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# Any Goal Worth Achieving

by Kim Nowatzke

Youth in the U8 age category are photographed by The Beacher's Kim Nowatzke during Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City action.

They ran with the idea and more than met their goal, as nearly 218 local kids this spring are having a ball every Saturday morning.

There were plenty of smiles amid an exciting atmosphere as members of the Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City played their first day of games April 23 at Patriot Park.

Spearheading the effort has been board president Meredith Payne and board vice president Michael Ramsey. Neither are new to the game.

Payne was involved with the former Michigan City Soccer Club for eight years as a coach and board vice president before it disbanded in 2019, after more than 20 years in existence. Her son, Alex Payne, now plays on the Michigan City High

School boys soccer team and referees for the club; her 9-year-old daughter, Addison Moore, plays on a Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City U10 team.

Payne said she "couldn't bear to have all the kids in the Michigan City area miss out on this experience.

"For me," she continued, "it was also personal because I didn't want my daughter to miss out on all the experiences my son had. There are kids we have known since he was 5 because of the soccer program here in town, and it helps build a sense of community when you see them out and about or are on teams with them later in school."

Payne wasn't alone in her desire to resurrect a soccer club here.

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## Any Goal Worth Achieving

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"Our initial hope was to get 150 kids, and we celebrated when we did," she said. "We thought we were building up to 200 for the fall season, but blew past that this time with ease. We are so excited to be working with so many kids right from the beginning."

Ramsey echoed that sentiment.

"We were hoping for 150, so this is a much bigger turnout than we were hoping for," he said. "We had an idea that the demand was there based on our two Michigan City High School summer camps last year, but this has been awesome!"

Ramsey, a Barker Middle School language arts teacher, has coached boys and girls soccer teams there since 2014, focusing solely on the girls teams the past few years. He has been the head coach of the MCHS Lady Wolves soccer team since 2017, and played soccer himself at Marquette High School and Wabash College.

"We've been holding MCHS high school soccer summer camps every summer," he continued. "Last year's camps really showed us how many kids and parents are interested in soccer. We had over 100 kids attend our first camp in June, which caused us to hold another camp in the summer, which also had a great turnout. It was obvious there is a big demand for soccer in Michigan City!"

Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City consists of 20 teams divided into the age categories (based on the child's age as of Aug. 1) of U14, U10, U8 and U6 (with the minimum age of 4). As the program grows, the board hopes to have enough players to add a U12 division. All games are played at 9, 10 or 11 a.m. Saturdays at Patriot Park. Plans

are to run spring and fall seasons. This spring season was to begin Saturday, April 16, and end May 28, but it was postponed a week due to rain-soaked playing fields; the new end date is June 4. The fall season begins in August, with registration opening up by mid-June through around Aug. 1.

The club is run by eight board members who have been meeting and planning for months. In addition to Ramsey and Payne, members include Michael Piazzisi as secretary, Justin Ward as treasurer and Brian Parker, Sara Dailey, Chris Williams and Brad Kiser.

"We have 16 other volunteer coaches who have been so gracious in stepping up, even though they might not have coached in the past," Payne explained. "We provide materials to help them get started and will offer any support they may need throughout the season. We are always looking for more help and more people to grow the program with us. There are several teams that are taken on by board members when there were not enough people to fill those spots, even if they were already coaching other teams."

Several goals exist behind the Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City. One is simply to introduce area youth to the game of soccer.

"Our goals for the club are to teach soccer to kids before it is typically available in school. They touch on it in gym class at younger ages, but the first chance they can play in public schools is fifth grade," Payne said. "We want to get them out playing, learning the rules and being active well before then. We want the club to continue to grow and live on for years to come so that soccer becomes second nature to kids and families in the Michigan City area."

Board member Sara Dailey agrees.

"We hope that this club offers the ability to give athletes a safe and fun way to learn and love the



Brad Kiser



Meredith Payne



Mike Ramsey



Sara Dailey



game of soccer,” she said. “We also want to make sure that parents can depend on a club that is truly there for the athletes...We all just want to support these young athletes and provide them with the opportunity to increase their skill and knowledge of the game and have fun while doing it!”

Dailey is the athletic director at Renaissance Academy, where she coaches soccer and volleyball. She was a coach for the Michigan City Soccer Club for 10 years. Her 12-year-old son, Alex, and 10-year-old daughter, Lila, are on her U14 team.

“As the varsity coach for Marquette High School’s girls soccer, I have seen that our pool of soccer players is diminishing,” she said. “For two years, we have had no club for athletes to start learning and loving the game of soccer. When I heard that Coach Ramsey was putting together a board to get a club started back up in Michigan City, I immediately knew this was something I wanted to be a part of.”




Board President Michael Ramsey looks on during the first game day for Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

Ramsey also is interested in the club being a feeder program for area high school teams.

“Our main goal is to create a successful club for the kids and parents of Michigan City that will stand the test of time. We want kids to learn and grow and develop as both players and people,” he said. “We’d

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like to at least double our numbers and eventually add a travel component to the club, where the more skilled and motivated kids can play against tougher competition from around the region. We'd also like Wolves Soccer Club to become part of the developmental process to drive the growth of soccer at Michigan City High School and other area schools."

Payne agrees.

"Many cities around here already have established clubs that feed into their middle school and high school teams," she said. "We take kids from all over, so we are not pushing specifically to Michigan City Area Schools, but we are not shying away from them either. Our goal is to prepare our kids to be better players for whatever school they will attend in the long run."

Board Member Brad Kiser said he got involved in the club "because there is a need for a feeder system for the high school teams and to hopefully build up the club level so Michigan City kids can play club level soccer at an affordable price."

He volunteered as a coach and assistant coach for his four sons for more than 25 years through the Michigan City Soccer Club. His 13-year-old son, John, is playing this season for the Wolves Soccer Club.

Dara Hale, whose 9-year-old daughter, Grace, is playing in the Wolves Soccer Club, also appreciates the goal of a feeder program.

"The seasons are quick, not a ton of commitment like some sports programs can be," she said, "but the kids still learn the skills of the game, and they are learning to find things that interest them early in school."

Payne said the Wolves Soccer Club's intention is to eventually offer travel teams for more competition. The club is affiliated with Soccer Association for Youth USA and its regional association, the Northwest Indiana Soccer League. The two encourage competition at higher levels.

Dailey cited several reasons why an organization such as Wolves Soccer Club is important.

"It brings athletes from

every school and age levels together to make new friendships while learning the game," she said. "The athletes look forward to every Saturday when every team is at the park, and they get to either play against or see their friends play on the same day. We hope that the kids build lifelong friendships with other athletes, and also learn the game of soccer while at the same time growing to love it."

That component is high on Kim Sydow's priority list as well for her children: Allison, 13, and Allen, 12.

"The kids played for their elementary school, but we love the soccer club as it gets the kids out of their comfort zone and meeting new kids from different schools and different skill levels," she said.

With the club comprised of 55 percent boys and 45 percent girls, Payne says it's a fairly even split. In addition, 82 percent of players in Wolves Soccer Club are from the Michigan City, Trail Creek, Long Beach and Beverly Shores areas. The remaining 18 percent are from Westville, Valparaiso, South Bend, LaPorte, Chesterton and Dunes Acres.

Amanda Mashburn, mother to Michael (Mikey), 9, and Adalynn, 5, is excited to see the return of soccer to Michigan City. Mikey first became acquainted with the sport at age 3 and now is active in baseball and swimming. His sister is involved in soccer and swimming, and takes dance and gymnastics classes.

"My husband and I decided it was important for Mikey to learn sports at a young age, where he could grow, develop a positive self-esteem and try his best at anything he accomplished," she said. "Mikey has definitely reaped many benefits from playing soccer. He has improved his skill level over the years and has developed his sportsmanship to celebrate the

wins and improve from the losses.

"From playing numerous sports over the years, he also gets lots of exercise daily from both the weekly practices and games. He has learned the sport of soccer inside out and the terminology that comes with it. He has several classmates that play a few of the sports together, and he has really enjoyed making new friendships with his teammates and building connections with them. Overall, the best outcome from soccer and all the sports he plays is creating a positive rapport with his teammates and making long-lasting friendships over the years."



Nine-year-old Michael (Mikey) Mashburn and his sister, Adalynn Mashburn, 5, are in the U10 and U6 Divisions of Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City. Photo by Kim Nowatzke



Kiser emphasized that the Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City offers the chance to play the game at an affordable price. The cost per season is \$60, with a \$5 discount for additional children. Ramsey pointed out how soccer is relatively cheap to play because all you essentially need is a ball and some space.

(The club requires shin guards as well.)

"Soccer is a great sport for many reasons. You don't have to be particularly big or strong to be a good player. One of the best players ever, Diego Maradona, was maybe 5' 5" tall," he said. "Soccer is fun and a great way for kids to spend time with friends and get outside and away from phones and video games. I should also mention that we in the U.S. now have access to soccer games on a daily basis from around the world, and it's easy to see the passion that people around the world have for the game."

Payne is a big fan of soccer because of how much it teaches kids.

"They first learn teamwork, how to take instruction from a coach and the dynamics of working with their peers, which are crucial skills to have out in the world," she said. "They learn to push their limits and to have fun while doing it. They also learn a fun sport that is gaining in popularity in the U.S. as it has already exploded elsewhere. Soccer can be played in backyards, in the street or anywhere you have a ball and can imagine goals."



Youth engaged in soccer action in the U14 division.

Dailey noted soccer involves eye-foot coordination, compared to others sports that focus on eye-hand coordination.

"In any sport, having the capability of controlling all three helps a player move faster, react quicker

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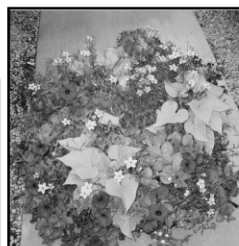
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and increase connection with the ball," she said. "Soccer is also beneficial for self-esteem because it builds confidence, social skills and teamwork. In a lot of sports, you have to choose whether you want to be on offense or defense, but with so many different positions on the soccer field, an athlete can work on both sides of the field in order to succeed and build on many different levels."

Dailey also said kids can begin soccer at a young age. In the Wolves Soccer Club of Michigan City, families with multiple children can get their chil-

dren involved in the same league at one location.

So far, Ramsey said, parents have shown overwhelming support.

"They are glad that their kids have a chance to play, and that we are running the club with the highest level of professionalism that we can," he said. "We obviously have work to do, but I think we're on the right track."



Sydow's favorable opinion was evident as she and her husband, Allen, exited the field's sideline after their kids played their first game with the club.

"We appreciate all of the volunteers taking time away from their families to make club soccer such a great success," she said. "Helping these young kids have fun on the field and seeing their smiles are priceless."

Payne said the club appreciates the Michigan City park department's support in using the fields at Patriot Park as they attempt to get more kids involved in organized sports.

"We are happy to have as much of our community rally behind our kids as we can get. The theme of our first season has been grace. We have asked it from the parents and kids as we figure this all out, and we have been given it by officials from the city and from SAY in setting up our affiliation," she said. "We are bound to have bumps along the way, but we are learning as we grow and hope to be pros at it in no time."

Visit [www.wolvessoccerclub.org](http://www.wolvessoccerclub.org) or Wolves Soccer Club on Facebook for more details.

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## World Creativity and Innovation Week

The Center for Creative Solutions recognized Barker Middle School with Student Innovation Awards as part of Northwest Indiana's celebration of World Creativity and Innovation Week.

The center presented a \$200 check to the school's STEM Program made possible by the Morgan Family Foundation.

For the past nine years, Barker Middle School has sponsored three community challenges: Egg Crash, Ramp Challenge and Water Bottle Rockets. The STEM program collaborates with area businesses, agencies, Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry, Valparaiso University, Purdue Northwest and the Society of Women's Engineers.

Barker students work with 3-D printing and virtual reality equipment, and make video documentaries and public-service announcements. They were STEM state finalists in 2021 and 2013.

Sponsors of World Creativity and Innovation Week include WIMS Radio, Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest, "Arts on the Air" of Lakeshore Public Radio and The Center for Creative Solutions.

Also part of World Creativity and Innovation Week was the Northwest Indiana Poetry Showcase. It had no official theme, with nearly 150 young poets and four adults submitting entries.

"Our creative partner, Ester, founder and owner of The Nest in Michigan City, came up with an 'Inspiration List' that was designed to help jog a memory or spark an idea for an original poem," Bill Halliar, co-chair of this year's celebration, said in a press release.

The results were poems on animals, outer space, boxes, toys, clouds, flowers, food and family. Judging the youth entries was Dr. William Allegrezza, who teaches creative writing, professional writing, composition and literature classes.

Last week, several poets read their works on the air at WIMS Radio. This summer, the writers will read their work at Art-in-the-Park programs in LaPorte's Fox Park. Halliar hopes the poetry showcase will become an adult Poet Laureate program in Michigan City. The winners are:

### First Grade

"I love you," Samuel Bosh, 7, Westfield Carey Ridge Elementary School.

### Second Grade

#### Queen of All Saints School

**First**, "Rocketship Space," Alea Smith, 8; **second**, "Sky Space," Mariah Stone, 8; **third**, "Holy Heaven," Henry Morefield, 8.

#### Coolspring Elementary School

**First**: "I Like Flowers," Olivia Wood, 8; **second**: "Cleaning Up the Beach," Jeremiah Kilbourne, 8; **third**: "Ducks," Mariska Losiniecki.

### Third Grade

#### Queen of All Saints



Jeremiah Kilbourne (center) is photographed with his mother, the Rev. Ericka Kilbourne, and his sister, Annabelle.

**First**: "Clouds are White Fluffy Puffs," Anna Nelson, 9; **second**: "White Clouds Fill the Sky," Audrey Nelson, 9; **third**: "Up There is a Sky," Liam Yuknis, 9.

### Fourth Grade

#### Queen of All Saints

**First**: "The Green and White Glow," Eli Morefield, 10; **second**: "Hidden Box," Andy Rendon, 10; **third**: "A Box was Glowing," Manny Rocilez, 10.

### Fifth Grade

#### Queen of All Saints

**First**: "How High, How High," Finnian Hendricks, 11; **second**: "Cold Lonely," Gregory Hopper, 11; **third**: "Up Far in the Clouds," Amelia Arnold, 11.

### Sixth Grade

#### Queen of All Saints

**First**: "In the Clouds," Bruno Cervantes, 12; **second**: "Hello, Goodbyes," Elijah Arnold, 12; **third**: "The Clouds Hiding," Elijah Arnold, 12.

### Seventh Grade

#### Queen of All Saints

**First**: "Clouds," Bradyn Losinski, 13; **second**: "There is a Hidden Box," Xander Seedorf, 13; **third**: "The Constant Wait," Sophia Vaughn, 13.

### Eighth Grade

#### Queen of All Saints

**First**: "I Grew a Sapling," Andrew Hoang, 14; **second**: "Waving to Your Friends," Eleanor Crane, 13; **third**: "Goodbyes Can Be Sad," Madison Woodruff, 15.

### High School

**First**: "Please Stay a Little Longer," Samantha Williams, 16, Chesterton High School; **second**: "Life's Long Morals," Melody Pearson, 17, Westville High School.

### Adults

"My Walk" — Jeannie Halliar; "Crosses" — Roy Summerville; "Thoughts in the Rain" — Bill Halliar.





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## “Letters to Sala” Opens at LaPorte Little Theatre Club

“Letters to Sala,” the story of one woman’s persistence, survival, family and love, runs Friday-Sunday, May 6-8 and 13-15, at LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St.

The true story, adapted from the book *Sala’s Gift*, focuses on Sala Garcarnz Kirshner’s survival of seven work camps during World War II. During this time, she collected and saved more than 350 letters, photos and diary pages. Now, she wants to give them to her daughter. The turmoil involves what to do with them – keep them or donate them. The story visits her hometown before the camps, the savagery of the camps and her family’s struggle between privacy and preserving history. The story is told through the saved letters. Directors Douglas Campbell and Tony J. Thomas lead the cast that includes Greta Friedman as Sala and Marie Parrette as Young Sala. Cindy Wilcox, Kassandra Jackson and Madison Keller are Sala’s New York City family. Jackie Robinson, Mary Watterson and Korina Jackson portray Sala’s family in pre-war Poland. The cast also includes Floral Antrim, Cole Antrim, Donovan Barrier, Lindsey Baugh, Makenna Blair, Delaney Dunfee, Maegan Jackson, Kristopher Jackson, Keith Jackson, Michelle Jackson, Kaitlyn Jones, Trent Kearcher, Ben Keller, Delaney Kute, Thom Nelson, Max Principe, Laura Sullivan and Jill Thomas.



Greta Friedman stars as Sala in LaPorte Little Theatre Club’s production of “Letters to Sala.”

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. May 6, 2 p.m. May 7-8, 7:30 p.m. May 13-14 and 2 p.m. May 15. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$13 for students. Visit [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/) for reservations.

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## Chamber Music Festival Mother's Day Concert

The Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present its free Mother's Day concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 8, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St.

The concert is specifically designed for families, featuring a sing-along for children and adults, including "Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star," "Go Tell Aunt Rhody" and "Long, Long, Ago." It also will include music about mothers, flowers and virtuosic violin pieces.

The performers includes Fiddlers Two — Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich.

Glashauser, who performs works by Paganini, Wieniawski and Prokofiev, is a violinist with Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

Orbovich is the artistic director/violinist for Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, and holds the "Irene M. Siberell" principal second violin chair with South Bend Symphony Orchestra.

Since forming "Fiddlers Two," they have soloed with numerous orchestras across the United States.

A milk and cookies reception follows the concert.

The program is the first of several "Concerts for Children and Families" the MCCMF will present this year. The next is at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at Angela House, Michigan City.



Fiddlers Two includes Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich.

Visit [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org), Facebook at MC Chamber Fest, YouTube at Michigan City Chamber Music Festival or call (219) 561-1939 for more details.



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## Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will host a free concert celebrating National Music Week at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The performance features members and friends of the organization.

Since 1924, National Music Week has been observed annually during the first full week of May

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## Stage Reading at LCA

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a stage reading of "Climate Follies" from 5-8 p.m. May 6 as part of free First Friday events.

The reading, which starts at 6 p.m., includes free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. LCA will invite audience members to participate in the performance alongside professional actors. Guests receive scripts and the chance to perform in short, simple sketches with guidance from playwright Jim Poyser and director John Green. Long Beach's David Hoppe is the producer.



Poyser

Poyser and Green will participate in a discussion with the audience throughout the performance.

"Climate Follies" consists of more than a dozen short plays Hoppe describes as "Samuel Beckett meets David Sedaris." It premiered at the Indianapolis Fringe Festival in 2021. LCA's stage reading will be the first part of a public process leading to a fully staged production produced in Northwest Indiana by Victory Dog Productions.

As an Indianapolis playwright, Poyser's works have been performed for more than 40 years in Bloomington, Indianapolis, Chicago and New York City. He also is the director of Earth Charter Indiana, a state-wide organization raising awareness on the climate crisis. Green is a professor in the theater department at Columbia College Chicago, where he teaches stage directing and is co-director of the graduate program in European-devised performance practice. He has received several festival best director awards.

After the performance, a reception hosted by Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter is at Shoreline Brewery.

Contact Samantha Bean at (219) 874-4900 or sbean@LubeznikCenter.org for more details.



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## Wear Beige and Keep Your Mouth Shut

As a young girl, every time my mother or someone from her generation used the expression, “Wear beige and keep your mouth shut,” I giggled. I puzzled how the two things — a nondescript wardrobe and keeping one’s thoughts to oneself — were related. Now that I have married children, I no longer scoff at the motto. I get it.

Many years ago, my mother-in-law was hospitalized for a reoccurring malady. At the time, Mary Lou lived in Traverse City, Mich., several hours from most of her married children. I don’t recall the circumstances, but I was the one who made the trip north to visit her. I managed her hospital discharge, picked up meds at Walgreen’s, stocked her fridge and retrieved the mail from her post office box. On the day my brother-in-law was to drive up and relieve me, I settled her into her favorite chair, turned on NPR and placed a stack of library books, crossword puzzles and *The New Yorker* within reach.

I planted a kiss on her lined forehead. “I’m all packed up. Matt said he’s just passing through Grand Rapids. Should be here in a few hours. Do you need anything else before I take off?”

“No dear. You’ve totally spoiled me. And if I do, I can call my friend Arlene. She’s five minutes away.”

I gave Mary Lou one last hug and asked, “Shall I leave the door unlocked so you don’t have to get up

### This Girl, That Life

Julie McGue



when Matt arrives?”

“You’d better. I’ll probably doze off here in a few minutes. Drive carefully.”

Several hours into my four-hour drive, I decided to check on Mary Lou again. “How’s everything going there?”

“I’m fine. Arlene’s here. There was an emergency at home, so Matt turned around and went back.”

“Oh, my!” I gasped. “What happened?”

“Well....” An elongated sigh filled our connection.

I surmised that my mother-in-law’s breathy pause held not only careful restraint, but disappointment and resentment, too. Matt and his wife were childless. So, their 17-year-old pet parrot named George benefitted from a steady supply of love and attention. George had been ailing. Halfway through the drive to care for his recuperating mother, Matt received a panicked call from his wife. She believed the bird was dying. Faced with the difficult decision of whether to support his wife or mom, Matt returned home.

Before I could offer any comment, I heard Mary Lou mutter, “I just wear beige and keep my mouth shut.”

In the beginning of April, my son and his fiancé married in Big Sky, Montana. Early spring in the mountains can mean a magnificent bluebird day, rain or snow. Often, all three weather conditions prevail in the same day. In planning the wedding, the bride and groom were adamant.

“The ceremony will be 10 minutes long at best,” the bride said. “We want to say our vows outside with the mountains as a backdrop. If it snows or rains, we’ll just hand out umbrellas.”

Yes, the motto of my mother’s generation, “wear beige and keep your mouth shut,” did run through my head. Against so much confidence and determination, I didn’t feel it was my place as the mother of the groom to offer my doubt or opinion.

On the day of the wedding, the weather report forecasted rain in the valley and snow at higher elevations. Two hours before the buses left for the wedding venue, a band of heavy clouds dumped several inches of wet, heavy snow on the previously dry asphalt roads. Driving conditions became treacherous. And because I am not of my mother’s generation where silence is a virtue, I composed a text message to the mother of the bride, my son and future daughter-in-law.

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"I hope we're moving the ceremony indoors?" I softened my message with blowing kisses, prayerful hands and lots of snowflake emojis.

No response from anyone.

I debated about sending off another text. Surely, the bride and groom would be sensible and consider the comfort and safety of their guests. I held back on dishing out any more unsolicited advice until I arrived at the party barn.

At the wedding venue, staff scurried about on the back patio, clearing the paths and wiping down the rows of padded white chairs. One of the workers struggled to light the overhead heaters amid the driving snow. Another wheeled out tasteful bins of umbrellas, placing them strategically at the exit doors.

"This is ridiculous," I mumbled to myself. "Someone's going to slip and fall."

I scoured the venue for someone to complain to, but there were only workers doing what they'd been told. A heavy sigh ruffled the lacy overlay of my brown dress. As the guests streamed in, the wedding planner hustled the bridal party into the hallway. On cue, I slid my hand under my son's elbow, matched his blissful smile and together we processed down the slick outdoor aisle. Snowflakes snagged in my eyelashes. The hem of my fancy dress dragged in the dampness accumulating on the gravel. Throughout it all, my plastered smile disguised my inner disdain for the circumstances.

When the first notes of Pachelbel's "Canon" drifted through the crisp mountain air, the assembly stood and turned. Behind us, the bride beamed as she clutched her father's arm. This was her day. She and my son were doing things their way. They were deliriously happy to be marrying and for having us gather as their witnesses. To them, the snow flurries just added another level of cache to their desired wedding experience.

As I watched my future daughter-in-law glide down the aisle, I thought of my deceased mother-in-law, Mary Lou, and the day she'd been sidelined for a sick bird. I considered her thoughtful restraint on that day, her dedication to family and maintaining relationships at a personal cost.

My mother's generation may have gotten it right with their pithy motto, "wear beige and keep your mouth shut." Silencing our opinions is often the right thing to do when we have the long game in mind.

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## A Bubble or New Normal?

What this graph says is, the median home sale price for the whole country went up just over 17% in one year. Median is the midpoint of prices. Half sold for less, half for more. The median price change is the best indicator that all prices are going up or down.



Lack of inventory probably is largely driving this increase. We have seen the inventory in what I call "Indiana Lakefront" drop to 10% of normal. So if you need a house or just want a house, you are likely to pay more than asking price today. And do other seemingly foolish things, like offering to give earnest money to the seller if you do not buy the house because of a legitimate inspection problem. Or put down more money if the lender's appraisal (yes, it belongs to the lender; you just pay for it) does not indicate the house is worth what you are paying for it. Or make an offer with an "escalation clause" that says you will outbid the other person's offer by \$2,000 up to a point \$50,000 more than asking price.

My gut reaction is to say we are in a "bubble market." That, like in 2007-2010, the price of houses will drop 17% per year after prices rose in 2003-2006, a similar 17% per year. Most of my real estate peers talk about being in a "bubble."

But I go way back. And I can tell you, the median sale price in our area between 1984-2006 regularly and consistently went up at least 10% per year. Granted, the starting point was a very depressed market in 1982 and not a normal market like 2020, when this latest boom started. But prices went up year after year. 10% annual appreciation was normal.

So I cannot rule out that we have entered an era of real-estate property appreciation that will be very strong and consistent. Buying Real Estate will be the smart way to stay ahead of inflation.

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## “The Revolution Generation” Takes a Powerful, Moving Look at Millennials

by Andrew Tallackson



“Fast and Furious” star and activist Michelle Rodriguez serves as the narrator of “The Revolution Generation.”

Joshua Tickell and Rebecca Harrell Tickell have effectively become the voice of a new generation of documentarians.

This husband-and-wife duo is not concerned with static “talking heads” features. Their films are catalysts for change. Rallying cries to a world capable of better. Explorations of where we are today, and how that impacts where we’re headed in the near future.

They don’t tackle easy subjects. The world is a messy place. These two waded in waters most people prefer to ignore.

Their last project, “Kiss the Ground,” approached climate change from the angle of regenerative farming practices. Their new film, “The Revolution Generation,” available through View on Demand, explores one of the most maligned and misunderstood groups out there.

Millennials.

This is the group essentially born between 1980 and 2000. They range in age from mid-20s to early 40s. They are construed, largely by mainstream media, as lazy. Selfish. Compulsive. Detached. Plagued by a sense of entitlement.

Is there any truth to that?

★★★★

### “The Revolution Generation”

Running time: 81 minutes. View on Demand. Not Rated.

“The Revolution Generation” states its case succinctly, that while there is some truth to public perceptions, the tides are changing. And by the end, I was moved significantly more than “Kiss the Ground.”

The filmmakers wisely rely on famous faces as the initial sparks to draw audiences into their films. Woody Harrelson was the narrator of “Kiss the Ground,” and for “The Revolution Generation,” the guiding voice is a millennial herself, “Fast and Furious” star and activist Michelle Rodriguez.

What the film does is carefully chart each categorized group before millennials, from Boomers to Generation X, placing them in sociopolitical context. Then, it dives into an effective case study of 21st century millennials. As someone in his 50s, something I never took into consideration — which the movie points out — is that the defining historical moment for millennials was 9/11, leading to a culture of fear



and anxiety. Amplifying those fears are technology, specifically a social media society in which posts consistently flaunt ideals of perfection many feel they cannot match.

The issues of the day — race, gender, voting, climate change, green practices — are just as relevant for millennials as any other group. And under lesser hands, a film like this would simply be one huge scare tactic. The world is broken, with no one willing to fix it.

But Joshua Tickell and Rebecca Harrell Tickell are optimists. They embrace hope, and where “The Revolution Generation” becomes incredibly moving is in its latter half, where we meet millennials on the frontlines of change. People in non-profits fighting for social justice. Individuals taking the fight to politics, running for office and, in many cases, earning seats in local and national government.

What we get in “The Revolution Generation” is the idea that change is possible within us all. That seeds of hope *are* being planted within each succes-



Rebecca Harrell Tickell (left) and Joshua Tickell talk with Michelle Rodriguez during the filming of “The Revolution Generation.”

sive generation.

Here in LaPorte County and, of course, Three Oaks, Mich., Rebecca Harrell Tickell has a special place in our hearts as the young star of John Hancock’s Christmas classic “Prancer” (1989). Now, with her husband, she’s behind the camera, making films that are thoughtful, urgent and relevant, longing for a world where our children can safely raise their children.

“The Revolution Generation” is one of their best.

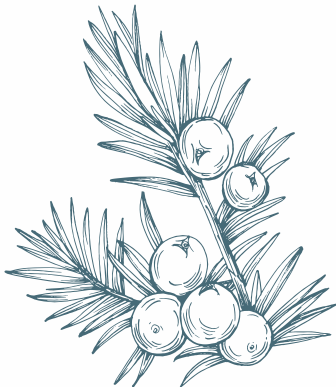
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# A Night in Candy Land

The Community 203 of the Girls Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michigan held a father-daughter “He and Me Dance” on April 19 at Red Mill County Park. The girls were from Michigan City and New Buffalo, Mich. A total of 63 attended; there were 28 couples and seven additional girls. The theme was “A Night in Candy Land.”

All photos by Kim Nowatzke





## Gripping “All the Old Knives” Achieves One Whopper of a Finish

by Andrew Tallackson



Thandiwe Newton and Chris Pine play former lovers forced to re-examine a tragic hijacking in “All the Old Knives.”

“All the Old Knives” is based on a book, and you can tell. It unfolds like a page-turner, slowly at first, slipping through past and present with careful precision. The writer, Olen Steinhauer, in adapting his 2015 novel, emphasizes character over action, which may alienate viewers who prefer their spy movies go boom as much as possible.

Thing is, we pretty much figure out the “who” of the story. The individual at the heart of its tragedy. What we don’t anticipate is the “why,” and that is where this Amazon Prime film delivers a kick to the gut, one we don’t see coming. How rare is that these days? To be surprised *and* devastated by a movie’s conclusion?

What works to the movie’s benefit is that it is not told in linear fashion. We have bits and pieces of the present and past before everything starts to click.

The tragedy at its center is a 2012 terrorist hijacking aboard a plane in which the loss of life is catastrophic. Eight years later, Vick Wallinger (Laurence Fishburne), head of the CIA’s Vienna office, learns there might have been a leak within his staff, someone who tipped off the terrorists of plans to thwart them. Vick wants agent Henry Pelham (Chris Pine), stationed at the Vienna office at the time, to track down fellow agent Celia Harrison (Thandiwe Newton), who quit her position in Vienna shortly after things collapsed with the hijacking.

Celia is now retired, living with her husband and children in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif. Over the



### “All the Old Knives”

Running time: 101 minutes. Amazon Prime.  
Rated R for sexuality/nudity, violence and language.

course of one long night, amid dinner at a swanky restaurant, the details of that horrific hijacking are revisited. It must be noted, too, that Henry and Celia were lovers, the particulars of the terrorist attack pushing their relationship to the brink.

Had “All the Old Knives” started at the beginning, permitting all the details, all the clues and red herrings, to spill out chronologically, the result would have been a tedious bore. An obvious thriller headed toward a foregone conclusion. But because Steinhauer structures the events as a seductive tease, incidents we see early take on an entirely different meaning near the end. Really, the unsung heroes of “All the Old Knives” are editors Per Sandholt and Mark Eckersley, who deftly juggle the wraparound story involving dinner between Henry and Celia with the drama’s meat and potatoes — the flashbacks involving that day in 2012 — but without leaving you scratching your head out of confusion.

We meet Henry’s and Celia’s former colleagues, including the great Jonathan Pryce (“The Two Popes”) as the office’s fatherly type who has an unfortunate way of speaking in mysterious circles.

Pine and Newton definitely have chemistry to-

gether, especially during scenes unfolding in the present. Seated before each other in a largely empty restaurant, we can't figure out who's working who. Just who is the cat and the other the mouse? Anyone with a taste for spy thrillers will draw conclusions by the midpoint, and those guesses won't be wrong.

Thing is, we can't figure the character out — the “why,” as I mentioned earlier. Once it registers, a gnawing dread settling in your stomach, “All the Old Knives” is not concerned with solely delivering a “gotcha” ending. It wants the implications of the characters' behaviors to sink in, to rattle your impressions of them. What we're left with is far more complicated. We understand the motivations as we wrestle, too, with the ethical and moral fallout. And even then, the movie finds a way to surprise us one more time with who was calling the shots all along.

A good spy thriller expertly parcels out the clues, then pulls the rug out from beneath us. “All the Old



The great Jonathan Pryce adds an air of mystery to the investigation.

Knives” does just that.  
And then some.

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

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## High School Students Attend Leadership Program



The latest group of students to complete Leadership LaPorte County's high school program.

Leadership LaPorte County recently completed its annual high school leadership program for LaPorte County students.

Each school — LaCrosse, LaPorte, Marquette Catholic, Michigan City, New Prairie, South Central and Westville — was asked to nominate five students to participate. Three all-day sessions were held at Red Mill County Park. Facilitators were Leadership Executive Director Monica Komaskinski, and Jim Jessup, a founding board member of Leadership LaPorte County and longtime volunteer. A Unity Foundation of LaPorte County community grant funds the program.

Students participated in activities to enhance leadership skills such as communication, problem solving, team building, collaboration and decision-making. At the opening session, they did a personality assessment to better understand group dynamics and individual personality traits.

Michigan City Chief of Police Dion Campbell was a featured speaker at the opening session, challenging students to be courageous, passionate and set high standards for themselves. Lauren Varga, of the Unity Foundation, spoke at the second session on scholarship opportunities and connections Unity offers. The final session featured a panel of young professionals, including Carrie Campbell, Justin Kiel, Dan Hogan and Kurtis Iseminger, who discussed their leadership journey.

Each participant received a certificate of completion and a commemorative T-shirt. The students set

goals at the end of the session to complete within the next year. Student leaders were chosen to assist with next year's program. They are: Norah Gartland (LaPorte); Natalie Herbert (Westville); Dylan Grieger (South Central); Audrey Henning and Olivia Ruiz (New Prairie); and Michael Smelser (Indiana Connections Career Academy).

Participating students were:

- LaCrosse High School: Adalynne Gorski, Mackenzie Schultz, Carter Welkie.
- LaPorte High School: Norah Gartland, Grant Ott-Large, Alex Scheuchner, Nicholas Shuble.
- Marquette Catholic High School: Xaria Biggerstaff, Jack Gausselin, Mary Cate Neary, Paloma Valdes.
- Michigan City High School: Alyala Anderson, Kayla Campbell, Samantha Shaffer.
- New Prairie High School: Evan Haws, Audrey Henning, Caleb Luther, Olivia Ruiz, Alissa Sonnenberg.
- South Central High School: Dylan Grieger, Zack Hancher, Olivia Marks, Lillian Tolmen, Kate Welsh.
- Westville High School: Natalie Herbert, Caden Marshall, Jesse Pavolka, Kaden Pepper, Maddie Stark.
- Home School: Samantha Morris.
- Indiana Connections Career Academy: Michael Smelser.

Contact Komaskinski at (219) 325-8223 or by email at [info@leadershiplaportecounty.com](mailto:info@leadershiplaportecounty.com) for more details.



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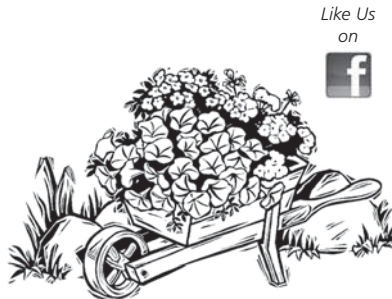
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## Michigan City Public Library

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:*

- **MCPL Podcasts: "Discussions with Miss Dana" at 9 a.m. Friday, May 6.** Miss Dana will discuss upcoming fantasy books and interview another librarian. Listen on Buzzsprout or through [www.mclib.org/podcast](http://www.mclib.org/podcast).
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 11.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Characters, dice, maps and notebooks are provided. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org) or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** 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.mclib.org/parents/story-time/](http://www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/). Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.



*Two new services are available:*

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required. Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.

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## 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 Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).  
*The following programs are planned:*
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 6.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, May 6, in Meeting Room A in the main library.** The monthly fabric crafting session allows participants to learn new skills.
- **Teen Anime Club from 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, May 9, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Meet other teen anime fans through the club. Register through the website.
- **Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, in Meeting Room B at the main library.** Guests can take coffee or tea.

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



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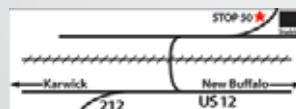
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## Harbor Country Hikers



Prescribed burn expert Buffy Dunham is photographed at a previous Chikaming Township Park & Preserve hike.

Harbor Country Hikers will learn about the role of controlled prairie burns at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 7, at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve, located off Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, Mich.

The hike begins with a brief talk by Buffy Dunham, who has years of experience with prescribed fire and monitoring post-burn vegetation. Dunham then will lead a walk through recently burned prairie area. HCH President Pat Fisher will follow with a walk through other areas of the park. Total hiking distance is about two miles, the physical difficulty rated easy to moderate. Depending on the weather, there may be muddy areas.

Chikaming Township Park & Preserve features birding, hiking, biking, dog walking, fishing and gardening. It consists of just more than 263 acres and includes at least eight distinct ecosystems. Hikers should wear long pants (preferably tucked-in), a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots. Take insect repellent and plenty of water. The group follows CDC COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional.

Membership is encouraged, but everyone is welcome. Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details.

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## PEO Awards Scholarship



Michigan City High School Senior De'Jah Garner received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Michigan City Chapter of Philanthropic Educational Organization. Garner will attend Indiana University-Bloomington next year to study nursing. She was nominated by PEO member Faye Cunningham, who described her as "nothing short of an exemplary student," adding that she is impressed by her "Christian character, diligence and work ethic." Pictured are (from left) PEO member Tammy Brown, De'Jah Garner and PEO members Rose Marie Krueger and Sharon Applegate.

## Paws & Pints

Michiana Humane Society and Friendship Botanic Gardens will host the family/pet friendly fundraiser "Paws & Pints" from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at the Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The event features a dog-walking course through the Gardens' hiking trails and gardens. Tickets include admission, a goody bag, Paws & Pints bandana made by Z's Dyed Goods and live music from Nate Miller and the Turn Ups from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Food and drinks for sale will be provided by Burn 'Em Brewing, Shady Creek Winery, Social Que BBQ and Zorn Brew Works. All dogs must be leashed.

Proceeds from ticket sales support the Humane Society and Gardens. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Humane Society at (219) 872-4499 or at [www.MichianaPets.org](http://www.MichianaPets.org)

## Temporary Gallery Closings

Galleries at Box Factory for the Arts are closed through May 13 while preparations are under way to install the Michiana Annual Arts Competition.

Offices and studios will remain open, and classes and workshops will continue. The galleries will reopen May 13 with new summer hours from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Wednesdays-Sundays, with extended hours until 7 p.m. EDT Thursdays.

The opening reception and awards ceremony is from 5:30-7 p.m. EDT Friday, May 13. Box Factory is located at 101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

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## Area Artists Association Exhibit

The Area Artists Association will celebrate its 42nd anniversary with “Emergence,” an exhibit featuring works by 20 regional artists, on May 11-June 5, at Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St.


A public reception is from 2-4 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 15.

The exhibit title is intended as a sign of hope for the beginning of a “post-COVID” era, according to a press release. It was first scheduled in 2020, but canceled due to the pandemic.

“It was our goal to kick off a milestone of our 42nd year with an exhibition and catalog that documents this joyful time of re-emergence, and to celebrate not only our survival as artists and arts organizations, but also the creative spirit that inspires us,” Area Artists Association vice president Diane Grams said in a press release.

Among the featured artists are: Tom Brand and Carole Stodder (Pines); Stephanie Carnell (Porter); Laurie Schirmer Carpenter and Dorothy Graden (Valparaiso); Jane Cowley, Anneke Dekker, Katryna Gagle, Diane Grams, Timothy D. Lace, Laurel Izard and Edwin Shelton (Michigan City); Carol Estes and Ginny Scott (LaPorte); Kevin Firme and Suzy Vance (Beverly Shores); Kuhn Hong (Chicago); Connie Kassal and George Kassal (Long Beach); and Joan Spohrer (South Bend).

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## Sculpture Unveiling

Michigan City's Public Art Committee will unveil its new sculpture celebrating Native American heritage at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 6, on the front lawn at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The sculpture, supported by Horizon Bank, is by award-winning Anishinaabe artist Jason Quigno. The piece, a turtle, will be installed in front of City Hall. Dancers and the big Pokagon Band drum, along with storyteller Jefferson Ballew, will entertain. Participants also will learn about the crucial role Native Americans played in founding Michigan City and surrounding areas.

The turtle, or Grandmother Earth, represents wisdom, healing, health and protection to Native Americans.

Visitors can take a blanket or lawn chair. In case of rain, the celebration moves inside.

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## Gabis Arboretum Railway Garden



The Gabis Arboretum Railway Garden, which spans two acres while telling stories of American railroads, is now open through Oct. 31.

Miniature (G-gauge) trains navigate within the garden through historical vignettes, across multiple bridges and around 15-foot-tall mountains. Microclimates created by the diminutive landscape help grow plants not often seen in the Midwest. The water-collection system captures rainwater for the garden's streams, waterfalls and irrigation.

Hour are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday-Sunday. That schedule is weather dependent, with no trains out during rain or windy days. The grounds are open from 8 a.m.-sunset daily.

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest is located at 444 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Visit [www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum](http://www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum) for more details.

## PechaKucha Night

The PechaKucha 20x20 St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Volume 24 Event is from 7-9 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 12, at Union+Social, 216 Court St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Doors open at 6 p.m. EDT for social hour with the presenters and a cash bar. The after-party lasts until midnight.

The format for PechaKucha, meaning "chit chat" in Japanese, shows 20 images, each for 20 seconds. In other words, presenters get 400 seconds to tell their stories, with visuals guiding the way.

The new venue allows 160 guests. The \$10 cost includes a strolling dinner provided by Union+Social. Because the event typically sells out, reservations are encouraged at [tinyurl.com/yv544v5d](http://tinyurl.com/yv544v5d)



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2. June Salmon	163
3. Shelley Dunleavy	154

### SPLITS

Jill Jankowski	3-10
Mary Lou McFadden	4-5

## Miss Oliver's Tea

The reservation deadline for "Miss Oliver's Tea," a celebration of Copshaholm's 125th anniversary, is May 10.

The event is from noon-2 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 14, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Guests will sit at round tables of eight in the Leighton Gallery, decorated with themes reminiscent of the teas hosted by Anna, Gertrude and Catherine Oliver in Copshaholm in the early 1900s.

The menu includes teas and sweets catered by the Oliver Inn Bed and Breakfast. The event is followed by a private tour of the mansion's first floor, where actors portraying Gertrude and Catherine will greet guests. Participants also can stroll the Oliver Gardens.

Tickets, which are \$30 for adults, \$25 for members, \$15 for youth 6-17 and \$5 for children 5 and younger, can be purchased by calling (574) 235-9664 or online at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org)



### Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

## 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](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more details.

### Daddy Daughter Dance

The event that features dancing and refreshments is Friday-Saturday, May 20-21, at the Luhr County Park Morgan Shelter, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

A maximum of 72 people are allowed each night. Times are 6-8 p.m. May 20 and 2-4 p.m. May 21. The cost is \$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Pre-registration and payment are required on or before May 12 or until full, whichever comes first.

### 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. 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 1: The 3 B's Butterflies, Bees, Birds.
- June 15: Web of Life.
- June 29: Animal Encounters.
- July 20: Play Pod Exploration.

### Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. 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:

- June 8 – "A Better Way of Caring as a Caregiver," Debbie Cariveau.
- July 13 – "Atrial Fibrillation (A Fib) Heart Health," Jacob Swider, Northwest Health invasive cardiology director.
- Aug. 3 – "Ear & Hearing Care," audiologist Jessica Nichols.

### Field Trips

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

Visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for sample programs. Email [natureniki@csinet.net](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net) or call (219) 324-5855 for details.

## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](https://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.
- **Mother's Day Wildflower Hike from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 8, at Heron Rookery.** Join a ranger for a hike to see what woodland flowers are blooming. Be prepared for muddy conditions. Meet at the east parking lot on County Road 600 East in Michigan City.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in May at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago. *The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

## Flower Basket Fundraiser

Independent Cat Society, 4061 County Line Road, Westville, will host a flower basket fundraiser Friday-Saturday, May 6-7.

Times are 1-4 p.m. May 6 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 7. The cost is \$15 for 10-inch baskets and \$20 for 12-inch baskets. Flowers are provided by Mark's Farm Market and Greenhouse.

## FUMC Women's Tea

The United Methodist Women's Tea is at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Contact Joyce Dalton at (219) 879-4553 or [daltoninc1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daltoninc1@sbcglobal.net) or for details.

## Leadership Institute Applications



Leadership Northwest Indiana participants engage in a hands-on teamwork exercise during a recent session.

The Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest has opened applications for the 2022-2023 Leadership Northwest Indiana program.

Included are in-person sessions of instruction and activities, a 360-leadership assessment and custom one-on-one coaching. LNI provides evidence-based learning to strengthen leadership skills and strategies. It begins in September and runs through May 2023. Participants meet for eight monthly, half-day, in-person sessions at Purdue Northwest's Westville campus. All are led by leadership experts from the academic and business world.

More information is available at [www.pnw.edu/leadership-institute](http://www.pnw.edu/leadership-institute) or by email to [leadershipinstitute@pnw.edu](mailto:leadershipinstitute@pnw.edu)

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## A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

**Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Closed: Saturday & Sunday**

The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. • (219) 879-0088 • [beacher@thebeacher.com](mailto:beacher@thebeacher.com)





### In the Area

#### **May 5 — CINCO DE MAYO.**

**May 6** — MCPL Podcasts: “Discussions with Miss Dana,” 9 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Link: [www.mclib.org/podcast](http://www.mclib.org/podcast).

**May 6** — 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](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 6** — Michigan City’s Public Art Committee sculpture unveiling, 4:30 p.m., front lawn @ Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

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

**May 6** — Stage reading, “Climate Follies,” 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [sbean@LubeznikCenter.org](mailto:sbean@LubeznikCenter.org), (219) 874-4900.

**May 6-7** — Flower basket fundraiser, Independent Cat Society, 4061 County Line Road, Westville. Times: 1-4 p.m. May 6/10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 7. Cost: \$15/10-inch baskets, \$20/12-inch baskets.

**May 6-8, 13-15** — “Letters to Sala,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. May 6, 2 p.m. May 7-8, 7:30 p.m. May 13-14, 2 p.m. May 15. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Info: [www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/](http://www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/)

**May 7** — First Saturday Art Class, 10 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, Room 13, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$10. Registration: [longbeachactivities@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachactivities@gmail.com)

**May 7** — Michiana Humane Society/Friendship Botanic Gardens “Paws & Pints” fundraiser, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., the Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: (219) 872-4499, [www.MichianaPets.org](http://www.MichianaPets.org)

**May 7** — United Methodist Women’s Tea, 1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: [daltoninc1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daltoninc1@sbcglobal.net), (219) 879-4553.

**May 7** — Monday Musicales free concert, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

#### **May 8 — HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY.**

**May 8** — Mother’s Day Wildflower Hike, 10-11:30 a.m./1-2:30 p.m., Heron Rookery, County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**May 8** — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival free “Mother’s Day” concert, 3 p.m., St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St. Info: [www.mccmf.org](http://www.mccmf.org)

org, (219) 561-1939.

**May 10** — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., Meeting Room B @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 10** — Free Tai Chi, 5:30 p.m., Long Beach Community Center Gym, 2501 Oriole Trail.

**May 11** — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Info: (219) 873-3045, [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org)

**Through June 30** — 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.

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

**Tuesday in May** — 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., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

### In the Region

**May 6** — Andy Baker and Louise Mosrie Coombe, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$15, reserved/\$40. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**May 7** — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EDT, Chikaming Township Park & Preserve, located off Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com), Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook.

**May 7** — The Claudettes, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$20, reserved/\$25. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**May 11-June 5** — Area Artists Association exhibit, “Emergence,” Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Public reception: 2-4 p.m. EDT May 15. Info: (269) 697-4005.

**May 12** — PechaKucha 20x20 St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Volume 24 Event, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Union+Social, 216 Court St., St. Joseph, Mich. Doors open/6 p.m. EDT. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/yv544v5d](http://tinyurl.com/yv544v5d)

**Through May 15** — Guillermo Sotelo’s “Broken Alphabet: A Love Letter to Graffiti,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Through May 28** — “University of Notre Dame: The Fabric of a Global University,” The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors (60+), \$7/youth (6-17), free/members. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (574) 235-9664, [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org)

**Through Oct. 2** — “WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars,” The Studebaker National Museum,

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

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

**Sundays in May** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center For Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.



## American Red Cross

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

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., 3-7 p.m. Thursday, May 5.
- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 1-6 p.m. Friday, May 6.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, May 9.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, May 11.
- American Legion, 107 N. Flynn Road, Westville, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 11.

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

### 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](mailto:lpmastergardener@gmail.com)

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**Foundation Supports LCA**

The Dale E. Landsman Art Foundation again awarded Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., a grant supporting its Teen Arts Council.

This time, LCA received a three-year grant to help plan the council's future. LCA founded it in 2017 as a free, inclusive, experiential program. It connects teens from around the region, expanding their knowledge of contemporary art practices, the roles artists play in society and their own creativity. For example, TAC collaborated with artist Ish Muhammad Nieves to create murals in the Dunes Cafe at Franciscan Health Michigan City.

TAC members take trips to regional museums and events, take art workshops, visit artists' studios, develop individual portfolios and participate in monthly meetings. Members also have opportunities to sell their work, and those wishing to pursue further arts education are supported and connected to college admissions processes.

The group meets from 6-7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month Call (219) 874-4900 or email [nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org](mailto:nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org) for more details, or just show up to a meeting.

The Dale E. Landsman Arts Foundation is administered by the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County. Before moving from Chicago to Long Beach in the late 1970s, Dale Landsman and his wife, Peg, made a successful life for themselves in advertising and the arts. Their daughter, Eve Wierzbicki, is the foundation's local spokesperson.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**Sister Stardust by Jane Green** (hardcover, \$26.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 298 pages.)

As the saying goes, if you remember the 1960s, you weren't there. This piece of historical fiction takes us to those swinging years when drugs, sex and rock 'n' roll drove the lives of a generation.

The book is advertised as the story of real-life Talitha (pronounced Taleeta) Getty, wife of J. Paul Getty Jr., heir to an oil fortune.

As Claire opines, *"What a mysterious name for the woman who stole the heart of the son of the richest man in the world, a woman who lived in a palace in Morocco."*

But I learned more about Talitha from the people surrounding her, especially the narrator, Claire, the 18-year-old from a village in Dorset, England. She's one of the girls of her time who spends hours with her friends — reading magazines that follow the lives of the rich and famous, dreaming someday of becoming them.

Even though Claire is fictional, she represents so many girls of her age, some of whom dreamed of the bohemian lifestyle, and some who actually lived it.

Claire always thinks if she can lose enough weight to look like Twiggy, she might be "discovered" by some talent agent. After a fight with her stepmother, Claire moves to London. She gets a job as a shop girl and rents a room with her friend, Dottie.

Claire dates John, whose work in the music industry brings him in contact with many musicians, a few of whom he takes with him to her brother Robbie's 21st birthday party. Claire is ecstatic! Working and dieting, she lost weight, started ironing her long blond hair and changed her makeup until she finally started looking like the girls she admires in magazines. And the guys notice.

At the party, one drink leads to another, and soon John's friends decide Claire looks more like a Cece, so Cece she becomes. Then it is decided a trip to Marrakesh to visit the Gettys is in order. Claire/Cece is too wasted to object, so they are soon jetting off to Morocco. It's obvious money is not a problem with this group.

Claire/Cece is blown away by the opulence of the Gettys' home: *"...the Palais de la Zahia, which consisted of numerous riads (courtyards) strung together to form a palace you would never have known about from the outside."*

Talitha takes to Claire immediately, and who could deny her ethereal beauty and magnetic personality — *"Her smile seemed to wash over all of us..."* — that greet the group from London.

Talitha rules over all the people who show up unannounced, the pied piper of her kingdom and immediately has this group starting off on a night of hard partying that lasts until the final person passes out. Paul mostly stays in his rooms, but occasionally comes down to join them. Claire is always surprised that beside the Gettys' close inner circle, many famous people are frequent visitors, like Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull or Yves Saint Laurent.

Claire observes heavy drinking, and even heavier drugs, and soon is coaxed into joining in. Bottom line, it doesn't take long for Claire/Cece to be sucked into the life of the rich and aimless.

*"...My God, in the space of a few weeks I had gone from being a girl who had never tried drugs, to a girl who had smoked pot, done LSD and opium, and was now about to try cocaine."*

Oh, Claire, where did you think this would end up? Badly, of course. But, in the meantime...this book is a feast for your imagination. Descriptions of

the marketplaces and streets of Marrakesh are so vividly portrayed, you can close your eyes and hear the call to prayer or the merchants calling out, or picture Claire and friends buying rare spices, beautiful clothes and exotic perfumes.

Paul Getty is impressed with Claire/Cece's thirst for knowledge and introduces her to his love of art, books, culture and music.

Ah, but soon paradise begins to crumble...

As I read on, I couldn't help but think of the lyrics from the Paul Revere and the Raiders song, "Kicks" from 1966: *"Kicks just keep getting harder to find and all your kicks ain't bringin' you peace of mind."* Truer words were never spoken.

Claire/Cece overdoses one night and not long after, someone is floating facedown in one of the pools, not dead drunk, just dead. Where do you go from here, girl?

*"There was so much magic...but above all, chaos. Of course it was unsustainable. But for that short period of time, back in the late 1960s, we learned what it was to be truly alive."*

Agree or disagree? Whatever you think, it makes for a bold, provocative read.

Till next time, happy reading!





happy mother's day

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