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Marvelous Miniatures

by William Halliar

Tom Suhs is an artist or, more specifically, a sculptor. His medium is wood, steel and found objects, from BBs, marbles and cotter pins to bits and pieces of old jewelry. From this, he creates amazing and realistic models of ships and steam trains.

He modestly describes his work as "primitive art," but anyone privileged to study his amazingly detailed scale models is astounded at the miniature realism he captures with wood and scraps of metal...and all crafted with hand tools.

Tom recently donated his model of a Great Lakes steamer to The Region of Three Oaks Museum, and is working on a model of the famous Eastland, which he will donate to Michigan City's Old Lighthouse Museum.

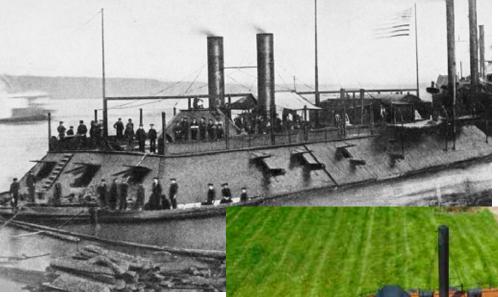
For more than 30 years, Tom worked as the parks and recreation director in Oak Park, Ill. A dedicated public servant, he added a master's degree in Leisure Services Administration to his credentials. In his spare time, he has written several books, one of particular interest celebrating the former Golfmore Hotel in Grand Beach, Mich., in the 1920s and 1930s. Tom's parents had a summer home in Grand Beach, where he spent the many summers of his youth.

Like many of his generation, Tom became interested in miniatures while building plastic models at his parents' home. Model railroading was a passion for many boys in the '50s and '60s, and Tom was no different. He spent hours constructing layouts and

setting up imaginary scenes centered around steam train lore.

As a young father, he built wooden toys for his two sons, Grant and Todd, while working during the day on his college degrees, dreaming of model steam trains and reading about his favorite topic: Civil War history. Tom was quite the dreamer all along and began to experiment in earnest with

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One of Tom Suhs' earliest models was of the Civil War ironclad "Cairo," which Union Forces built in 1861. All local photos by William Halliar.



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originally designed models in 2000. Using photos and sketches, he skillfully crafted with hand-carving tools, saws, sandpaper and X-Acto knives. These simple tools became his chief means of transforming plain blocks of wood into amazing miniatures.

Imagine the joy of his sons at finding these amazing models under the tree on Christmas morning.

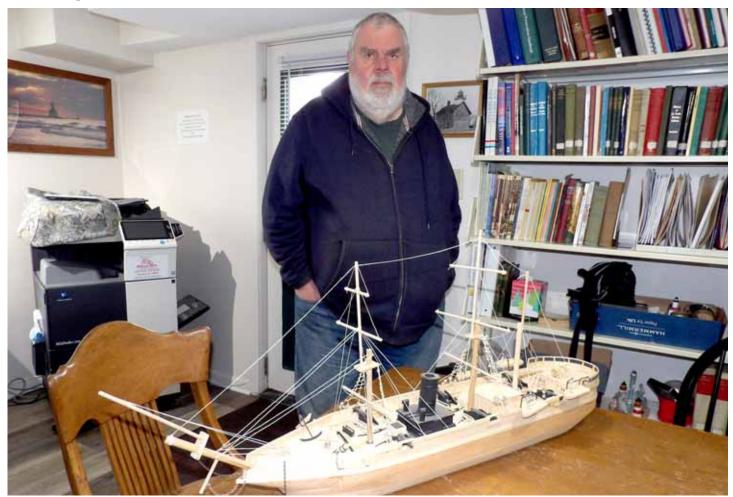
Tom retired from his career in parks and recreation in 2012, affording more time to pursue his hobby. But can the creation of such art really be called a hobby? Tom seems to possess a talent beyond his own appreciation.

In his spare time, Tom haunts the aisles of local

hardware stores items for his creations. He often can be found in resale shops looking for women's necklaces, which he disassembles for the chain to use on model ships.

One of Tom's earliest models was of the Civil War ironclad "Cairo." He became fascinated with the famous gunboat's history while visiting Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, where its salvaged remains can be seen to this day.

Union Forces built Cairo in 1861; it was commissioned on Jan. 26, 1862. She was considered a "city-class gunboat" built for service on the Mississippi River. Cairo was 175 feet long and had a beam or width of 51 feet, 2 inches, with a draft of 6 feet. It was capable of speeds of just over 9 miles per hour, powered by two steam engines with cylinders of 22 inches in diameter and a stroke of 6 feet. Five boilers



Tom Suhs is photographed with one of his miniatures at Washington Park's Old Lighthouse Museum.

provided the steam to power these massive engines that turned a single 22-foot diameter paddle wheel located in the middle of the ship. Cairo eventually would be home to 251 officers and enlisted men.

The ship was covered with 2.5-inch thick iron plates weighing 75 tons. The deck and hull were not covered by armor plates, which proved to be its undoing, yet in her demise was the means of her preservation until this day.

Cairo was named after the city of Cairo, Ill. She served the Army on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Early in the war, the boat participated in the capture and occupation of Clarksville and Nashville Tenn. The gunboat and her sister ships each carried 13 guns: three faced forward, with four on each side and two facing the stern.



Cairo's salvaged remains now are on display at Vicksburg National Military Park.

On June 6, 1862, Cairo joined a fleet of Union ships off Memphis. During the action, five enemy gunboats were sunk or run ashore. Afterward, she returned to duty on the Mississippi until Nov. 21, 1861, when she joined the Yazoo Pass Expedition. On Dec. 12, 1862, Cairo struck an underwater mine in the Yazoo River detonated by individuals on the river bank. The unarmored wooden hull caved in, and in just 12 minutes, Cairo sank beneath the water and settled deep into the ooze at the bottom of the river. No lives were lost, but the ship's location was forgotten for almost 100 years.

In 1956, Edwin Bearss, a Vicksburg National Military Park employee, began searching for Cairo with a magnetic compass. The wreck was discovered and some artifacts recovered in 1960. It was discovered mud in the river bottom left the remains remarkably preserved.

After numerous attempts, the great ship was raised from the bottom of the Yazoo River in the summer of 1965. As it turned out, Cairo had to be cut into three pieces before it could be brought to the surface. In December 1965, the three sections were loaded on barges and towed to Vicksburg. The





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armor was removed at Ingalls Shipyard, cleaned and stored there while the two steam engines were disassembled, cleaned and reassembled. What was left of the hull's wooden timbers was stabilized so its configuration could be preserved for future generations.

On Sept. 3, 1971, Cairo was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1977, the remains were transported to a park near Vicksburg National Cemetery, where it was partially reconstructed and placed on a concrete base. It was not until November 1980 that a museum featuring the ship and its recovered artifacts opened to the public. From 1862 when the ship went down in battle until 1956 when it was first discovered, then to 1980 when the ship finally received the honors it deserved equals a journey of 118 years.

It was at Vicksburg National Military Park that Tom first saw Cairo and was inspired to build a model to commemorate his visit.

His model captures the ship as she looked when first launched. If you look closely and use your imagination, you can hear the cheers of sailors and the churning of the giant center paddle wheel. You can smell the wood smoke from the boilers and taste the hardtack of the sailor's mess. The colors of the model reflect the look of the vessel as she first steamed out of the shipyard and into the Mississippi.

Among Tom's other creations are models of rail-road freight equipment and one very special passenger car that is a replica of the one that carried President Lincoln's body from Washington to Springfield after his assassination in 1865. This same car made a stop in Michigan City during that trip, standing under an arch constructed by craftsmen of the Barker plant as people of city passed by Lincoln's crepe-draped coffin.

One of Tom's first models was a replica of the Mississippi Queen: a riverboat that played a role in the Civil War as a headquarters and meeting place between Grant and Lincoln. The two liked this vessel; in fact, Lincoln was a passenger on her just two days before his assassination.

Another striking model in Tom's collection is the miniature replica of the Confederate steam engine "Texas." This little engine played a major role in an episode during the Civil War, known to some as "The Great Locomotive Chase," or Andrew's Raid. In April 1862, Union Army Scout James Andrews organized a raid into northern Georgia to destroy as much military property as possible along the rail



Tom Suhs recently donated his elaborate model of a Great Lakes steamer to The Region of Three Oaks Museum.

lines. Using the captured steam engine "The General," Andrews pursued his purpose being chased along the route by Confederate forces in the engine "Texas." The chase continued for 87 miles. Both "The General" and the "Texas" still exist and are featured in historical displays in Kennesaw, Ga., and Chattanooga, Tenn.



Tom is photographed with his replica of a Confederate steam engine.

Tom's model is painted in the colorful hues that frequently adorned steam engines of the day. Attention to detail that makes his works so remarkable to experience.



One of Tom Suhs' first models was a replica of the Mississippi Queen

Tom's models, including "Cairo" and "Texas," will be featured at a special "Members Only" reception at Old Lighthouse Museum this fall, the time and date to be announced. Don't miss this rare opportunity to view these one-of-a-kind, handcrafted models and chat with their creator. Join the Michigan City Historical Society as a member for an opportunity to view the special collection, meet Tom, hear his stories and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. Email contact@mchistorical.org or call (219) 872-6133 if interested.



Sam Raimi Reinvents "Doctor Strange" as a Dazzling Horror Movie

by Andrew Tallackson

It is rare when a Marvel director gets to inject any personality into a film.

Not slamming Marvel. It's just that the role of its cadre of directors is to simply tell a story efficiently. To ensure the effects are seamless. To make good on the characters.

With "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," Sam Raimi has achieved the impossible. He's stayed true to his roots and made a Sam Raimi movie. A horror flick masquerading as a Marvel movie.

Raimi cut his teeth on cult horror with the "Evil Dead" movies before helping birth the Marvel universe as we know it with Tobey Maguire's "Spider-Man" trilogy. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" contains some of the most staggeringly original images of *any* movie. It can be said the film delivers images we have not seen before. That it is exceedingly emotional elevates it to the top ranks of the Marvel food chain.

The irony is, the film belongs less to Doctor Strange himself. Oh, Benedict Cumberbatch's imposing wizard is

at the core of every scene, but the story belongs to Elizabeth Olsen's Wanda Maximoff/Scarlet Witch. In fact, if you missed last year's genre-bending Disney+ series "WandaVision," you might be lost. For those who did see the show and felt it let Wanda off the hook for enslaving an entire community, this movie takes her to task for it.

Wanda is after America Chavez (a winning Xochitl Gomez), who has the rare gift of slipping through parallel universes. If Wanda can steal her power, she can permanently enter the world she created for herself in Westview, specifically life with her two sons. Doctor Strange may be the only one who can protect America from certain death.

Raimi scatters nifty action sequences through the story, particular Wanda's assault on the sorcerer stronghold Kamar-Taj. He's had practice with those "Spider-Man" pictures. What sticks with you, what haunts you after the movie is over, are the night-marish images as Doctor Strange begins his journey through the multiverse. His rapid tumble with America through countless realities is a dazzling, hallucinatory free fall, some of it, believe it or not, through paint and animation.

When Strange's travels cause "incursions," we witness two worlds imploding on each other: surreal images both beautiful and horrifying. Then, we get the most haunting visual: a flight of stairs emerging from a desolate beach. That Marvel gave Raimi the freedom to strut his stuff, to tap into his dark imagination, is remarkable, really.



"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness"

Running time: 126 minutes. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, frightening images and some language.

By slipping through different worlds, "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" introduces clever cameos that offer twists on beloved characters. But, really, the movie belongs to Olsen. With this film and "WandaVision," we are reminded that this is a top-tier actress, a performer who has taken a roughly sketched character and sculpted it into a heartbreaking study of loss and grief.

"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" may be too dark for some. It may deviate from the light popcorn fare we expect from Marvel. But for those who've grown up with Sam Raimi movies and feared Marvel might muzzle his talent, fear not. Here, he's at full throttle.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com









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World Creativity and Innovation Week Scholarships, Awards

Now a tradition, Northwest Indiana's World Creativity and Innovation Week kicked off at the A.K. Smith Career Center, honoring seven students for innovative projects and products, academic performance and positive attitudes.

Tej Ram Gupta scholarships went to Danielle Burgess, Delaney Messer and Cheyanne Moreau. The scholarships are funded by the B.R. Founda-

tion through Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta of Michigan City, and in conjunction with The Center for Creative Solutions. The scholarships are named after Mrs. Gupta's father, Tej Ram Gupta.

Burgess, Michigan City High School, was described by her nominator: "She is intelligent with common sense. She can puzzle solve and 'read between the lines.' She goes far and beyond what is required and is an outstanding individual."

From LaPorte High School, Messer was nominated by construction teacher Dick Bucher: "Delaney has been a tremendous leader with most difficult circumstances (COVID)."

Moreau also is a LaPorte High School student. Mary Koselke, her nominator and culinary arts teacher, wrote: "Cheyanne works exceptionally hard on growing her skills. In class and outside of class, she is constantly challenging herself to learn more and grow."

In addition, Pat Lain, Center for Creative Solutions board president, congratulated Simara Jenkins, Josiah Ross, Isoline Williams and Reyes Steppe, who received Student Innovation Awards.

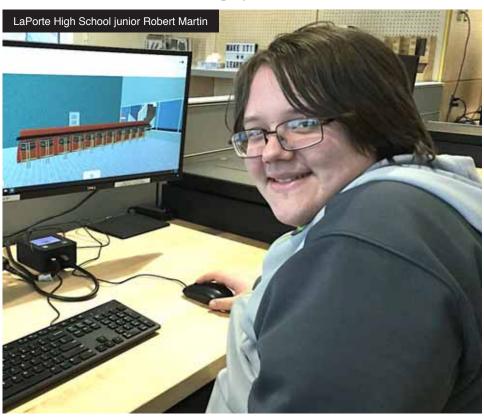
The students received a money prize funded by the Morgan Family Foundation.

Also, LaPorte's Robert Martin, students at Michigan City's Barker Middle School and Crown Point's Christian School were honored with Student Innovation awards. For the first time, two schools, Barker Middle and Crown Point Christian, were honored with monetary prizes.

Martin is a LaPorte High School junior and an aspiring architect and entrepreneur. Nominators at the Exchange through LaPorte County Public Library, wrote: "Robert knows no stranger. His determination has led him to befriend the people who work at local, small businesses, in particular the many antique and resale shops in LaPorte. He uses the tools and resources at the Exchange to customize objects he has picked up at yard sales or in antique

stores. Where we might see a box of mismatch wine glasses, Robert sees an opportunity to laser etch custom names and logos, or to apply festive vinyl shapes, selling them for a modest profit."

Using the library's facility, Martin researches real estate and business models. With the Exchange's 3-D modeling program, he conceptualizes drawings of his dream projects.



He also volunteers at the LaPorte Salvation Army and with Bring Change to Mind. The high school organization raises awareness, understanding and empathy around mental illness.

Barker Middle School is STEM-certified and emphasizes creativity and innovation. Each year, students have three challenges: "Ramp Challenge," "Water Bottle Rockets" and "Egg Crash!" For many of its activities, the school invites community participation from organizations such as Sullair, Michigan City police and fire departments, NIPSCO and U.S. Steel. It also has partnerships with Valparaiso University and The Society of Women Engineers.

Lain presented Student Innovation Awards to Barker students Elijah Vittatoe, Gage Kelley, Addyson Heichel, Seth Gaddis, Makenna Nowatzke, Desiree Jimenez, Alexis Gresham, Deianira Oldenkamp and Wyatt Debald. Their collective accomplishments resulted in a monetary award to the school's STEM program.

Call (219) 326-7259, email creativity52@comcast. net or visit https://wciw.org for more details.



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Please support the development of the Village of Michiana Community Park by joining us for the First Annual Michiana-Thon Golf Outing. This inaugural event is a Golf outing to be held at

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MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

18 & NOSH

All times are Central Time (CT)

8:30AM CT: Registration Starters: muffins, doughnuts, coffee & beverages

9:30AM CT: Scramble format and shotgun start

1:30PM CT: Buffet luncheon at Pottawattomie Country Club

3:00PM CT: Awards, prizes & raffle winners

REGISTRATION

- \$150 per individual participant or \$500 per foursome @ https://michianavillage.org/golfouting
- Includes golf cart, & Village Goodie Bag
- Register by 5PM CT Friday, May 27, 2022

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\$100 Prize for Closest-to-the-Pin on select par 3's

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Anne Heywood:

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Pottawattomie Country Club 1900 Springland Ave Michigan City, IN 46360

The Village of Michiana 4000 Cherokee Drive Michiana, MI 49117



Honoring Academic Achievements



The Lions Club has recognized Michigan City High School students for academic achievements. Senior Cory Stevenson received the \$2,000 Senior Scholarship; and four freshmen received the Ed Payne Memorial Scholarship Award, a non-monetary award presented annually to four freshmen in core subjects. They are: English — Matthew Wilson; Social Studies — Trevor Ackerman; Mathematics — John Zaknoun; and Science — Hannah Parker. Pictured are (from left) Lion's Club member Cindy Hall, students Ackerman, Zaknoun, Wilson, Stevenson and Parker, and club member Irene Rosevear.



Food Drive to Benefit Salvation Army

City residents are encouraged to leave non-perishable food donations by their mailboxes Saturday, May 14, as part of the national Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

The effort is organized by The National Association of Letter Carriers. The Salvation Army of Michigan City is the local recipient, using items to stock its food pantry. It needs proteins — canned meats, peanut butter and other non-perishable sources — as well as jelly, cereal and pasta.

In past years, the amount of food collected during the drive has dropped, but the need still exists. In 2019, letter carriers toted nearly 11,000 pounds of food during the drive; this year, the goal is to surpass that number. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the drive was canceled in 2020 or 2021.

Businesses that are closed Saturday can leave donations Friday, May 12.





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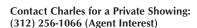
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St. Stanislaus 5K Run and Walk

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church and the Town of Trail Creek will host the annual St. Stanislaus 5K (3.1 mile) run Saturday, June 4, at Trail Creek's Nelson Park.

Race proceeds fund repairs to St. Stanislaus, one of LaPorte County's oldest Catholic churches.

Plaques go to eight age divisions for women, men and children, the top three overall female and male runners and top female and male walkers.

Entry forms are available at St. Stanislaus School, Robert Tylisz Appliance and local fitness gyms, or visit www.RunSignUp.com and enter "Trail Creek, In." If choosing to mail the completed entry form, send the payment to St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St., Michigan City, IN 46360.

Options to register in person include:

- St. Stanislaus Church Hall from 4-6 p.m. Friday, June 3. The \$25 fee includes a T-shirt. The cost for children 13 and younger is \$20.
- Nelson Park from 6:30-7:30 a.m. the day of the event. The cost is \$30, but with no guarantee of a T-shirt.

The race is sponsored by Robert Tylisz Appliance, St. Andrews Products, GIS, Castle Ford/Lincoln, Larry Dalton Inc. Heating & Cooling, Snyder & Associates, Front Door Real Estate Team, St. Joseph Young Men's Society, Members Advantage Credit Union and Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel.

Contact St. Stanislaus Church at (219) 879-9281 or Race Director Patrick Kroehler at pjk226@yahoo. com for more information.

Purdue Northwest Summer Camps

Throughout June and July, Purdue University Northwest camps and activities will span STEM, athletics, leadership and outdoor adventure themes. Offerings include:

- STEM camps in areas such as cybersecurity, engineering, environmental science, forensic science and robotics.
- Sports camps offering training and practice in baseball, esports, ice hockey, soccer, softball and volleyball.
- Leadership and confidence building by the Society of Innovators and Leadership Institute at PNW's Summer Youth Innovation Experience.
- Creativity and immersive sensory experiences at Gabis Arboretum at PNW through the Timber-Nook Camp.

Parents or guardians should visit www.pnw.edu/camps for a schedule of events, registration deadlines and fees. All sessions are at the Westville campus, 1401 S. U.S. 421, or Gabis Arboretum, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Particular building location information is available online or is provided following registration.



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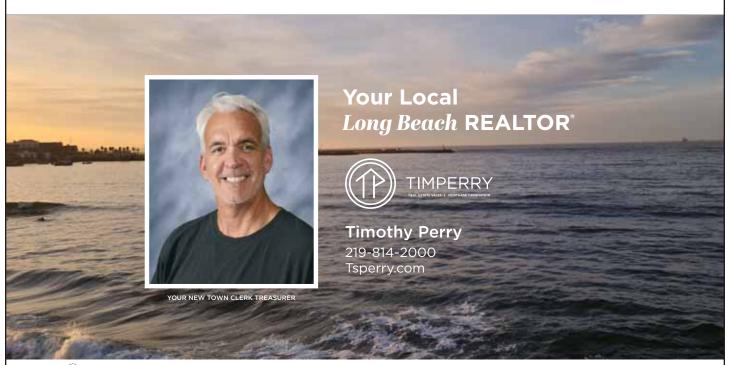
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JROTC Preps for Summer

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps continues to support the community and school as the academic year progresses to final exams.

The cadets supported the Easter egg hunt at

Friendship Botanic Gardens, MCHS track meets and dedication of the MCHS track to former Rogers High School teacher and Olympic gold medalist Barbara Jones Slater.

Besides providing support, JROTC is preparing for numerous summer activities. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, cadets will return to their lead-



The Color Guard presents the Colors at the Slater Track Dedication.

ership camp at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield, Wis.

Selected cadets also will attend the National JROTC military drill camp at Schriener University in Kerrville, Texas, and the Senior Leadership Camp in Boswell, Pa.

Activities are done at no cost to MCHS nor the cadets; instead, they are funded by the Marine Corps.

"5x5" Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The annual "5x5" benefit-exhibit returns with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Friday, May 13, at The Beverly Shores Depot Art Museum and Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The project allows people to buy an original work for \$55 to benefit The Depot. Artists donate a 5x5 work for display in the gallery. Those interested can visit www.bsdepot.com and click on "5x5 Claim Sticker" to buy a sticker(s), which can be affixed next to artwork of their choice during the kickoff.

Stickers may be picked up at The Depot as early as 3 p.m. that day. New this year, "5x5 Online" is available at 8 p.m. Individuals can buy a 5x5 original artwork at www.bsdepot.com until the show closes June 2.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 19, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.













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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, May 12.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, May 17.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 17.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 17.

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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Travels with Steve Smothers

Steve Smothers.

Now there's a warm, welcoming wind from my past as a reporter for *The City News Bureau of Chicago* in 1976.

Steve was there when I first appeared at the very end of 1975. He was still in the bureau's bunker, up there on the 12th floor of that great old building at 188 W. Randolph St., when I departed in early 1977 to cover various suburbs for the suburban insert of *The Chicago Tribune*.

Smothers went on to become a celebrated editor of *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* before his untimely death in 2006 at 57. To say he was something of a legend at *City News* is the understatement of the 20th and 21st centuries. Consider this entry from his obituary in *The Chicago Tribune* on Aug. 4, 2006: "Mr. Smothers was an assistant city editor in the newsroom when American Airlines Flight 191 bound for Los Angeles crashed shortly after takeoff at O'Hare International Airport in 1979.

"He was like a general up there issuing directions to our people," said longtime City News chief Paul Zimbrakos, who was working as city editor that day. "Our product that day was just outstanding."

Steve was all of that, and he was my mentor, my editor, my friend, my travel companion and, yes, even my roommate.

As to the latter, there were three of us *City Newsers* — Steve Smothers, Steve Rassenfass and Yours Truly — who occupied what we called the "coach house" on an alley between Dearborn and State streets in the Rush Street nightclub district. Yes, the landlady did have to put a steel plate on the door to keep the rats out, but it was home to us, and we knew not to answer the phone, because it meant only one thing: The desk editor of the moment at *City News* was making an "all-hands-on-deck" call to rally the troops to a disaster du jour.

Hey, what can I say, at *City News* we liked to say "there's a deadline every second," and there was, because we were the 24/7 wire service for the three remaining Chicago newspapers, plus pretty much



all the TV and radio stations. When there was an extra alarm fire, we were out there in winter cold or summer heat covering the story.

So you know, Steve's brother, Mike, also worked at *City News*, and we all knew them as — drum roll — "the Smothers Brothers." Steve and Mike took it all in good humor, but they absolutely refused to do any comedy routines. Can you blame them?

Anyway, back to the narrative, which is to say Steve was one of my closest friends at *City News*, and we at *City News*, certainly those of us who worked the "mid-watch" and "late" shifts together, were bonded by the constant fire of the six-county, Chicago-area news cycle. We covered often rambunctious night meetings in various municipalities around the greater metropolitan area, but the staple of our cub-reporter diet was the raw meat of violent crimes, drownings and often-fatal fires.

We went forth where the heavily made-up TV reporters dared not tread, and wired them the facts, and nothing but the facts, of the breaking news they reported "live from the scene."

Allow one digression, before I get to my travels with Steve Smothers. I know Steve would have appreciated this story, because I told it to him over and over.

I was sent out one grimly cold winter's night to cover a derailment on what was then called the "Jefferson Park Line" of the Chicago Transit Authority. I got there, of course, by the CTA which, of course, was the preferred method of transportation for those of us consigned to night reporting for *City News*. Oh, I should mention we sometimes resorted



to a kindly editor's "staff car," which he kept parked on Lower Wacker Drive for use when the CTA simply would not do.

Anyway, I went forth, flashed my press pass and got the goods on the CTA platform from the CTA officials out in the cold supervising the righting of their derailed train. I would then run up to the pay phone, drop a dime, phone in the story, then go back to the platform to gather more facts. Then, a coiffed creature would emerge from a heated, TV news truck parked near the platform and report the latest developments, reading the *City News* copy Steve Smothers and company had put out on the wire.

Oh well.

Such was the life Steve and I shared at *City News*. We worked hard, and we played hard, but managing the latter was not easy because we worked so very much.

Once, when we had the same day off during the summer of 1976, we bought a pair of tickets to the Cubs game. (Yes, working stiffs could once afford to go to Wrigley Field for the day, not the night, and not have to take out a second mortgage to do so.)

Well, we kind of scotched that deal by first repairing to a German restaurant opposite the old ballpark. We planned to dine on sausage and sauerkraut and a liter or two of real German beer. We enjoyed the latter so much, the barkeep interrupted our rollicking conversation to ask, "Say, fellas, aren't you going to the Cubs game?"

"You bet!" we said.

The bartender jerked his thumb at the television over the bar and noted that Jack Brickhouse was hoping the Cubs could pull off a miracle in the bottom of the 9th.

You never saw two *City News* reporters fly faster than we did that day when we raced over to Wrigley and got to our seats — good seats on the third-base line — in time to see the "lovable losers" snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory.

After that humiliating and, for us, costly experience, we resolved to have a right proper travel adventure next time we got a couple of days off together.

Just such an opportunity soon arrived, and we resolved to:

A. Take Amtrak from Chicago to Milwaukee,

- B. Board the SS Badger passenger and vehicle ferry in Milwaukee with the cheapest tickets available.
- C.Ride the SS Badger round trip to Ludington, Mich., with an overnight sleep on the beach.
- D.Return to Chicago on Amtrak the next day in time to return to the *City News* trenches.

I am happy to report, we pulled off our plan...and then some. Steve and I spent the night crossing on deck. Lake Michigan was a sea of glass, and once away from the lights of Milwaukee, we saw a universe of stars appear overhead. We had no need of a cabin or indoor seating as the 410-foot ship steamed smoothly from one side of Lake Michigan to the other. But as we bedded down on a nearby beach for a bit of sleep before our return voyage in the morning, we couldn't help but notice that a front was sweeping across the lake from the west.

We were socked in tight the next morning as we shipped out on the Milwaukee-bound Badger. We hit heavy seas less than a mile from shore; it only got rougher from there. The other passengers all hid out in the lounge and their cabins, and many of them were so seasick, they couldn't hearken to the steward's call for supper on the high seas.

Having braced ourselves with plenty of fresh air on the deck, Steve and I were fit for chow duty. And, guess what? The steward welcomed us to the galley with open arms and said supper was on the company as no one else was well enough to eat. Memory serves that we ate sumptuous chicken dinners, along with seconds.

Then, we repaired to the open deck where we watched in amazement as that mighty ship that was launched on Sept. 6, 1952, battled the stormy seas to a standstill.

Steve and I wondered if we should write up our adventure for *City News*, but realized we were outside the *City News* coverage area. Plus, we were enjoying a much-deserved break from the 24/7 news cycle.

We girded our loins for battle as we rode Amtrak back to Chicago, and we hit those massive manual typewriters at *City News* typing.

So, Steve, forgive me for not covering this story sooner. But I know you're enjoying it now as you ride the stars.



The SS Badger at rest in Ludington.

The Best in Apple TV+: "Ptolemy Grey," "Severance," "Pachinko"

by Andrew Tallackson

A story emerges as greatness when the characters stop being just characters. They feel like real people. People you care about. The idea of anything bad happening to them creates anxious dread.

By that measure, "The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey" sets the bar for every limited series to follow this year. It is great television: an engrossing story, career bests by Samuel L. Jackson and Dominique Fishback, a lump-in-the-throat finale.

The six-episode Apple TV+ series has been a passion project 10 years in the making for Jackson and novelist Walter Mosley, who adapted his 2010 novel. And you can tell in every lovingly crafted scene.

Ptolemy Grey (Jackson) is in his early 90s and amid the throes of dementia, largely confined to an apartment cluttered by hoarding and filth. His only link to the outside world is his great-nephew Reggie (Omar Benson Miller). Other family members are out and about, but to them, he's just a crazy old man not worth their time.

Enter Robyn (Fishback). She's no blood relation, but staying with his relatives, trying to better herself. No longer feeling safe there, she leaves and eventually moves in with Ptolemy. For how long, she's not sure.

Turns out, Reggie is killed by a gunman who eludes police. Before his death, he left with Ptolemy information about a special doctor. Someone who can help with his memory. Like all science in literature, the experimental process is a blessing and a curse. A blessing in that it will restore Ptolemy's memory for one month. A curse in that he'll subsequently regress to his former state. There is beauty in it, that Ptolemy has a 30-day window to get his affairs in order. The cruelty rests in watching that gift taken from him, almost like payment. And with the test patients being people of color, the doctors all white, we are reminded of other "experiments" that involved people of color, specifically the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

We get snippets of Ptolemy's past, a life rooted in pain, but Mosley's story is not interested in endless flashbacks. It is named "The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey" for a reason. It is about a brief second chance and a bond that transcends family.

Jackson has been playing Nick Fury for so long, we forget how potent he can be in a performance. With Ptolemy's memory back in action, a bit of the old Jackson alpha male reasserts itself, but what moves us is how gentle, how tender, he is in scenes with Fishback. Ptolemy is a man who savors the blessing of friendship, and he'll do anything to protect it. Jackson is a towering source of wisdom, ven-



A remarkable friendship forms between a man riddled with dementia (Samuel L. Jackson) and a young girl (Dominique Fishback) in "The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey"

geance and love.

Fishback caught my attention with small, but essential roles in "Judas and the Black Messiah" and Netflix's "Project Power." Her performance here, at the *very* least, deserves an Emmy nomination. She's fiercely intelligent, sifting through all the BS directed at Ptolemy by his family. And as Robin begins sorting through the clutter of his apartment, and his personal life, we meet a young woman with a heart as big as his. Watch her face, in the final episode, as lawyers play a video of Ptolemy reiterating his wishes. Her eyes, her smile, the tears — it's a beautiful mix of joy and heartbreak.

This year already is blessed with the last portion of HBO Max's "Station Eleven," which one-upped Emily St. John Mandel's book by being even more powerful. "The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey" stands just as tall, maybe taller.

Emmy awaits.

All I could think while watching "Severance" was...thank God I work at The Beacher. There is something to be said about bypassing corporate drudgery for a mom-and-pop enterprise.

I've worked in toxic environments, and "Severance," the darkest of dark science-fiction satires, skewers the workplace as a soul-sucking void that strips employees of purpose and identity. And, it does so by introducing a fully-realized world that makes you believe it *could* exist. These days, "Severance," now airing on Apple TV+, may not be that far from the truth.

Creator Dan Erickson, working largely with actor-turned director Ben Stiller, has created a metaphor for our detached times.

In the ultimate form of employee mind control, the technology corporation Lumon Industries has introduced a medical procedure called "severance."



Adam Scott leads the all-star cast in "Severance."

A lobotomy of sorts where employees have no memory of their personal lives while at work...and no memory of work back at home. The company, in essence, defines and moderates work productivity so nothing interferes with the bottom line.

The series is a triumph of production design. White, sterile walls devoid of posters or prints. Cubicles with zero personal effects. Antiquated computers designed for one or more tasks...and that's it. Supervisors speak in clipped, robotic means, all smiles painfully manufactured. The most chilling is Oscar-winner Patricia Arquette as Harmony Cobel, who speaks as if she's reading off a carefully designed script, and who has a way of looking through people rather than on any personal level.

A new process like severance is bound for glitches. Those "bugs" arise within a work pod supervised by Adam Scott's Mark, who agreed to the severance process after his wife died. Severance is his way of dodging tragedy, but he's become distracted. Aware that all may not be right at Lumon.

Scott, formerly of TV's "Parks & Recreation," is joined by a dream cast that includes John Turturro as the rules-obsessed Irving, improv comedian Zach Cherry as Dylan, who enjoys company perks like



Co-starring as Mark's colleagues are Zach Cherry (left), John Turturro (right) and, in the show's breakout performance, Britt Lower.

Continued From Page 21

"waffle day," and the exciting actress Britt Lower, who makes the biggest impression as new staffer Helly. This is the first time I've seen her, and she's ferocious. Unstoppable. Smarter and bolder than everyone else in the room. Helly instantly realizes things are off at Lumon. She wants answers, and she wants them now. Expect great things from Lower.

Helly, in fact, is the catalyst for Mark's group to question its purpose, its relevance, in the company. And it is here that "Severance" launches into its most scathing attack on the corporate workplace. A world where identity can be erased. Where supervisors are fixated on infractions, on corrections and discipline, over positive support. Where isolating departments from each other reinforces the need for control.

In a way, the series is a cross between "1984" and "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," where regular people are robbed of their individuality. What makes them unique. That the show is set in winter adds to the bleak tone established within the office.

You wonder, as "Severance" inches toward its finale, how it will resolve everything. It doesn't. It arrives at a cliffhanger, with everything hanging in the balance. You're left chomping at the bit, feverish to see how it plays out.

Thankfully, "Severance" is the biggest hit for "Apple TV+" since "Ted Lasso." The streaming service quickly ordered another season. Now that the world of Lumon Industries is firmly established, I can't wait to see how Mark and crew try to undermine it.

"Pachinko" may be a historical soap opera, but it weaves through events largely unknown to me... and I'm ashamed of that fact.

Bouncing through time, between 1915 and 1989, this Apple TV+ adaptation of Min Jin Lee's acclaimed 2017 novel follows a woman at various stages of her life, the men who honor and disgrace her and the ripple effect of her decisions through generations.

We've seen it before, right?

The difference is that "Pachinko" outlines the 20th century experience for Koreans under Japanese rule (1910-1945), and the crippling consequences — physically, socially, psychologically — that persisted even as the century drew to a close.

The show, more than anything, is a rallying cry *against* colonization. This is not something, for me, at least, that entered the history books when I was in school, and I feel ignorant for not knowing more.

Pachinko essentially is Japanese pinball, which today exists either as gambling or arcade entertainment. Within the context of the story, it is a metaphor for taking risks amid life's unpredictability.

The one taking the most risks within Lee's story is Sunja, and what's remarkable is how we see her at three periods in her life. First as a young girl (Yu-na), then as a pregnant, unwed mother (Kim Min-ha) and finally in her later years, where she's played by "Minari" Oscar-winner Youn Yuh-jung. The performance that leaves a mark is Min-ha as the teen Sunja. What we get is a quiet reserve of strength amid impossible odds, the first strike against her being that she becomes pregnant after an affair with Koh Hansu (Lee Min-ho). He's the

merchant and fish broker who catches Sunja's eye. Like any soap opera, he starts out OK, then does an about-face and becomes a jerk, revealing he has a wife and can't marry Sunja. But, again, it is watching Min-ha, as Sunja, refuse to stay knocked down that makes the performance so intensely watchable.

In 1989, we meet one of Sunja's sons, Baek Mozasu (Soji Arai), who runs a Pachinko parlor, and her grandson, Solomon Baek (Jin Ha), who was educated in America and now is trying to a close a corporate real-estate deal in Japan. His ex-girlfriend, Hana (Mari Yamamoto), is in hiding, calling him



Sunja (Kim Min-ha, left) sees her affair with Koh Hansu (Lee Min-ho) crumble rather quickly in "Pachinko."

from time to time with cryptic messages.

All the ingredients are present for an inter generational soap opera, one drenched in family secrets and scandals. But director Justin Chon, whose "Blue Bayou" was the great indie film no one saw last year, lets these events unfold amid a landscape that rarely gets attention. Under Japanese rule, we see a Korean people disillusioned and ready to revolt. A people treated like the scraps of society. And in 1989, age-old stereotypes and racism still exist. Most devastating is an unflinching look at what is known as the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake. The statistics revealed in terms of how many Koreans suffered unthinkable fates is devastating.

I have not read Lee's novel, although my wife and I ordered it off Amazon midway through the eightepisode arc of "Pachinko." The final episode ends on a curious, unresolved note, but that is because this story is nowhere near finished. Apple TV+ has ordered a second season. My hope is that it continues to open our eyes to a time and a place with even more profound insight.

I expect it will.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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School Buddies Program Has Lasting Impact on Students

Quick steps are heard as a Handley Elementary School student races through the gym trailed by a La Lumiere student. The sound of bouncing basketballs is mixed with laughter.

It is a School Buddies afternoon at Handley, and 15 Lakers are visiting.

In 2011, the School Buddies program first paired with students from La Lumiere. It strives to make a positive difference in young people through one-to-one relationships during the school day. The opportunity fits into La Lumiere's Wednesday Elective slot and promotes community service, which is an aspect of every student's education.

"The School Buddy program is such a wonderful program," Handley school counselor Sarah Pistorio said in a press releases. "Each of our students looks forward to their meeting time and activities. Although this program may seem like a typical 'buddy program,' it is so much more for our students."

La Lumiere students, in turn, are experiencing the positive effects of volunteering and connecting with others in the community.

For La Lumiere junior Delaney Killeen, the lessons are clear.

"I have learned to take every day moment by moment; it's so easy to get caught up in the little things," she said in a press release. "Hanging out with my School Buddy makes me realize that I need to slow down and take life as simply as she does."

Community service is an integral part of the school's mission.

"Even small acts can have a big impact," La Lumiere senior and Serviam Prefect Lauren Jaracz said in a press release. "Everyone is part of the community, and the sooner people realize that working together to help each other is best for everyone, the more of an impact it will have on themselves and others."





Gather, Garden & Grow

Friends of New Troy will host its monthly event, "Gather, Garden & Grow," from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 14, at Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Novice and avid gardeners are invited to the seed, seedling and plant exchange. The center will provide tables, chairs, seed packets and starter plants. Guests can take items for trade. The event is held outside, but moves to the gym if the weather is poor. The schedule is (all times Eastern):

- 10:30-11 a.m. Drop off for items to swap.
- 11 a.m.-noon The exchange.
- Noon-1 p.m. Late exchanges and leftovers.

The event includes a light snack and beverages, including free coffee from Red Arrow Roasters.

Visit www.friendsofnewtroy.org for more details.



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A.K. Smith Construction Students Pursuing Internships

Thanks to partnerships with area businesses, four students from the A.K. Smith Career Center's Construction Technology Program are gaining real-world experience.

Michigan City-based Tonn & Blank Construction currently employs two of the students — both high school seniors — through an internship that allows them to gain skills by working with professionals in the field.

Nate Jackson, a Michigan City High School senior, works Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the company's Westville site, while classmate Reyes Steppe from Westville High School works at the same location Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Jack Hudgens, Tonn & Blank area superintendent and plant manager, helps the interns learn from construction-trades professionals they work alongside. In addition to basic and innovative carpentry, he hopes to impart soft skills, including decision making, goal setting and other skills.

Two additional Construction Technology students landed internships this spring.

Delaney Messer from LaPorte High School is an intern with New Prairie Trades Program, and Orion Bennett from Michigan City High School works for Detmar Builders in Chesterton. One additional A.K. Smith student in the Construction program now qualifies for an internship and is seeking his opportunity.

These efforts guide students to direct entry into apprenticeship with the Indiana/Ohio/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters. Students who complete the two-year Construction Technology program earn



Reyes Steppe (left), a Westville High School senior, and Nate Jackson, a Michigan City High School senior, recently began internships with Tonn & Blank Construction.

15 dual college credits through Ivy Tech and are eligible for direct entry into the four-year Carpentry apprenticeship program.

The Construction Technology Program currently serves 34 students from high schools across LaPorte County, including LaPorte, Westville, LaCrosse, Michigan City and South Central.

More information is available by visiting www. EducateMC.net/Construction



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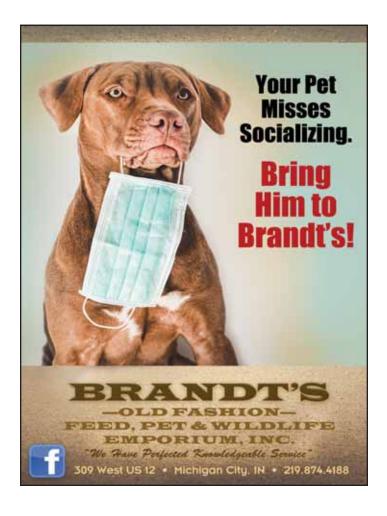
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LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The following programs are planned:

- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 13. The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- Teen D&D from 5-7 p.m. Monday, May 16, in Meeting Room A at the main library. The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- Computers 102-Adults (19+) from 10-11:30
 a.m. Tuesday, May 17, in Meeting Room B
 at the main library. Take a personal computer and learn the basics of security, settings and file organization.

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.



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.

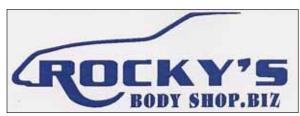
The following programs are scheduled:

- Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 12. The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- Tinkercad 3-D Modeling at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 18. Youth ages 9-17 get an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No prior experience is necessary. Participants get a free 3-D print of their creations (printing time is limited to five hours per participant). Registration is required. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- 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/ 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.
- **Library closings/updates.** The library will open at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 19, due to a staff meeting. The library will close Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga.
 Popular titles include <u>Avatar</u>: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney <u>Princesses</u>, <u>Geronimo Stilton</u>, <u>Stranger Things</u>, <u>Locke</u> & Key and <u>American Gods</u>. 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 for more details.

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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 for more details.
- 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 for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

 Lunar Eclipse Party from 9:30 p.m.-midnight Sunday, May 15. Call the Nature Center for specific details.

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

"Discover the District" Event

Lakefront Career Network has announced "Discover the District," which highlights the Uptown Arts District, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

Residents can explore the district, while restaurants and retailers will offer a new or signature menu item or special discounts. An after party is from 6-9 p.m. at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Participants can submit receipts from Discover the District into raffles.

Sponsoring the event are Michigan City Mainstreet Association, Vibrant Communities of LaPorte County and Bridges Waterside Grille.

Visit www.LakefrontCareerNetwork.org for more details.

LP July 4th Parade Applications

The Kiwanis Club of LaPorte is accepting unit applications and sponsorships for this year's July 4th parade, the theme being "America Proud."

Sponsors receive immediate recognition (and promotion) on the event's new website, www. Kiwanis4thofJulyParade.org, as well as parade-day recognition on banners and in the annual program.

Visit the website for applications and more information, or call Kiwanis Club President Drummond Osborn at (219) 362-8567.

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.

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 Carriveau.
- 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 for sample programs. Email natureniki@csinet.net or call (219) 324-5855 for details.





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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

S.R.E.

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

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

GIS Joins Festival Partnerships

General Insurance Services joins NIPSCO and Barker Mansion in supporting the Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival planned for June 3-5 in Washington Park.

The three-day celebration includes a professional sand-sculpting exhibit and competition. Michigan City has partnered with The Sand Lovers LLC, a professional sand-sculpting and event-management company that specializes in sand-sculpting events.

Visit www.emichigancity.com/1246/Singing-Sands-Festival for more details.



Ready to Recycle



Krueger Middle School students have collected 37 pounds of plastic film, and they're asking the community to keep collecting products that are not recyclable in LaPorte County recycle toters. The items can be delivered to Krueger Middle School. This includes plastics such as grocery bags, ice bags, produce bags, Ziploc and other resealable bags, bread bags, newspaper sleeves and bubble wrap. If plastic is shiny, crunchy or not stretchy, it can't be recycled in this program.

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.

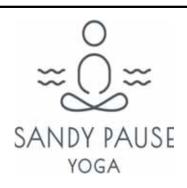
Why is this required? According to the Federal Communications Commission, "as more area codes begin to run out of new seven-digit numbers to assign, a second local area code may be added, requiring that area to transition to ten-digit dialing."

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

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In the Area

May 12 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 13 — Opening reception, "5x5," 5-7 p.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Art Museum and Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.com

May 13-15 — "Letters to Sala," LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. May 13-14, 2 p.m. May 15. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Info: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com/

May 15 — Lunar Eclipse Party, 9:30 p.m.-midnight, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 16 — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., Meeting Room A @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 18 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-873-3045.

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 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

May 12 — Open Mic Night with Riely O'Connor & Molly B. Moon, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

May 13 — Al Stewart with his band The Empty Pockets, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$65, re-

served/\$100. Info: www.acornlive.org

May 14 — Friends of New Troy "Gather, Garden & Grow," 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: www.friendsofnewtroy.org

May 15 — The Linda Ronstadt Experience, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$40, reserved/\$65. Info: www.acornlive.org

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

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

Through 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.

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.

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, (219) 395-1882.

Vickers Theatre — Now Showing: "The Duke." Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. May 13 & 15, 6 p.m. May 16. Also showing: "ABBA: The Movie." Rated G. Times: 6 p.m. May 12, 3 p.m. May 14. Also showing: "Petite Maman." Rated PG. Times: 6 p.m. May 13-15, 3 p.m. May 16. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.





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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm one 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.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

<u>City on Fire</u> by Don Winslow (hardcover \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 371 pages.)

"The nuns used to say that the devil comes disguised as an angel." And that's what Danny Ryan remembers when the goddess in the bikini comes out of the water that 1986 summer at Goshen Beach, R.I.

"Danny Ryan watches the woman come out of the water like a vision emerging from his dreams of the sea.

"Except she's real and she's going to be trouble.

"Woman that beautiful usually are."

Every August, several families rent cottages by the ocean because that's what they always do. They're the Irish mob from Providence, R.I., called Black Irish because their ancestors are Catholics from Northern Ireland.

Danny Ryan is the levelheaded one. He's married to Terri. She's a daughter of John Murphy, the Irish king of the Providence "family." He became head when their past boss, Marty Ryan, hit the bottle —hard — after his wife left him when Danny was still a baby. Marty now spends his days with his friend Ned Egan at a cottage by the ocean.

Murphy treats Danny like family since his sons, Pat and Liam, and other daughter, Cassie, grew up with him. But Danny knows his place in the family depends on being an asset to them.

"I'm Danny Ryan, the good soldier...Good old Danny, who does what has to be done."

Other beach cottages are rented by the Italian mob, led by Jacky Moretti. That is, until Jacky gets sent to prison for a nice long sentence. Now, the Italians are run by Pasco Ferri and Jacky's sons, Peter and Paul Moretti. Problem is, Pasco wants to retire to Florida, and the Moretti sons may not be the best choice to run the family's operations.

Thing is, John Murphy, Marty Ryan and Jacky Moretti are old school. They grew up in the mob, came to an understanding years ago and settled any disputes in what they considered equitable terms. Don't ask. But the decision was made and honored for many years — "The Irish kept the docks, the Italians took the trucking, and both unions were run from Providence."

Neither family runs drugs or prostitutes, that's where they draw the line. Question is, can that pledge be kept by the younger generation? There are other ways to make money, and both families take full advantage. There's also money from vending machines, kickbacks from the wholesalers. And it helps to have a judge or several cops, or maybe a politician or two, in your hip pocket.

The kids, on both sides, are hotheaded and anxious to let their testosterone take over. Not a good idea. To each other and the rest of Providence, the Murphys and Morettis are the micks and guineas.

As the opening quote suggested — it was a woman who started the war...

Her name is Pam, and she catches the eye of Paulie Moretti. She's not Italian, but so what? He's cra-

zy about her. But that night, the Irish and Italians are sharing the beach. Pam says Liam touches her inappropriately, and that's all it takes. Then, to everyone's surprise, Pam gets over her insult and hooks up with Liam, which is like gasoline on a fire to Paulie. Does she have any idea what she started?

One thing leads to another, too many lines have been crossed and it's all about killing and retribution, back and forth, way too many hits for me to summarize here, until...

An FBI agent is in the mix, maybe because the killing is getting out of hand? Or maybe he has something else on his mind? The newspapers are having a field day with all the blood and

gore

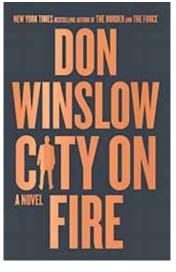
Then Liam comes up with a scheme to make a peace offering to the Italians with a big heroin heist they can split that will involve the local black mob, which normally handles the drug trade. They have to include them or that will start another war. All reluctantly agree to the terms in hopes this will put an end to this unholy war. What happens next will either work out or go down in flames.

Something different here is that Winslow shows how the well-characterized women in both families are affected, and how they deal with the fallout. It makes for a total package from beginning to end, and one of the best crime family stories ever told. Totally compulsive reading.

This is the first in a trilogy about Danny Ryan and the mob. The ending leaves no doubt about that. <u>City of Dreams</u> arrives April 2023 and <u>City in Ashes</u> in April 2024. Also, the rights to a seven-figure movie deal with Sony are in the air.

<u>Warning</u>: Due to the book's graphic nature, be warned that profanity, as well as racist and homophobic slurs, are used profusely.

Till next time, happy reading!









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