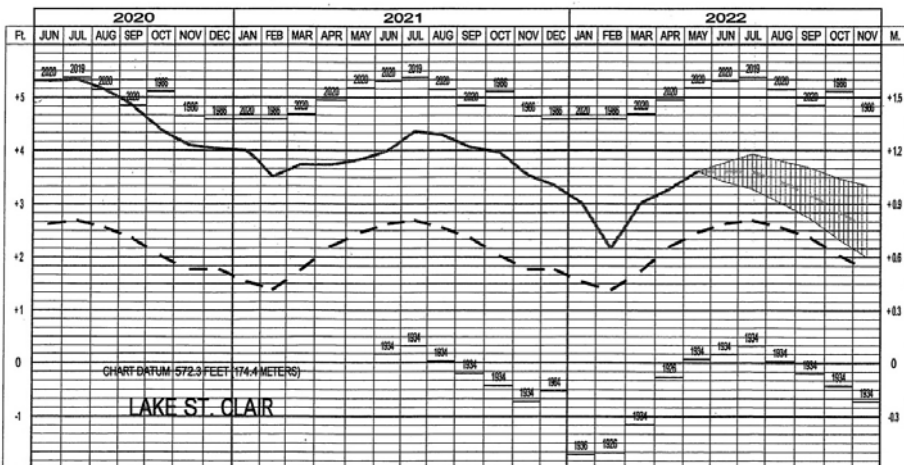
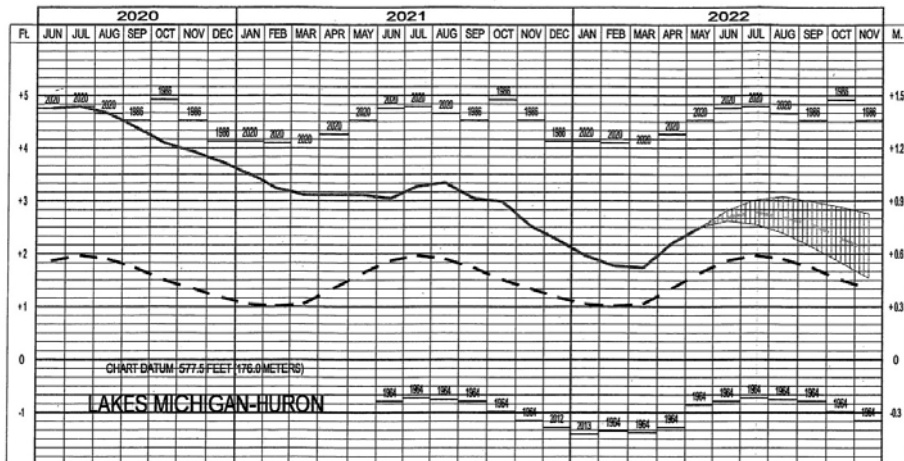
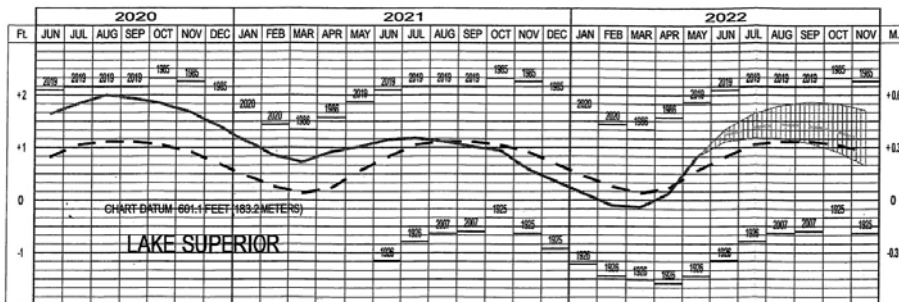
Every month, I receive a report from the USACE about the lake levels of Lake Michigan-Huron that shows the past and projects several months into the future. The reports arrive in the mail. I open them immediately to see the latest.

When I received the report for May 2022, I was immediately struck by the solid black line that starts high in June 2020 and keeps coming down until March 2022. It then follows about 8 inches above the broken line that represents the long-term average lake levels.

First, some explanations of the chart.

The numbers at the top indicate the highest levels of the lake recorded. The numbers at the bottom indicate the lowest levels. The broken line is the average level and the black line the current level. Each light horizontal line represents 2 inches. Each darker horizontal line equals 1 foot. The months are listed in columns at the top of the chart.

Lakes Michigan and Huron go up and down on average about 1 foot every year. The highest levels normally occur in late summer-early fall. The lowest numbers usually occur in February- March. The long-term variation, as well as the cyclical variations, are determined by how much water comes in from Lake Superior, how much water drains out to Lake St. Clair, how much precipitation comes to the lake directly or from streams that drain into the lake, and by how much evaporation of the lake water occurs. Complex System.



Back in 2019-2020, we experienced very high water levels. But then, the water levels started down, so the record levels of 1986 for September-December remain the highest recorded.

Back to the black line that impressed me so much. Here are my thoughts. In January 2020, Lake Michigan was almost 3 feet above average for that time of the year and higher than ever before for January.

All I could think about then was, "How much higher can it go, and what other beaches and revetments will be covered with water?" My thoughts were that the lake would continue to go up. Totally forgot about the "cycles."

But the amount of water coming in and going out or up through evaporation changed. The lake levels kept coming down in 2021. There was only a 4-inch summer rise in 2021, and then the water levels started down again. By March 2022, the curve of the lake levels began to look normal just 8 inches above average.

So one final note about cycles. This latest pattern of very high water levels and now more normal levels is typical. We may even see the water levels go below "average" if the water-in-water-out amounts continue "negative." Beaches in some areas are wonderful again. Others not so much because of other influences like lateral sand flows.

But the lake's recent lowest levels (except for December 2012-January 2013) have not broken the low-level records established in 1964. Anyone remember what happened in the winter of 2012-2013

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## Kander and Ebb Revue "The World Goes 'Round" Up Next at Canterbury

Canterbury Summer Theatre continues its 2022 season with "The World Goes 'Round," a tribute to the Broadway music of Kander and Ebb, on July 6-16 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

John Kander (music) and the late Fred Ebb (lyrics) were one of America's most successful songwriting teams. Known primarily for stage musicals, such as "Cabaret," "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Curtains," they also scored several films, including Martin Scorsese's "New York, New York."

The pair's most popular tunes include "Cabaret," "All That Jazz," "New York, New York," "Maybe This Time" and "Mr. Cellophane."

The revue introduces five individuals who find themselves careening through a world of love, babies and coffee. The cast is Mitchell Bauer, Kate Drury, Mai Hartwich, Massimo Manfredini and Kendall Shamus.

The production is staged by Canterbury Associate Director Stephanie Murry, who is producing artistic director for the North Dakota Shakespeare Festival



Appearing in the cast are (front row, from left) Kate Drury, Mai Hartwich and Kendall Shamus. The back row is Mitchell Bauer and Massimo Manfredini.

and theater faculty member at Ouachita Baptist University. The choreography is by Kate Drury, while Yuanhung Lin is the music director. She received her doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Mississippi, and studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in England. Scenic design is by David White, with lighting by Julie Adams. Amber Garitt provides costume design, and Danie Boyster is production stage manager.

Seating is by general admission, and patrons will be safely

social-distanced. Season ticketholders may reserve specific seating, if the box office is notified in advance. The monitoring of, and adherence to, CDC and state guidelines regarding COVID remains. Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 6:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets, as well as season discount cards, can be reserved by calling (219) 874-4269 or by email at [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org). Reduced ticket prices are available for seniors, groups and students. Visit [www.canterburytheatre.org](http://www.canterburytheatre.org) for additional details.

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## Footlight Players Awards Banquet

Footlight Players will host its 13th Annual Footlight Players Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 30, at American Legion John Franklin Miller Post, 756 U.S. 20. This year's nominees are:

- Set Construction Designer: Kevin Doler, Jim Snyder, Tony Thomas.
- Scenic Artist: Christopher Whybrew.
- Scenic Dresser: Joy Davidson.
- Lighting Designer: Jim Milcarek, Michael Thomas, Christopher West.
- Sound Designer: Declan Rice, Tony Thomas, Veronica Thomas, Katelynn West.
- Costume Designer: Debbie Bartholomew, Sharon Kienitz, Laura Meyer.
- Hair/Make-up Designer: Debbie Bartholomew, Emma Blanchard, Kathy Chase, Cassandra Readeagle.
- Newcomer: Adrianna LeDonne, Kalena Ramos, Jill Ritchie, Izzy Sebastian, Kaelie Winebrenner.
- Music/Vocal Director: the late Lee Meyer.
- Choreographer: Danielle Bilderback.
- Director: Denise Barkow, Debbie Bartholomew, Laura Meyer, Larry Piotrowski, Janice Rice.
- Featured Actress: Kathy Chase, Bobbie Lauritsen, Lori Lubs-Zylstra, Kaelie Winebrenner.
- Featured Actor: Alexander Bonner, Tom LeDonne, Knowles McMeen.
- Lead Actor: Noel Carlson, Adam Wogomon.
- Lead Actress: Danielle Bilderback, Adrianna LeDonne, Emmie Reigel.
- Nominated Productions: "Drinking Habits," "Jerry's Girls," "The Miracle on South Division Street," "The Sound of Music" and "Steel Magnolias."

The evening kicks off with cocktail hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the program at 7

### Kienitz Named Hall of Fame Honoree

Sharon Kienitz is Footlight Players' 2022 Hall of Fame Honoree, becoming a lifetime member of the organization.

Kienitz, an accomplished seamstress and quilter, has donated her work many times to the theater's fundraisers. She and her husband, Dennis, live in LaPorte and will celebrate their 49th anniversary in September. She has worked as an administrative assistant for Indiana Legal Service in South Bend for 25 years. For several years, she helped design and create costumes for Michigan City High School.



Kienitz became involved with Footlight Players in 2014 when her granddaughter, Josie, made her stage debut in "Oliver!" Since then, she has been instrumental in the costume design of more than 16 productions, five of which won her a Footlight Players Best Costume Design Award. She also shares her talent with LaPorte Little Theater Club, costuming 16 shows. She has been an active Footlight member and been the costume department manager. She also helps with bake sales, ushering or theater cleanups.

p.m. Mike McCalment is the emcee and Lara West the Golden Girl. Entertainment is by cast members of "Jerry's Girls" and "The Sound of Music." A silent auction is planned, with donations from individuals and businesses in the community.

Tickets cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Visit <http://www.footlightplayers.org> to make reservations.

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## Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff



Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff returns with more than 170 juried artists, all helping raise funds for the KAC, on Saturday-Sunday, July 9-10, at Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, Mich.

The popular event kicks off with the Krasl Art Fair Block Party from 5-10 p.m. EDT Friday, July 8, on the oval lawn at KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. The party is free to KAC members (a coupon code secures tickets). Non-members cost:

- Guests 11 and older: \$5.
- Children 3-10: \$3.
- Children 3 and younger: free with required ticket.
- Day-of tickets: Walk-up cash only (QR codes will be provided for credit card sales).

The entertainment includes Saxsquatch, The Lasso DJ and the headliner, Jordan Hamilton Trio. Food is by Larks Girl's BBQ and Lost Coast Shaved Ice food trucks. A cash bar features The Livery Beer and local wine. Proceeds support free KAC art exhibitions. Pets are prohibited. Service animals are welcome.

Times for the art fair are (all Eastern) 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 9 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 10. Ticket links are available at <https://krasl.org/art-fair/tickets/>

Daily general admission is:

- General admission (11+): \$5.
- Children 3-10: \$3.
- Children 3 and younger: free admission; a ticket is required
- Day-of tickets: walk-up cash only (QR codes will be provided for credit card sales).

Tickets are good for one day of the event, and same-day re-entry is accepted

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## Stuff I've Learned from My Husband's Cell Phone

Experts claim it takes two to three weeks to establish a new habit. Several months ago, I was forced into a new routine. One that still feels awkward.

I check my late husband's cell phone at least once a day.

After my spouse passed away in February (bladder cancer), I realized several things. First, I didn't have the correct password for his computer, which meant I couldn't log in and locate important files. But because I had his cell phone and knew the passcode, I could gain access to crucial data through emails and application programs. Over the last few months, my spouse's phone has proven to be a comfort: a treasure trove of material, and very enlightening.

When I was immersed in funeral planning, his phone provided contact information for friends and business associates. As I worked through his electronic address book, I was both surprised and relieved at how my husband recorded details. He was a guy who liked information at his fingertips and despised fishing for account numbers, passwords and pins in cumbersome file folders. So, he circumvented those frustrations by storing crucial data within the contact app of his phone. Security conscious folks are no doubt cringing at this method, but it worked well for him while he was alive. And it made transferring household accounts into my name less of an ordeal.

After the funeral was over and I'd sorted out the bulk of our accounts, I continued to foster my new habit. Every night, I connected my husband's chunky black cell phone to its charger next to mine. In the morning after I'd gone through my own emails, I reached for his phone. I scrolled through his text messages, emails and phone call log. Not because I was curious about what he'd been up to during the nearly four decades of our marriage. Not because I was dwelling in what our life had been like before his death. No, I was drawn to his phone because each time I picked it up, I learned something. Like a vital bit of information that I needed to act on now. Things like the name of the Internet provider for a rental property who needed to be paid before the ser-

### That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



vice was cut off. Or an alert from a crucial vendor about an expiring credit card tied to the account.

The daily scrutiny of my spouse's phone meant timely errors were avoided and frustrations minimized. That's not all. Often, I picked up phone messages from folks who hadn't yet received the unfortunate news of his passing. Several weeks after my husband's funeral, I retrieved a voicemail that will forever stick in my head. The caller, a longtime friend, a man who had attended my husband's funeral and reception left an agonizing message.

The language was stronger than is suitable for this post, but here's the gist of it: *"Why did you have to go and die on me? You were a heckuva good friend. Who am I going to call now to shoot the breeze with?"*

Every so often, I replay this message. Each time I listen, I feel my heartbeat in my throat. When I first picked up the voicemail, I was shocked at its intensity. I wondered if this man realized – or if he cared – that someone like me might eavesdrop. With each replay, though, I'm left with a fresh thought. I hope this man found solace by expressing his grief in this unusual way. I have come to admire this friend, his style and the notion of crafting a verbal sympathy card.

Lately, I ponder the depth of the friendship shared between my husband and his friend.

As his spouse, I knew the two were good pals. They often shared laughs, confidences and life experiences over drinks like buddies do, but the recorded message suggested a deeper bond than the one I'd witnessed. In reflecting on this, I think that often we do not know, or cannot know, how deeply others value our friendship. Perhaps, too, when a special person is no longer present in our lives, we realize the abundant void their loss created.

Doubtful I will surrender my new habit anytime soon. Mining my husband's phone may have started off as a necessity, but its importance continues. Besides educating me about what I need to know about financial matters, I'm privy to a different aspect of my husband's legacy. He was a man of depth and character. The texts, emails and voicemails I retrieve from his cell remind me of this every day. It provides great comfort.

I have come to view my husband's cell phone as more than an electronic device or a necessary tool. It's tangible proof of a life well lived. So, for the time being, I plan to keep it charged up and close by.

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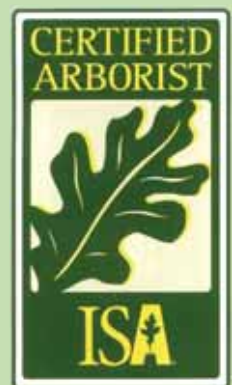
## Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

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

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# Kidding Around

It was all smiles and family fun as the annual Kiddie Parade headed along Franklin Street on Saturday, June 25. *Beacher* photographer James Conlin was there to capture as many images as possible for us.





## “Rise” is an Inspiring Disney Movie Without the Disney Ick

by Andrew Tallackson



“Rise” charts the incredible true story of Nigerian-Greek brothers who become NBA stars.

“Rise” is proof the Disney feel-good family flick is coming of age. It’s growing up.

When Disney pats itself on the back for culling a project from fact, it’s a red flag. Disney movies avoid facts like plague so what remains is easily digestible uplift. A spoonful of box-office sugar.

I don’t doubt that “Rise,” the story of Nigerian-Greek brothers who became NBA stars, is a condensed version of the truth. But this is a Disney sports movie with grit. A timely spin on the immigrant saga. When the big moments arrive, you are moved.

Streaming on Disney+, “Rise” takes a largely unsentimental look at Charles and Veronica Antetokounmpo (Dayo Okeniyi and Yetide Badaki), who flee Nigeria in 1990, leaving newborn son Francis behind because they fear he won’t survive the trip. That journey, which slips through Turkey before arriving in Greece, is staged by Nigerian director Akin Omotoso as a desperate journey. We do not see the brutality exacted by their pursuers, but rarely do we get a moment’s rest. Hiding in bushes. Slipping down dark alleys. Police dragging screaming families into the street.

The Antetokounmpos do make it to Greece, where “Rise” depicts them in a country that does not want them. Every attempt to follow proper channels, to become naturalized citizens, is thrown back in their faces, much of it fueled by racism.

The family’s meager existence is not quite slum life, but simple needs and wants are scant. And when the eldest sons, Thanasis and Giannis, forego soccer for basketball, I braced for the crusty old sports-movie trope that the kids are naturals. That, having never played the sport, they possess some supernatural ability to excel in it.

They don’t.



### “Rise”

*Running time: 113 minutes. Disney+. Rated PG for thematic elements and brief language.*

In fact, they stink. But here is where Omotoso, as director, and screenwriter Arash Amel draw a fresh parallel of excelling in sports as symbolizing the American dream. Everything does not come easily to Thanasis and Giannis. They have to work for it. Hard. We also witness the profound influence a loving mother and father can have on their children. Badaki, in particular, is affecting. The actress has a fierce look in her eyes. This is also one of the rare sports movies where faith is depicted without cynicism. Prayer is the backbone of the family.

By dramatizing this family’s journey as one of constant heartache, when the opportunity comes for Giannis to head to America, poised to be drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks, “Rise” has put this family through the wringer to where we’re ready for a bit of good fortune.

I don’t always agree with fact-based films that show the real people at the end. Yes, we are curious as to what they look like, but that’s what the Internet is for. If the movie has done its job, made us believe in what it depicts, then that should be enough. But “Rise” does something interesting. We see the real Giannis reaching a career pinnacle right after his father passed away in 2017. With the movie having done such an expert job, seeing the real Giannis mourn and honor his father tears you apart. Moves you in ways you don’t see coming.

There is little about “Rise” that I would change. It’s darn near perfect.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)



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## “Good Luck to You, Leo Grande” Reveals Emma Thompson at Her Best

by Andrew Tallackson



Nancy Stokes (Emma Thompson) finds herself nervous in the presence of Leo Grande (Daryl McCormack) in “Good Luck to You, Leo Grande.”

“Good Luck to You, Leo Grande” could have been sleaze. Instead, it’s tart, sweet and daring. It asks, would you watch a two-person character study in which Emma Thompson prattles on for 97 minutes?

The answer: With Thompson delivering a career best, absolutely, yes. For a movie that’s all talk, punctuated by more than its share of frank, awkward dialogue, director Sophie Hyde and writer Katy Brand have created a movie that flips our nip-tuck mentality the bird by championing an aging woman’s body. That there is no shame in being comfortable in your own skin.

Now streaming on Hulu, the British dramedy is set almost entirely in one posh hotel room, and over the course of a few weeks in which retired parochial school teacher Nancy Stokes (Thompson) schedules “appointments” with a much-younger sex worker, Leo Grande (Daryl McCormack). To Nancy, and to we, the viewer, he seems too intellectual, rather wholesome in fact, to be a male prostitute. But what he doesn’t anticipate, what he doesn’t see coming, is the emotional roller coaster that is Nancy Stokes.

Thompson has made a career out of playing women who overthink everything. With Nancy, and through Thompson’s beautiful performance, we bear witness to an unfulfilled life. A very *British* life. Constricted by social expectations. She’s done everything expected of her, without satisfying her own wants or needs. Her deceased husband was a bore, her adult children are contrasting examples in disappointment. The way Nancy nervously rambles to avoid the very intimacy she’s paid for, we realize this woman is a study in regret. It’s heartbreaking,

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Good Luck to You, Leo Grande”

Running time: 97 minutes. Hulu. Rated R for sexual content, graphic nudity and some language.

and heartbreakingly funny. Thompson has never been this free to take a character wherever she likes.

The movie feels like a stage play, but it never feels stagey because with each encounter, subtle changes in Nancy suggest Leo is what she needs to thaw. Her physical appearance tidies up. She seems more invigorated, less inhibited. And Leo, played with enormous good cheer by McCormack, is good at suggesting he’s equally damaged. These two have more in common than they think.

Near the end of “Good Luck to You, Leo Grande,” the exchanges shift to the hotel’s dining area where a laugh-out-loud exchange occurs between Nancy, Leo and a waitress (Isabella Laughland) who happens to be one of Nancy’s former disgruntled students. The scene is not designed as a cheap laugh, but another clue to Nancy’s rigid past. What ensues is the film’s raciest passage, but something remarkable happens. Thompson, in the final shot, is seen in the nude. Staring at herself in the mirror. A risky move in an industry that tsk tsks actresses who *aren’t* anorexic waifs. But for Thompson, it is liberating. A triumphant means of saying, here I am. All my imperfections. And I’m fine with it.

The smile on Thompson’s face is pure joy.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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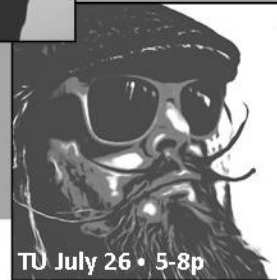
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All SBHA meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Beachwalk's Clubhouse (Stop 7)

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## Honoring Honorary Aunts and Uncles

My parents were wed in suburban Philadelphia on Sept. 2, 1949, but moved to Chicago in time to hatch me on May 7, 1950.

They also hatched my brother and sister in the Windy City, and we three were educated by the Chicago Public Schools. Bona-fide Chicago kids, through and through. We did visit our blood relations every summer — by plane, train and automobile — but that was it. We were basically marooned in Chi-town, with no local relatives.

The culture of the 1950s fixed all of that by assigning us honorary aunts and uncles and, I suppose, honorary cousins. At least by extension. (Fact was, many of them were as much older brothers and sisters to us as cousins, and I communicate regularly with one of them. You will meet Boyd “Renny” Bartlett shortly.)

Here’s how it worked:

Say there were some people in our apartment building in South Shore, the fair Fairhaven, who my parents really liked and hung out with. We soon had a family full of (honorary) Chicago relatives. We grew up calling people who had no blood relationship to us “Aunt So-and-so” and “Uncle Same-old.” And those good people truly functioned in our lives as one would expect true aunts and uncles to do.

Two cases in point:

1. Aunt Lu and Uncle Tom Bartlett. We were bound to the Bartletts by the fact that Tom Bartlett was my father’s boss at General Refractories Co. My father, James S. McKelvy, sold “fire bricks” to the many steel mills that then dotted the southern rim of Lake Michigan.

We were firm-bound in the brotherhood of business to the Bartletts and their three children: Tom “T,” the aforementioned Boyd “Renny” and Shelley.

T and Renny were more like brothers than cousins, just as Shelley was a wise and witty younger sister.

I spent lots and lots of time at the Bartlett home and yard, which were a quick walk or bike ride from our house in Beverly. In fact, my brother and I were playing football on the Bartlett back 40 when Aunt Lu appeared on the back porch and called, “You boys have a baby sister!!”

That was Sunday, Oct. 13, 1957, and I remember it as I remember what I had for breakfast this morning — oatmeal with blueberries, of course.

### Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



So Lu Bartlett was being there that seminal day in McKelvy history by being Aunt Lu to us. And Aunt Lu upped the auntie/ante by fetting us with fresh-baked cookies and apple cider. At least that’s the way I remember the day the two McKelvy children became the three McKelvy children. As in: WE ARE THE MCKELVY CHILDREN!!!

Thank you, Aunt Lu, and thank you Aunt Lu and

Uncle Tom for taking me to visit my blood relatives in suburban Philadelphia at the tail end of summer 1959. As I fondly recall, you took me and T, Renny and Shelley in your classic ’57 Chevy, and you took care to deliver me safely, and on time, to my mother’s sister, Aunt Molly, her husband, Uncle Jack, and my cousins, Anne and John.

That’s because Uncle Tom served in the U.S. Navy as a navigator on a PBM rescue plane in the Philippines. He and his crew rescued downed pilots who must have been mighty grateful to see that big old flying boat appear out of nowhere. And Aunt Lu, whom he met in Florida during training, did her World War II service teaching pilots to fly by their gauges. So you can imagine how well orga-

nized and executed that 1959 road trip was.

For starters, they packed all the luggage (they were going on to Maine) in the trunk and in front of the back seats. They effectively created a platform for the four of us young ‘uns to sprawl out, read comic books and eat all the nutritious snacks Aunt Lu carefully packaged for us. (I distinctly remember apple slices and carrot sticks). She spread out some blankets over the luggage for our added comfort, and the only stops were to refuel that hard-charging ’57 Chevy, and to allow Uncle Tom, Aunt Lu and Shelley to use the restrooms. As for we three boys, why, Aunt Lu would thoughtfully pass back an empty milk bottle as we passed through the tunnels on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and say, “You boys know what to do.”



The best honorary aunt and uncle a boy in the 1950s could have: Lu and Tom Bartlett.

And we did.

When we reached the home of my Hope kinfolk in Malvern, Pa., Aunt Lu and Uncle Tom dutifully left me in the care of Aunt Molly and Uncle Jack. My blood cousins, Anne and John, were quite curious as to why I would refer to the senior Bartletts as Aunt Lu and Uncle Tom.

"Well," I said, "you guys are all the way over here in Pennsylvania, and I'm lucky if I get to see you once a year. But I can hop on my bike and be at the Bartletts in 10 minutes, or less. Plus, they have this amazing ice-skating rink in their backyard every winter. Complete with real goals and lines in the ice. So that's why I call them Aunt Lu and Uncle Tom."

Point taken.

And the next point is to honor another pair who served as honorary aunt and uncle:

2. Aunt Pudah and Uncle Jim Peebles. Aunt Pudah's given name was Elizabeth, but she picked up the "Pudah" moniker as a child. It stuck so firmly, we had to think really hard to remember her real name.

We met the Peebles soon after we moved from South Shore to Beverly, in time for my sixth birthday on May 7, 1956. Even though their son, Jim, and daughter, Linnie, were older, we bonded immediately. It wasn't long before we were sitting with Aunt Pudah on her screened front porch listening to her listen to the birds. She knew them all, fed them and simply marveled at the natural wonder of them. (Gee, I wonder where I got my lifelong love of birds and birding?)

Aunt Pudah often took us to the Little Red Schoolhouse out in the Palos portion of the Cook County Forest Preserves for field studies of birds, plants and all God's creatures here below.

As for Uncle Jim, he taught us everything we needed to know about the Chicago White Sox, the Chicago Bears and sports in general. He was a commercial artist who shared his talents with us, par-

ticularly when my partner, Wally Klein, and I were struggling to draw an accurate illustration of the human circulatory system for the Barnard Science Fair. Sure, I had help, but I had help from Uncle Jim who so clearly wanted us to succeed. And we did, thanks to him.

And thanks to you, Uncle Jim, for taking my brother and me to a White Sox game the night before the first day of school, in the late 1950s. Uncle Jim knew we needed a pick-me-up before the letdown of back-to-school time, and he sure provided it.

And then some.

Hey, we're talkin' old Comiskey Park at 35th and Shields here. For a night game, no less. Back in the days of ace hurler Billy Pierce and that amazing left arm. Not to mention that great double-play combination of Aparicio-to-Fox-to-Kluszewski.

Under the lights with peanuts, popcorn and whatever we wanted from the concession stand.

There were many others, of course, such as Aunt Peggy and Uncle Tom Hess, who gave me a used clarinet to launch me on my licorice-stick path. And Aunt Max(ine) and Uncle Red Wells who took me college shopping when I was a sophomore at Morgan Park.

I thank them all. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Why? Because life without honorary aunts and uncles would have been way too sour for my sweet taste.



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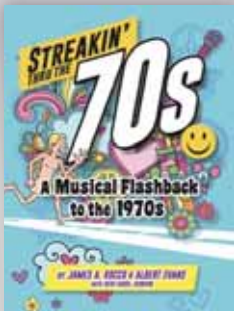
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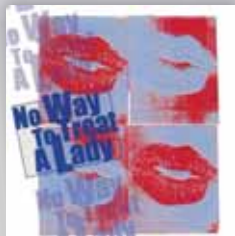
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## Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 21st season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

The program is by Kent Jager, organist at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Oskaloosa, Iowa. He also is retired as director of music at Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Parish in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood. Prior to Queen of Angels, he was the assistant organist at Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, and First Presbyterian, Evanston, Ill. He completed his graduate studies in church music at Northwestern University, Evanston, and has an undergraduate degree in organ from Central College, Pella, Iowa.



Jager

Jager's program includes the "Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major ("St. Anne")," which is part of the "Clavier-Übung III, BWV 552" by J.S. Bach.

The church is air-conditioned. Call (219) 608-5358 for more details about the concert series.

## Dunes Summer Theatre Gala

Dunes Arts Foundation will hold its Dunes Summer Theatre Gala from 6-9 p.m. Friday, July 15, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Tickets, which cost \$125, include appetizers, a complimentary drink and ticket to the opening night of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing." The festivities kick off in a tent next to the theater. Guests can mingle and purchase \$25 raffle tickets for the chance to win an array of customized theater, golf, shopping, art and other experiences.

At 7 p.m., guests attend the performance of "A Grand Night for Singing." At 8:30 p.m., they return to the tent for desserts, a cash bar and an announcement of raffle winners. Dunes Artist Director Steve Scott will host the after party.

The Dunes production of "A Grand Night for Singing" runs July 15-31 and features 30 songs from hit musicals, including "Oklahoma!," "Carousel," "The Sound of Music," "South Pacific" and "The King and I." Lauren Katz is the director, with music direction by Andrew Flasch.

The gala is DAF's premier fund-raiser. Corporate sponsorships are welcome. Information on the event, sponsorships and ticket purchases are available at [www.dunesarts.org](http://www.dunesarts.org) or email [dunestheatre@gmail.com](mailto:dunestheatre@gmail.com)

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## Michiana Lions Club

The latest addition to Michiana Lions Club of Michigan City's Little Free Libraries is at the entrance to Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square.

The club has opened five such sites in Michigan City. The bright blue-and-yellow boxes also can be found at Sand Castle Shelter-Children, Gardena Park, Imagination Station and Head Start at Niemann Elementary School. Most are registered at [www.Littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.Littlefreelibrary.org)

Little Free Libraries are book exchanges. The concept is simple: take a book, read it, then return it. Many of the club's boxes are in underserved areas, where some parents are unable to afford books.

The club started its first registered Little Free Library in July 2018. Lions Tim Fizer and Brian Pagels designed, painted and built the structure, having visited multiple Little Free Library locations to decide on a design. Fizer created the design in his woodshop. Sherwin-Williams manager Tim Brown donated paint and supplies.

Email Jamie Miller at [jmiller@ufic.net](mailto:jmiller@ufic.net) if interested in making book donations or in joining the club.



## Special Thanks

June 4 was the 10th Annual St. Stanislaus/Trail Creek 5K Run/Walk held in cooperation with The Town of Trail Creek at Nelson Park.

Peyton Grizzard, Valparaiso, won the race with a time of 19:30. Female winner Natalie Krause, also of Valparaiso, placed fourth overall, with a time of 20:03.8.

We want to thank The Town of Trail Creek, President Jennifer Heath, council members and treasurer Joshleen Denham for their support and cooperation, and Town Marshal Stephen Dick, Rob from the Trail Creek Street Department and LaPorte County EMS. We want to thank all of our sponsors, the race participants and many volunteers. This fundraiser was for the Parish Capitol Campaign for needed church repairs.

Special thanks to our sponsors: St. Andrews Products; Robert Tyllisz Appliance for Robert's donation of the beautiful plaque awards he handcrafted and other additional support; Members Advantage Credit Union; Kim and Mike Marks; Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel; General Insurance Services; Castle Ford/Lincoln; Snyder & Associates; Horizon Bank; Front Door Real Estate; Larry Dalton Heating & Cooling; St. Joseph Young Men's Society; and Tom Appel Attorney at Law.

We also want to thank the many volunteers, including photographers Paul Kemiell and Jill Wozniak. We could not have held this event without all of their help. We also want to thank St. Luke Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their lot for parking, *The Beacher Weekly Newspaper* and *The LaPorte County Herald-Dispatch*.

Plans are in the works for a race in 2022, with a new race director.

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Committee Member  
**Kathi Hale**  
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## Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



North Course  
Monday League "Early Birdies"  
June 27, 2022  
Event: Animal Golf Game + 50/50

### A Flight

Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Event: Jane Shuger.

### B Flight

Low Gross: Sandra Provan, Linda Wabshall.  
Low Net: Sandra Provan.  
Low Putts: Florence Stokfisz.  
Event: Carol Tylisz.

### C Flight

Low Gross: Laurie Wink.  
Low Net: Laurie Wink.  
Low Putts: Pam Betcher, Bev Nichols.  
Event: Bev Szybala, Alice Wozniak.



50/50: Jane Spang.

## LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



June 23, 2022  
Event: Regular Golf

### A FLIGHT

Low Net — Linda Wilson.  
Low Putts — Linda Wilson.

### B FLIGHT

Low Net — Joan Carey.  
Low Putts — Dottie Healy, Mary O'Neil.

### C FLIGHT

Low Net — Catherine Kelly.  
Low Putts — Catherine Kelly.  
Sunken Approaches — Barb Hall (8).

### D FLIGHT

Low Net — Kate Flores.  
Low Putts — Rosann Conroy.



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## Michigan City Public Library

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

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

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

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Summer Reading Weekly Events: Family Movie & Craft at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 7.** The screening is "The Little Mermaid," which is Rated G.
- **MCPL Podcast Episode Release at 9 a.m. Friday, July 8.** "Discussions with Miss Dana" includes upcoming books and librarian interviews. Listen on Buzzsprout or through [www.mclib.org/podcast](http://www.mclib.org/podcast).
- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays in July.** 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.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in July.** Youth ages 6-17 can create

with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 13.** Youth ages 9-17 get an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No prior experience is necessary. Participants get a free 3-D print of their creations (printing time is limited to five hours per participant). Registration is required. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **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/](http://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.



*Two new services are available:*

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



*Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.*

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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays in July.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, July 7-21.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. The program is limited to 20 participants. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
- **Mount Baldy Sunset Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays in July.** Experience sunset views of Lake Michigan and Chicago from during the ranger-led tour. Passes are required. Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays in July.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger from 8-9 a.m. Saturdays in July at Central Avenue Beach.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll along the beach and learn about the origins of the Great

Lakes and Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Central Avenue Beach parking lot. Passes are required.

- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in July.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **"Is it a 'Birdie' or an 'Eagle'?" from 7-9 a.m. Sundays, July 10-24, at Dunewood Campground off Golf Wood Road, Beverly Shores.** Join a ranger to walk through a relatively unexplored area of the park. Birders of all levels are welcome. Take binoculars or borrow a pair from the park. Passes are required.
- **Folk Music at the Farm with Save the Tunes from 5-6 p.m. Sundays, July 10-24, at Chellberg Farm.** Local musicians from Save the Tunes will perform from the farmhouse porch. Take a blanket or folding chair. Passes are required.
- **Leave No Trace Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 10.** Join a ranger for a hike on the Dune Ridge Trail that includes views of the Great Marsh. Guests also learn how to minimize human impacts in the parks through seven Leave No Trace principles. Passes are required. Meet at the parking lot north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road (County Road 300 East), Beverly Shores.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 8-9 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](https://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.



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

## Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

- **Full Moon Hike from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13.** Meet at the Nature Center for a short presentation about the moon, followed by a hike to Lake Michigan and back.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs or for more information.



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*The portrait of Ann Dobie was painted by Michigan City artist Connie Kassal.*

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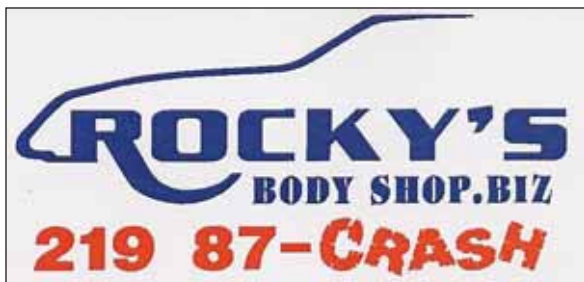
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## LaPorte County Public Library

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

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking 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:*

- **Girls Who Code Club (Grades 5-8) from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, July 7, in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.** Explore coding and technology, and build leadership skills.
- **Maker Cart Pop Up from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 12, at the Coolspring Branch.** Explore Dash Robots, Ozobot, Sphero and other options, with help available from an expert. Youth also can stop by anytime to check out the Maker Cart.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Alka Joshi from 8-9 p.m. Thursday, July 7.** Registration is required at [libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18033](http://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18033)
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, July 8.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Teen Anime Club from 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, July 11, at the main library.** Meet other teen anime fans through the club. Register through the website.
- **Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Refreshments will not be served, but guests can 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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.*

Have a story idea? Email [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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## "For the Birds" Exhibit

"For the Birds," a new exhibit by Laurel Izard, debuts from 5-7 p.m. Friday, July 8, with a drumming circle to follow, at The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The exhibit taps into Izard's concerns about the plight of endangered and threatened birds. She uses vintage quilttops because she finds the old fabrics and patterns "endlessly varied and beautiful," according to a press release. Recently, she began creating portraits of endangered birds in oils on clay board. Since it takes six weeks or more to complete a hand-stitched quilt, the oils allow her to make portraits of more endangered birds.

Izard's husband, Edwin Shelton, will lead a drumming circle from 7-8 p.m. He has an MFA in sculpture, teaches and has an studio in Michigan City.

Visit [www.bsdepot.com](http://www.bsdepot.com) for more details.



Izard

## Bridgman Public Library

Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library's latest Zoom program, "Summer Salads Demonstration" by culinary instructor Mary Spencer, is at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, July 12.

Spencer owns Taste: A Cook's Place, a cooking school in Northville, Mich. For the Zoom program, she will demonstrate how to make two summer salads: Oven Fried Chicken Salad with Buttermilk Ranch Dressing and Salmon Niçoise Salad with Black Olive Vinaigrette. Both recipes will be posted to the library's website after the program.

Spencer will lead future Zoom cooking demonstrations this fall: one on Instant Pot appetizers, the other on holiday desserts.

The Zoom link is available at [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com)

Also, The Friends of the BPL Annual Used Book Sale is Friday-Saturday, July 8-9, in the library community room. All proceeds support the library.

Bridgman Public Library is located at 4460 Lake St. Call (269) 465-3663 for more details.

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### In the Area

**July 6-16** — Canterbury Summer Theatre, "The World Goes 'Round," Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed.-Thur., 7:30 p.m. Fri., 6:30 p.m. Sat. Tickets: (219) 874-4269, [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org). Info: [www.canterburytheatre.org](http://www.canterburytheatre.org)

**July 7** — Summer Reading Weekly Events: Family Movie & Craft, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Screening: "The Little Mermaid." Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

**July 7** — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Liberty Bible Church/7 p.m.; preconcert: David Thornberry/6 p.m. **July 6:** LaPorte City Band/7 p.m. Info: [contact@artsintheparklaporte.com](mailto:contact@artsintheparklaporte.com)

**July 7** — Virtual Author Talk (Alka Joshi), 8-9 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18033](http://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18033)

**July 7-8** — Summer at Friendship Gardens: Freddy Jones Band, 7-9 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: <https://friendshipbotanicgardens.org>

**July 7, 12** — Maker Cart Pop Up, 4-5 p.m., Cool-spring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 8** — MCPL Podcast Episode Release, 9 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Link: Buzzsprout, [www.mclib.org/podcast](http://www.mclib.org/podcast)

**July 8** — Opening reception, "For the Birds," 5-7 p.m., The Depot Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.com](http://www.bsdepot.com)

**July 9-16** — 176th Annual LaPorte County Fair, LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2. Schedule: <https://lpfair.com>

**July 11** — Teen Anime Club, 4:30-6 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 12** — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 13** — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Kent Jager, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

**July 13** — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4 p.m.,

through Michigan City Public Library. Registration: (219) 873-3045

**Through Oct. 21** — "moniquemeloche presents...", Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events](http://www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events)

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

**Mondays in July** — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

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

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

### In the Region

**July 6** — "Out of the Box Open Mic" with Matt Lenny, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Audience: \$5. Performer registration: <https://mattlenny.com/open-mic>

**July 7** — The Common Concert Series, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Buchanan, Mich. Entertainment: Resurrection Blues. Info: The Common - Buchanan, MI on Facebook.

**July 7** — Marcia Ball, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$30, reserved/\$55. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 8** — Heartache Tonight: A Tribute to the Eagles, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$40, reserved/\$65. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 8-9** — The Friends of the Bridgman Public Library Annual Used Book Sale, library community room, 4460 Lake St. Info: (269) 465-3663.

**July 8-10** — Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff. Block Party: 5-10 p.m. EDT July 8, KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Fair (all times Eastern): 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 9/10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 10. Ticket links: <https://krasl.org/art-fair/tickets/>

**July 9** — Mike Dawes with Trevor Gordon Hall, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$20, reserved/\$45. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 10** — Leave No Trace Hike, 5-6:30 p.m., parking lot north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road (County Road 300 East), Beverly Shores. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 12** — Bridgman (Mich.) Public Library Zoom program, "Summer Salads Demonstration," 6 p.m. EDT. Zoom link: [www.bridgmanlibrary.com](http://www.bridgmanlibrary.com)

**July 13** — Full Moon Hike, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 13** — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 8-9 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 13** — Kaitlin Rose & The Band of Thorns, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$15, reserved/\$40. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Through July 28** — “Transition,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. **Artist reception:** noon-2 p.m. July 9. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org)

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

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

**Thursdays in July** — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road parking lot between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Thursdays (July 7-21)** — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 6-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Limit 20 participants. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

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

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

**Saturdays in July** — Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger, 8-9 a.m., Central Avenue Beach. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

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

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

**Sundays (July 10-24)** — “Is it a ‘Birdie’ or an ‘Eagle’?”, 7-9 a.m., Dunewood Campground off Golf Wood Road, Beverly Shores. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Sundays (July 10-24)** — Folk Music at the Farm with Save the Tunes, 5-6 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road, U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing:* “Top Gun: Maverick.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. July 7, 2:45 p.m. July 8-9, 9:15 p.m. July 9, 2:45 p.m. July 10, 6 p.m. July 11. *Also:* The Phantom of the Open.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 & 9 p.m. July 8, 6 p.m. July 9-10, 2:45 p.m. July 11. *Also:* Paintings by Annie Hickman through late August. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

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**The Island** by Adrian McKintey (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 370 pages.)

Compulsive reading. That's what this book is all about. It's a nail-biting story of greed and revenge played out against an unforgiving landscape. Ever fancy a trip "down under"? You may think twice after reading this thriller.

Tom, 44, lost his wife to a fall in the home, deemed an accident. One year later, he marries 24-year-old Heather. She now is step-mother to Olivia, 14, and Owen, 12. They hate her. She's tried her best, but the children miss their mother too much to accept this interloper.

Tom is an orthopedic surgeon in Seattle. He uses an invitation to be the keynote speaker at a medical conference in Australia as a chance for a family vacation in-between his meetings. Maybe this time is what his kids need to get to know Heather. Great idea? Or a great disaster?

The first day in Australia, they hire a car and drive along the coast, stopping at a roadside stand for refreshments. They discover there's a ferry to a private island nearby and talk the

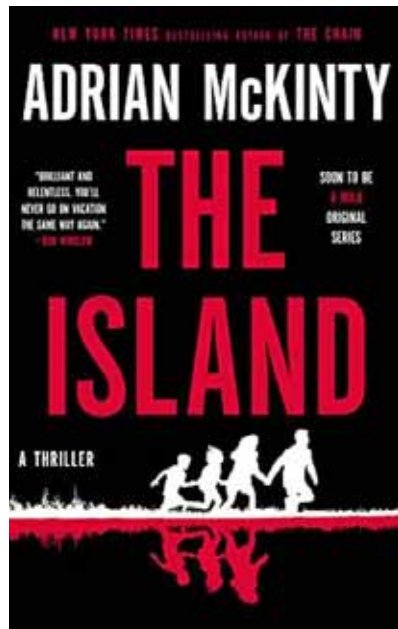
men into letting them go so the kids can see some koalas and maybe some kangaroos.

One of the men is eager to take the American's money, but the other tries to discourage them from going. Money and the kids' whining win out...

It doesn't turn out the way the kids thought it would — no koalas to be seen — and soon, an argument ensues. Tom takes a wrong road and is driving too fast. He doesn't see the woman on the bike flying across the road until the sickening thud...

The young woman is dead. What to do? They try to hide the body and make it off the island before anyone notices she's missing. Of course, they will notify the police on the mainland. Tell that to the two men who see them at the side of the road...

The family is herded to a house where explanation and profuse apologies by Tom don't move the leader of the island families: a callous, large and mean woman they call Ma O'Neill. However, a deal for \$500K is finally struck — grief can be so quickly assuaged — but Danny, fiancé of the deceased, shows up, announces he doesn't want their money. He wants revenge on Tom and Olivia to take the



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



place of the dead woman. Wait...wha?

Yes, this island seems to be a country unto itself, ruled by Ma and her extended family. They're the old "eye for an eye" philosophy, unless a large amount of money is on the table, of course. But Danny decides otherwise, suddenly goes berserk, pulls a knife and stabs Tom.

Now, it gets really ugly...

The kids and Heather are tied up in an outbuilding and Tom's body is hauled away. You won't need a dictionary to understand the full meaning of cruelty and vengeance in what follows next...

Heather, Olivia and Owen finally manage a daring escape during the night. Now begins a race to get to the coast and somehow on the ferry boat and back to the mainland. But wait...Heather makes a decision that will change all their lives...

She soon tires of running and hiding from Ma's clan. Water and food are hard to find, and she realizes she wants revenge on these people. I found myself tiptoeing behind Heather trying to anticipate her next move...well-calculated moves that belie her normally quiet demeanor.

No matter what the kids think of her, Heather now becomes the mama bear protecting her family, seeing they have good hiding places and at least water to drink while quietly planning her next surprise for the O'Neill clan.

Swimming to the mainland might have been an option, but the water is full of sharks. Trying to commander the ferry boat is their only chance of escape from the island. But first:

You know that phrase "hell hath no fury...?" If they can't get off the island, Heather will make the clan suffer. Trust me, they won't know what hit them. Ingenious what she comes up with...

Olivia and Owen begin to see Heather in a different light as she takes charge. They see a changed stepmother: not the quiet Heather, but a more Viking-style woman, fearless and adept at hiding and wrecking havoc on Ma's family. The kids now listen to her, and a bond begins to form.

Did I mention the elderly German couple also on the ferry with Tom and Heather and the kids? Wonder what happened to them...

**Caution:** Violence, gunplay and cruelty may be too much for the more sensitive.

This is an exciting, imaginative summer read. I was exhausted by the end. Just remember to lather on the sunscreen because you'll be so into this story, you're liable to get sunburn!

And look for it soon as a Hulu original series. But please — read the book first!

Till next time, happy reading!



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## Top Producer & Most Transactions for May

"Jenn was a dream to work with. It took us 3 years to find our home that my husband and I agreed on and in the end, in a hot market, Jenn nailed it. She was on top of the game and made sure we got offers in fast and negotiated for things we wanted. Once we found our home Jenn processed everything smoothly, she was there with us every step of the way and answered our hundreds of questions! Can't say enough great things about our experience with MTM and Jenn Bauer!!"

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