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About the Cover

Special thanks to artist Bill Cavalier
for the lovely image he created for our
Independence Day edition.

by Connie Kuzydym



Kent Arnsbarger is photographed with his steel pan by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski.

The first notes Kent Arnsbarger plays on his steel pan stir a reaction deep within one's soul. The melodious tune produces that island vibe: blue skies, sun, beach, good times.

A LaPorte resident, Kent grew up in North Liberty, Ind. From an early age, he was exposed to the music scene. His dad was a drummer and recording engineer. At John Glenn High School, he envisioned doing something with music, but was stuck on the "what."

A 3-day drum and bugle audition camp provided eye-opening possibilities he never knew existed.

He pursued a music education degree from Indiana University South Bend, all the while doing a menagerie of things related to music. Remember the Hillybilly Winos? He was the drummer. He also played in a rock band for 10 years with Steve Foreman, wrote the fall and winter percussion programs for several schools and taught percussion.

As the percussion technician and writer for John Glenn High School marching band in Walkerton during the early '90s, he was part of its trip to Walt Disney World. Performing outside the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction was J.P. & the Silver Stars, a

Caribbean-style pan band. Standing in line, listening to the pans' unique sound, the music embraced him. Looking around, Kent saw people were truly enjoying themselves. For him, that was even more impressive.

"They were loving it, dancing it and grooving to it a lot," Kent said.



Kent Arnsbarger is photographed in his home playing his steel pan.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

Ultimately, it was this unfamiliar, unusual instrument that gave new direction to his life.

Shortly after the Disney trip, he experienced another steel pan group where one individual played the pan, the other the electric marimba. The realization struck: He was looking at a small percussion section. An ensemble. That light bulb moment turned on the possibilities of what he could do with such an instrument.

"I always felt percussion is a stand-alone section," Kent said. "We can survive on our own. We don't need winds, strings, we don't need any of that stuff...we are the melody, we are the rhythm we are the harmony, we are everything."

He was hooked. He went from not knowing what path to take, to the pan becoming his livelihood. It called. He listened.

Upon setting up his first pan, with two sticks in hand, he looked at the shiny, circular, concave instrument with indentations and thought, now what do I do? There were no lessons to take, no YouTube videos for help. He simply had the book he bought. With a dose of hearty laughter, he recalls opening the book.

"It said play all the notes on the right side with the right hand, all the notes on the left side with left hand. Then it just gave me notes," he said. "Well, I already had notes. I have notes everywhere. I could take flute music and play it on this, there's no difference. It's just a C instrument. It's irrelevant what you're playing it on. The book didn't say anything else."

Fortunately, the manufacturer of the handmade pan had in fine print identified the notes. Straight away, Kent erased the notes, put his brain to work and by repetition and memorization became famil-

Continued on Page 4



UPCOMING SHOWS

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SAT 7/9 8 P.M. ET



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Into the Groove

Continued from Page 3

iar with his instrument. He mastered how hard to hit each note so as not to distort the sound or knock it out of tune. Being suspended, the pan sways slightly when struck. He learned stopping that movement by placing the pan against you or hanging something on it mutes the sound.

After hearing the pan and marimba duo, he began thinking outside the box. Taking a step back to the 1950s, he decided to mimic Music Minus One. According to Wikipedia, it recorded and produced vinyl recordings meant to be accompanied by the listener on whichever instrument is excluded from the recording.

Applying that concept to today's technology, Kent arranged and recorded all of his backing tracks for the pan. Using various percussion instruments, including the vibraphone, Afro-Cuban instruments (bongos, congas, shakers), drum sets, an electric drum and the marimba, which gives him numerous instruments such as trumpet, guitar and flute. He has laid tracks to more than 100 songs he regularly plays. Although he writes some original music, he mostly arranges.

"Arranging, I feel, is you're still composing things. You're having to manipulate it. You're making things better or more suited for what you're doing. You're taking the basis of a song and just morphing it into your thing," he said.

Kent describes the sound as melodic, giving you a sense of arriving at different places. It has two catches: the melody of the song and the groove of the drumbeat. Combined, these elements pull in the listener.

The music from a pan is typically associated with

warm weather and a memory, be it a vacation, honeymoon, cruise, being on an island.

"It's always the same story," Kent said. "It's universal that this music is happy. It's uplifting. It's the only type of music that I have ever played that I can play for anyone, anytime, anywhere, and it works."

He enjoys seeing people having a similar first-time reaction of awe, as he did, in hearing the pan. What causes this reaction?

"I think a lot of it is the uniqueness of the instrument that you don't hear every day," Kent said. "It's upbeat. It's got a good beat that you can dance to it. I don't put vocals...I'm playing it as a melody...It's one of those really unique sounds that transports you to a happy place."

It definitely lifts the spirit. In his home studio, surrounded by the shining handcrafted steel pans, an electric marimba and other tools of his trade, we spent the afternoon talking and laughing. Kent mirrors his instrument: positive, upbeat, passionate, easygoing, connecting easily with those around him.

After 18 years as a panist, Kent feels he has found the right work/life balance. The path he chose afforded him the opportunity to be a more hands-on father: going into school three days a week and attending his children's field trips.

He also is a cycling enthusiast. Weather permitting, he cycles daily, averaging between 100-150 miles per week. During inclement weather, he rides inside. He does two organized rides a year: The Tour de LaPorte, where he is the cycling chairman, and the Apple Cider Century in Three Oaks, Mich. His humor intact, a twinkle in his eye, he states, "My other hobby is working around the house, which is endless and never stops."

His days definitely are never dull. Since the start of this endeavor, he has

More about the Pan

The pan has the distinction of being the only major instrument invented in the 20th century.

The acoustic tuned percussion instrument originated in Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. In August 1992, the steel pan became the region's official national instrument. It is credited with inventing, developing, refining and maturing the steelpan.

Handcrafted from recycled steel drums, the pan evolved from the musical drumming practices of Trinidad's African descendants. After their emancipation, their celebrations became louder and disturbances occurred. The British colonial government tried banning the sticks and drums used. Another ban on bamboo sticks gave rise to the steel pan.

In the late 1930s, musicians used the left behind 55-gallon drums around the refineries on Trinidad and Tobago. The credit for inventing steel pans goes to Ellie Mannette. Repurposing a portion of the barrel and lid, the metal was heated to a high temperature. The original pan lid was convex and produced 12 notes of the chromatic scale. The position and size of the dent creates the sound of the note. The larger the area, the lower the note.

During World War II, the musicians worked on improving the pan's sound quality. The lid was formed into a concave shape, allowing more indentations to be hammered on the surface. This equated to more notes. Although past pans are different than today's, the notes and style of play are similar.

Steel pans come in different octaves. The lower the note, the more surface it requires. Today's pans are not solely made from oil drums, so they are becoming bigger. This change adds more metal and weight to the pan, not more notes.

Amazing how a shiny repurposed piece of metal with accurately pitched notes, when struck with rubber tipped sticks, emit a sound that leaves you smiling and grooving.

been sought after for jobs. Even during the COVID-19 lockdown, his phone kept ringing.

Kent transitions between his steel-pan profession, in which he does more than 150 gigs a year, and “hobbies” like LaPorte High School marching band, writing music for Knox High School band and drumline, and working with percussionists privately and in school.

□

Kent is happy to have been available this past year to work with LaPorte Middle School’s percussionists. COVID wreaked havoc on the band program. His son, Pierce, an eighth-grader, was part of that group. With his ability and build, Pierce was a natural to enter the LaPorte High School marching band program last summer. He played the tenor drums, consisting of five drums.



Kent Arnsbarger talks with members of the LaPorte High School marching band during a home football game last fall. Photo by Bob Wellinski

As a fellow drummer, Kent can easily relate to what the LaPorte High School marching band drumline is experiencing. The constant weight-bearing

Continued on Page 6



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Into the Groove

Continued from Page 5

load, the pain in the shoulders and back. Today's drums have become bigger and heavier, weighing up to 50 pounds.

For a drummer, you have to "strength up to it." According to Kent, when you want to put the drum down, you keep it on for a little while longer. It takes weeks of wear for the body to acclimate to the weight. There is a learning curve. Drummers must build up the mental side, too. Like athletes, they need to pace themselves to reserve energy to the end. While other instruments stop playing, the drummers always keep the cadence. They play more music than everybody else.

"You may have a whole note in the trumpet section. Well, in that amount of time, we (drummers) may have played 64 notes, and then there's the next one. It's constant," Kent said.

During marching band camp, he keeps an eye on his drummers' behaviors as a sign they might be in trouble.

"Their body gives signs. When people get quiet, because we're always joking around, when they stop talking, that person is definitely hurting...they're in survival mode just trying to make it to the next thing," Kent said.

By giving them breaks, water and shade, he nurtures them through the rough period. He also encourages them, complimenting them on a job well done.

Another aspect is looking out for the drummers' hearing, and making sure they wear ear plugs.

"My ears always ring, and I don't want that to happen to anyone else," Kent said. "Tinnitus is real. Kids wear ear plugs so they don't develop it, and I'm trying to keep it from getting worse."

Although many may not look at marching band as a sport, the physical and time demands on students are every bit as strenuous.

"The drumline is always carrying a load. If you're running or sprinting with them sideways, while playing music, that's tough," Kent said.

"There's been studies done on upper-end performers that metabolically," he said, "their bodies are put under the same load as a marathon runner, except they're playing music...hitting their sets, staying in foot, playing melodically and with expression. Their heart rate is 160 bpm or higher."

As one who exercises, Kent points out that some-

times, it's hard to see when your heart is beating at that pace.

He believes the percussionists are the most well-trained section in the entire band because of how much they have to do.

"We have to learn how to read drum set music...have coordination of all four limbs...be able to read snare music, marimba music, which is a glorified piano with four mallets," he explained. "Then, we have to be able to carry these instruments physically...be professional movers of stuff, we have to take setup and take down drum sets."

□

Kent travels the Midwest, playing numerous, enjoyable gigs: rooftops in downtown Chicago, at the Shedd Aquarium, on big boats such as the Odyssey. The past two Aprils, he played in Branson, Mo. His music has taken him to Green Bay, Mackinaw, Nashville and Cleveland. He has done birthday parties for all ages, backyard gatherings, numerous gala events and provided entertainment at Groupon, McCormick Place and Boeing. He just performed during the Singing Sands sand-sculpting festival in Washington Park.

His most memorable gigs are the ones where his daughter, Samira, accompanied him and played her pan. Having just graduated in June from LPHS, she still on occasion plays with her dad.

Kent humbly understands his perseverance, determination and practice allowed him to do what he loves for a living.

"I was somehow fortunate enough to not care and just keep doing it...The Internet rose for me at the right time," he said. "Being able to record things as easily as I do rose at the right time...All of sudden, my phone never stops ringing."

When the sticks hit the pan, that island music seems to instantaneously change your brain chemistry. Be it "Shake Señora," "Under the Sea" or the slower beat of "Yellow Bird."

"It's a vacation, it's an escape," Kent reflects. "There are no rules on vacation. You can do whatever you want: toes in the sand, drink in your hand as the songs go. I believe that it's the instant getaway. It's the no passport required, it's the no sea sickness, none of that stuff. You're just here for a little while, and I'll have you home in an hour."

"You're always at everyone's happiest moment, or you're reliving one of their happiest moments. You're there for the party. Everything I do every day is a party..."

(Visit Kent's website at www.IslandPartyMusic.com for more information about him.)



Kent and his family on vacation at the famous Haystack Rock attraction in Cannon Beach, Ore. Pictured with him are his wife, Shawn, daughter, Samira, and son, Pierce.



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Austin Butler is the Real Deal in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis"

by Andrew Tallackson

Seeing Austin Butler as Elvis in Baz Luhrmann's flashy new biopic, I had the same euphoric reaction as when Rami Malek took on Freddie Mercury in "Bohemian Rhapsody" (2018), and Angela Bassett crushed it as Tina Turner in "What's Love Got to Do With It?" (1993). The line between actor and character vanishes. It's like we have seen the real thing.

This is the first time I've noticed Butler. The 30-year-old has done a handful of TV shows, along with a bit part in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" (2019). But this...this is the real deal. It's like he is channeling Presley at every turn. The swagger. The booming voice. We buy into it the first time Presley sends a largely female audience into a howling frenzy.

And the movie itself? Well, it's like every picture by Luhrmann ("Moulin Rouge," "The Great Gatsby"). A hyper mess. His filmmaking style is like someone with adult ADD refusing Ritalin, opting instead for crystal meth. The frantic editing, the spastic camera angles — nothing's changed. And on top of it, "Elvis" contains a performance by Tom Hanks, as greedy Elvis manager Col. Tom Parker, that will go down in history as his strangest.

If you're a Luhrmann fan, and I'm one of them, then you know a picture by him is a sensory experience. He wants you to *feel* his movies. Be adrenalized by the music and pulsating tone. When "Elvis" amps itself up, you *feel* it. Big time.

As a biopic, "Elvis" does not tell us anything new about him, his life having fueled so many movies on film or television. It hopscotches through the performer's life, like a highlights reel, without any insight, without permitting these real-life people to exist as individuals of grit.

Instead, Luhrmann savors the mythic qualities of Elvis. How we prefer to envision him largely in his prime. That his love-hate relationship with Parker should take on a fairy-tale quality, that Elvis essentially sold his soul to the devil by bringing the reprehensible Parker into his life.

It probably was a mistake to cast Hanks as Parker. Priscilla Presley has said in interviews that Hanks nailed the part. For me, when you take an actor *that* recognizable, pile on the prosthetics to make him obese, then OK his wild accent, you become aware of watching a "performance." We can't figure Hanks out. Did Luhrmann allow him to catapult over the top, or is the performance a wink from the Oscar winner as comedically grotesque? The jury, for me, is still out on that one.

The music, though, rarely stops. More than any filmmaker, Luhrmann can pump you up, driving home that music is freedom. The most exhilarat-

ing form of self-expression. I especially love, in "Elvis," how he depicts his subject as the ultimate entertainer. A guy who knew how to work a crowd. Through Butler's charismatic presence, and editors Matt Villa and Jonathan Redmond, we can feel it, as the crowd responds. As female libidos skyrocket, women losing their minds in his presence.

To its credit, the movie does a solid job tying Pres-



Austin Butler is phenomenal in "Elvis."



"Elvis"

Running time: 159 minutes. Rated PG-13 for substance abuse, strong language, suggestive material and smoking.

ley's love of black music, and black culture, into the evolving political landscape of the times. And, the last half hour of this nearly 2 hour-40 minute film does explore the drug use, infidelities and fatigue that brought about his untimely demise.

I suspect "Elvis" will draw a mixed response from audiences. Some may complain it's too long and disjointed. Others will enjoy it despite the flaws. It is not Luhrmann's best. That honor goes to "Moulin Rouge" for taking the same hyped-up approach, but with a more cohesive story.

But there is much — *a lot*, in fact — to admire.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Meet This Year's Long Beach Parade Marshal: Bob Sulkowski

by Andrew Tallackson



Bob Sulkowski is photographed by *The Beacher's* Andrew Tallackson in December 2000 at Long Beach Police Department.

Bob Sulkowski devoted 38 years of his life to Long Beach Police Department. His mission was simple: make the people he served feel safe in their beachside communities.

Granted, no city or town is immune to crime's invasive nature, and Sulkowski knows that. But over time, he feels he fostered a relationship with residents based on trust and respect for what he and his officers achieved.

"I appreciate all of the kind, generous, respectful people in Long Beach," he told *The Beacher*. "Sure, you may not get along with everyone, but in the big picture, the people respect you and the job you do. That's not the case in many other communities."

Clearly, Long Beach Civic Association respects Sulkowski. Its members named him the July 4th parade marshal.

Sulkowski is humbled by the honor.

"One of my favorite teachers, Norm Bruemmer, who has been in the Civic for many years, asking me was very nice," he said. "The Civic does a lot of very good things for the community. They have helped the police department many times. There have been many great people (named) as parade marshal, so I am honored to be selected."

Bruemmer, the Civic's 4th of July parade chair-

man, said being named marshal is a way to honor people or groups who have made the community a better place to live.

"Former Chief of Police Bob Sulkowski certainly meets that criteria," he said. "He has served Long Beach for over 30 years as a police officer and then chief of police, making our town a safe and secure place to live. For many years, Bob led our 4th of July Parade on his police motorcycle, and this year he will be riding the parade route in a vintage Lincoln convertible. Our organization feels it is a much deserved honor."

Sulkowski retired from the department as chief of police on Jan. 8, 2021, although he still serves part time.

The Michigan City native and Elston High School graduate cites his father, Ed, as his greatest influence in pursuing a law-enforcement career. Ed served not only as Michiana Shores marshal, but also with its volunteer fire department. Bob would often ride with his father while he was out patrolling the community. He also became involved in Michigan City Police Department's cadet program.

Bob joined the Michiana Shores Volunteer Fire Department in 1976, when he turned 18. Four years later, he began a two-year stint with the Grand

Beach Police Department.

He was hired as a deputy marshal in Long Beach on July 28, 1982, then attended the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He became the chief marshal in January 1998.

Indeed, his strong relationship with the Civic spurred a welcome change in the summer of 1996. Long Beach police received complaints of personal watercraft nearly hitting swimmers. Bob suggested placing buoys along the beach to remind those using personal watercrafts to slow down around swimmers. Bob presented a proposal to the Civic, which purchased the buoys. Support from B&E Marine led to the creation of the department's Marine Patrol.

Other highlights include:

- Receiving a \$50,000 grant to make the town hall Americans With Disabilities Act compliant.
- Receiving the Exemplary Law Enforcement Program Award from the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Establishing a fund in the late Jim Kautz's name at a local bank to support the family after his untimely death. Kautz's name would be added to a Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., along with Chief Marshal Ephraim Reid, who was killed on Sept. 25, 1933, and Earl Platt, who was killed on Oct. 25, 1956.

But for all of his accomplishments, Sulkowski says it was the relationships forged with area residents that had the most impact for him.

"I have made many friends in the years serving the people, in not only Long Beach, but Duneland Beach and Michiana Shores," he said. "Before the change from full-time residents to mostly part-time owners now, I can remember driving down most streets and knowing the people's names who live there, along with their children and sometimes the pet names."



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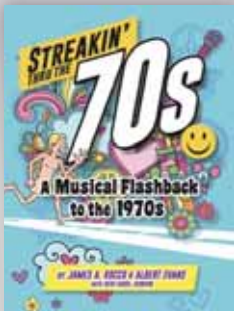
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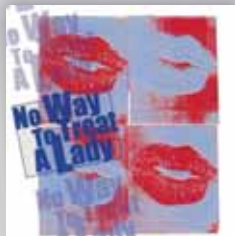
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Footlight Scholarship Winner

This year's winner of Footlight Players' \$1,000 Robert W. Komendera Fine Arts Scholarship is Christian McDaniel, Michigan City.

Christian is a 2022 Michigan City High School graduate. While there, he appeared in productions of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "Ghost: The Musical" and "Urinetown." With the Young People's Theater Company, he appeared in "Sister Act" and was in nine shows with the Young People's Theater Company Jr. He played Oliver opposite Komendera's Fagin in "Oliver!" at Footlight.



Christian McDaniel (right) is photographed with Robert Komendera.

Christian will attend Indiana University to study film production and create small film projects. He hopes to have a joint internship in Los Angeles to learn more about the film industry. He plans to continue his love of the stage by joining the Indiana University Theater Program.

NB Library Community Forum

Steven Adelman chronicles his journey from Essexville, Mich. (population 3,294) to the nightlife scene in New York, Boston and Hollywood during the next Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum.

The program is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, July 5, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

As Adelman rose through the louche club culture, he encountered a cast of characters he never could have imagined — people named Hedda Lettuce, along with the likes of Rudy Giuliani, Sir Richard Branson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Bob Dylan and Snoop Dogg. In his recently published book, Nocturnal Admissions, Adelman argues that nightlife has long been a source for social change, transforming itself and us with it. He divides his time between Memphis and Union Pier. Much of Nocturnal Admissions was written in the New Buffalo library. Copies will be available for sale at the presentation.

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Adelman

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Corey Voss Concert

Artist and worship leader Corey Voss will present a concert at 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 1, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.



Voss

The concert is in connection with First UMC's week of children and family events, as well as Michigan City's First Friday celebration.

Voss is a renowned singer/songwriter in the Nashville area with a presence in the national music scene. He cowrote the Selah hit "I Got Saved" with LaPorte's Jennie Riddle.

The concert is free, with a love offering taken to support Voss' work. The public is invited. Contact trishatchurch@gmail.com for details.

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series



The 21st season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St. The program is by William Halliar. The church is air-conditioned. Call (219) 608-5358 for more details about the concert series.



SHERIDAN BEACH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SBHA Meeting and Community Party!

*Come to the next SBHA meeting and hear about issues affecting our neighborhood.
Everyone is welcome!*

Saturday, July 9, 2022 • 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
On the 2nd Floor of Beachwalk's New Clubhouse (Stop 7)

And don't miss out on our old fashioned Community Party!
Enjoy plenty of refreshments and connect with neighbors
Saturday, July 9, 2022, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Georgia
(Stop 3, between Colfax and the lake)

Next Meeting Date: September 3rd

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

For more information visit: www.sheridanbeachhomeowners.com



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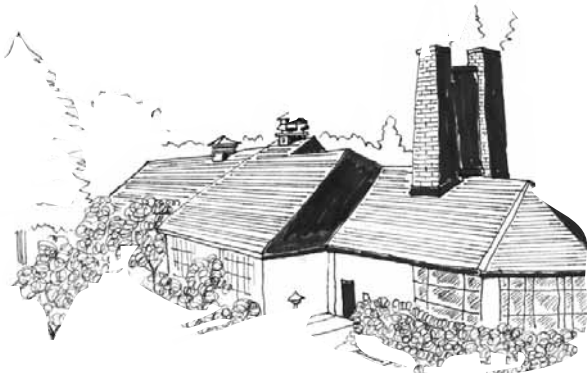
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Old School Run



Start the Fourth of July with a bang!

Run (or walk) 5 Kilometers (about 3 miles), beginning at 7:00 A.M. at the Old School. The 25th annual event, a fun run, will follow a scenic course through Long Beach and Long Beach Cove.

No advance entry needed or accepted: Just show up with your entry fee and dressed in your running gear ready to go!

The entry fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Proceeds will benefit the Community Center & Town of Long Beach. This is a low-key event with no prizes, but everyone who finishes will receive an award certificate featuring the drawing of the Old School above and an Old School T-shirt.

Sponsored by The Beacher Business Printers

Race Week Update

During this year's Great Lakes Grand Prix, the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau will take over the downtown schedule so events associated with the Boat Parade/Block Party continue.

"We are sorry to lose the Michigan City Main-street Association as a partner. They did a fantastic job running the Taste, tying it in with our Boat Parade and Block Party," Jack Arnett, CEO of LPC-CVB, said in a press release.

The new schedule will include a Friday night "Shop Sip Support" designed to support local merchants. A Race Team Welcome Party, open to the public, is planned in Washington Park. The event will include live entertainment, food and beverages. The same offerings are part of the Saturday Boat Parade and Block Party.

Visit www.greatlakesgrandprix.com for details.

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

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

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

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

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



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The Light at the End of the Tunnel

by Edmund Lawler

In his darkest, most desperate times across four tours of duty in the killing fields of Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Stupar could never have imagined a moment as golden and as glorious as the afternoon of Friday, June 17.

It was the day The Wall Gang — his brothers-in-arms — rumbled on their Harley-Davidsons at the front and to the rear of a chauffeured black Chevy Suburban ferrying Stupar and his family for the first look at their refurbished home on winding, tree-lined Wozniak Road in Michigan City.

Beneath an impossibly blue sky, the motorcade halted at the edge of their driveway. Out stepped daughters Paris, 14, London, 10, Michael and wife Crystal. They were stunned by more than 100 people — friends, family, neighbors, veterans and volunteers whose handiwork transformed the home — wildly cheering their arrival. The family had been staying in an area Airbnb while their home was being renovated.

It was a staged event for a cable-network TV show. But all the blue smoke and mirrors of Hollywood were no match for the authenticity and outpouring of genuine emotion as the Stupars waded through the crush of well-wishers.

Hoosier hospitality at its best.

Waiting for them on their porch was Montel Wil-



Michael Stupar retired after a 20-year Army career.

liams, the Emmy-winning TV personality, retired U.S. Navy lieutenant commander and host of “Military Makeover with Montel.” The show, which debuted in 2016, appears on the Lifetime network and American Forces Network.

The episode featuring the Stupars airs Aug. 12 and continue through late September.

Crystal, who was raised in Michigan City, explained that she and Michael, a Merrillville native, applied for a makeover of the home they bought last September when Michael retired after a decorated 20-year Army career.

“When I filled out the application, I put my hand on it and prayed,” Crystal said.

The home is to become their anchor after moving every three years from base to base. But the place needed some work.

That work would have to wait because of a series of tragedies. On Dec. 7, Crystal underwent knee-replacement surgery. Four days later, her mother and stepfather died within 31 hours of each other.

“We had a double funeral and then we spent time clearing out their house,” she said. But the Stupars’ fortunes took a dramatically positive turn in the spring. They hit the jackpot after learning their home was selected for a “Military Makeover,” the first time the show has remade a veteran’s home in Indiana.



A large crowd and film crew await the arrival of the Stupar family.

Williams said the show calls attention to the need to assist the nation's military veterans in ways that go beyond saying "Thank you for your service. That may be lip service, but it's much better than the way some civilians treated military during the Vietnam era," he said.

"In 1974, when I was a Marine, I came out of a restaurant while I was in uniform and someone spat on the ground and called me a baby killer. We have come a long way from that, but there's much more to be done in terms of community support for our veterans."

Stupar, who was a military police officer, is still processing the horrors of war. His voice clutches when asked to contrast the joy and wonderful surprises of this day with his terrifying experiences in combat.

"Today is the opposite side of that coin," he said in front of their home as Crystal offered a reassuring hug when she noticed him struggling with his response. "Some of the stuff I went through on deployments (long pause)...This is far from those times. Those were the dark times; these are the light times."

The dark times included being shot when he was caught in a gun battle in Mosul, Iraq, while coming to the aid of a convoy of injured Iraqi police officers. Stupar was awarded a Purple Heart, which is among his many decorations.

He learned some valuable lessons in war.

"You go into the military as an individual and you come out as a member of a team," Stupar said. "As you can see here today, you never lose that brotherhood, the camaraderie, that *esprit de corps*. When a



Montel Williams is a decorated military veteran.

is a title sponsor of "Military Makeover with Montel" this season.

Other local contributors include Big C Lumber, HomeWorks and Small's Garden Center.



Co-host Montel Williams greets the Stupars on the porch of their home.



Co-host Art Edmonds welcomes the family as the motorcade arrives.

brother needs help, you dial up and go."

His brothers from The Wall Gang iced the cake by refurbishing and custom painting Stupar's Harley-Davidson — a gesture that left him speechless.

Crystal added, "We are so grateful to the community and everybody here. We're over the moon."

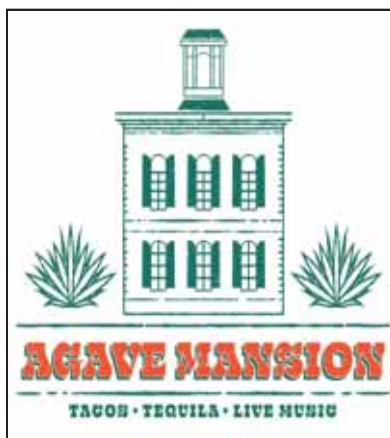
The largest contingent of well-wishers were employees of Patrick Industries, the Elkhart-based maker of components for the recreational vehicle, marine, housing and other industrial markets. Some 200 Patrick employees contributed their time to the 12-day makeover project that replicates the work a more standard-sized crew would take four to six months to complete. Patrick Industries

Michael Stupar says he's blown away by what the huge, hard-charging cast did in a short time to transform his family's home.

"It's so much brighter than before, and it actually seems bigger. Like a page out of a magazine," he said. "It was a dark cave before, but now it's so bright."

The light times for the Stupars have arrived at last.

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It's an annual tradition Michigan City Chamber Music Festival fans eagerly anticipate: The preview performance of the upcoming season. Held earlier this month at the Bankoff home, festival musicians offered a glimpse into this year's theme, "Music & Healing." The annual event is slated for Aug. 13-21 at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., and Angela House, 412 W. 10th St.
All photos by James Conlin



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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 following programs are scheduled:

- **Summer Reading Weekly Events: Family Movie & Craft at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 30.** The screening is "Shark Tale," which is Rated PG.
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 6.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mcplib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **On Display in June: Work by local artist Edwin Levitin on the library gallery walls.** Levitin's career involved design and color in the textile field. At 77, he put his thoughts relating to everyday surroundings onto canvas. Now 94, he continues to create and has shown his work at the Purdue University Northwest Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events exhibit, Box Factory for the Arts, Southern Shore Art Association and Chesterton Art Center.

- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays in July (except July 4).** 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.
- **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.mcplib.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.

□

The library is closed Monday, July 4, for Independence Day. Normal hours resume Tuesday, July 5.

□

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.

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

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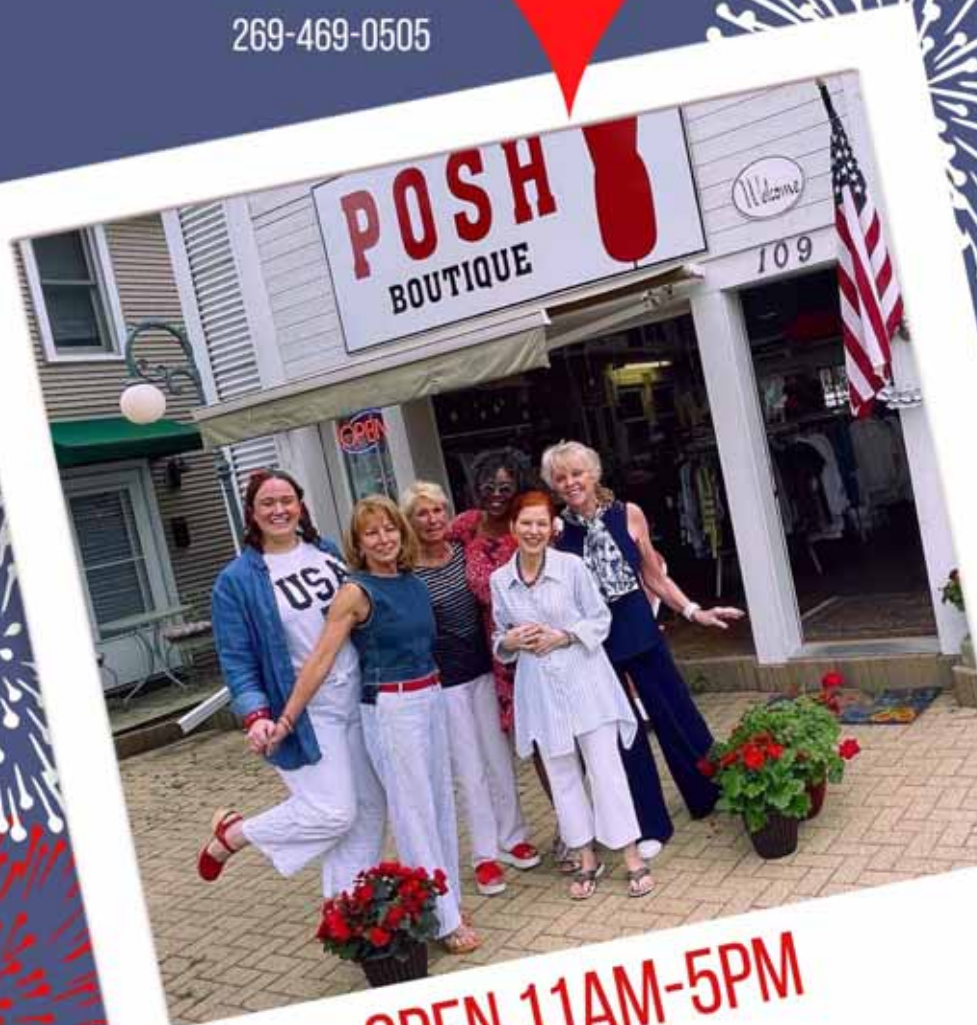
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- Sat. Aug 13th @ 7pm - Handel, Strauss, Brahms, Knight
- Mon. Aug 15th @ 7pm - Mendelssohn, Walker, Clearfield & del Aguila
- Wed. Aug 17th @ 7pm - Debussy, Puccini, Beethoven
- Fri. Aug 19th @ 7pm - Vivaldi, Haken (soprano duos)
- Sun. Aug 21st @ 3pm - Beethoven, Dvorak & Carter w/gospel choir

Concert location at 1st Presbyterian Church - 121 W. 9th St. MC

Children's Concerts

- Tues. Aug 16th @ 6pm - Viper Viola Virtuosity
- Thurs. Aug 18th @ 6pm - Musical Heroes - past & present
- Sat. Aug 20th @ 12pm - Girl Power

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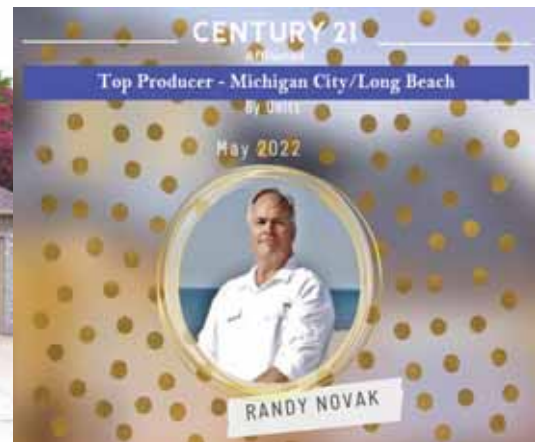
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312 S. Chicago St.
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Summer Paradise! 3 BR 2 BA sun-drenched, open concept reimagined ranch, vaulted ceilings, skylights, wood/tile floors, private deck, patio, fire-pit, grassy lawn for two and four leggers to play, near shops, food, taverns, harbor and beach.



1501 Water St.
New Buffalo, MI 49117

BEACH FRONT CONDO! water, sunset and wooded views, 3 BR 3 BA high-end condo with garage. Share beach, pool, tennis and nature trails. Quiet and peaceful not far from all New Buffalo Summer attractions. Come see the perfect all season escape.



203 Hoosier Dr.
Michiana Park, IN 46360

Your Michiana One Level Cottage, deeded Lake MI beaches, 1/3 wooded acre, 3 BRs, 2 BAs, vaulted ceilings with skylights oppose light wood floors, private spacious screened porch, front covered porch, fireplace, storage-a-plenty, possible turn key. Why wait?



503 E 2nd St
Michigan City, IN 46360

Commercial Opportunity, structurally significant Trail Creek boat slips plus vacant land for kayak/boat rental, cabanas, yacht club, in Enterprise Zone.

2146 N Karwick Rd Michigan City, IN



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HAVE A HAPPY
FOURTH^{of} JULY

FROM THE LINE MULLINS GROUP

Howard Westbrook
219.617.8839

Line Mullins
708.790.3676

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312.804.6000



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UNDER CONTRACT IN 6 DAYS!



3873 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
Michiana, Michigan
4 BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHS
\$2,150,000

NEW PRICE



10299 WARD AVENUE
Union Pier, Michigan
4 BEDROOMS/5.5 BATHS
\$1,800,000

SOLD!



4131 CHEROKEE DRIVE
Michiana, Michigan
6 BEDROOMS/5.5 BATHS
\$1,750,000



3545 MANITOU TRAIL
Duneland Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
\$1,650,000



3901 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
Michiana, Michigan
3 LOTS/120 FT OF LAKE FRONT VIEWS
\$1,225,000



3217 JAY BIRD LANE
Duneland Beach, Indiana
2 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
\$1,150,000

UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 DAY!



2027 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
Long Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
\$999,000



118 KRUEGER AVENUE
Michigan City, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS
\$879,000

NEW PRICE



407 OAKLAND DRIVE
Michiana Shores, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/2.5 BATHS
\$869,000



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240 MAPLEWOOD TRAIL
Michigan City, Indiana
3 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
\$699,000



NEW PRICE

2216 ORIOLE TRAIL
Long Beach, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/2.5 BATHS
\$599,000



LAKE SHORE COUNTY ROAD
Beverly Shores, Indiana
OVER 1 ACRE W/LAKE MICHIGAN VIEWS
\$480,000



NEW PRICE

204 WASHINGTON PARK BLVD
Sheridan Beach, Indiana
2 UNITS/2 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS EACH UNIT
\$475,000



3853 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE
Michiana Shores, Indiana
2 BEDROOMS/1 BATH
\$399,000



UNDER CONTRACT IN 6 DAYS!

6004 W ZACHARIE DRIVE
LaPorte, Indiana
4 BEDROOMS/3 BATHS
\$365,000



226 S CLINTON STREET
New Buffalo, Michigan
3 BEDROOMS/2 BATHS
\$365,000



FAIRWAY DRIVE
Long Beach, Indiana
100 X 138 LOT ON GOLF COURSE/LAKE VIEWS
\$195,900



NEW PRICE

9111 N MEER ROAD W
Michigan City, Indiana
9.81 ACRES/2 PARCELS
\$129,000



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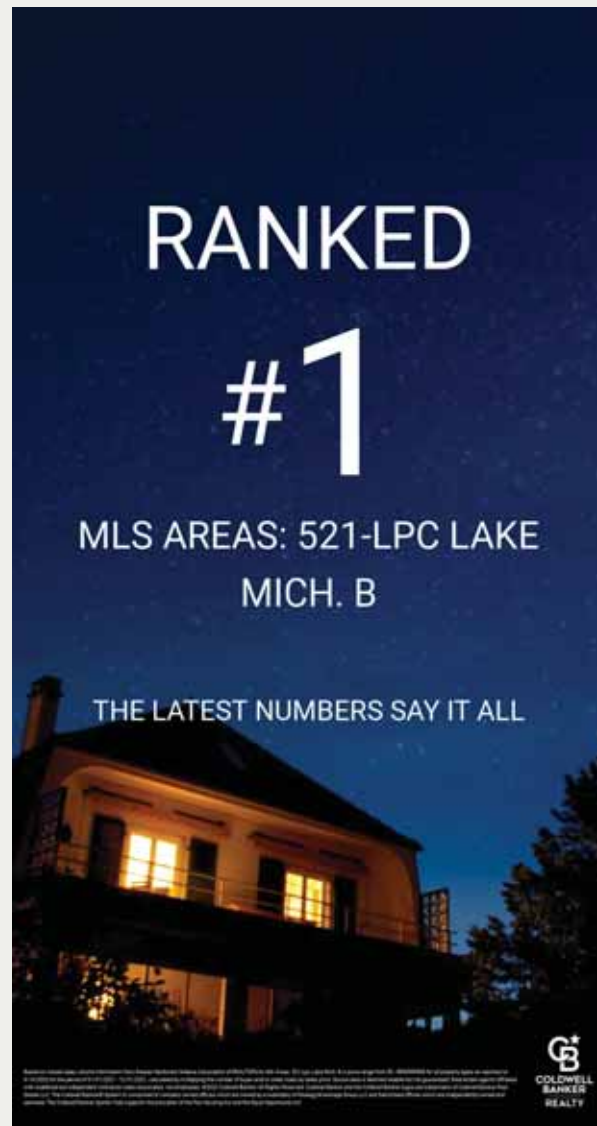
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P: (708)790-3676



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Happy Fourth!

Bev

Nancy

Mary

Marissa

Line

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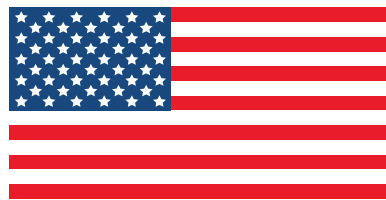
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LONG BEACH



4th of



JULY

CELEBRATION

Parade • Live Music • Food • Beer Tent • 4th of July Gear

FIREWORKS AT DUSK

***RAIN DATE, JULY 5**

Schedule of Events

*PARADE LINEUP 9:00 A.M.
JUDGING 9:30 A.M.
PARADE 10:00 A.M.
TROPHIES AWARDED 11:00 A.M.

***Approved:**
Bikes, trikes, strollers, wagons,
walkers and golf cart floats
***Not approved:**
Cars, commercial entries, political
floats, dogs and candy throwing

FOLLOWING THE PARADE...

Available for purchase w/ Cash/credit only. (Tickets not accepted for food vendors)
Blind Pig Tavern and Grill • Social Que BBQ Catering • It's Pupusa Time

Available w/ tickets only (Purchase tickets at the entrance)
Ice Cream • Soda • Water • Beer (Featuring local craft beer by Burn 'Em Brewery) • Seltzers
(Photo ID. required for alcohol)

Live Music – by Unsupervised

Long Beach Civic 4th of July Gear for sale!

****NEW* Hats! - \$25**
Youth/Toddler Short sleeve, Men/Women Tank Top - \$20
Men/Women Short Sleeve - \$25
Unisex Long Sleeve - \$30
Koozies: \$3 each or 2 for \$5

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NEW LISTING

12 RIDGE DRIVE, DUNE ACRES, IN

Modern lodge style home and coach house with stunning Lake Michigan views from this dune top location. \$2,500,000



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52001 LAKE PARK DRIVE, GRAND BEACH

Low dune parcel with appx 100 ft of Lake Michigan frontage. Perfect premium parcel for that dream home. \$1,599,000

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NEW LISTING

11872 MARQUETTE DRIVE, NEW BUFFALO

Stunning views of the Galien River Marsh and one mile of Riviera Community Beach. \$1,200,000



9689 BERRIEN STREET, UNION PIER

Tucked away in gated Union Pier, you'll find this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home just 3-minutes from 2 sandy beaches. \$799,999



NEW LISTING

18459 DUNECREST #32, NEW BUFFALO

Peaceful woodland views from this Forest Beach Villa end unit. Two-level 3 br, 3.5 ba home. \$699,000



NEW LISTING

18485 DUNECREST DRIVE #31, NEW BUFFALO

Well-appointed 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom Forest Beach villa home. \$415,000

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NEW LISTING

4115 PONCHARTRAIN DRIVE | NEW BUFFALO, MI \$965,000



The perfect Michigan getaway has arrived! Iconic Michiana log home lovingly maintained on stunning wooded property located only a couple blocks from the beach. All of the original details, including floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, hand-hewn beams, wood floors throughout, pine paneling and built-ins, have been retained and give the home that feeling of nostalgia and warm summer nights. This extra large 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom home has plenty of room for a growing family and visiting guests. Ample spaces to entertain are peppered throughout from the charming dining room that opens up to a wooded deck through sliding glass doors to the French doors leading to the sun-drenched sitting room and another set of French doors leading to the living room. Large basement with pool table and plenty of storage for all your winter toys.

19 APACHE TRAIL, NEW BUFFALO

This 1939 vintage Michiana log home is a short distance to the beach and perfect for a cozy getaway. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Enjoy morning coffee or an afternoon read in the three-season front screened and windowed porch and cocktails and summer dinners in the large back screened porch overlooking the wooded back yard. Stay warm after a winter hike in front of a fire and with natural light pouring in through French windows. Two separate living and dining areas and a nice front yard provide plenty of room for entertaining guests and extra family after a relaxing day at the beach. Original details remain including trim, hardwood floors in the living and dining room and farm sink in the kitchen with open shelves.



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12 RIDGE DRIVE, DUNE ACRES

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15123 HAWTHORNE LN, LAKESIDE

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fers 4,880 appx square feet. Hot tub. \$2,450,000

Tracy Frye 269.469.8300



520 MARQUETTE DR, NEW BUFFALO

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sandy beach. Comfy 5 br cottage. \$2,300,000

Mary Vanpelt 269.469.8300



9399 SHORE ACRES LN, LAKESIDE

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of Lake Michigan frontage. \$2,290,000

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200 LAKE ST 3A, ST. JOSEPH

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4115 PONCHARTRAIN DR, NEW BUFFALO

Iconic Michiana log home lovingly maintained.
Stunning wooded property. 5 br. \$965,000

Karen Shoshana 269.469.8300



9689 BERRIEN ST, UNION PIER

Gated woodland property. 2007-built home.
3 br, 3 ba. 3-minutes to beaches. \$799,999

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7363 WIND STONE DR, HUDSONVILLE

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1321 W WATER ST, NEW BUFFALO

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sep living areas w/open floorplan. \$439,000

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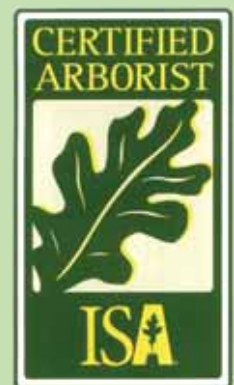
Five Tips for Taking Care of Your Trees

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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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, June 30, in the Main Library Multipurpose Room.** Explore coding and technology, and build leadership skills.
- **Maker Cart Pop Up from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, June 30, and Tuesday, July 5, 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.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, July 1.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, July 1, in Meeting Room A in the main library.** The monthly fabric crafting session allows participants to take a project, share ideas and learn new skills.
- **Camp Half-Blood Necklace Making from noon-2 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, in Meeting Room B at Main Library.** The project ties in with *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*.
- **Crafty Kids (Ages 6-11) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Children will learn new styles and techniques.

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

Have a story idea? Email drew@thebeacher.com



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Thursday - Saturday 11am-10pm

Sunday 11am-8pm • Closed Mondays in June

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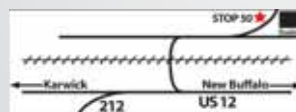
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Chris Hemsworth Delivers a Career Best in “Spiderhead”

by Andrew Tallackson



Chris Hemsworth gives the old mad scientist role a hearty adrenaline boost.

“Spiderhead” is proof for Chris Hemsworth, for the first time since he became Thor, that there is life *after* Thor.

The Australian actor certainly enjoys playing the Norse god of thunder. Particularly in the past few years when the Avenger has emerged as somewhat of a goof.

But “Spiderhead,” the new Netflix film by “Top Gun: Maverick” director Joseph Kosinski, reveals a side to him we haven’t seen. A career best where he’s dark, jittery, relentlessly sinister.

He’s mesmerizing.

The film, itself, is a slick variation on the mad scientist theme. It’s based on the short story “Escape from Spiderhead” first published in 2010 in *The New Yorker* and released in part by the magazine’s The New Yorker Studios.

Hemsworth’s Steve Abnesti runs an architecturally striking tropical prison where he tests research chemicals on prisoners who’ve volunteered their services for reduced sentences. The drugs, attached to the body almost like insulin pumps, spur emotions ranging from amped sex drives to psychotic meltdowns. The most promising subjects are Jeff (Miles Teller, in his third Kosinski film after “Maverick” and “Only the Brave”) and Lizzy (Jurnee Smollett, HBO’s “Lovecraft Country”), possibly because they’re good people despite the crimes that landed them there.

Hemsworth’s performance has to be seen to be appreciated. Steve is always moving. Always pitching his research. He rarely slows down, or pauses,



“Spiderhead”

Running time: 106 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for violent content, language and sexual content.

because we can see his brain is in overdrive. He’s like an overly caffeinated salesman. And pretty quickly, there are flashes — a downward glance, a carefully worded bit of manipulation — where we realize Steve is not telling the whole truth. That the guy may be one clown shy of a circus.

Kosinski, with films like “Maverick” and the underappreciated “Tron: Legacy” (2010), is an accomplished technical wizard who knows how to use visuals to his benefit. But from time to time, with smaller projects like “Only the Brave” and now “Spiderhead,” he backs off the effects and concentrates on spinning a good story. “Spiderhead” can get a bit weird when Steve pushes his research too far, the lab sex scenes teetering into comedy and the psychotic drug moments a bit out there. Teller and Smollett, however, ground the movie, center it through their tender relationship. Both have tarnished pasts, their crimes destroying something inside them. But the two actors underplay the big scenes so they have a deeper impact. The story dips its toes in the same mad-scientist waters as most films, but here, the message is that for all the technology out there, love and forgiveness aren’t something that can be manufactured in a lab. They come from reaching deep down inside and arriving at a



Jurnee Smollett (left) and Miles Teller, as prisoners turned test subjects, are the heart of the story.

state of peace and understanding. Hefty themes for a movie written by the "Deadpool" guys (Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick), but it works.

The last act has problems, taking forever to wrap up. Kosinski stretches it out way longer than it needed to be. The final scene, however, rescues the picture. Two people, on the precipice of the next chapter in their lives.

It's satisfying. The ideal close to a movie with a lot of ideas, not all of them executed to perfection, but a Chris Hemsworth performance people will remember for some time.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Jerry & Marge” Slips Into Hallmark TV Territory

by Andrew Tallackson

Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening star in “Jerry & Marge Go Large.”

“Jerry & Marge Go Large” is *inspired* by fact, and that’s probably an apt description. We get the sense it’s not telling the whole story, just the warm and fuzzy bits. Every crisis is readily resolved. Each actor pretty much coasts. Every big moment gets sappy assist from the icky score.

It is sweet, though. You could do far worse than spend 96 minutes with these quirky folk.

The film, streaming on Paramount+, is based on Jason Fagone’s HuffPost article of the same name that revealed how recent retiree Jerry Selbee (Bryan Cranston), a numbers man if there ever was one, figures out a loophole that allows him to win big in the Massachusetts WinFall lottery. Now, I am not a numbers guy. Words are my playground. The specifics of Jerry’s plan are beyond me, but in a nutshell, he buys an insane amount of lottery tickets at precise moments, taking home a ton of cash.

One refreshing aspect of the screenplay by Brad Copeland (“Wild Hogs,” “Yogi Bear”), which resembles a Hallmark TV movie, is that Jerry cannot keep his secret for long. After one solid showing, he spills the beans to his wife, Marge (Annette Bening), bracing for the worst. To his shock, she’s thrilled. This is the spark their lackluster marriage needs now that Jerry is retired. Marge not only becomes his partner, but persuades him to pitch his idea to local residents. If they join his venture, they can use the profits to breathe life into a town punctuated by shuttered businesses. That’s an unexpected twist. Jerry and Marge aren’t reduced to cuddly old geezers scamming the system, but smart people invigorated by the possibility of bringing their ailing com-

★ ★ 1/2

“Jerry & Marge Go Large”

Running time: 96 minutes. Paramount+. Rated PG-13 for some language and suggestive references.

munity in Evart, Mich., back to life.

Cranston is about as far removed from Walter White as he could possibly get. And the movie suggests that, up until now, Jerry was one cold fish, more preoccupied with numbers than people. I would have preferred a real, honest portrait of Jerry, Marge and his two adult children (Jake McDorman and Anna Camp). One with smart, insightful dialogue between family members. The idea of retirement not signaling the end, but the beginning of a new chapter in one family’s life. But the movie, directed like a sitcom by David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”), reduces the entire family to simplistic cardboard cutouts, shuffled about more for the convenience of the plot than anything else. Any quirks or foibles are easily shed so happy resolutions arrive precisely on time.

All the townsfolk are cuddly cartoons, while Uly Schlesinger as Tyler, the Harvard student who figures out the same lottery scheme as Jerry, is so one-dimensionally hateful, no hope exists of affording the character any depth.

Having said that, as Jerry, Marge and their fellow business partners rake in the cash, there is something moving about the way Evart is reborn. These aren’t crude opportunists, but genuinely good people taking pride in the streets they call home.



Bryan Cranston is about as far removed from Walter White as he could possibly get.

The scene where Jerry stands up to Tyler is well-written and acted by Cranston with a hint of his “Breaking Bad” intensity. The good-natured resolution achieves what the movie has been crafted to do: create a gentle sense of uplift.

Will you remember “Jerry & Marge Go Large” a week or so after seeing it? Probably not. It’s so lightweight, it practically disintegrates upon impact. But it does have heart, and when it makes you smile, it’s earned it.

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LaPorte County Parks



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

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3-8, with an adult required to participate. Times are 6-7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park's Morgan Shelter, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- June 29: Animal Encounters.
- July 20: Play Pod Exploration.
- July 27: What's That Smell?
- Aug. 3: Scavenger Hunt Fun.

Healthy Lifestyles

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

- July 13 – "Atrial Fibrillation (A Fib) Heart Health," Jacob Swider, Northwest Health invasive cardiology director.
- Aug. 3 – "Ear & Hearing Care," audiologist Jessica Nichols.
- Sept. 14 – Pairing Your Plants for Multi-Season Display, Sacha-Gee Burns, Solid Waste District of LaPorte County.
- Oct. 5: Medicare 2021 Overview, SHIP Supervisor Megan Rogers.
- Nov. 2: Managing Stress with Moria Cogwell, The Crossing wellness specialist.

Inclusive Playground Grand Opening

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

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

Field Trips

Formal educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park. The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

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

Long Beach Summer Camp**Applications available June 1, 2022!****Dates:** June 20 – August 5**Days:** Monday – Friday**Time:** 9:00 – 11:30**Location:** Long Beach Community Center**Ages:** 3-11**Fee:** Resident Full Camp: \$160.00

Non-Resident Full Camp: \$220.00

Resident Weekly: \$60.00

Non-Resident Weekly: \$80.00

Weekly Themes

Week 1: Great Outdoors

Week 2: Holidays, Hooray!

Week 3: Kaboom!

(No Camp July 4)

Week 4: Construction Chaos

Week 5: All Star Sports

Week 6: Shark Week

Week 7: Superheroes

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center, and online at longbeachin.org.

Any questions email

longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League



June 16, 2022

Event: Regular Golf

A FLIGHT

Low Net — Kathy Daly.

Low Putts — Julie Doyle.

Birdies — Vicki Hill (3).

B FLIGHT

Low Net — Amanda Ferlmann.

Low Putts — Kathy Kenefick.

Birdies — Mary Weithers (2).

Sunken Approaches — Amanda Ferlmann (10),
Kathy Kenefick (8), Mary Weithers (1).

C FLIGHT

Low Net — Nancy Thill.

Low Putts — Rima Binder, Kathy Chlystun.

Sunken Approaches — Kathy Chlystun (1).

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Loretta Olive.

Low Putts — Loretta Olive.

18-Hole League

June 14, 2022

Event: Member/Member

A FLIGHT

First — Kathy Kenefick, Cindy Levy.

Second — Amanda Ferlmann, Ellen Magrini.

Third — Mariah Dell/Britt Whitfield, Linda Wilson/
Janet Andreotti.

B FLIGHT

First — Beth White, Nancy Reinert.

Second — Suzanne Smith/Peg Cooney, Kathy Chlystun/Barbara Beardslee.

June 21, 2022/Low Net

A FLIGHT

First Place — Britt Whitfield, Jill Craig.

Second Place — Vicki Hill.

Third Place — Julie Burns.

B FLIGHT

First Place — Bridget Van Eekern.

Second Place — Anne Robson.

Third Place — Amanda Ferlmann, June Salmon.

C FLIGHT

First Place — Jude Stahmer.

Second Place — Diane Rubey.

Third Place — Carol Sullivan.

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North Course
Monday League "Early Birdies"
June 20, 2022
Event: Most 4s (A Flt), Most 5s
(B Flt), Most 6s (C Flt)

A Flight

Low Gross: Pat Czizek.
 Low Net: Phyllis Roach, LuAnn Uremovich.
 Low Putts: Pat Czizek.
 Event: LuAnn Uremovich.

B Flight

Low Gross: Charlotte Wozniak.
 Low Net: Charlotte Wozniak.
 Low Putts: Charlotte Wozniak.
 Event: Carol Hullings.

C Flight

Low Gross: Pam Betcher, Tina Kintzele.
 Low Net: Pam Betcher.
 Low Putts: Mary Schlunz.
 Event: Cindee Schroll.



Chip-Ins: Laurie Wink, Hole 7.
 Birdies: Phyllis Roach, Hole 5; Wink, Hole 7; Mary Beres, Hole 6.

Pottawattomie Country Club



18-Hole League
June 21, 2022
Solheim Cup

There was an 18-hole Solheim Cup-formatted tournament during the weekly Women's Golf Association League. The event involved three rounds of six holes each, match play and Red Team vs. Blue Team. The first round was net best ball, the second round was alternate shot and the final round singles match play. The Red team won 9-7. Players were Molly Mershon, Mary Clare Loftus, Deanne Turim, Taylor Lindstrom, Mary Ward, Louise Starman, Mary Toomey and June Klaus.



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LCSO July 4th Concert

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will present a free July 4 concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 4, at LaPorte's Fox Park amphitheater.

Fireworks, provided by the city, will be over Clear Lake after the concert. LCSO Music Director Dr. Carolyn Watson will lead the symphony beginning with "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by selections such as "Star Wars Suite," the march from "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Harry's Wondrous World" from "Harry Potter." Americana selections include "America, the Beautiful," Sousa's "Stars & Stripes Forever" and the "Armed Forces Salute," which honors veterans from various branches of the U.S. military.

Joseph Giuliani and Kim Kurtis, first- and second-place winners in LCSO's 2021 Hoosier Star, will join LCSO to sing their winning selections.

More information is available at www.lcso.net

SMSO Summer Beach Series

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra kicks off its 2022 Summer Beach Series with its "Independence Celebration" at 8:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, July 3, at Shadowland Pavilion, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Gates open at 7:30 p.m. EDT. SMSO will play patriotic favorites, such as Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" as a fireworks show begins. A cash bar and food trucks are planned.

Lawn seating costs \$20, while children 12 and younger cost \$10. Take blankets and chairs. Reserved seating, which costs \$30, includes a chair reserved front and center. Ticket costs the day of the concert are \$5 more.

Contact the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030, visit the office, 513 Ship St., or the website at www.smso.org for reservations. St. Joseph High School Auditorium is the rain location.

LaPorte July 4th Parade

LaPorte's 4th of July Parade, presented by the Kiwanis Club, starts at 10 a.m. Monday, July 4, on Lincolnway.

The theme is "America Proud. LaPorte Proud." The fireworks display kicks off around 9:15 p.m., with festivities planned at the Fox Park amphitheater.

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Harbor Country Hikers



Chikaming Open Lands' new Sugarwood Preserve contains a wide variety of environments.

Nature therapy, or ecotherapy, is the theme of Harbor Country Hikers' next hike at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 2, at Chikaming Open Lands' new Sugarwood Preserve in Three Oaks.

The hike begins with comments from HCH President-hike leader Pat Fisher. From there, the group will hit the trail for a 1.2-mile hike. The new preserve includes old-growth and mid-successional forests, a deep ravine with a Galien River tributary, a flood plain and an agricultural field being restored to native prairie.

This hike is rated moderately physically difficult. Those who attend should wear long pants (preferably tucked in), a sun hat and sturdy shoes or boots, and take insect repellent and water. Depending on the weather, portions of the trail may be muddy.

An all-terrain rollator — a wheeled walker with oversized tires for unpaved areas — is available on a first-come, first-served basis through email at harborcountryhikers@gmail.com. Membership in the group is encouraged, but the public is welcome. HCH follows federal and state COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional.

Driving directions and other details are available at www.harborcountryhikers.com and the Facebook page Harbor Country Hikers.

Independence Day Events

Michigan City on July 2 will hold its annual Patriotic Parade, which travels Franklin Street south from 10th Street to Ames Field.

Starting at 11 a.m., the parade features floats, bands and organizations. This year's theme is "United We Stand!" Those wanting to sign up should visit www.emichigancity.com/1249/Patriotic-Parade. Participation is free.

The celebration concludes at dusk July 4 with the Michigan City Fireworks Spectacular in Washington Park. The community will line the beach to watch the traditional celebration. In addition, 95.9 WEFM will broadcast patriotic music.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, June 30.** 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.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 30.** 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.



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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Wetland Wander from 10-10:40 a.m. Thursday, June 30.** Take a 40-minute hike to Dunes Creek and explore breeding birds and underwater critters.
- **Bird Buffet from 9-9:30 a.m. Friday, July 1.** Help a naturalist fill bird feeders at the nature center, then play a game to learn how to better identify birds and animals.
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt from 2-3 p.m. Friday, July 1.** Stop by the Nature Center front desk to pick up directions. The hunts change weekly. The Friends of Indiana Dunes provides a prize.
- **Battle of the Dunes Walk from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 2.** The Battle of Le Petit Fort, while marked by historic signs and briefly mentioned in local histories, remains a mysterious part of the Indiana Dunes story. Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to begin an easy 1.5-mile history walk.

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.

Holiday Church Celebration

Churches in Michigan City's Uptown Arts District will ring bells in unison at noon Monday, July 4, to celebrate Independence Day

Immediately after is a short concert of hymns and patriotic tunes on Trinity Episcopal Church's carillon.

Chesterton Art Center



Stephanie Samaitis Carnell's 3-D "Blue Starfish," digital art on metal.

"Transition," a new solo exhibit by artist Stephanie Samaitis Carnell, runs July 2-28, with an artist reception from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, July 9.

For decades, Carnell has been a printmaker creating works in traditional techniques such as etching, drypoint and aquatint, but also the contemporary process of solarplate etching. She combines various techniques and fusing photography, drawing, digital processes and printing surfaces. In seeking new methods, she became interested in digital art, discovering ways to incorporate the process into her artistic practice.



Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.

Sunset Grille Fireworks Fundraiser

Sunset Grille Rooftop Cantina in Washington Park will host a fireworks party July 4 to benefit the Old Lighthouse Museum and Michigan City Historical Society.

The rooftop venue opens at 5 p.m. with a grill buffet and cash bar. Guests can watch the fireworks from there. Soul Shine will perform. Paid entry fees are \$25 for adults and children 13 and older, and \$15 for children 12 and younger. The museum receives \$5 from each adult entry fee.

Visit www.EventBrite.com to purchase e-tickets.

Open Studio Night

St. Mary's Studios, 326 W. 10th St., will host Open Studio Night from 5-8 p.m. Friday July 1.

Featured artists include: Diane Grams, Tim Lace, Kuhn Hong, Jane Cowley, Edwin Shelton, Kei Constantinov, Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, Margaret Sullivan, Carol G. Block and Nic Orbovich.



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Garden Hotline

LaPorte County Master Gardeners are available through a free garden hotline to answer questions from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through Sept. 30.

Master Gardeners will answer questions on house plants, landscaping, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects and garden pests. Answers include research-based materials produced by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or other regional land-grant universities.

The phone number is (219) 324-9407. Michigan City-area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2010. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions also can be emailed to lpmastergardener@gmail.com

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Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Insights in History

The next "Insights in History" is at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, July 6, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Michelle McCoskey, Fernwood Botanical Garden director of education, will explore the past, present and future of Fernwood, located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. A tour of the Oliver Gardens will be offered.

Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by July 5. Call The History Museum at (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for more details.

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Unity Foundation Teacher Grants

Area educators can apply for program grants through Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

Unity manages three grant programs established by donors. Together, they have invested in more than 1,000 educators at Michigan City public and private schools since the mid-1990s. Teachers can complete a brief application for \$400-\$500 grants at www.uflc.net/grants/teacher-grants for projects during the 2022-2023 academic year. The deadline is Sept. 2.

The Michigan City Education Foundation makes grants available of up to \$500 for teachers at public and parochial K-8 schools in Michigan City. Teachers may use the grants for hands-on or virtual activities in any academic area or life skills.

The Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Mary Lou Linnen and Bud and June Ruby founded the MCEF in 1994.

The Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Endowment Fund honors the former Michigan City kindergarten and first-grade teacher in public and parochial schools. It makes grants of up to \$400 for items that enrich curriculum or enhance a teacher's ability to meet student needs.

Both MCEF and the Carmen Fund accept proposals from: Barker Middle School, Coolspring Elementary, Edgewood Elementary, Joy Elementary, Knapp Elementary, Krueger Middle, Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary, Marsh Elementary, Notre Dame Catholic School, Pine Fine Arts Magnet Elementary, Queen of All Saints Catholic School, Springfield Elementary, St. Paul Lutheran School and St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic School.

The Teacher Innovation Fund is a small grant program for Michigan City High School and LaPorte County Career and Technical Education/A.K. Smith Career Center teachers and professionals. MCAS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins and former Michigan City Mayor Chuck Oberlie provided the idea and seed money from their own personal funds. Each applicant may request up to \$400.

All LaPorte County educators are eligible to apply for Unity's Community "Power for Good" Grants. Applications are available through July 22.



Visit www.uflc.net or contact Lauren Varga at (219) 879-0327 or lvarga@uflc.net for more details.

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In the Area

June 29-July 2 — Canterbury Summer Theatre, “Streakin’ Thru the ‘70s!,” 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. Info: www.canterburytheatre.org

June 30 — Summer Reading Weekly Events: Family Movie & Craft, 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Screening: “Shark Tale.” Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

June 30 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Liberty Bible Church/7 p.m.; preconcert: David Thornberry/6 p.m. *June 29*: LaPorte City Band/7 p.m. Info: contact@artsintheparklaporte.com

June 30, July 5 — Maker Cart Pop Up, 4-5 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

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

July 1 — Open Studio Night, 5-8 p.m., St. Mary’s Studios, 326 W. 10th St.

July 1 — Concert, artist-worship leader Corey Voss, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Free, love offering taken.

July 2 — Annual Patriotic Parade, 11 a.m., Franklin Street from 10th Street to Ames Field.

July 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY.

July 4 — LaPorte’s 4th of July Parade, 10 a.m., Lincolnway. Fireworks @ 9:15 p.m., Fox Park Amphitheater.

July 4 — Old Lighthouse Museum/Michigan City Historical Society benefit, 5 p.m., Sunset Grille Rooftop Cantina, Washington Park. Tickets/reservations: www.EventBrite.com

July 4 — Michigan City Fireworks Spectacular, dusk, Washington Park.

July 4 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra free concert, 7:30 p.m., LaPorte’s Fox Park amphitheater. Info: www.lcso.net

July 6 — Camp Half-Blood Necklace Making, noon-2 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [\[telibrary.org\]\(http://telibrary.org\)](http://www.lapor-</p>
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July 6 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, William Hallier, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

July 6 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Advance registration: dwolf@mcplib.org, (219) 873-3045.

July 6 — Crafty Kids (Ages 6-11), 4-5 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through June — Work by local artist Edwin Levitin, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through June — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.

Through July 2 — “God of Carnage,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$25, \$20 (students/seniors). Reservations: (219) 879-7509, www.dunesARTS.org, @ door.

Through Oct. 21 — “moniquemeloché presents...,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Opening reception: 5-8 p.m. July 1. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events

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

Mondays in July (except July 4) — 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 — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Mullin Elementary School (outside). Cost: \$5 paid at class.

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

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

In the Region

June 30 — Wetland Wander, 10-10:40 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 30 — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road parking lot between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 30 — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 6-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Limit 20 participants. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

June 30 — The Common Concert Series, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Buchanan, Mich. Entertainment: Van Dyke Revue. Info: The Common - Buchanan, MI on Facebook.

June 30 — Modern English, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$45, reserved/\$70. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 1 — Bird Buffet, 9-9:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 1 — Nature Scavenger Hunt, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 1 — Kurt Elling, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$55, reserved/\$80. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 2 — Battle of the Dunes Walk, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 2 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Chikaming Open Lands Sugarwood Preserve, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

July 2 — Joe Pug w/ Michele McGuire, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$25, reserved/\$50. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 2-28 — "Transition," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Artist reception: noon-2 p.m. July 9. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

July 3 — Marshall Crenshaw, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$30, reserved/\$54. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 3 — SMSO Summer Beach Series, 8:30 p.m. EDT, Shadowland Pavilion, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets, reservations: www.smso.org, (269) 982-4030.

July 5 — Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum (Steven Adelman), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

July 6 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission: \$3, \$1/members. Reservations: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

July 6 — Open Mic Night w/ The Edgar Willbury Experience-Midwest Made, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: Email openmic@acornlive.org

Through July 3 — Michiana Annual Arts Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>, <https://facebook.com/boxfactoryarts>

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

Through Oct. 30 — "The Avanti: America's Most

Advanced Automobile," The Studebaker National Museum, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Thursdays in June — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra 2022 Summer Pop Up Concert Series, 4 p.m. EDT, Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market St., St. Joseph, Mich. June 30: Aubergine Brass Quintet. Info: www.smso.org

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "Benediction." Rated PG-13. Times: 2:45 p.m. July 1-3, 6 p.m. July 4. *Also*: "Top Gun: Maverick." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 & 9:15 p.m. July 1-2, 6 p.m. July 3, 2:45 p.m. July 4. *Also*: Paintings by Annie Hickman through late August. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.



American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On June 29, 1966, for the first time during the Vietnam War, the United States bombed North Vietnam's capitol of Hanoi.

On June 29, 1967, Jerusalem was re-unified when Israel removed barricades separating the "Old City" from the Israeli sector.

On June 29, 1972, the Supreme Court ruled the way the death penalty was usually enforced constituted "cruel and unusual punishment."

On June 29, 1995, the shuttle Atlantis and the Russian-built space station Mir docked in orbit.

On June 29, 2003, 13 people were killed when a third-floor porch collapsed during a party in Lincoln Park, Ill.

On June 30, 1859, 5,000 watched as French acrobat Emile Blondin crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

On June 30, 1870, Ada Kepley, of Effingham, Ill., graduated from the Union College of Law in Chicago, the first woman in the United States to graduate from a law school.

On June 30, 1936, Gone With The Wind, a Civil War novel by Margaret Mitchell, was published in New York.

On June 30, 1952, "The Guiding Light," a popular radio program, made its debut as a TV soap opera.

On June 30, 1985, all 39 remaining American hostages in the hijacking of a TWA jet were freed after 17 days captivity in Beirut.

On June 30, 1994, the U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the 1994 national championship and banned her from the organization for life for an attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

On July 1, 1847, the U.S. Post Office issued the nation's first adhesive postage stamps.

On July 1, 1859, Amherst beat Williams in what was reported as the first intercollegiate baseball game.

On July 1, 1862, Congress established the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

On July 1, 1863, one of the world's most decisive battles, the Civil War's three day "Battle of Gettysburg," began.

On July 1, 1898, during the Spanish American War, the "Rough Riders" of Theodore Roosevelt waged a victorious assault on Cuba's San Juan Hill.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, Free and Independent States."

On July 2, 1881, at a Washington railroad station, President James Garfield was shot by Charles

Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker. The president died on Sept. 19.

On July 2, 1904, Chicago's Riverview Park opened to the public.

On July 2, 1926, the Army Air Corps was created.

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight at the equator, disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. No trace has ever been found of them.

On July 3, 1819, in New York, the Bank of Savings (the first savings bank in America) opened its doors to the public. The bank had 80 customers on the first day, receiving total deposits of \$2,807.

On July 3, 1930, Congress created the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs).

On July 3, 1971, pop singer Jim Morrison, of The Doors, died in Paris at age 27.

On July 3, 1981, Chris Evert Lloyd won her third successive women's singles tennis championship at Wimbledon.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4, 1802, the U.S. Military Academy opened at West Point, N.Y.

On July 4, 1900, jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong was born in New Orleans.

On July 4, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt opened the first cable connection between San Francisco and Manila.

On July 5, 1865, in London, William Booth founded The Salvation Army.

On July 5, 1894, a major fire destroyed several of the buildings left from Chicago's 1893 "Columbian Exposition."

On July 5, 1946, the bikini bathing suit made its debut at a fashion show in Paris.

On July 5, 1980, Sweden's Bjorn Borg won the Wimbledon men's singles title for the fifth consecutive year.

On July 6, 1699, Scottish pirate William Kidd was arrested in Boston. He was later tried and hanged in England.

On July 6, 1854, the newly created Republican Party held its first state convention at Ripon, Wis.

On July 6, 1919, the first Atlantic crossing by an airship was completed when a British dirigible landed at New York's Roosevelt Field.

On July 6, 1928, the preview of the first all-talking motion picture, "Lights of New York," took place at New York's Strand Theatre.

On July 6, 1933, the first all-star major league baseball game was played in Chicago's Comiskey Park. Herman "Babe" Ruth hit a home run, helping the American League to beat the National League by a score of 4-2.

On July 6, 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title.

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The Horsewoman by James Patterson and Mike Lupica (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audio-book. 433 pages.)

When I was about 5, I couldn't understand why my parents said no to a horse for me. After all, it could stay in the backyard and eat the grass. I never did get that horse, but my love of horses continues to this day.

That's why this book caught my eye, even though I just reviewed a Patterson book. I was excited about the subject, but also glad the co-writer, Mike Lupica, is a veteran sports columnist, ESPN panelist on "The Sports Reporter" and a novelist in his own right. He also has a daughter who has been a competitive rider since she was 10. I figured between the two of them, I was in for an exceptional read.

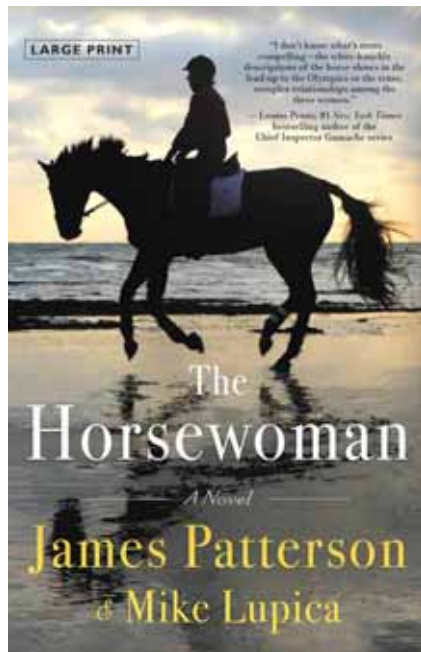
"Your mother's on her way to the Olympics, Grandmother had said the night before. And you're on your way to the bar."

The woman speaking is Caroline Atwood, owner of Atwood Farm in Florida. The subject of her wrath is her granddaughter, Becky. Becky's mother is Maggie Atwood, competitive horse-jumping champion rider. Since going to college, Becky hasn't taken riding seriously. In fact, she isn't taking much of anything seriously. As Becky says, *"Even in a horse family, I was the black sheep."*

One morning, sleeping in late, Becky awakens to realize her mother has taken off alone into the woods to exercise her horse, Coronado. The rule was always to not ride alone for safety reasons. Good advice. Becky makes it out to the yard to see Coronado heading for the barn...alone.

Maggie needs surgery for a fall caused by a fox running across the trail; the horse reared, Maggie fell off. This delays Maggie from the training necessary leading up to the Paris Olympics. Becky now realizes the need to step in and see Atwood Farm make it to the apex of the horse-jumping world.

While Maggie is recuperating and not sure if she will get back in the arena with Coronado, it's decided that Becky will train on the horse and, hopefully, earn enough points to make the American Olympic jumping team. But stubborn Maggie pushes herself



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



and makes it known she will get back in training. That leaves Becky with her horse, Sky. Daniel, their trainer, said both have a good chance of making the team and should train accordingly. A number of competitions will be held in the next few months leading up to the Grand Prix and the final determination of who will comprise the Olympic team.

When you are a fierce competitor, nothing or nobody can get in your way. As Becky trains on Sky and Maggie's health improves, the need for these strong women to not only compete but win becomes evident. But who's rooting for who? These are capable women with strong opinions and ideas about themselves and their horses.

Problem — Maggie doesn't count on losing her confidence after the accident. Can she regain it?

The rotten core in all this is Steve Gorton, one-half owner of Coronado, a very rich and obnoxious man. He wants his own rider on Coronado; he's convinced the women can't win. He wants not only the prize money the horse is capable of winning, but also the renown of being a major player in the elite horse-jumping world. He makes it hell for the three women, even offering to buy out their half of Coronado to ensure Atwood Farm doesn't go under.

It's a high stakes world. The horse-jumping competitions are told realistically. You can feel the connection between rider and horse as they make the turns and jumps with hoofs pounding on the turf, and the hold-your-breath moment at each jump. It is obvious Coronado runs better with Maggie and Sky better with Becky. Two different horses, two different riders. It's easy to find yourself analyzing each woman's ride and who you think deserves to win it all. The excitement is palpable.

The book is long, but the writing is so smooth — thank you Mr. Patterson — that pages fly by. Whether you are a horse lover or not, the intricacies of the horse-jumping competitions will keep your interest and make you feel you're in the stands — thank you Mr. Lupica.

It may not win the National Book Award, but The Horsewoman is pure entertainment, and maybe a bit more special if you're a horse lover like myself. Two women, two horses, one Olympic chance for fame. Can a mother and daughter survive this emotional and physical challenge in which only one will come out the winner? Will the family bond that binds them together be broken? It's not a sedate trot, but a full out gallop to the finish.

Final note: Swearing here is minimal and does not take away from the enjoyment of the story.

Till next time, happy reading!

happy fourth of july



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