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# The Tapestry of Life

At 100 years old, Michigan City resident Ruth Genevieve Lyness has lived a full life, and she looks to the future with just as much zest.

The former longtime Long Beach resident was

born July 16, 1922, in Indianapolis to Oscar and Esther Nordberg. With a brother and sister several years older, she was somewhat of an only child, and recalls making strips of connected paper dolls for her cousins when she was 10 or 11.

This passion for art seemed to be in her genes. In the early 1900s in Bedford, Ind., her father worked in terra cotta used in the facades of skyscrapers, as well as limestone, in Evanston, Ill.

As a young adult, her appreciation for art increased as she worked for her brother, Bernard Nordberg, a commercial landscape artist.

When asked which flowers are her favorite, not missing a beat, she replied, "All flowers are my favorite flowers." However, she did note that at her former Long Beach residence, she had the now-endangered-in-Indiana trilliums.

Her passion for art would become constant, woven into the tapestry of her life.

She honed her art skills at Arsenal Technical High

School, graduating in 1940. While attending Indiana University, she was employed at an insurance agency.

"When I left the office at noon, I was angry with my boss," she explained. "I saw the recruiting office, walked in and thought, 'I'm going in the Navy."

She began her military service on Jan. 6, 1944, first being sent to Bainebridge, Md., then to the New York Fleet Post Office before her final destination of Norfolk, Va. Her job was to case mail (determine where it was headed), placing it in containers on skiff boats retrieved by sailors back to their main boat.

"They wouldn't let the women on the ship," she explained.

She was discharged from the Navy on Feb. 18, 1946, having achieved the rank of



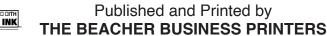
Ruth Lyness, now 100 years old, stands next to a portrait she made of her mother, Esther Wilhelmina Nordberg. The work was inspired by a photograph taken of her mother before Ruth was born. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

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# The Tapestry of Life

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mailman third class. So, she returned to college to earn a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

It was in the Indiana University bookstore that she met her future husband, John Lyness. The two enjoyed their days as members of the Independent Students Association. John was studying through the GI bill while in the Army reserves, after having served 14 months in the European theatre in World War II as a rifleman/radio operator/paratrooper. He was recalled into service on Sept. 1, 1948, and entered with the rank of second lieutenant.

John and Ruth were married on Feb. 8, 1949, at Fort Dix, N.J. During the next 12 years, John would serve at several posts, including those in Charleston, S.C.; Dallas, Texas; Hokkaido, Japan; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Korea.

Lyness remembers around 1951 traveling alone with a 1-year-old and a baby on an Army ship to live with John, now a captain, in Hokkaido. She met up with him, and immediately Japanese girls took care

of the children so the couple could sightsee together. She fondly recalled the sights of Japan, including the beautiful Japanese gardens and a type of amusement park/playground on the roof of a department store.

"We went home together, which was nice," Lyness added about the family's return to the states.

It was at Fort Bragg that Lyness "got anxious to do my art" and started teaching it to other officers' wives. She held her first art show in the early 1950s, proudly noting that generals traveled from Washington, D.C., to see it. Lyness' art wouldn't be featured again until a First Friday Art Walk six years ago at First United Methodist Church. She was 94 then, and pieces of her portraits, ceramics, weavings and other art were on display.

One of her most harrowing moments involving her husband's military service was a field day held by his division. There were big crowds of civilians, military service personnel, families and dignitaries. During a paratrooper demonstration, a plane tragically crashed while she watched in horror.

"I thought John was in the plane," she said, "but he was on the ground taking pictures (as an official photographer)."



Ruth Lyness (center, sitting in chair) is photographed with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nephew with his family as they celebrate her 100th birthday on July 16.

After discharging from the Army on Sept. 30, 1957, John and Ruth lived in Bloomington, Columbus, Ind., and Indianapolis. Their first child, Jack, was born in 1950 at Fort Dix, N.J. Daughter Kris (Prohl) joined the family in 1951 while they were stationed at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Ind. Next came Karen in 1954, then Kathy (Lee) in 1957 while the family was at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. John and Ruth's last child, the only one born after John's discharge, was David when the family moved to Columbus.





Ruth met her husband, John, at an Indiana University bookstore. They were married on Feb. 8, 1949.

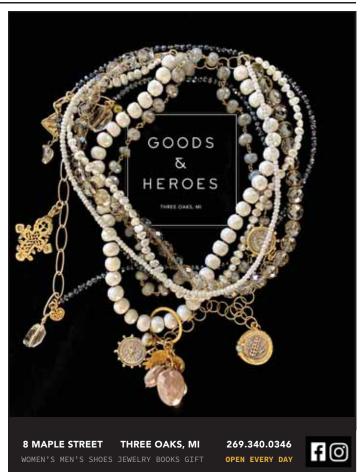
John and Ruth Lyness celebrated 50 years of marriage on Feb. 8, 1999.

The Lynesses moved to Long Beach in January 1966. The couple cherished their beautiful home overlooking the Long Beach Country Club golf course on Floral Trail. Ruth lived there for 50 years until 2017.

"John was looking for work in the area," she explained. "He really liked it here and asked me to come up and see it."

Due to a teacher shortage at the time, Lyness worked under an emergency teacher's license, first at Riley Elementary School in the fourth grade, then at Krueger Middle School. The administration soon discovered her talent and passion for art, so she quickly moved into the art teacher position there, which she held for 20 years from 1968-1988. She was a Michigan City Area Schools' Hall of Fame recipient in 1995.

She would go on to earn a master's degree in education in 1970 from Indiana University at Bloomington and Gary. She even completed her student teaching while working at Krueger. Lyness loved the two decades she spent there. Some of her most memorable moments include her students creating a mural of Martin Luther King Jr. and five 20-foottall hot air balloons for the gymnasium. For a school





# The Tapestry of Life

Continued from Page 3

foyer bicentennial display in 1976, she directed students to make life-size wire sculptures of a fifer, flag carrier and drummer based on the famous painting, "The Spirit of '76."

Lyness handled all of the stage sets, props and make-up for the Krueger drama and art clubs. Her daughter, Karen, recalled two "Wizard of Oz" pro-

ductions her mother was involved in: one in the '60s and one when Karen, herself, was a teacher in the '80s. Karen has fond memories of being a student in her mother's art club at Krueger.

After working as a long-term substitute teacher, Karen followed in her mother's footsteps and became a teacher. Karen earned her master's degree with a specialty in severe disabilities. She retired in 2015 after 27 years — 25 of which were with MCAS — as a secondary education special-education teacher.

As an artist, Ruth Lyness enjoined working "in a little bit of everything," which included oils, pastels, ceramics, pottery and woodcarving. Many are on display at her home, such as two of her favorites – pastel portraits of African-American women. She also created one of her mother, Esther Wil-

helmina Nordberg, from a photograph taken of her before Ruth was born. This also is in pastels, one of her favorite mediums.

In addition to her art, Lyness had many other interests. She was active in United Methodist Women, the altar guild and choir, and the soup kitchen ministry at First United Methodist Church. For several years, she delivered Meals on Wheels in the community.

John and Ruth both sang in the Michigan City Community Choir. John sang bass in SPEBSQSA, the Barbershop Harmony Society. Ruth sang with the Sweet Adelines, a worldwide organization of women singers, for 10 years until it disbanded; her daughter, Karen, joined her. The couple, along with daughter, Kris, and son-in-law, Mike, were active members of the Star Righters Square Dance club for several years.

"They were both musical people all their lives. They taught us to be musical," Karen noted. When asked to share her secret to reaching 100, Ruth Lyness attributes it to Shaklee Corp. products. She and John became involved in selling it in the late '70s/early '80s. While he focused on the company's air filters and water filtration systems, Ruth was more interested in its make-up line and eventually health supplements and cleaning products.

"She stayed with the supplements," Karen said.

Ruth takes four daily medications, in addition to several Shaklee supplements, as well as the company's protein shakes, personal care and skin care

> products. She is remarkably healthy for her age except for some hearing loss and macular degeneration.

> "I'm healthy," she said. "The doctor can't find anything wrong with me."

Ruth is still considered a Shaklee distributor, but Karen also became one in 2015 and handles the family's involvement. At a Shaklee Global Conference in August, Karen was surprised to hear the company's president mention her mother and another distributor over the age of 100 in a speech, displaying their photos on a screen for all 5,000 attendees to see.

John passed away on Aug. 22, 2014, after 66 years of marriage. Today, four of her children live in LaPorte County, while Jack lives in Newark, Calif. Ruth has five grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren. The family en-

grandchildren. The family enjoys getting together often to celebrate holidays and birthdays.

Ruth's 100-year-old birthday celebration on July 16 at Lynn Williams Hall in New Carlisle was extra special. In attendance were more than 60 family members, friends, former students, co-workers and more whose lives Ruth touched. She was able to greet them from a fancy, high-backed chair as she wore a special corsage and golden sash that read, "Birthday Girl." She had the pleasure of hearing her five great-grandchildren, ages 2-8, sing "Happy Birthday" on stage to her. She received 140 birthday cards and donations — she requested them in lieu of gifts — adding up to a sizable gift to First United Methodist Church.

Ruth enjoyed the event, as she reminisced about the past and caught up with those she hadn't seen in years. And, in her own positive, upbeat, matterof-fact way, she is ready to live life to the fullest, one day at a time, looking forward to her next birthday.



The Lyness family in a photo taken about 1963 or 1964. The front row is David Lyness. The middle row is Kathy Lee, John Lyness and Ruth Lyness. The back row is Kris Prohl, Jack Lyness and Karen Lyness.





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#### Monty Python's "Spamalot" Arrives at LaPorte Little Theatre

On the heels of its sold-out production of "Matilda," LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., will present "Monty Python's Spamalot" on Friday-Sunday, Oct. 7-9 and 14-16.

Lifted from the cult classic "Monty Python and

the Holy Grail," "Spamalot" is an irreverent parody of the Arthurian legend, complete with rude Frenchmen, cancan dancers, the Lady of the Lake and her Laker Girls, killer rabbits, catapulting cows and the odd knights who say "ni." The Broadway production earned 14 Tony nominations and won three, including Best New Musical.

The show also features numerous references to "Monty Python's Flying Circus," while Broadway musicals are skewered like Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story," "Man of La Mancha," "Les Miserables" and "The Producers."

Leading the quest is King Arthur (Rich Snyder) with his trusty servant Patsy (Donavan Barrier). Playing his gallant knights — and a broad assortment of characters

— are Julie Phillips as The Lady of the Lake, Ben Keller as Sir Lancelot the Homicidally Brave, Timothy Slatton as Sir Robin the Not-Quite-So-Braveas-Sir-Lancelot, Max Principe as Sir Galahad, the Dashingly Handsome, Jacob Robinson as Sir Bedevere, the Strangely Flatulent, Trent Kaercher as Prince Herbert, Danielle Bilderback as Not Dead Fred and Alex Bonner as Tim the Enchanter and the Black Knight.
Rounding out the

Rounding out the cast are Nick Bello as the Historian, Domenic Sirugo as Bors the Beheaded, Skye Smith as Concorde, Don Peiffer as Sir Not-Appearing and Danielle Bilderback, Erin Imer, Lindsay



Alexander Bonner (from left), Trent Kaercher and Nick Bello appear in "Spamalot."

Burnett, Mary Watterson, Mary-Jayne Nichols and Keegan Darr as the Laker Girls.

The show is directed by Scott Lenig and Matt Robinson. Lenig also is the music director. Robinson recently directed LaPorte's production of "Clue, Onstage," in which Scott performed as Colonel Mustard. This is Scott's debut as director at LTC; otherwise, he is a seasoned stage veteran.

The production team features choreographers Danielle Bilderback, Katy Gartland, Lindsay Burnett and Mary Jayne Nichols. Patty Nocek is stage manager, with Brian Phillips handling sound.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 7 and 14, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 9 and 16. Tickets, which are \$17, \$16 for seniors and \$13 for students, may be purchased at www. laportelittletheatreclub.com.



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#### "Four Old Broads" Arrives at Footlight Theatre

Leslie Kimbell's comedy "Four Old Broads" runs Oct. 7-9 and 13-16 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The story unfolds at Mag-Place Retirement Center. where Beatrice (Laura Meyer) wants to go on the Caribbean Sassy Seniors Cruise with her best friend Eaddy (Leslie Evans). Things, however, are unpleasant thanks to Pat (Kathy Chase), the new nurse. Worse, the latest resident, Imogene (Susie Richter), suddenly has memory loss. Maude (Diana Hirsch), when not binge-watching "Search For Love," her favorite soap opera, is obsessed with planning her own funeral. Sam (Tom Le Donne), a retired Elvis impersonator,

is the resident Casanova. A mystery laced with comedy ensues that includes young nurse's aide Ruby Sue (Cindi Reyes).



Director Robert Komendera is assisted by Joe Blanchard, with the set design by Jim Snyder and dressed by Joy Davidson. Also involved are Alayna Lauritsen (sound), Declan Rice (light), Sharon Kienitz (costume designer), Chase (hair and makeup) and Meyer (stage manager).

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. The Thursday, Oct. 13, show costs \$12. Otherwise, tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and younger. The show is rated "mature" for mild language and adult content.

Footlight Theatre is an 80-seat theater, so reservations are strongly recom-

mended. There is no assigned seating. Reservations can be made at www.footlightplayers.org or call (219) 874-4035 and leave a message.



#### From Data...to Conclusions...to Decisions

Price	1st	2nd	3rd	Active
Range	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	9/28
0-499K	15	16	8	8
500k-1M	24	18	18	16
1.1M-1.25M	2	2	3	1
1.25M UP	1	1	0	13

That is sales data for each quarter in 2022 through Sept. 28 for my Indiana Lakefront marketplace.

Here is what I see in these numbers. The \$0-449K range in sales dropped this last quarter probably because there was not much for sale in that price range. The \$500K to \$1M range has the highest number of sales, but again seems constrained by the lack of inventory — 18 sales this last quarter, with only 16 properties for sale on Sept. 28. Seems like the million-dollar purchases are keeping the inventory almost at zero, but there are only 3 sales per quarter. The above \$1.250M market is a bit of a surprise. No sales, but 13 listings on the market. Either terribly overpriced, or no buyers. Since none of these properties have been on the market for fewer than 30 days, my conclusion is that high-end properties are overpriced.

So how long does it take to sell properties today? Here is the median days on market data for each quarter:

1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
16	7	7

Properties are selling fast. The median time on market is 7 days for all residential properties.

Market is going down in number of sales and \$Volume is going down.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr
Units	42	37	29
\$Volume	\$28.5M	\$23.8M	\$18.4M

The market is going down. The reason is probably twofold. The very top end is overpriced, but the middle and lower ends are controlled in part by available inventory and in part by buyers wanting houses in the \$500,000 to \$1 million range more than under \$500,000.

So, What Should Sellers Do?

- 1. List your property. Inventory is almost non-existent. An especially good marketplace is \$500,000 to \$1.1 million.
- 2. Price it right. You will know so if it sells in a week. No offers by 10 days: the price is wrong. Drop it 5%. Repeat every 10 days until sold.
- 3. Think hard about selling if your property seems worth more than \$1.25 million. If there is a soft part of the market, it is this high end.
- 4. The median price went from \$566,000 in the first quarter to \$529,000 in the second quarter and back up to \$575,000 in the third quarter. So, it is a good time to sell because prices are still going up.

So, What Should Buyers Do

- 1. If the price seems right, make an offer quickly. You have a short time to get the deal.
- 2. Check out properties that have not sold for more than 30 days. It is time for the seller to lower the price or not sell. You might get lucky.
- 3. Be willing to pay a bit more than asking price. This guess is based on the fact that the median sold price of houses that have sold fast is only 1% more than the median listing price.

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#### **Edgewood Student Recognized for Life-Saving Action**

Edgewood Elementary School is celebrating the heroic efforts of a fifth-grade student, with the entire student body gathering last week as the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office recognized Jonathan Mendez-Osornio for saving a man's life.

On Aug. 25, Jonathan was selling chocolate bars for a school fundraiser. He was going door-to-door in his neighborhood when he came upon a home where he heard someone calling out for help. There was no answer at the door, so Jonathan used his cell phone to call 911.

Emergency responders arrived and found an elderly man in need of medical help.

Deputy Jacob Payne was a responding officer with the Sheriff's Office that day, and was at Edgewood for the recognition ceremony.

"Jonathan could have walked away from that



Fifth-grader Jonathan Mendez-Osornio is pictured with LaPorte County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jacob Payne.

door," Payne said in a press release. "But he heard a call for help, and he answered it, and for that we thank you."

While protecting the privacy of the person who was assisted, Payne was only able to confirm that the person received the care needed and is alive today thanks to Jonathan's quick action.

"Everyone has a hero – and Jonathan is ours," LaPorte County Sheriff John Boyd, who attended the ceremony, said in a press release. "If you see something that isn't right, report it. Because of what Jonathan did, there's a man alive today. We are proud of him... his actions are a reflection of his parents and his school."

**Edgewood Elementary School** 

Principal Kristin Smith said "habits of character" are a regular part of curriculum at her school. Character traits such as respect, kindness, empathy and integrity are taught to help students become ethical people.

Smith used Jonathan's rescue efforts to connect school lessons to real-life situations, saying he exemplified the habit of integrity by doing the right thing when no one was watching.

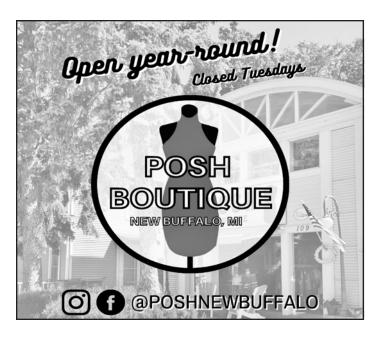
"Sometimes, we might not see the connection between our learning at school and our own lives," she said in a press release. "This is a perfect example of showing integrity and helping others in need. The Edgewood crew could not be more inspired by and proud of Jonathan."



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#### Michigan City Public Library

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

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

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- Free COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6. Beacon, St. Joseph and Franciscan health systems are collaborating on the clinic, with registration at www.ourshot.in.gov. Walk-ins are welcome. Vaccines offered are: Adult Pfizer (12 and older): first, second and bivalent booster; and Child Pfizer (ages 5-11): first, second and booster dose. Take ID and a vaccine card.
- Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays in October. Membership to the group is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, crossstitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- Meditation for Everyone from 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 8. Don Wenig of Dancing Feet Yoga Center leads the introductory presentation that helps develop skills to focus, relax, release stress and generate self-healing energy.
- Writing Out Loud: Emily Gray Tedrowe at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. Tedrowe is the Chicago-based author of the novels The Talented Miss Farwell, Blue Stars and Commuters. She earned a doctorate in English literature from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University. She received an Illinois Arts Council

award, as well as fellowships from the Ragdale Foundation, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Sewanee Writers Conference. A frequent book reviewer for USA Today and other publications, she writes essays, interviews and short stories.



Tedrowe

- Make It @ MCPL: Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the Makerspace. Registration
  - is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 9-17, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.
- Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. **Tuesdays in October.** 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.

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 for more details.)





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#### Run to the Center of the World 5K

Registration is still open for the 11th annual Run to the Center of the World 5K Run/Walk, which starts and ends at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

The race is Saturday, Oct. 22. Those who register before Oct. 8 receive a free T-shirt. Because Friends of New Troy advocates the "reduce, recycle and reuse philosophy," extra shirts will not be ordered. The entry fee is \$25

All finishers receive a carved wooden medal, and overall winners' names will be engraved on bricks mounted in the community center garden. A free grab-and-go breakfast will be provided.

Proceeds benefit the community center, which receives no government funding and is supported through memberships, donations, grants and fundraisers. The event is hosted by the nonprofit Friends of New Troy.

Information, a link to register online and a down-loadable form are available at tinyurl.com/2c8dry96. Registration forms also may be picked up at the community center. Email runtothecenteroftheworld@gmail.com or call (269) 426-3909 for more details.

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#### **HCH Donates Trail Benches**



Alex Schrader, Chikaming Township Parks facility manager, is photographed with one of the new Leopold benches donated by Harbor Country Hikers.

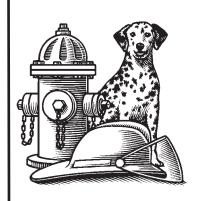
Harbor Country Hikers has donated 10 benches that will be installed along trails maintained by Chikaming Open Lands, Chikaming Township Parks and Three Oaks Parks.

The benches follow a design by Aldo Leopold, an early 20th century American conservationist, environmental ethicist and author. Leopold benches are popular for their ease of construction, durability and relatively low cost.

Providing trail amenities is a key item in HCH's statement of purpose, President Pat Fisher said in a press release. Fisher points to the uniform trail markers installed at many local preserves and parks as another example of how the group helps improve local trails.

An additional 12 benches have been requested and are under construction. The benches were built by HCH members Bob Fournier and Bob Mueller.

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#### Praying at the BMV

Out for a late afternoon stroll along Michiana's lakefront, a few brown branches in the oaks shading Lake Shore Drive catch my eye. Unbidden, an old familiar feeling creeps up from my belly. The first signs of fall transform me into a school-aged kid sucker punched by the reality that the carefree days of summer are now at a premium.

How is it that summer has screeched to a halt?

I walk along trying to reconcile my time these last three months. When I run through the list of comings and goings, I shake my head and chuckle. Since May, I have spent more sunshine hours in hard plastic chairs at motor vehicle offices than in cozy, canvas beach chairs. Selling, replating and retitling vehicles previously in my late husband's name forced multiple visits.

Ever since I was a teenager applying for my first driver's license, a trip to the BMV has filled me with trepidation. It's the assembling of required forms, the unpredictable waiting lines and the uncertainty of whether what needs to get accomplished will in fact happen in a timely, pleasant manner. Being turned away by an empowered clerk only to come back later with additional documentation is every driver's nightmare.

And so it was recently I found myself doing just that. Returning to the BMV with more paperwork





proving I was who I purported to be and possessing the authority to transfer the title on my husband's truck.

I pulled off U.S. 20, entered the strip mall parking lot and found a spot near the entry doors. No amount of mindful yoga breathing could shift my heart back into a regular rhythm. I grabbed the thick manila folder from the passenger seat, muttering, "Third time's a charm!" A pathetic attempt at confidence building.

Inside, I looped my N95 mask around my ears and scanned the waiting area. I'd timed it just right. The "after lunch crowd" had thinned to a handful of visitors. I snatched what I hoped was a lucky number from the dispenser, plopped down in an unbroken, clean plastic chair and studied the clerks behind their Plexiglas screens.

There she was. In the left cubicle. The trusted government employee who the highway safety and motor vehicle gods had assigned to me on my previous trip. She'd checked through my paperwork, quizzed a supervisor several times and deemed the stack of identifying documents I'd laid out: insufficient. As I trudged out the door to my husband's truck, I knew what a beaten dog felt like.

Several weeks elapsed before I gathered the energy to return with additional paperwork.

As I had done before, I fidgeted in the hard plastic seat, gripping my documents and staring at my client number. But this time, I did what we humans often do when pressed to the edge. I prayed. I pleaded. I bargained. If the powers that be would grace me with one of the other two employees – anyone but the left-cubicle-clerk – I promised to be a model citizen, an obedient and courteous driver. And while I negotiated my case with the higher-ups, my eyes bounced between the staff, discerning where they might be in settling their clients' issues.

My heart sank when the employee with kind brown eyes stood and announced to the supervisor, "I'm going on break now."

That left the two female employees. Left-cubicleclerk and a younger woman who laughed easily with the older gentleman seated in the chair before her.

"That's my girl," my mind crowed.

I fanned myself with the thick folder, which did not alleviate the heat building up behind my N95. I heaped on fresh points in my negotiations with the motor vehicle gods: I will be pleasant, not argumentative; I will look the clerk in the eye and answer, "Yes, mam," or "No mam."

"Number 48?"

I catapulted to my feet. The clerk with the sweet laugh waved me over, a pleasant smile warming her features.

"What can I help you with today?" she asked.

I went into my story. Deceased spouse. Transferring truck title into his trust. I'm the trustee. Here's the death certificate, original title, my driver's license, Social Security card, the will and trust documents, and a bank statement with current address.

After my spiel, I felt faint. "Is there anything else you need?" I asked.

And then the smiley, brown-haired clerk asked a question left-cubicle-clerk had not. I racked my brain for how the attorney had coached me on this question.

"OK. Then I need this. This. And that. You can put those other documents away."

As her fingers bounced along the computer keyboard, we chatted about the humidity, Omicron and the construction at the railroad tracks. When she picked up the death certificate, her eyes found mine.

"Valentine's Day? I'm so sorry. That will be a tough day going forward..." and then she launched into a story about a family member who died on her birthday and how that affected her.

A supervisor strolled over. He checked the smiley clerk's work, asked her some questions and then nodded his approval.

She beamed at me. "Almost done. I'll have you out of here in 2-3 minutes. I promise."

I thanked her for her kindness, for making this so easy.

She nodded, her eyes warm. "When a loved one dies, the paperwork is endless."

I drew in a breath and thanked the powers that be for this compassionate clerk, a woman who managed to follow the BMV's strict protocols while forging a connection with the clients she served. When she passed my completed paperwork under the Plexiglas, I felt profound relief and gratitude. Pride, too. I was done. No more trips to the BMV on the horizon.

As I finish my walk along the lakeshore, I note more signs of fall. The yellowing of a few elms, the faded rose of drying hydrangeas and the rusty plumes shooting up from grasses. As I admire the nuances in the landscape, I marvel at all that transpired this summer, the challenges championed. I'm ready for fall and the next chapter in life. I hope you are, too.

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Phenomenal performance, icky movie. How do you reconcile the two? I'm not sure.

"Blonde," the NC-17 Netflix adaptation of Joyce Carol Oates' controversial, and fictional, 2000 take on Marilyn Monroe, contains a performance by Ana de Armas that is the definition of bravery. The "Knives Out" star is seen in the nude, sexually assaulted, savagely beaten and subjected to repeated abortions. One might not have pictured the Cuban actress as the iconic star, but she devours the role with zero fear. She may very well take home next year's Best Actress Oscar.

Unfortunately, all that hard work gets sabotaged by pretentious direction from Andrew Dominik (2007's "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"), extreme length (2 hours, 46 minutes) and imagery just as exploitive as the behavior it purports to detest. There is no joy here even in the small moments, just an unrelenting exercise in pain and suffering.

We know going into the film, like Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis," that this is a story with no happy ending. There is no way to sugarcoat Monroe's life. And de Armas disappears heart and soul into the role. There are times when it's like watching the real thing: that breathy voice, the ethereal way she moves through a room, as if floating. And in scenes where Monroe

### "Blonde"

Running time: 166 minutes. Netflix. Rated NC-17 for language and graphic sexual content.

breaks down, whether it be in rehearsals or privately coping with tragedy, the emotional collapse is astonishing. One thing is certain: de Armas has elevated herself to heavyweight status.

The movie tries to capture the rapturous desire men felt for Monroe amid the tragedy of her life. She was objectified and reduced by the Hollywood machine to a piece of meat. A brainless beauty to be exploited. Interesting, too, how Monroe refers to her screen persona as another individual altogether, one with a mind of its own. The use of slow motion to convey Monroe as the object of male desire is effective. The restaging of iconic film moments is remarkable, from "Niagara," to "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" to a recreation of "Some Like It Hot" that is so flawless, it could pass for the real thing.

(Jack Lemmon's son, Chris, fills in for his late father.)

Much of the movie, though, well, good grief, how do you explain it? Ever been to a college festival where students submit films so laughably inept, you cringe? Where the applause afterward is more out of politeness? That's "Blonde."

Director Dominik comes across as a showoff. For no apparent reason, the movie shifts between black and white and color. From cropped aspect ratios to widescreen. In focus, out of focus. A *menage a toi* between Monroe and the sons of two famous actors begins in focus, then slides into a blurry mess like paint dripping from a canvas. The worst offender: The laughable score by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis that sounds like the work of amateurs.

The men in the film, from Bobby Cannavale as Joe DiMaggio and Caspar Phillipson as JFK, are brutal pigs who treat Monroe as punching bags or sex toys. The gratuitous camera angle used to depict Monroe and JFK together is one click away from pornographic. And I won't even go there, as to where Dominik places his camera during two medical procedures.

That's why it is a relief when Oscar-winner Adrien Brody ("The Piano") turns up as Arthur Miller, the actor bringing a gentle touch to Monroe's third husband. Equally complex is the great Julianne Nicholson, an Emmy winner for "Mare of Easttown," whose performance as Monroe's mother is equally bold for its descent into full-throttle madness.

"Blonde" holds no punches in depicting injustices directed at women. For that, it deserves respect. And with de Armas owning the role, fearless in ev-



Oscar-winner Adrien Brody is a welcome presence as Arthur Miller.

ery scene, there are moments when the movie is powerful. Moments, though. The movie, itself, feels like an assault, and for all the wrong reasons.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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The 2022 Hobie 16 North American Championships were held Sept. 11-16 along Michigan City's lakefront at Washington Park. The event was part of the Hobie Class Association of North America. Hobie Fleet 126 of Michigan City hosted the competition, with sailors largely expected from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Also of note, the regatta was the first international sailing competition in Michigan City since the Pan American Games in 1987. The Beacher's James Conlin was there for one day to capture a few images, particularly one entrant as they prepared to enter the lake.





Bri (Jamila C. Gray) faces off against an opponent in "On the Come Up."

"On the Come Up" may be the first movie, that I know of, at least, that not only celebrates rap as exhilarating artistic expression, but also takes it to task when performers dodge the responsibility of it.

Then again, that was the point of Angie Thomas' 2019 follow-up to her powerful 2017 debut, <u>The Hate U Give</u>. And because the movie, in theaters and streaming on Paramount+, is extremely faithful to the book, the issue isn't diluted. It packs the same punch.

As an author, Thomas must be thrilled. Both <u>The Hate U Give</u> and <u>On the Come Up</u>, as films, honor the tone, the heart of her writing. They also give fresh talent an opportunity to sink their teeth into meaty characters in a world where issues of race, addiction, poverty and, most importantly, hope are explored with a firm grip.

At the center of "On the Come Up" is 16-year-old Bri (Jamila C. Gray), who follows in her late father's footsteps by entering the kind of "battle rap" showdowns we saw exactly 20 years ago in "8 Mile." It's freestyle rap: aggressive, the words pouring out, drawing blood. They pick at the scabs of their opponent's personal or family demons. Audience reactions determine the winner.

Bri lives in Garden Heights, the same fictional home to the characters of <u>The Hate U Give</u>. It's believed Thomas designed it to resemble Jackson, Miss. Blight in portions of the community resem-



### "On the Come Up"

Running time: 116 minutes. Paramount+. Rated PG-13 for strong language, sexual references, thematic elements, some violence and drug material.

bles war-torn cities. Drugs are a common sight. Bri attends a school that's a mix of white, black and Hispanic students, and in the movie's most shocking moment — lifted directed from the book — Bri is mistakenly accused by school security of selling drugs and thrown to the ground in a swift act of brutality. And it is this incident that fuels something inside Bri, the desire not only to tell her story through rap, but to tell it boldly. Honestly.

The screenplay by "This is Us" veteran Kay Oygeun expertly introduces other key players in Bri's life. Like her Aunt Pooh (Da'Vine Joy Randolph, unflappable as always), who carries herself as Bri's manager...and succumbs to the darker underbelly of Garden Heights. And, in a beautifully subdued performance, Sanaa Lathan ("Love & Basketball," "Something New") is Bri's mother, Jay, a recovering heroin addict three years clean and struggling to make ends meet. Lathan, also making her directorial debut here, never softens Jay. Lathan plays Jay's struggle as very real: a constant desire to slip when life gets tough.

Bri's talent catches the eye of a successful promoter, Supreme (Method Man), who promises stardom by recording a song that can stream instantly. And it is here that "On the Come Up" delves into that tricky message I mentioned earlier. In Supreme's recording studio, he tells Bri that white teens are the biggest consumers of rap music. Why? It gives white kids, he says, the ammo they need to freak out their parents. Supreme's pep talk: Give those kids what they want.

And that's what Bri delivers: a song with lyrics about killing cops and defying authority.

The song becomes a local hit, but it puts Bri at a disadvantage. It's not who she is. It creates a polarizing image. And because "On the Come Up" remains true to Bri's journey, the film's last half is her journey to be authentic, to bypass stereotypes and tell her story through rap as only she can tell it.

And that story, in the incredibly moving final scene, is a powerful tribute to her mother's resiliency while Bri forges her own identity on the cusp of becoming a woman.

In the rap sequences, Gray as Bri is fearless. We see the inspiration that guides her lyrics. I wish, though, that the performance had the same subtle qualities as Amandla Stenberg in "The Hate U Give." Gray finds one note to play and sticks with it from beginning to end.

There also are a few details I wish the movie had included...but isn't that the truth of any adaptation? Few films are flawless recreations of their sources.



Warren Attar, Agent

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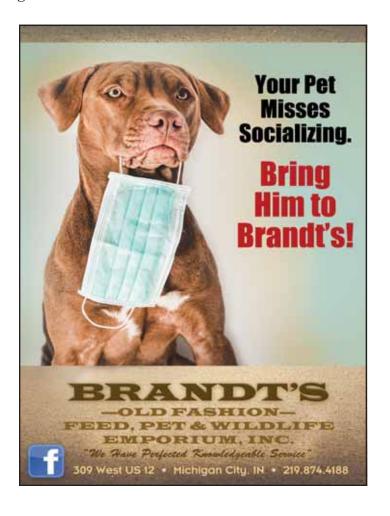
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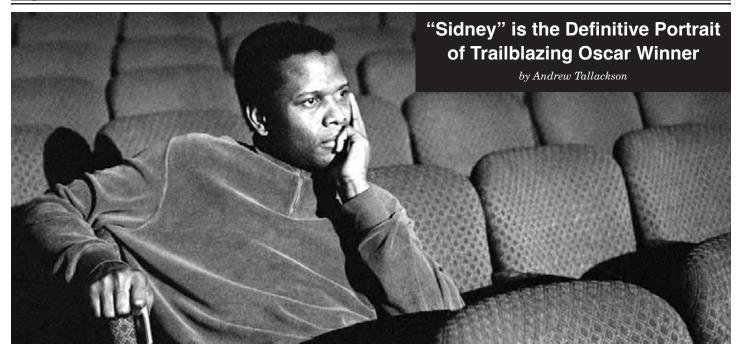




Bri's aunt (Da'Vine Joy Randolph) represents her as her manager.

"On the Come Up," though, comes close. Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com





What a blessing for Reginald Hudlin, director of the moving Apple TV+ documentary "Sidney," to have interviewed the Oscar winner before he died at age 94 in January. It's one thing to have fellow actors, people in the industry, gush over him. It is another to have the man himself tell his story. That voice — man, that voice — conveying a life of heartache and triumph.

This engrossing portrait of Sidney Portier is an exceptionally balanced look at a man who wrestled with the thrill and frustration of being "the first." The first black man to win a Best Actor Oscar. The first black actor with serious box-office clout. And the frequent no-win situation in which he found himself amid both sides of the racial equation.

The documentary, produced by longtime friend Oprah Winfrey, rounds up a who's who of Hollywood talent, including Halle Berry, Morgan Freeman, Lou Gossett Jr., Spike Lee, Barbra Streisand, Robert Redford, Denzel Washington and Winfrey, as well as family, friends and historians, to sound off on Portier's influence on them...and particularly on black actors in Hollywood. The undercurrent among them is how he broke the mold: refusing to play subservient or buffonish characters, and confronting issues of race at a time when the entertainment industry avoided it like plague.





Running time: 111 minutes. Apple TV+. Rated PG-13.

The question for any film about Portier is this: from where did such fortitude come? Hudlin and his writer, Jesse James Miller, make the brilliant decision to open with insight into Portier's youth. Growing up in the Bahamas, he knew a world where the skin color of everyone around him was the same as him. His parents had such a profound influence on the kind of person he wanted to be, his goal was to be the kind of man his parents wanted him to be.

That doesn't mean "Sidney" depicts the actor as a saint. It explores mixed reactions white and black audiences had to films like "The Defiant Ones" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Groundbreaking then, dismissed in some circles today. Portier, of course, offers the reminders that, for the time, the films maneuvered through uncharted waters.

The movie also delves into the failure of his first marriage to Juanita Hardy, the result of a nine-year affair with actress Diahann Carroll. The Hollywood blacklist and his support of Paul Robeson. His love-hate relationship, but mostly love, with Harry Belafonte. His transition into directing comedies ("Stir Crazy"), a sign of his ability to reinvent himself. The admiration of his daughters, and especially Winfrey, who can't hold back the tears flow when discussing him. It's all there. A complete portrait.

We are reminded throughout "Sidney" that there would be no Denzel Washington, and certainly not the late Chadwick Boseman, had Portier not blazed the trail for them. And, as the movie pleads, for many more talented actors of color to follow.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



We know Allison Janney can act. She's been stealing scenes for so long, we almost take her for granted.

I fell in love with her in the pitch-black comedy "Drop Dead Gorgeous" (1999). All these big names — Kirsten Dunst, Kirstie Alley, Denise Richards, Ellen Barkin — yet Janney made you laugh the most: cynicism dripping out of her like battery acid. And as the mother with zero maternal instincts in "I, Tonya," her Oscar win proved she can hold her own with the best.

When the trailer dropped for Netflix's "Lou," my initial thought was, cool, but what's she doing in this? A reclusive bad-ass who helps a desperate mother? Looks like one of Liam Neeson's leftovers.

Turns out, Janney may get the last laugh. The story is preposterous, but the actress and costar Jurnee Smollett (HBO's "Lovecraft Country") are so good, the story so relentless, you're too entertained to bother with the details.

Janney plays the title character, a 60ish woman living by herself and her dog Jax in the Pacific Northwest. Paying rent to live on her property is a single mother, Hannah (Smollett), and her daughter Vee (Ridley Bateman). Lou is one of those cranks people mildly tolerate, more out of fear. We suspect, though, that there is more to the story.

When Hannah's ex-husband Phillip (Logan Marshall-Green) arrives, right as a storm whips up, we know he's bad news. He kills one poor soul, then kidnaps Vee. Hannah turns to Lou, desperate.

The movie was directed by Anna Foerster, a long-time cinematographer, and I always say cinematographers make the best directors because they know how to craft killer images. There is a dynamite sequence in which Lou and Hannah cross a bridge that's one notch away from firewood. And Foerster makes great use of all the rain and wind to amp up the tension.



"Lou"

Running time: 107 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for violence and language.

Between Phillip, Lou, Hannah and Vee, Foerster never slows her film down for more than five minutes at a time. The movie is a cat-and-mouse chase between people who know how to evade each other. Why's that? I won't spoil the twist that arrives by the midpoint. We've pretty much figured out half of it, but the chase subsequently takes on a darker tone. And in the quieter moments, Smollett is at her best, forcing Janney to admit the truth.

Janney doesn't play Lou as an aging terminator. Each violent encounter takes more out of her. The detached cynicism gives way to flashes of humanity. Not many, though. Janney has never been an actress concerned with the warm and fuzzies.

I don't buy the movie's final shot, but ultimately, that's not what you take away from "Lou." Simply that, for 1 hour and 47 minutes, talented people keep you on the edge of your seat. And that's good enough for me.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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#### LCSO Children's Concerts

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will present its 34th Annual Drayton Family Children's Educational Concerts on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.



The concert will feature the world premiere of Rick DeJonge's three-minute work, "Celebration Fanfare."

Music Director Dr. Carolyn Watson will lead musicians during three performances at 9:30 a.m., 11:10 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. A special fanfare, composed by Rick DeJonge and commissioned by Garry and JoFran Bendix, will have its world premiere. The three-minute work, "Celebration Fanfare," features LCSO's brass section.

The program also includes:

- Overture to Glinka's "Ruslan and Ludmila."
- "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Copland.
- "Country Gardens" by Grainger.
- "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovksy's "The Nutcracker."
- "Radetzky March" by J. Strauss Sr.
- "Hoe Down" from Copland's "Rodeo."

Approximately 6,000 elementary students from LaPorte, Porter, Lake and Starke counties will attend. A preconcert educator guide is available on the LCSO website at www.lcso.net



#### LCSO in the Spotlight



Krachinski.

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights new musicians and student apprentices.

Kyra Krachinski is a Michigan City High School senior who taught herself how to play the flute at 12. She performs with the MCHS Advanced Wind Ensemble and Michigan City Municipal Band.

She has been selected to perform with the Indiana Bandmasters Association All-State Region and All-District Honor Bands. She also has participated in Indiana State School Music Association for the past five years, earning five gold ratings — two with distinction.

Krachinski plans to major in micro-biology in college while participating in musical activities.



#### **LaPorte County Parks**



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

#### Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Oct. 12 Wiggly Workers.
- Oct. 26 Spider Sniffing.
- Nov. 2 What's Falling.
- Nov. 16 Snakes Alive.
- Dec. 7 Let it Snow.

#### **Healthy Lifestyles**

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

• Nov. 2: Managing Stress with Moria Cogwell, The Crossing wellness specialist.

#### Bird Adaptations: Wonders of Flight/Migration

The Potawatomi Audubon Society will highlight birds and their adaptations from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Luhr County Park

The program includes a slide presentation and Bird Bingo. Reservations are required, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Mother & Son Evening Under the Stars**

The outdoor program involving hands-on activities is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at Luhr County Park.

Dress for the weather. The cost is \$25 per couple, and \$5 for each additional son. Payment and registration are due by Oct. 13 or when the program is filled, whichever comes first.

#### Field Trips

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

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



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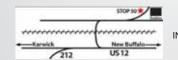
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The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La-Porte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 10.
- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11.
- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12.
- American Legion, 107 N. Flynn Road, Westville, 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.

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

#### The Village Gallery

LaPorte artist Ginny Scott will exhibit her abstract expressionist paintings through Oct. 30 at Valparaiso's The Village Gallery, located in Pines Village Retirement Communities.

Scott relocated from New York to Chicago and several years ago to Indiana. She exhibited throughout the New York area and since moving here has exhibited widely throughout the region. She has won many first prizes and honorable mentions, and her work has been featured in *American Artwork* magazine and <u>Studio Visit Art Book</u> for several years.

She is a juried member of Area Artists Association and Northern Indiana Artists, South Bend, and a member of Box Factory for the Arts and Krasl Art Center, both in St. Joseph, Mich.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.pinesvillage.org or call (219) 435-1591 for more details.







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#### **LaLu Seniors Named Semi-Finalists**



Liliana Sirko and Chet Morariu.

La Lumiere Head of School Dr. Andrew Hoyt has announced that seniors Liliana Sirko and Chet Morariu are semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 16,000 semifinalists are being recognized, and they now continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be offered next spring. Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level.

#### LaLu Senior is Commended Student

La Lumiere School Senior Thomas Neil has been named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Head of School Dr. Andrew Hoyt presented to Neil

a Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corp.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized. Although they will not continue in the 2023 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students

placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2023 competition by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

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      - Raffles
  - \$5 Football Board

#### Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association will host the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Washington Park.

Pre-walk activities are at 9 a.m., followed by the ceremony at 10 a.m., then the walk.

Participants will honor those affected by Alzheimer's disease with Promise Flowers during the Promise Garden Ceremony – a display of hope to represent the personal reasons participants join to fight Alzheimer's. A blue flower indicates the participant is living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Yellow flowers signify Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers. Those carrying purple flowers have lost someone to the disease. Those with orange flowers support the association's vision.

Registration is free and available at www.alz.org/Indiana/walk.





# 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.

#### **Polish Motorcyclists Gathering**

The 10th Annual Fall Gathering of Polish Motor-

cyclists is Sunday, Oct. 9, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by a picnic on the shrine grounds. Menu items and prices vary, while food will be sold in Millennium Hall.

The event, held rain or shine, is hosted by Stowar-



zyszenie Rajd Katynski Pamiec i Tozsamosc USA (Katyn Riders Society).

Call (219) 884-0714 for more details.

#### "Inspiring Women" Luncheon

Journalist Mary Ann Ahern will speak during Michigan City Chamber of Commerce's annual "Inspiring Women" luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa.

Presented by PNC Bank, the event honors successful women for contributions to their community, the economy and their selected career field. This year's keynote speaker is Michigan City native and Marquette High School graduate Mary Ann Ahern. She joined NBC5 News Chicago in 1989, working in a variety of roles. She was named the station's political reporter in 2006, covering campaigns from the White House to Springfield to Chicago. She has led many notable interviews with high-profile subjects over the years.

Local high school students again have been invited as guests of the chamber and its sponsors. The luncheon is open to the public. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Registration is required by calling (219) 874-6221 or visiting www. MichiganCityChamber.com

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#### **CTE Students Visit Trade Show in Chicago**

Dozens of LaPorte County students witnessed cuttingedge technology in manufacturing thanks to an Economic Development Corporation of Michigan City donation.

Approximately 60 students from the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program attended the Sept. 15 International Manufacturing Technology Show at Chicago's McCormick Place. EDCMC sponsored the trip by contributing \$1,500 toward the charter bus cost.

"IMTS is the largest manufacturing trade show in the United States, so this field trip enables students to get a first-hand look at current practices and trends in advanced manufacturing," EDCMC Executive Director Clarence Hulse said in a press release.

The students came from LaPorte County high schools and are enrolled in



welding and machining programs at the A.K. Smith Career Center, or are part of the Compressed Air Academy at Michigan City High School.

Last year, students from these same programs attended FabTech, which the ED-CMC also supported.

"Students genuinely enjoy these experiences, and we appreciate how events like the IMTS can inspire the next generation of manufacturers," CTE Director Delincia Smith said in a press release. "They come back to class and talk about the new equipment and technology that they experimented with, and are extremely grateful for all the free items they receive at these conventions."

More information about LaPorte County CTE programs is available at www.

EducateMC.net/CTE.

#### **Pageant Committee Gown Sale**

The annual Three Oaks/River Valley Queens Committee Gown Sale is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 8, at Three Oaks United Methodist, 2 Sycamore St. East.

Those with gowns to donate can take them to the church from 6-8 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 7. The person donating the gown sets the price. The entry fee is \$5 per item. Admission is \$1 at the door.

The Three Oaks/River Valley Pageant Committee runs events such as Miss & Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley, Miss Teen Three Oaks/River Valley and Little Miss Three Oaks/River Valley.



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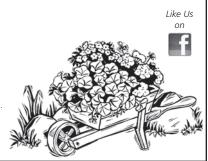
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#### Flick-or-Treat

Krasl Art Center and Coastline Children's Film Festival will present the third annual Flick-or-Treat, dedicated to Halloween-themed classic films this year, on Saturday, Oct. 8.

From 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT, paint a pumpkin during Family Day. The event is outdoors, so dress according to the weather and to get messy. Leave pumpkins outside to dry and help decorate the grounds for the film screening that starts at 7:30 p.m. EDT on the Oval Lawn. Take blankets and chairs at 6:30 p.m. EDT for warm beverages. A \$2 suggested donation supports CCFF and KAC. Oct. 9 is the rain date.



Buster Keaton in "The Haunted House."

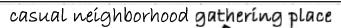
The 10 classic silent short films projected onto KAC's south-facing wall are accompanied by an improvisational piano performance from Dr. Larry Shanker, Brookview Montessori School executive director and music specialist.

The 10 films are: "The Astronomers Dream" (1898. France. 3:30 minutes); "The Eclipse, or the Courtship of the Sun and Moon" (1907. France. 9 minutes); "The Haunted House" with Buster Keaton (1921. USA. 20 minutes); "The Haunted Ship" (1930. USA. 7:40 minutes); "The Magic Mummy" (1933. USA. 6:50 minutes); "Moonland" (1926. USA. 10 minutes); "Mutt & Jeff Slick Sleuths" (1926. USA. 6:10 minutes); "The Red Spectre" (1907. Spain. 9.5 minutes); "The Skeleton Dance A Silly Symphony" (1929. USA. 5.5 minutes); "When The Clouds Roll By" (1919. Dream Sequence. 8 minutes.)

The feature film, "Jason and the Argonauts" (1963), screens indoors at 6:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 15, at Coastline's storefront space in the Flynn Theatre Building, 5861 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Mich. Refreshments and board games are planned during an open house from noon-4 p.m. EDT.

KAC is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more details.

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#### In the Area

Oct. 7 — Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 7 — First Friday event, 5-8 p.m., Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road.

Oct. 7-9, 13-16 — "Four Old Broads," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children 12 & younger, \$12/Oct. 13 show. Reservations: www. footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Oct. 7-9, 14-16 — "Monty Python's Spamalot," LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7 & 14, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8, 2 & 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15, 2 p.m. Oct. 9 & 16. Tickets: \$17, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Oct. 8 — The Alzheimer's Association 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Washington Park. Pre-walk activities/9 a.m., ceremony/10 a.m., then walk. Info/registration www.alz.org/Indiana/walk

Oct. 8 — Meditation for Everyone, 11 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 8 — Writing Out Loud: Emily Gray Tedrowe, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 11 — Fall 2022 Lunch and Lead Speaker Series (Angela Nelson Deuitch), noon, virtual. Info: www.pnw.edu/soi, societyofinnovators@pnw.edu

Oct. 11 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room B, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 12 – Michigan City Chamber of Commerce "Inspiring Women" luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa. Cost: \$25/members, \$35/non-members. Registration: (219) 874-6221, www.MichiganCityChamber.com

Oct. 12 — Make It @ MCPL: Tinkercad, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

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

**Through Nov. 19** — Exhibit (39 military uniforms/associated artifacts), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219)

324-6767.

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

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

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

#### In the Region

Oct. 7 — Real Pretenders w/ Phil Angotti Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$30 + \$5 convenience fee, VIP/\$55 + \$5 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 7-9 — "Godspell Jr.," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, tinyurl.com/bdew9y7v

Oct. 8 — Third annual Flick-or-Treat, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St Joseph, Mich. Times (Eastern): 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m./Family Day; 7:30 p.m./movies. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Oct. 8 — Three Oaks/River Valley Queens Committee Gown Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks United Methodist, 2 Sycamore St. East. Admission fee: \$1.

Oct. 8 — Dune Ridge Trail Autumn Hike, 1-2 p.m., Kemil Beach parking lot, East State Park Road, Beverly Shores. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 8 — Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike, 1:30-3 p.m., 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 8 — Full Moon Hike, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 8** — MegaBeatles, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$40 + \$6 convenience fee, VIP/\$65 + \$6 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 9 — Little Calumet River Trail Paddle, 10 a.m.-noon, Howe Road off County Road 1350 North, Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 9 — Fire Side Chat at the Pavilion, 5:30-7 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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.

**Through Nov. 11** — LaPorte artist Ginny Scott, Valparaiso's The Village Gallery (Pines Village Retirement Communities). Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Info: (219) 435-1591, www.pinesvillage.org

**Through Nov. 13** — New exhibits, "Family Dinner: The Deep Connection of American Lived Experience" & "FOOD for THOUGHT," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

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

**Vickers Theatre** — *Opens Oct.* 7: "God's Creatures." Rated R. Check website for details. *Also*: featured artist — Suzy Vance through October. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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4. Deb Frederick		158		
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Dottie Brinckman		4-5		

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Howard Miller grandfather clock, 77 inches by 16 inches. Beautiful chimes. Like new. \$1,500 OBO. Call (219) 262-5007.

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Beautiful upper-level, open-concept 2BR/3BA apt. Large master suite. Close to outlet mall, South Shore Line, bus service, beaches. Off-street private parking. No pets. Non-smoking building. Credit check required. Call (219) 861-3720.

Sheridan Beach furnished 2BR/1BA rental. Available Oct.-May for \$1,250/mo. Contact leasing@harborandlake.com or (219) 319-1515



#### **RENTALS MICHIGAN**

Lovely, furnished Michiana 2BD/1BA cottage, skylights, deck & grill, 2 blocks to Stop 38 beach, quiet forested area, dreamy! Oct 21-April/May. \$1,350/mo + utilities & Internet. 1,100 sq ft. Call (415) 548-0498.

#### **Indiana Dunes National Park**

- Dune Ridge Trail Autumn Hike from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at Kemil Beach parking lot. Join rangers for a hike to view the Great Marsh from atop the trail. The parking lot is north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road in Beverly Shores.
- Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike from 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. Join a ranger for a hike up and down sand dunes and through a globally rare black oak savanna. Meet at 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes.
- Little Calumet River Trail Paddle from 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Oct. 9. Take a kayak and join a ranger for a paddle up Little Calumet River. Start at the Bailly launch point on Howe Road. Parking is at the Mnoke Prairie parking lot, which is located south on Howe Road off County Road 1350 North. Participants must take a life vest. No reservation are required.
- Fire Side Chat at the Pavilion from 5:30-7
   p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Join a ranger to view a Lake Michigan sunset and enjoy a fire. Take marshmallows to roast.
- Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in October. Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.

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

• Full Moon Hike from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8. Meet at the Nature Center for a short presentation about the moon, followed by a two-mile hike to Lake Michigan and back. Friends of Indiana Dunes will provide treats.

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.

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# Our Woman in Moscow by Beatriz Williams (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 592 pages.)

"I'm sitting inside the fuselage of some type of military aircraft...in the company of a United States army doctor and a pair of army nurses. We're on our way to evacuate an injured American citizen. It's an important mission. He's an important citizen, a genuine twenty-four-caret hero. I'm not allowed to tell you where we're going — that's top secret..."

Now there's an opening that begs a few questions and will take some time — 12 years to be exact

(1940-1952) — to get the whole picture. What you learn will give you food for thought about spies, loyalty and family relationships.

While the story begins in 1952, we must go back and forth in time to understand, or try to understand, why people join the foreign service and diplomatic corps. How they start out full of patriotism and wind up making some very bad decisions. Perhaps it was the time. From the end of World War I to the end of World War II, the rise of communism was aided by social and climate changes. The collapse of Wall Street in 1929 to the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression of the 1930s, up to WWII, left many Americans adrift with no hope and nothing to believe in, so people questioned

Williams' story explores spies and double agents, but focuses on the families they keep in the dark about their day jobs. There's no "bring your daddy or mommy to school" day for a talk on their careers.

That's what makes this book different from any other spy novel.

whether democracy was working or not.

Some men and women of the time turned to the diplomatic corps, thinking they could change the world. But, as so often happens, reality soon sets in and the spying once done in the name of democracy soon turns into counter-spying for Russia. Some would defect to Russia, thinking they would head into a better life and better world.

But what about the families of these men and women? The families kept in the dark as to their spouses' job.

Inspiration for the book comes from the Cambridge spy ring — graduates of Oxford and Cambridge who went on to jobs in government and the diplomatic sector. They spent years slipping secrets to Russian handlers, and some defected to the Soviets, only to find out they weren't the heroes they thought they were.

This story starts out with twin sisters — Ruth

#### Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



and Iris Macallister — twins in birth only, two different individuals with two different views of the world...

Ruth Macallister is a former model and Iris an aspiring artist.

It is 1940 when Ruth meets the oh-so-charming Sasha Digby, friend and co-worker of her brother,

Harry —they both work for the U.S. State Department. It is Iris, however, who catches Sasha's eye, and soon they are married.

As the years go by, Iris discovers her husband's boozing and love of the USSR, not to mention he's passing on intelligence information to the Soviets. By now, they have several children and one on the way. In 1948, with Iris and children in tow, Sasha defects to the Soviet Union.

In June 1952, Ruth is approached by FBI agent Sumner Fox about Iris and Sasha. She deflects all his questions, and is surprised to receive a letter from Iris not long after Fox's visit. There has been no communication between the sisters for years, so why a letter now?

Iris says she is pregnant again and wants Ruth to help her. She's almost begging in her letter, and that gives Iris cause for concern. The women may have been out of touch for years, but Ruth senses something wrong in this short missive. She contacts Sumner Fox and persuades him to act as her husband on a trip to Russia to find out from Iris what is going on.

There's also a very unsavory character named Lyudmila, a KGB operative who would give up her grandmother to help Stalin. Like a wolf on the scent of prey, she proves to be relentless in following Sasha's every move. She's not convinced his loyalty is with the USSR.

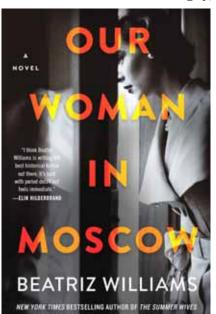
Meanwhile, Ruth discovers it may be easier to get into Russia than to get out...

There is not one unnecessary word in this whole story. Feelings are dissected, loyalty is tested, families are twisted and torn apart and standing in the middle of this, like a giant volcano ready to erupt, is the specter of communism vs. democracy.

Where will this leave Ruth and Iris? You'll be surprised.

The final word: minimal swearing, maximum characterization.

Till next time, happy reading!











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