Fighting for a Better World

The U.S. Marine Corps might seem like a strange place for a young enlistee, raised in a conservative military family, to experience a life-changing moment of interracial enlightenment.

But for Steven “Kim” Scipes, a Purdue University Northwest professor emeritus and global labor scholar, a surprising assignment as a USMC corporal in 1971 to study how to better understand and engage Black Marines set him on a journey he could not have possibly imagined.

“At that time, the Marine Corps had a tremendous amount of racial antagonism,” Scipes (pronounced Sipes) explained during an interview at Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties. Racial strife had rocked Marine Corps bases in the late 1960s-early 1970s stateside and overseas.

The commanding general at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, the base in Arizona where Scipes served four years as an avionics technician, created a human-relations program there to help defuse any racial tensions. And Scipes was to be the point man.

“My gunnery sergeant gave me a two-foot-high stack of the most revolutionary black literature of the 1960s,” Scipes says. “He told me, if you’re to be any good for us, you need to know what’s going on with young Black Marines. Take the books back to the barracks and read them. When you’re done, come back to work.”

Continued on Page 2

Steven “Kim” Scipes is photographed by The Beacher’s Edmund Lawler outside Lakeshore Coffee & Specialties.
Fighting for a Better World
Continued from Page 1

The intellectually curious 19-year-old devoured books like Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver’s memoir *Soul on Ice* before returning to his normal duties on base. He shared his newfound wisdom on black consciousness with officers and applied some of those insights to his relationship with black colleagues there.

“To this day, I’m not sure why I was chosen for that assignment,” Scipes says. “But for 18 months, my official duty was fighting racism and white supremacy in the Marine Corps. It changed my life.”

It was experiences like that over the course of his adventure-some life that brought depth to his teaching and research. Along the way, Scipes worked for years as a union printer and was an activist for causes such as workers’ rights, environmental justice and the anti-nuclear weapons movement.

His activism and research brought him to places like the Philippines, Germany, South Africa and Venezuela.

The experiences and insights have informed his classes in Westville, where he has taught sociology since joining Purdue University-North Central (now PNW) faculty in the fall of 2004. He capped his academic career as chair of university’s Faculty Senate in the 2021-2022 school year. He is scheduled to teach a reduced class schedule through the end of the current school year.

Preaching what he’s practiced, Scipes encourages his students to look at the world beyond themselves, to get involved in their communities and to build a better, more just world.

“I loved his classes,” says Vince Emanuele, a former student. “His classes made you think. He is a good instructor who doesn’t mess around. You have to put in a lot of work, but he’s also willing to work with you. He is not the type of professor who assigns a 20-page paper and says good luck. His is a rigorous academic process.”

Emanuele, 38, a writer and former Marine who served two combat tours in the Iraq War, says he met Scipes through Scipes’s ex-wife, Johanna. She was a mental-health counselor for Iraq veterans in Chicago, where he was raised.

Emanuele, a Michigan City resident, was inspired by Scipes to co-found PARC or Politics, Art, Roots and Culture. From 2016 to the start of the pandemic in 2020, it was a community space in the 1700 block of Franklin Street in Michigan City for activists, organizers, artists and musicians to gather, share ideas, create projects and display their work. Scipes was active with the organization.

Unfortunately, Emanuele says, the pandemic derailed the organization.

Scipes also was actively involved in a community organization called OUR MC—Organized and United Residents of Michigan City. The group, also dormant since the pandemic, developed social initiatives, including lead testing in the community and challenging what they considered unnecessary expenditures in the Michigan City budget.

Scipes’ activism was sparked not only by his unique human-relations assignment while a Marine, but by what he describes as a sense of betrayal when he read *The Pentagon Papers*. The explosive report, brought to public attention in 1971 by Daniel Ellsberg, revealed the United States’ political and military involvement in Vietnam from 1945-1967.

Scipes was honorably discharged from the Marines as a Sergeant E-5.

He did some soul searching in the years after and spoke with feminist friends who changed their first names as a form of protest. Scipes followed suit by adopting the nickname “Kim.” As he explained, “I chose the softest, most gentle name I could find.”

To say the least, Kim is an unusual name for an ex-Marine. But it’s been his name — and one he’s proud of — nearly half a century.

Kim Scipes took the long road to a professorship. He was 51 when he was awarded a doctorate in so-
ciology in 2003 from University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC). He had a well-regarded published academic book under his belt by the time he earned his doctorate, but Scipes struggled to land a tenure-track teaching position at a college or university.

“I came out of grad school with a published book (on trade unionism in the Philippines),” Scipes says. “I figured people would lap me up very quickly. I applied to 33 universities through the U.S., as well as in Canada and England. But I did not get a single interview. I was an established scholar. But my age was a factor. They didn’t know what to do with me.”

Colleges and universities hiring a fresh-from-graduate school assistant professor prefer candidates 20 years younger, so they’ll have at least a 30-year career at their institution. Amid the rejections, Scipes briefly took a job as a mental health counselor for a Chicago organization for homeless and HIV-positive people.

He caught a break when his department chair at UIC alerted him to an opening at PNC. The UIC department chair caught wind of the opening because a PNC professor took a similar position at UIC, creating the opening in Westville.

It’s where Scipes would happily teach classes like Intro to Sociology or Racial and Ethnic Diversity...
while conducting his research for the next 19 years.

Scipes’ own pursuit of a college education began at Western Arizona College, a community college in Yuma, while he was still in the Marines. He completed his undergraduate degree in criminology in 1975 on the other side of the country at Florida State University.

“After that, I just bummed around for several years doing all kinds of pick-up work,” he says. “I had been across the country five times by thumb. Eventually, a friend told me about a printing job in California, and I moved to the Bay area.”

Scipes had some familiarity with the Bay region, having lived there from ages 8-11. But he and his family lived in no ordinary neighborhood. Home was Alcatraz Island, the notorious federal prison where escape was almost impossible because of the swift, bone-chilling currents and sharks patrolling the waters of San Francisco Bay.

His stepfather, a military veteran, was a guard and later a boat operator charged with ferrying supplies to the island. About 65 families of employees lived on the island. With a laugh, Scipes pulls a tattered business card from his wallet that says, “Member of the Alcatraz Alumni Association.”

While working as a printer in San Francisco, Scipes became active in the printer’s guild, known as Graphic Communications International Union No. 388. The union encouraged him to get involved in society on a wider level. He joined the fight against nuclear weapons in the U.S. and Germany.

He also advocated for working people by fighting plant closures and economic dislocation, which brought him to Europe, South Africa and the Philippines, a country he ended up visiting nine times for various projects.

It was in the Philippines where he met Peter Waterman, editor of The Newsletter of International Labour Studies. Waterman encouraged Scipes to enroll in a graduate program at The Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands.

“There, I focused on how we can rebuild the U.S labor movement and the struggle for an ecologically sound society,” Scipes says. “Through the process, I regained my love for formal academics.”

Several years after getting his master’s degree in the Netherlands, Scipes began working toward his doctorate in Chicago. His dissertation was titled, “Trade development and racial oppression in Chicago’s steel and meatpacking industries, 1933-1955.”

It was in Chicago where Scipes and his wife Johanna, a therapist and native of the Netherlands, raised their daughter, Malaya, and son, Leander. The couple amicably separated in 2008, but Scipes, by now teaching at PNC, continued to live in Chicago to be close to his children.

The four, sometimes five-day-a-week, 120-mile round-trip commute from the Logan Square neighborhood on Chicago’s North Side to Westville could be a grind. But Scipes says it was well worth being able to watch his children grow up. Both now live in the Netherlands where Malaya just finished college and Leander is a third-year student at University of Amsterdam.

Since 2018, Scipes has lived in Michigan City. Despite his relatively short academic career, Scipes has been a remarkably productive scholar. He’s published four books, as well as more than 240 articles and book reviews in peer-reviewed and specialty journals, general interest magazines and local newspapers in the U.S. and in 11 other countries.

Although his teaching duties are winding down, Scipes plans to continue to evolve as a labor scholar by researching and writing about unionization and other labor activities.

And he’ll have time to reflect on a peripatetic life that’s taken him on a long, strange journey from Alcatraz, to a Marine Corps boot camp, to field research in nearly every corner of the globe...and to the ivory tower of academia.
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Free-flowing, family-friendly and performative. Those are words Carnessa Carnes — also known as CarnessaThePoetess — uses to describe an upcoming event she teamed up with Trinity Episcopal Church to present.

All ages are welcome — either as a participant or in the audience — at the BlessTheMic Open Mic show. Comprised of poetry, rap and singing, the event is from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, in Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church. The cost is $5 per person. Performers can text (219) 331-6356 in advance or sign up at the door. Carnes acts as the host and guide.

“I’m going with the flow of what the artists are performing and the energy of the audience,” she explained. “I’m just really guiding the show along — giving other people a chance to showcase their art and talents.”

Barker Hall was “dedicated to the people” as part of the church in 1929 by Catherine Barker Hickox (affiliated with Barker Mansion) for community use. Matt Kubik, who is part of the Trinity leadership, said the church is especially interested in developing programs and activities geared toward area youth. Current examples of Barker Hall use include rehearsal space for Michigan City Soul Steppers and Center Stage Youth Theater.

BlessTheMic stresses a positive, accepting and welcoming nature. Attendees and performers can wear a costume.

“I address the audience as ‘family’ because even if you mess up, stammer or forget your words, you’re fine,” Carnes said. “It’s a comfortable and relaxing environment. Hopefully, by the end of the night, both the performers and the audience are inspired.”

Carnes has developed a love for music in a wide variety of genres, including pop, rock, R&B and hip-hop. For her, writing music is liberating and therapeutic. Her goals are to assist those in need, inspire youth and elicit change in the community through her gift of poetry.

Carnes created the BlessTheMic Open Mic show in Michigan City and South Bend in 2016. A clean show, it’s especially designed to give artists a platform to showcase their talents and enjoy a fun experience. Carnes’ goal is to empower others to reach their own potential and destiny through the use of her own God-given talents.

Carnes also released her first album, “My Story My Song,” and her Poetry Bookmarks in 2016. “My poetry bookmarks are my original poetry pieces presented in bookmark form,” she said. “I wanted a clever way to present my poetry. I was drawn to the bookmark because it has a practical use as well as an inspirational tool.”

On March 19, Carnes participated in an unveiling ceremony of the public sculpture “Celebrating Naomi Anderson” at Charles R. Westcott Park. Portraying the suffragette, she recited one of Anderson’s speeches and an original poem she dedicated to her legacy.

Carnes won a 2015 Poetry Slam contest at The University of Notre Dame and is the current winner of Lubeznik Center for the Arts’ annual First Friday Poetry Slam held April 1.

Carnes’ last BlessTheMic Open Mic show was Aug. 20 in South Bend at The Beacon, a shared-space community center in a renovated bowling alley. She looks forward to the BlessTheMic Open Mic show at Barker Hall, and “encourages people to see it for themselves – and experience what it is.”

(Visit the Facebook page of Carnessa L. Carnes or call/text (219) 331-6356, for more details.)
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I’ll give Marvel this: The studio may not strike gold with every project...but it deserves credit for ditching comfort zones every now and then. Experimenting. Toyng with something new.

And right when you fear Marvel’s onslaught of Disney+ programming has become too much of a good thing, along comes “Werewolf by Night” to shake things up. Sly, sleek and scary, it’s easily the best Marvel outing since “WandaVision” kicked off its foray into streaming.

The standalone special, at a brisk 53 minutes, never overstays its welcome. It is designed as quick, down-and-dirty fun. Pure and simple.

After monster hunter Ulysses Bloodstone dies, five hopefuls arrive itching to take his place. Summoned by Ulysses’ widow, Verussa (Harriet Sansom Harris, deliciously campy), she issues a challenge: They must participate in a competitive hunt where the victor wins the monster-hunting Bloodstone.

The director making his debut here is Oscar-winning composer Michael Giacchino (“Up,” “Rogue One”), and he’s certainly done his homework in recreating the look and feel of a 1930s Universal horror flick. The Gothic opening title cards, Zoë White’s lush black-and-white cinematography, the simplicity of the story — all of it is spot-on.

Production designer Maya Shimoguchi (“Hawkeye”) achieves ornate sets reminiscent of Agatha Christie thrillers like “And Then There Were None,” where key players are assembled before the body count begins.

The five monster hunters are an odd bunch, one in fact, resembling David Bowie in his Ziggy Stardust phase. The most agreeable is Jack Russell (Gael García Bernal), who has an ulterior motive with the hunt. He’s also drawn to Elsa (the striking Laura Donnelly), Bloodstone’s estranged daughter who can hold her own in a fight.

There are plenty of Easter eggs, not just for Marvel fans, but also for older horror aficionados who may recognize the names of characters as being lifted from other werewolf tales. That Elsa is the prodigal daughter returned home is a nod to Lawrence Talbot from 1941’s “The Wolf Man.”

A twist arrives at the midpoint, as the Bloodstone rejects a hunter for being a monster. The revelation isn’t a shock, but it adds to the mischievous tone. When the werewolf reveals itself, Giacchino, as director, does the unexpected. We don’t see the transformation, just the shadow of it. Giacchino has said he wanted the idea of the change to be frightening.

With all the advancements in movie trickery, particularly CGI, no movie or TV show has successfully pulled off a compelling werewolf transformation. It’s almost as if, after “The Howling” (1980) and “An American Werewolf in London” (1981) set the bar more than 40 years ago, filmmakers collectively decided not to push it. And they haven’t.

With the bloodshed that ensues once the werewolf cuts loose, you have to wonder why Giacchino sidestepped a special effects highlight...but agreed to a little gore and splatter.

Nonetheless, the final shot of “Werewolf by Night” is so delightful, so playful, it suggests that Marvel may be up for more mayhem.

I, for one, am fully on board.

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Faith and Community United will present “Singspiration,” a community hymn sing that includes four musical groups, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The musical groups are
• The Northern Indiana Brass Company, a professional brass quintet specializing in performance and teaching programs. They are representing LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra.
• The Hispanic Choir from Holy Family Parish, LaPorte. The all-volunteer group began at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in the 1990s with a piano player and a few voices. It continues to be a ministry serving the church and community. Through the years, the choir has grown to include more voices and instruments. Patrick Watterson, Holy Family Parish music director, is the piano accompanist.
• Revival Center Church of God in Christ Music Ministry Choir, Michigan City. Established in 1994 when the church began, it includes trained singers singing three-part harmony under the Rev. DeWitt Jackson’s direction.
• The Singing Company of LaPorte County. The adult choir, created in 2017, will be featured. Singers perform music of varied genres, cultural origins and world language. Matt Nelson is the music director.

Nelson and LCSO Executive Director Tim King have co-chaired the program, which includes several contemporary and traditional selections, with multiple opportunities for audience participation.

The piano accompanist is Sue Rosselli.

Faith and Community United is a group of LaPorte pastors and church leaders. Sauers Buick GMC is the event sponsor. Added support from area churches, organizations and individuals enabled the event to be free. Net proceeds will help create a new grove of trees at Kesling Park.
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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **MCPL Podcast: Discussions with Miss Dana from 9-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21.** Miss Dana discusses upcoming books and interviews a librarian. Check Buzzsprout or the library’s YouTube site.
- **Bookmarks: Mohsin Hamid’s The Last White Man from 2-3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21.** Therese Oniskin is the reviewer.
- **Medicare 101 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.** Royce Havens of LifeSmart Senior Services will lead the educational presentation.
- **Writing Out Loud: Brando Skyhorse at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.** Skyhorse’s debut novel, The Madonnas of Echo Park (Simon & Schuster, 2010), received the 2011 PEN/Hemingway Award and Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The book also was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. Take This Man: A Memoir (Simon & Schuster, 2014) was an Amazon Best Book of the Month selection and named by Kirkus Reviews as one the Best Nonfiction Books of the Year. Skyhorse has co-edited an anthology, We Wear The Mask: 15 True Stories of Passing in America (Beacon Press, 2017). He has been awarded fellowships at Ucross Foundation, the Breadloaf Writers’ Conference and was the 2014-2015 Jenny McKean Moore Writer-In-Residence at George Washington University. He is an associate professor of English at Indiana University-Bloomington.
- **Family Game Night from 4-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24.** Many game options will be available.
- **Halloween Costume Parade (through age 5) from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26.** Children will hear stories, then parade through the library collecting treats. Wear a favorite costume and take a treat bag.
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Makerspace.** The 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.
- **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, cross-stitch, 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.
- **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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Michigan City Chamber Music Festival and Paladin Inc. will present a free concert, “Americana,” at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

The performance is the second in MCCMF’s “MiniFest, 2022!,” a series of three concerts this month marking the inaugural collaboration between the two groups.

“Americana” features Robert Auler, piano, and Nic Orbovich, violin. The concert is a light mix of American-styled themes and styles. The repertoire will include music by Antonin Dvorak, John Williams and George Gershwin.

The New York Times commends Auler’s playing for its “extraordinary rhythmic clarity and expression.” The pianist has won first prize in national and international piano competitions, including the Society of American Musicians and the Stravinsky Awards. He has performed in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Venezuela, Germany, Austria, Holland, France, Denmark, the Czech Republic, China, South Africa and New Zealand.

Orbovich has performed on stage with some of the most acclaimed names in classical music. He holds the principal second violin chair with South Bend Symphony Orchestra, where he is a member of its string quartet.

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It has been two painful years since she left us. We would like to thank everyone who has kept her in their thoughts.

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Magically Ever After

“Magically Ever After,” an all-ages comedy magic show by Florida magician James Songster, arrives for three shows through the Winter Arts Series at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Songster has been performing for families in central Florida since 1992, doing up to 350 shows a year at schools, library summer programs, Renaissance festivals and for 10 years with a resident dinner show at Sheraton Vistana Resort Villas, Lake Buenavista/Orlando. He retired this past March from Walt Disney World, having performed in nearly every hotel/resort there.

“Magically Ever After” grew out of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Songster took his show to the Internet to entertain virtually.

Canterbury performances are at 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 28-29, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for children 12 and younger.

Visit www.canterburyguild.org or call (219) 874-4269 for reservations or more information.

James Songster has been entertaining family audiences since 1992.

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“God’s Country” may be the 21st century feminist equivalent of “Falling Down.” Remember that one? Michael Douglas is trapped in gridlock, his patience waver...and he snaps. Audiences in 1993 saw the character’s rampage as a guilty pleasure: He wasn’t exactly wrong about the world we lived in, but his extreme behavior was a sign of madness.

The slow-burn approach to “God’s Country,” available through View on Demand, leaves you guessing as to what type of movie it is. It feels like a neo-Western, which is geekspeak for a twist on old themes in the Western genre. The Coen brothers are masters in this field, particularly in “No Country for Old Men” (2007), where lawless frontier violence arrives in the form of a serial killer. And in “God's Country,” director Julian Higgins introduces its characters in the heart of Montana, where the frontier is anything but hospitable: a frozen wasteland as empty as the hearts of its characters. It is only as the movie heats up that we realize it has more on its mind than a battle of wills. Much more.

The movie, lifted from James Lee Burke's short story “Winter’s Light,” stars Thandiwe Newton, who frequently gets relegated to second fiddle: the ass-kicking scene-stealer in movies like “Solo,” or as the only watchable presence in HBO’s once-fun “Westworld.” But here, the whole show rests on her shoulders. She plays Sandra Guidry, a reclusive college professor at a small Montana college. She's been caring for her ailing mother, and as the movie begins, her mother just passed away.

Sandra lives on gorgeous land in Big Sky country, but a solitary one, her dog the only companion. The bleak winter limits her contact with others, but we suspect she likes it that way.

When two hunters park their red pickup on her property without asking, she leaves a note on their windshield, asking they not do so again. When they ignore the request, Sandra takes matters into her own hands, using her vehicle to drag the truck elsewhere. As Sandra wraps chains throughout the vehicle’s chassis, Newton barreling forward with zero fear, her take-no-crap bravado suggests there is more to Sandra's story than just that of a college professor.

The hunters, as if this is still the 1800s, shoot an arrow into her front door in retaliation. The local deputy, Gus (Jeremy Bobb), isn't much help. In fact, he seems more interested in her personally than in solving her dilemma. Worse, his ultimate response is mired in old frontier justice. People here, he warns, don’t take kindly to police presence, so it’s best to quietly resolve matters on your own.

“A Battle of Wills Unfolds in Compelling “God’s Country”

by Andrew Tallackson

Thandiwe Newton stars as a woman in escalating conflict with two hunters in “God’s Country.”

★★★ 1/2

“God’s Country”

Running time: 102 minutes. VOD. Rated R for language.
It is at this point when we believe we have “God’s Country” figured out, that, yes, this is a neo-Western where a lonely, grief-stricken woman must defend herself against outlaws. But the screenplay, which Higgins cowrote with Shaye Ogbonna, introduces other elements in Sandra’s life, and we see a pattern. Talk at work of inclusion, about filling a position with someone of color, but failing to do so. A male colleague who makes inappropriate advances toward a female coworker. Gus, as an enforcer of the law, carrying little weight in the community.

What we have are men who fail as men. As law enforcers, as any moral compass. And when we learn Sandra’s full backstory, the scope of “God’s Country” deepens to even greater ills, of the system failing its own.

It’s interesting, Newton’s approach to Sandra. She does not play her as an angry warrior. Instead, she is a woman who won’t back down from a fight. Who refuses to let others, men in particular, intimidate her. Newton is able to project that with a steely look in her eyes. The way her voice never wavers.

By the end, I didn’t see “God’s Country” as a thriller. Or a Western. It’s a cautionary tale. A warning that if we don’t get our act together, as men and women, then someone, somewhere, is going to snap.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com
The Alzheimer’s Association hosted the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Oct. 8 at Washington Park. Participants honored 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 has 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.

All photos by Bob Wellinski
“Vesper” is part of the resurgence in science-fiction that isn’t concerned with spaceships, robots or aliens. It is a warning: a fable about where the planet is headed if we’re not more careful.

This is a strange, often beautiful movie, available through View on Demand, that creates an apocalyptic world unlike anything we’ve seen, like a medieval painting come to life. Six years in the making, and uniting talent from Lithuania, France, Belgium and the United Kingdom, it’s science-fiction with a brain.

The story introduces a new Dark Ages, where efforts to thwart an ecological crisis blew up in humanity’s face. Genetic technology not only failed, but unleashed viruses and organisms that wiped out most of the population, animals and plants. Enclosed cities called “citadels” exist, but much of the surviving population scrambles for food, specifically seeds traded by the Citadel.

A frightening predicament, but the directors, Kristina Buožytė and Bruno Samper, envision a world where plants have a life of their own. The ground, the trees, the swamps — they’re covered with organisms that breathe, reaching out, some harmlessly, others as if reclaiming the Earth.

An exceptionally smart 13-year-old girl, Vesper (the wonderfully expressive Raffiella Chapman), lives in the ruins of a forest cabin with her injured father. Studying the new plant life, exploring what makes it tick, she’s arriving at a solution. And in the film’s niftiest creation, she’s created a voicebox for her father that floats much like a drone.

Vesper’s world, that of a child confined to the deepest reaches of a forest, her life in danger, is the stuff of Grimm fairy tales. The cinematographer, Feliksas Abrukauskas, has said he was inspired by Vermeer and Rembrandt, and you can see that influence in the movie’s lighting design. Vesper’s meager existence may be bleak, but we can’t take our eyes off of it. Especially, it turns out, when a Citadel ship crashes near her home, a survivor, Camellia (Rosy McEwen), nursed back to health by Vesper.

We meet a few others in the area, including Vesper’s uncle, Jonas (veteran British character actor Eddie Marsan), who has a complicated relationship with her. He’s making money off children, trading their blood for seeds, but he respects Vesper as his niece, wants her by his side. She, however, is steadfast in her loyalty to her own father.

Apocalyptic sci-fi has been running on autopilot for years. It’s the same old same old: scrappy survivors fleeing monsters or technology. But “Vesper” isn’t about that. It condemns society for trashing the planet at the same time that it celebrates survivors who won’t give up amid the impossible.
In the movie’s exhilarating third act, Citadel soldiers close in on Vesper, and the very plant world that consumed the landscape becomes her unexpected ally. It is her protector, and the special effects — subdued by Hollywood standards — wow you at their ingenuity.

Then, we get to the epic final sequence that is breathtaking in scope, topped off by a final scene so lyrical, it breathes with a message of hope. Of renewal and rebirth.

“Vesper” is not for all tastes. For the brave, it is an experience like no other.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com
A Tribute to Patty Panozzo

Editor’s note — The following was submitted by Deborah Tomecek Pleva.

Starting at the age of 15, I worked 12 consecutive summers at Panozzo's Café and later The Blue Plate Cafe on Red Arrow Highway in Lakeside, Mich. The original owner was larger-than-life Patty Panozzo. She hired and mentored so many teens and young adults the 10 years she owned the café, including me. Patty died unexpectedly, but thankfully peacefully, on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.

During all those hours in the kitchen and dining room, she taught me everything from how to chop potatoes and carve cute rabbits out of radishes, to how to navigate relationships and carve my own life journey.

I learned about sourcing locally and eating seasonally. Patty celebrated the arrival of the sweet corn from her family's farm in Kankakee, Ill., every summer. In one of her recipes, she instructed, “It is very important to only use homegrown tomatoes — otherwise, don’t bother.”

She demonstrated a level of artistry in her presentation. Plates were always served with a flower garnish or leaves of fresh herb. Water was served with a sprig of mint. All were plucked that day by servers from the colorful garden beds hugging the café. Her love of family, farms and food is one of her bountiful, beautiful legacies.

But Patty served up more than just delicious menu items with pretty garnishes. Patty showed me how cooking and serving farm-fresh food is a way to show love. I witnessed this as Patty cooked, nurtured and cared for our friend, Mary DeBoo, during her final months before she succumbed to cancer.

Her cookbooks not only feature taste-tested recipes, but also the people and stories that inspired them. (I always make “Mary Ann’s Move Over Chicken Soup” from Patty’s A Need to Feed cookbook when someone is not feeling well. And I highly recommend the Apple Debby Cake from Breakfast at Panozzo’s Cookbook on Page 170.)

Her love and nurturing extended beyond the kitchen, the cafe and the cookbooks. She encouraged the dozens of young people working as dishwashers, prep cooks and waitresses who worked there during their formative years. She encouraged us awkward, pimply kids to apply for that dream school, pick up and move abroad, go to L.A. to make movies, publish that essay and start that rock band. She never had children, but the positive influence she had on the youth she hired will be felt for generations.

Patty was a lifelong friend and mentor. I already miss her. In honor of my extraordinary friend, I will visit the farmers market. I will buy the juiciest tomatoes and other ingredients from local farms. I will choose the biggest, most colorful bouquet of flowers. (Oh, how she loved fresh flowers.) And I will cook a big meal and serve it with love to people I love while imagining Patty watching a sunset over Lake Michigan with our friend, Mary Ann.

Patty scribbled her simple recipe for life when she autographed one of her cookbooks. I encourage you to follow it: “Debby, Break bread together and embrace life. Lots of love, Patty.”

In Memoriam

Patricia Rose Panozzo, 70, Michigan City, passed away peacefully at her home Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. She was born June 12, 1952, in Kankakee, Ill., to Anthony “Tony” and Rose (Raspolich) Panozzo.

Patty is survived by her sister, Marie Panozzo, Michigan City; brother, Alex Panozzo, Kankakee; numerous cousins; a best friend, Cheryl Gallant Klonoski; and many wonderful friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Lorena Panozzo.

Patty attended Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee and Southern Illinois University. She lived in Harbor Country since the late 1980s and was the owner-operator of Panozzo’s Café in Lakeside, Mich., from 1987-1997. She also had a gourmet foods and cookware shop, Panozzo’s Pantry, with locations concurrently around Northwest Indiana and Harbor Country. Patty maintained her website, aneedtofeed.com, that hosts information about her life, beloved family and businesses, including her cookbooks, Breakfast at Panozzo’s and A Need to Feed. She will be dearly missed by all who were lucky enough to know her.

A Celebration of Life Service is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at St. Rose of Lima Chapel, 486 W. Merchant St., Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Patty’s name to The Association for the Preservation of St. Rose of Lima Chapel. To sign the online guestbook or leave condolences, visit: http://www.Carlislefh.com
In Memoriam

Tobin L. “Toby” Babcock, 48, LaPorte, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Oct. 3, 2022, while vacationing in Orlando, Fla.

The funeral was Oct. 13 at St. Luke’s United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Root Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Toby was born July 24, 1974, in Michigan City to Dennis A. and Jeanoma L. (Steele) Babcock, who survive in Michigan City. Also surviving is: one daughter, Abigail Babcock; one son, Matthew Babcock; Toby’s fiancé, Jaime Scott; one brother, Blake Babcock; and many loving friends. He is preceded in death by one sister, Tara Partin.

Toby was a police officer with the Long Beach Police Department for more than 17 years and a former LaPorte County Sheriff’s Office deputy.

He also was an instructor, competitive shooter, range officer, Blue Line Three Gun Shoot director and member of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 75. He spent 25 years in law enforcement serving his community. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors), P.O. Box 3199, Camdenton, Mo., 65020.

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Chesterton Art Center

“Mark My Words,” the new group exhibit pairing letterpress artist Amos Paul Kennedy Jr. with regional print artists, runs through Nov. 29.

The exhibit explores language and its impact on contemporary material culture and social concerns. Kennedy’s works feature posters of social and environmental-justice messages and calls to action. Zines and self-published small-run works by artists, illustrators and printers are showcased, along with a Pop-Up Shop of artists’ works.


Additional programming includes:
• A print workshop from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. Kennedy will discuss his letterpress works, and participants will make small prints using a tabletop press.
• An artist talk with Kennedy at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.
• Free Family Art Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12.

The exhibit and programming are supported in part by Valparaiso University’s Cultural Arts Committee, Communication and Visual Arts Department, English Department and Office of Multicultural Programs.

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

Ohime.

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

LaPorte High School Senior Berrek Ohime has been playing the trumpet for seven years. At LPHS, he is a member of the wind ensemble and marching band.

Berrek has studied privately for several years and hopes to further his study of trumpet and music education in college. He also wants to join a Marine Corp Band and, eventually, become a high school band director.

Berrek joins four other high school musicians who will be LCSO members for the 2022-2023 season.

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Elkhart Juried Regional

Three Michigan City residents are winners in the 44th Elkhart Juried Regional exhibit.

The survey of current trends features artists from 20 northern Indiana counties and four southern Michigan counties. This year, 200 artists submitted 345 works in all media. The event features 144 works by 115 artists. The jurors were: Nick Antonakis, Grand Rapids Community College chair and professor of visual art, and Shaun Dingwerth, Richmond Art Museum executive director. Awards totaled more than $27,000, making the event Michiana’s largest cash awards show. It continues through Friday, Dec. 23, at The Midwest Museum of American Art.

The Michigan City winners are:
• Kei Constantinov, “Faux Relic: Humble Things,” Best Mixed Media Award and Ken and Kathy Zienty Merit Award for Mixed Media.
• Jane Cowley, the oil work “James,” Jonas Howard Memorial Merit Award for Painting.
• Patricia Herman, the mixed-media work “Ode to the Sycamore, No. 16,” Joe Greenlee Purchase Award.

The museum, located at 429 S. Main St., is open from (all hours Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Admission is $10 per adult, $6 for ages 8-12, $8 for ages 13-18 and college students with ID.

Visit www.midwestmuseum.us or call (574) 293-6660 for more details.

Indiana Dunes National Park

• The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
• Dune Ridge Trail Autumn Hike from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, and 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, 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. 22. 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.
• Fall Colors Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm. The hike begins in the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot, which is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
• 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.

Paws for Humanity Fall Fest

Paws for Humanity will host its second Fall Fest from noon-4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 22, at its Three Oaks facility, 14671 Three Oaks Road.

The fundraiser, which benefits care of its sanctuary animals, includes sanctuary tours and a chance to meet the animals, hay rides, games, crafts (including pumpkin painting), a scavenger hunt, pizza, baked goods from area eateries, coffee and cider, and a dog costume contest at 3 p.m. EDT.

Admission is $5, while children 5 and younger are free. All dogs must be on leashes and comfortable in social settings. They are not allowed on the sanctuary.

The animal sanctuary is home to nine alpacas, a quarter horse, three miniature donkeys, six goats, ducks, chickens, cats and three Great Pyrenees dogs being socialized to serve as sanctuary guardians.
Harbor Country Film Group will screen and discuss the Oscar-nominated “Whale Rider” at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 27, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

“Whale Rider” (2003) takes place in a small New Zealand coastal village, where a 12-year-old Maori girl, Pai, dreams of becoming her community’s first female chief. But custom and tradition block her way, and her loving grandfather will most test her courage, strength and determination.

“Universal in its themes, ‘Whale Rider’ shows that we can rise above the negativity brought by others and become who and what we want to be,” Harbor Country Film Group Leader Eve Moran said in a press release.

Meetings, which are free, begin with a brief introduction by Moran and the screening of the film, followed by discussion.

Reins of Life Volunteer Training

Reins of Life Inc., 9375 W. County Road 300 North, Michigan City, will host new volunteer training from 2-4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, and 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.

The organization, which has Michigan City and South Bend locations, is a therapeutic horseback-riding center that has served children and adults with disabilities since 1978. Horse experience is not required. Those interested only have to attend one session to become certified. Training for feeding involves several separate training options per week. Call the Michigan City volunteer coordinator at (219) 874-7519, Ext. 202, if interested.

After the initial training, there are opportunities to volunteer in therapeutic carriage driving and interactive vaulting classes. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old.

Visit www.reinsoflife.org for more information.
Duneland Plein Air Painters

Works by Duneland Plein Air Painters are on display through Saturday, Oct. 29, at Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. The group meets April-October in a different location to paint in the open air. The artists record impressions of local scenes while dealing with elements of nature. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the City Hall Mayor’s Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Boo at the Zoo

Boo at the Zoo, which gives children the opportunity to trick-or-treat in a family friendly setting, is Saturday, Oct. 22, at Washington Park Zoo.

Local businesses sponsor booths, with representatives passing out candy. A reduced number of tickets are available due to construction.

Gates open at 10:30 a.m., with trick or treating ending at 3:30 p.m. and the zoo closing at 4:30 p.m. Advance tickets are urged since sales are cut off once maximum occupancy is reached. Admission is $8 for adults, $6 for children ages 3-11 and free for children 2 and younger. Zoo members are free, but must show ID and valid zoo pass to enter.

Tickets are on sale daily at the zoo office and at Eventbrite. Visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com or call (219) 873-1510 for more details.

Veterans Day Parade

Anyone interested in participating in this year’s Veterans Day Parade, sponsored by Michigan City Exchange Club, can contact Jim Fisher.

The parade, set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, is open to businesses, organizations, church groups, politicians and neighborhood groups.

Fisher can be reached at jlfisher4@comcast.net or (219) 873-7900.

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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:

- Medicare 101 from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Main Library Meeting Room B. The educational presentation is free.
- Stories & More from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, at the Coolspring branch. Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at the main library. Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- Tutu How-'Tu!' (ages 4-11) from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, in the Main Library Multi-purpose Room. Children design their own tutu. Activities help express creativity, strengthen fine motor muscles and build math skills.
- Readers Corner-Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room. Refreshments will not be served, but participants may take coffee or tea.
- Virtual Author Talk with Kate Quinn (adults 19+) from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 25. The New York Times bestselling author discusses her new release, The Diamond Eye. Registration is at https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18484

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.

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In the Area

Oct. 21 — MCPL Podcast: Discussions with Miss Dana, 9-11 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Link: Buzzsprout, library’s YouTube page.

Oct. 21 — Bookmarks: Mohsin Hamid’s The Last White Man, 2-3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 22 — Tutu How-Tu! (ages 4-11), 10-11 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org


Oct. 22 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival/Paladin Inc. free concert, “Americana,” 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Info: www.mccmf.org

Oct. 22 — Writing Out Loud: Brando Skyhorse, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.


Oct. 24 — Family Game Night, 4-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 24 — Monday Musicale, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

Oct. 25 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 25 — Virtual Author Talk with Kate Quinn (adults 19+), 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 26 — Halloween Costume Parade (through age 5), 10-11 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 26 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Through Nov. 19 — Exhibit (39 military uniforms/associated artifacts), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Dec. 31 — Works by Andrea Bojrab, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church’s Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. 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. Info: (219) 872-9196.

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. 22 — Paws for Humanity second Fall Fest, noon-4 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks facility, 14671 Three Oaks Road. Admission: $5, 5 & younger/free.


Through Oct. 29 — Duneland Plein Air Painters, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 462-9009, www.artbarnschool.org

October 20, 2022 Page 33


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. 29 — “Mark My Words” exhibit, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org


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


Sand Sculpting Festival to Return

The Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival, a three-day art event celebrating Michigan City’s lakefront, will return June 9-11, 2023, to Washington Park.

This year’s festival was a huge success. The centerpiece is a professional sand-sculpting exhibition and competition. Michigan City Special Events again will partner with The Sand Lovers LLC, a professional sand-sculpting and event management company, to host it.

Visit tinyurl.com/yckrpa4r for event information, including art, craft and merchandise vendor opportunities, as well as volunteer options. Other details are available on Facebook at Michigan City Special Events. Visit www.thesandlovers.com to learn more about The Sand Lovers.

Unity Foundation Hits Giving High

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County raised a record-breaking total of more than $700,000 to benefit 56 charitable causes with endowed funds.

The milestone was part of Unity’s 30th anniversary and LaPorte County Gives event Saturday, Oct. 1. The 56 participating funds collectively raised more than $370,000 during LaPorte County Gives. An additional $310,000 match pool will be split among the causes in proportion to the amount raised, and special prizes totaling $31,000 were awarded.

Leading the pack was LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra raising more than $90,000 — a record during a LaPorte County Gives event. Family Advocates and Interfaith Community PADS rounded out the top three fundraisers.

The 30-hour online fundraiser culminated in a sold-out anniversary gala at Blue Chip that included past and present Unity board members, donors, non-profit leaders, young professionals, elected officials and community members.

Michael Brennan, Unity founder and board member, was honored for more than 30 years of strategic and inclusive leadership. Congressman Frank Mrvan presented him with a copy of a Congressional Record Statement, officially honoring him and wishing him well upon retiring from the Unity board. County Commissioner Sheila Matias, LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody and Michigan City Mayor Duane Parry also honored Brennan during the event, declaring Oct. 1 “Mike Brennan Day” in LaPorte County, LaPorte and Michigan City.

Visit www.laportecountygives.net for additional information.

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On October 20, 1873, P.T. Barnum opened the New York Hippodrome as the home for his “Greatest Show on Earth.”

On October 20, 1910, a baseball with a cork center was used for the first time in a World Series game.

On October 20, 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration within the American motion picture industry.

On October 20, 1954 “Peter Pan,” starring Mary Martin as Peter Pan, opened on Broadway.

On October 20, 1968, Jacqueline Kennedy married Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis.

On October 21, 1797, the frigate U.S. Constitution, better known as “Old Ironsides,” was launched at a Boston shipyard.

On October 21, 1879, after 14 months of experimenting, Thomas Edison produced a workable electric light.

On October 21, 1906, Chicago’s last cable car made its final run on Cottage Grove Avenue.

On October 21, 1917, members of the U.S. Army’s First Division, training in Luneville, France, became the first Americans to see action in World War I.

On October 21, 1945, women in France were given the right to vote.

On October 22, 1746, New Jersey’s Princeton University received its charter.

On October 22, 1883, the original Metropolitan Opera House opened in New York City.

On October 22, 1907, a run on a New York bank touched off what was to become known as the “Panic of 1907.”

On October 22, 1939, NBC aired the first televised pro football game, the Brooklyn Dodgers against the Philadelphia Eagles, from Brooklyn’s Ebbets Field.

On October 22, 1962, following the discovery of Soviet missile bases in Cuba, President John Kennedy announced that had ordered U.S. air and naval forces to blockade the island nation.

On October 22, 1968, after 11 days in space, Apollo 7 astronauts Walter Schirra, Don Eisle and Ronnie Cunningham splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean.

On October 23, 1871, martial law in Chicago, declared after the Great Fire was extinguished, ended.

On October 23, 1910, in Fort Wayne, Blanche Scott became the first woman to make a solo flight in an airplane. She reached a height of 12 feet, a noteworthy achievement in 1910.
On October 23, 1915, 25,000 women marched in New York City demanding the right to vote.

On October 23, 1929, stock prices fell sharply on Wall Street, a prelude to the “Great Crash” that was to follow six days later.

On October 23, 1946, the United Nations convened in New York for the first time.

On October 24, 1537, Britain’s Queen Jane Seymour died after giving birth to Prince Edward.

On October 24, 1861, a message from California Chief Justice Stephen Field to President Abraham Lincoln was the first telegram to be transmitted across the United States.

On October 24, 1901, to raise money to pay off a debt, Anna Taylor agreed to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel, becoming the first person to survive the plunge.

On October 24, 1939, in Wilmington, Del., the first nylon stockings went on sale.

On October 24, 1940, under the “Fair Labor Standards Act” of 1938, the 40-hour work week officially took effect.

On October 25, 1825, Austrian composer Johann Strauss Jr., “Waltz King to the World,” was born in Vienna.

On October 25, 1911, after operating for 12 years, Chicago’s Everleigh Club, an opulent brothel at 2131 S. Dearborn St., was ordered closed by Mayor Carter Harrison.

On October 25, 1929, Albert B. Fall, a former Secretary of the Interior, was convicted of accepting a $100,000 bribe in connection with California’s “Elk Hill Naval Oil Reserve.”

On October 25, 1955, the Tappan Stove Co. introduced the first electric range for home use. It was priced at $1,200 and could cook bacon in 90 seconds.

On October 25, 1962, writer John Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

On October 26, 1369, France’s King Charles V, sometimes referred to as “Charles the Wise,” erected a monument to his chef, Bankles, who had created a pickled fish recipe that His Royal Highness found to be quite delicious.

On October 26, 1785, the first mules in the United States arrived from Spain, gifts to George Washington from King Charles III.

On October 26, 1881, in Tombstone, Ariz., Wyatt Earp, along with his two brothers and “Doc” Holiday, shot it out with Ike Clanton’s gang at the “OK Corral.” Both of Earp’s brothers were wounded, and three of the Clanton gang were killed.

On October 26, 1905, the government of Sweden recognized the independence of Norway.

On October 26, 1949, President Harry Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour.

On October 26, 1972, National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger declared “peace is at hand” in Vietnam.
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2. Ginny Hogan 153
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4. Carolyn Wiggins 150
5. Dottie Brinckman (series) 410
3. Carolyn Wiggins 150
4. Dottie Brinckman (series) 410
5. Kathy Osborne (series) 400
SPLITS
Deb Konicke 6-7
Susan Kieffer 3-10
Mary Clohessy 1-7
Nancy Klausner 2-7
Mary Lou McFadden 4-5, 3-9-10

The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:
• Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21.
• Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-
1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22.
• Lions Club of Michigan City, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-
day, Oct. 24, at The Salvation Army, 1201 Frank-
lin St.
• Hamon Gray, American Legion Post 83, 228 E.
Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27.
Donors must be in good general health and feel-
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Wrong Place, Wrong Time by Gillian McAllister (hardcover, $28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an e-book and an audio-book, 370 pages.)

It’s Oct. 30. Your son kills a stranger. What can you do to prevent it from happening? Turn back time? Don’t laugh. Read on…

It’s the day before Halloween in Crosby, Merseyside, a suburb of Liverpool, England. Meet Jen Brotherhood, a lawyer, or solicitor as they say in the U.K. She’s married to Kelly, a painter/decorator, and they have an 18-year-old son, Todd.

That night, Oct. 30, Jen waits up for Todd, who has passed his curfew. Looking out the window, just as the clocks “fall” back for the winter, she sees him walking toward an older man, there is a scuffle, a knife appears and the man falls dead. Todd admits to police he did it, but won’t give a reason. Jen is sure there is more, a lot more, to his story, but how to get to the bottom of it if Todd refuses to speak in his defense?

Jen and Kelly head to the police station, but are told Todd must remain in jail overnight. The next morning, Jen wakes to Todd walking out of his bedroom, dressed for the day, Kelly cheerily making breakfast. How can Todd be home? Funny thing, Jen is reminded that today is Friday…

But Friday already happened! Jen is making no sense to her family or herself. She’s a lawyer. Surely, she should be able to figure out what’s going on through solid introspection.

The next morning, it’s Wednesday, Oct. 28. And the next morning, Oct. 27. So much for solid introspection. How do you persuade your family you are reliving your life? Or that you must find a way to stop your son from committing murder? But then, each morning takes her further back in time.

The more she realizes she is the only one who went back in time, the more she considers that maybe she is the one who can find out what happens to her son to make him a killer. Maybe that’s why she wakes up only on certain days in the past — to observe things she overlooked.

“I wonder if I - alone - know something that can stop the murder… Deep in my subconscious…Even just paying more attention to small things.”

Good thinking, maybe? Time (no pun intended) to meet a professor who has studied time travel. Andy Vettese is a physicist who has written about time travel for his doctorate. He brings up some interesting thoughts for Jen…

He suggests what she’s experiencing isn’t time travel per se, but déjà vu, going back in time to see the things she missed the first time. Going beyond the usual sci-fi approach to time travel, we have a plot that is entertaining and contemplative because it’s a theory that seems almost plausible.

“How sinister it is to relive your life backward. To see things you hadn’t at the time.”

Each day she wakes up, it’s a different day in her past — it might be yesterday, or last month or even years ago. How strange it would be to relive entire days of your past, but with older, more experienced eyes. This may be a chance for Jen to find small clues she’s supposed to remember.

“She thinks about what Andy said about how maybe it isn’t about stopping it (the murder), but about defending it instead.” Now that’s an interesting thought.

Each day Jen goes backward in time, she continues blaming herself for some day, some incident, she didn’t see that changed her son somehow.

Just to add a layer of more mystery, there is another story inserted into Jen’s story. It’s about a new policeman named Ryan. He’s assigned to work undercover to catch a man running a car theft and drug operation. At first, Ryan seems off. Through more chapters, pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that is Jen’s life will come to show Ryan has an alarming connection to her family.

The ending is a kicker — but no spoiler alert from me!

The final word: There you have it. Love it, hate it. There’s no in-between. However, there are several takeaways from this story: 1) Sometimes, we overlook the small things in life because we take each other for granted, and (2) a mother’s love is a very strong tool.

I was totally engaged with this story from Page 1.

McAllister lives in Birmingham, England. Check out her website at www.gillianmcallister.com

Till next time, happy reading!
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realtorashlan@gmail.com

SOLD IN 3 DAYS OVER ASKING!

SOLD IN 3 DAYS OVER ASKING!

TOP PRODUCER
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