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Spreading the Love of Reading

by Kim Nowatzke

Nine years ago, Terry and Carole Ziemke erected their Little Free Library — one of the area's first, they believe — in Sheridan Beach near Washington Park Boulevard and Warren Road. Carole was inspired to order the kit and nameplate from www.littlefreelibrary.org from her daughter, Kristin Ziemke, a kindergarten teacher at the time who attributes her love of reading to her mother.

A recent move provided Carole with extra books to donate. Kristin contributed her favorites, while others found their place in the box from friends and garage sales.

A retired educator who spent 32 years teaching secondary English and Spanish, Carole knows the value and importance of reading.

"I think there's a lot of peacefulness in reading a book," she said.



Carole Ziemke, with her husband Terry, created their Little Free Library, one of the area's first, in 2013 at their Sheridan Beach home.

The Ziemkes even added two lawn chairs next to their library, encouraging passersby to stop by for a read.

"I see mothers and children reading — I'm thrilled when I catch them in the act," she said. "If I put children's books in there in the morning, they are gone for sure."

Carole sees more foot traffic in the summer when people are looking for a good beach read, but also by kids during the school year.

She's grateful for "somebody anonymously supplying me with really good books," saying she receives a mix of historical, self-help, spiritual and children's books, among other genres. She's seen popular bestsellers such as



Braedan Gallas purchased a Little Free Library for his wife, Lydia, who is an avid reader, for their Michiana Shores home.

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Spreading the Love of Reading

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ple, sweet, successful concept that's thriving in our area.

What began in 2009 as a small book-sharing box has blossomed into more than 150,000 registered libraries in more than 115 countries worldwide. Our community is fortunate to house several Little Free Libraries thanks to homeowners, businesses and non-profits committed to the philanthropic effort.

In July 2018, for example, Michiana Lions Club launched the first of its original four Little Free Libraries into the Michigan City community. Although some of those locations changed for various reasons, the mission has remained the same – a gift of literacy.

Two of the original boxes are at Gardena Park and Paladin Imagination Station, 1200 E. Coolspring Ave. Another joined the lineup in 2019 at Sand Castle Shelter, 1005 W. Eighth St., one was erected in October 2021 at Paladin Head Start in the former Niemann Elementary School building on Tryon Road, and the final one opened this past June at the entrance to Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Jamie Miller, past Michiana Lions Club president and library steward for many of the boxes, said many sites are in “underserved areas, where some parents are unable to afford books.”

A variety of other volunteers has made the signature blue-and-yellow Michiana Lions Club Little

The Girl With the Dragon Tatoo and Where the Crawdads Sing.

Indeed, that's the mission behind Little Free Libraries: “Take a Book, Share a Book.” It is a simple,

Free Libraries a reality. Sue Webster watches over the Gardena Park location. Fellow Lions Tim Fizer, Brian Pagels, Al Wozniak and Jim Cross donate their time and talents to design, paint and build the structures. For the first one, several Little Free Library sites were visited to determine the best design, one Fizer ultimately created in his own woodshop. Sherwin-Williams Manager Tim Brown donated the paint.

Donations from the public, nonprofits, churches and service organizations also have made the libraries possible through the club. A few stand out over the past four years, including full hardbound “Harry Potter” books in brand new condition, DVDs on self-motivation and more than 10 new scarves tucked into a former 10th Street location. Peepers by PeeperSpecs of Michigan City donated reader glasses and bookmarks, and the Rotary Club of Michigan City provided “Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure” books and workbooks. A special St. Patrick's Day celebration happened at the Gardena Park location with shamrocks to color and holiday necklaces. In addition to stocking books at its location, Trinity Episcopal Church plans to fill its library with socks, gloves and hats.

Lydia Gallas received a Little Free Library as a birthday present a little more than a year ago from her husband,



The newest Michiana Lions Club Little Free Library was added to the entrance to Barker Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church in June.

Braedan Gallas.

“I am an avid reader! Reading has always been a passion of mine,” she said. “Libraries and bookstores have always been some of my favorite places as well, so I wanted to have a little one of my own. I love being able to provide books to my community and was more than happy to continue the Little Free Library's great mission!”



Lydia Gallas is photographed next to her Little Free Library.

The couple bought the pre-made library off www.littlefreelibrary.org and painted it to match the colors of their home. The official name of their Library is “Lydiature.”

“I think it is incredibly important to have little free libraries in the area,” Gallas continued. “They provide people with equitable and easy access to a wide variety of books. I think books are incredibly educational regardless of genre, and everyone should have the ability to access that. I also love that it is a community activity, not only for those that bring books to the library, but also for those who take them. We are able to learn things about each other and our community through the types of books we’re providing and reading.”

The Gallases have seen a variety of genres, including non-fiction, romance, mysteries and children’s books available in their library.

“You name it – I’ve seen it in there! I add some of my own from time to time, but luckily I’ve had great participation over the last year, and the titles are rotated quite frequently,” Lydia said. “I personally am a big fan of mystery and thrillers — they are my go-to. But I have tried over the last couple years to broaden my horizons in regards to genres.”

Through their Little Free Library, she cherishes the opportunity it creates to not only serve others, but also to pass on her passion for reading.

“Having a little library has truly been something that has brought me a lot of joy,” she said. “I get so excited when I happen to see people stop and take a book — I always hope they ended up liking what

Continued on Page 4

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— during the school's third-grade showcase May 24. Art teacher Holly Beadles presented the idea during an Arts Integration Meeting with the third-grade staff team. It directly correlated with the first English Language Arts theme this fall.

"It is crucial for children to have access to books," fine arts magnet coach Julie Schmidt said. "This is our 'Make A Difference' project to ensure that at any time our kids can stop by and pick up a good book."

Beadle's father, Ron Thomas, regularly volunteers at the school. He had enough material left to make an additional Little Free Library after creating one for a friend.

"My Dad was super proud that the whole library was created with reclaimed supplies," Beadles said. "The plywood was from a bunk bed that a neighbor was scraping, other wood was from a friend who is a contractor and took wood from a 100-year-old house, the shingles came from another one of his neighbors (Kolar Roofing) and Kabelin's Ace Hardware gave him leftover Plexiglas that a customer left."

Beadles and her third-graders decorated their

they chose! I hope that others appreciate them as much as I do!"

Pine Elementary School dedicated its Little Free Library — in the front of the school by the garden



Art teacher Holly Beadles (left) is photographed by the Pine School Little Free Library with her husband, Chad Beadles, and father, Ron Thomas

Little Free Library.

"Whenever I do a collaborative project, I want students to have the memory of what they painted," she explained, "so that's how the idea of each student decorating a book spine that was placed on a shelf (on the exterior of the library) was created."

Andre Renner-Miller and others at The Print Pile and Book Exchange of LaPorte County, along with

More about Little Free Libraries

According to www.littlefreelibrary.org, Little Free Libraries began in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wis., built a model of a schoolhouse, filled it with free books and placed it on a post in his front yard. It was a tribute to his mother, a teacher who loved reading, and an instant hit with neighbors and friends.

He teamed up with Rick Brooks from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The two were inspired by the "take a book leave a book" idea in coffee shops and other public areas, in addition to Andrew Carnegie's goal at the turn of the 20th century to fund the creation of 2,508 free libraries across the English-speaking world.

Brooks and Bol adopted that goal, but in this case to implant more than 2,508 Little Free Libraries by 2013. They exceeded — reaching their mark early in August 2012. Little Free Libraries gained national media attention in 2011 and ended up with 400 at year-end. That number would increase to tenfold, 4,000, by the end of 2012; this was the same year Little Free Library became a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

This year, there are more than 150,000 registered libraries in more than 115 countries. Now

based in St. Paul, Minn., the organization's mission is "to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries." They achieve this through "providing 24/7 book access, fostering new Little Free Libraries, granting Little Free Libraries to high-need areas, championing diverse books and working with key community partners."

Brooks retired from Little Free Library in 2014. Bol passed away from complications due to pancreatic cancer on Oct. 18, 2018. The organization had just celebrated 75,000 libraries.

In his last days, still dedicated to the organization's mission, Bol said, "I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other and see that they have a better place on this planet to live."

The far-reaching effects of a book-sharing box placed in a front yard are staggering. An average of one book a day is shared in a Little Free Library, and an estimated 70 million books are shared annually.



Pine staff, provide books aimed at K-6 readers for the Little Free Library. The Print Pile was founded in 2018 to get books into the hands of more people. In addition to Little Free Libraries, it supplies books to businesses at the beach in LaPorte and a Read to an Animal Program at the Jane Bernard Animal Adoption Center (through the LaPorte County Animal Shelter).

"They are fun," Renner-Miller said of Little Free Libraries. "They are a great way to get kids into reading. It's like a treasure hunt for books for both adults and kids. I check out every one I come across just to see what is inside. Holly and her dad created a little library full of character that is befitting of a fine arts school."

Knapp Elementary School also has a box for sharing books in the grass near its front entrance. Although it currently contains children's books donated by the school and families, Principal Holly Martinez said it is open to all age levels.

"Families in our community have donated books,"



The Basil Family Library and the Basil children:
Jack, 9; Charlie, 6; and Eloise, 4.

she said, "and I've seen many individuals enjoy it."

Bianca Basil also received a Little Free Library as a birthday present. In June 2021, she and her husband, Michael, tucked the blue box (to offset her white house) next to a flower bed where it could be easily seen at their Long Beach home at 2910 Mount Clair Way.

"The Basil Family Library" has become somewhat of a family project with their three kids: Jack, 9; Charlie, 6; and Eloise, 4.

"It was something I've always wanted to do. We love to do this as a family," she shared. "When we first put it up, the kids checked it every day. They just love it. Sometimes, they have asked to buy another copy for the library when they get a book for themselves."

Basil said they enjoy finding other Little Free Libraries while on bike rides.

"I've noticed that there are several at businesses in our area," she continued. "It's like an adventure to see if we can find them. It's like the book version of geocaching."

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Spreading the Love of Reading

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other sites.

"It's very well done and organized," she said.

The Basils place a special stamp that reads, "Always A Gift - Never For Sale - Read it - Love it - Share it" in the books placed in their box. If the reader wants to return a book back where they found it for another to enjoy they can, but it's not a requirement.

Books are a big part of Basil's life. She already has read 57 out of 75 for her 2022 books-read goal. She's typically digesting three books at once: a physical one, one on her Kindle and an audiobook. She follows "bookstagrammers" and uses a Goodreads account, which keeps track of what she is reading, has already read and future selections. She belongs to a monthly book club and donates those to her Little Free Library.

"I love the idea that we can pass on books that we no longer need," she said. "We love the idea of doing this. I love to see what books have been put there."

Basil has found a wide range of genres in the "The Basil Family Library," including cookbooks, contemporary fiction, children's books, "Brain Quest" cards that were taken within a day and a whole series of books.

"Many of our neighbors have asked if they can put books in there."

The plan is to place adult books on the top shelf and kids' books on the bottom one. For fun, her children have added friendship bracelets they made and rocks they've painted.

Basil also is thrilled to share she was one of

In addition to ordering a premade book-sharing box from the website, she also consults www.littlefreelibrary.org and the Little Free Library mobile app to find locations of



The Basils place this stamp in the books in their library.

150 Library stewards across the U.S. and Canada chosen to win copies of the newest "Good Morning America" book club pick for September. As explained at www.littlefreelibrary.org, each month, registered Little Free Library book stewards can apply for the honor through a partnership between Little Free Libraries and "Good Morning America." A photo of the Basils' book-sharing box was to be featured on air this month, and "The Basil Family Library" will be featured on a special online map. The Basils received two copies of the pick for the month, *The Fortunes of Jaded Women*, to feature in their box.

"We hope the library allows people to pass on books instead of throwing them away, and to grab a book they may have never read before," Basil said. "It's a nice way for people to share their love of reading."

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Mission Quilt Sale Returns at LaPorte Missionary Church

The 11th Annual Mission Quilt Sale, which benefits missions and people in need, is from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 1, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St., near Kesling Middle School.

Most of the fabric is donated. However, once a year, on the first Saturday in October, the group holds a sale to help buy quilt batting, equipment and supplies.

More than 150 quilts will be available at \$55 each. A limited number of baby quilts are available for \$45.

More than 2,000 Mission Quilts have been given to those in need, including: LaPorte Homeless Shelter, Worthy Women Recovery Home and People in Song in LaPorte; Stepping Stone Shelter for Abused Women and Children and Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families in Michigan City; The Community Reserve in New Carlisle; The Caring Place for Abused Women and Children in Valparaiso; the Veterans Homeless Shelter in South Bend; all fire departments in LaPorte, Michigan City, New Carlisle and throughout LaPorte County; disaster relief such as hurricanes in North Carolina, Florida, Texas and the East Coast; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Togo, West Africa; and the Children's Hospital Zinnga, Tanzania, East Africa.

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ton flat sheets (only sizes double bed, queen and king) may be donated at the church.

Anyone interested in helping make quilts is invited. The group meets from 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the lower-level church Fellowship Hall. Women and men can participate. No sewing skills are needed. All equipment is supplied. The tasks include stand-up and sit-down jobs, hauling boxes, cutting, sorting, counting and matching fabrics, tying knots, pinning, ironing and sewing.

Call Lynda at (219) 363-5677 for more details.

History Museum Annual Gala

The History Museum's annual fundraising gala, which this year celebrates the 125th anniversary of Copshaholm, is from 5:30-8 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 29, in the museum's Oliver Gardens.

It was 125 years ago that J.D. and Anna Oliver and their four children moved into their new home at 808 W. Washington St. in South Bend, which they later named Copshaholm — the ancient name of the Scottish birthplace of J.D.'s father, James Oliver.

Tickets are \$300 per person, and reservations are required. Sponsorship packages are available, and tickets may be purchased by calling (574) 235-9664 or at www.historymuseumSB.org

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A group of supporters at a previous 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.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. In 2021, walks in Northwest Indiana raised more than \$155,000. Current statistics indicate more than 6 million Americans are living with the disease.

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La Lumiere Students Earn Academic Honors from College Board



The back row is (from left): Quang Nguyen, Cole Verdun, Theodore Smith, William Barry, Brian Kelly, Sean Egan, William Peck and Rhys Gulotta. The front row is (from left) Margaret Jenuwine, Sabina Patel, Harper Mick, Camille Castro, Mia Risser, Caitlyn Smith, Malia Barron, Abraham Fielder, Andrew Tarin and Jack Press.

La Lumiere School students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

The programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications, and connect them with universities across the country.

The abbreviations after each award are:

- National African American Recognition Award — NAARA.
 - National Hispanic Recognition Award — NHRA.
 - National Rural and Small Town Award — NRSTA.
- The students are:
- Malia Barron: NRSTA.

- William Barry: NRSTA.
- Camille Castro: NHRA, NRSTA.
- Sean Egan: NRSTA.
- Abraham Fielder: NRSTA.
- Rhys Gulotta: NRSTA.
- Margaret Jenuwine: NRSTA.
- Brian Kelly: NRSTA.
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- Quang Nguyen: NRSTA.
- Sabina Patel: NRSTA.
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- Jack Press: NRSTA.
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- Caitlyn Smith: NAARA.
- Theodore Smith: NRSTA.
- Andrew Tarin: NRSTA.
- Cole Verdun: NRSTA.

Eligible students have a 3.5 GPA or higher; excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10; earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

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When my editor suggested I rename my column from "Travels with Charley" to "Life with Charley," I sensed an amazing opportunity as a writer. An invitation to basically write about my life and times.

Yeah, baby.

That was like putting me in Mrs. Reed's toy store when I was a kid in Beverly, but with pocketfuls of pennies. Beverly, of course, being the Chicago neighborhood where I grew up and out. I spent the first years of my life in South Shore, and I have celebrated that storied stretch of Chicago shoreline both in these pages and in my autobiography.

I am 72 now, so I am entitled to write my autobiography. And write it I am, and I am having a blast, especially because I am calling it Life with Charley: An American Life. There is so much poetic license there, I can scarcely keep from pounding away on it every day on, yes, my Remington Quiet-Riter manual typewriter.

As an aside to you aspiring "type-writers," one needs to do some finger calisthenics before one begins tickling an old-school keyboard. I'm writing this on the desktop's cute little number. I barely touch a key and get a letter on the screen. With the old Remington, it's deliberate, baby.

And I do mean deliberate. And, at first, it's exhausting. But if I got used to it, so can you.

All right, enough digression, and on to the type of writing I've been pounding out on my vintage Remington:

Chapter Two: "Beverly and Beyond"

Beverly.

As in: "We bought a house in Beverly, and we're moving there. In time for your sixth birthday."

That was Mom and/or Dad talking, and they were talking of an absolutely enormous change in our lives. One that did, indeed, occur in time for my sixth birthday on May 7, 1956.

Namely, we moved from our apartment in the Fairhaven building in South Shore to a two-story brick house on 106th Street, between Prospect and Drew. Yes, Beverly is a bona-fide Chicago neighbor-

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



hood that sits in sylvan splendor on the fair southwest side of the city.

And, yes, folks fortunate enough to call Beverly home often say that they live in some numbered street or place, between two named streets. Named streets like Longwood, Oakley, Wood and Bell.

Neither here nor there, but imagine what it was like for little Yours Truly to first see Beverly in 1956.

My little brain was blown out my ears.

Such big houses, on what looked like enormous lots. And trees and more trees. Why, 103rd Street, between Western on the west and Longwood Drive on the east, was lined with opposing ranks of mature elms that arched over the thoroughfare.

When we first motored along that celebrated stretch of 103rd Street, I thought I was in a cathedral built by angels. And I was.

And speaking of angels, my guardian angel, my Aunt Sally McKelvy Bevan, was right there with



I know my guardian angel, my Aunt Sally, was alive in my heart when we moved to Beverly in 1956.

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me as we moved to Beverly. My beloved Aunt Sally went to be with the angels in 1954. She died after a long and painful battle with leukemia. As my mother's best friend, Sally McKelvy literally pushed her childhood chum, Hannah Dick Macfarlan, into the arms of her big brother, James Scovel McKelvy. Aunt Sally and her handsome husband, Tom Bevan, hosted a dinner party and, wonder of wonders, there was Sally's bachelor brother, Jimmy, waiting to see whom his sister had in mind for him. Why the Macfarlan woman she called "Dickie," of course.

My mother recalled it this way: "Sally, if I accept your invitation, and your brother is there, then I know that's no coincidence."

No, it was no coincidence, because I firmly believed that my Aunt Sally, who was THE love of my early life, had in mind another tribe of "McKelvy Children" when she made that match in those first years after the war. She and her two younger sisters, Carol and Cynie, and their big brother Jimmy had been the "McKelvy Children" when they were little McKelvy children. Yes, children were to be seen and not heard on the Main Line of Philadelphia in the 1930s, but their parents were proud to hear them proclaim: "We are the McKelvy Children!!!"

And why not?

And why not bring Aunt Sally with me when we moved to Beverly? After she died, my mother comforted me, saying: "Your Aunt Sally will always be alive in your heart, as long as you keep her alive in your heart."

I believed it then, and I believe it still. Especially as I write this and take a break to look at a certain picture posted prominently on my bulletin board. I refer to a black-and-white photo taken in August 1953 in Ship Bottom, N.J. I am settled happily in my Aunt Sally's loving arms and am looking off-camera at my grandmother, who was doing one of her "borey, borey, borey, boo!" numbers on me with her finger. I am safe, secure and utterly protected by my Aunt Sally.

I was when we moved to Beverly in 1956 to begin a daring new life, beginning with my sixth birthday party at that stately two-story house on 106th Street, on May 7, 1956.

And speaking of my birthday, here's another coincidence for you fans of patron saints and such: In recent years I discovered that the saint for my birthday is none other than St. John of Beverly. That's




Mom's last Thanksgiving in Beverly in 2013. She was a formidable card player...in Beverly and beyond.

right — Beverly.

According to the martyrology I have from Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, St. John of Beverly was born in Yorkshire, England, in the 7th century. He studied at Canterbury and eventually became a monk at St. Hilda's double monastery (monks and nuns) at Whitby. "Renowned for his learning and his concern for the poor, he was consecrated bishop of Hexham in 687. As bishop, he ordained St. Bede the Venerable, who, in his writings, recounted many miracles attributed to St. John. Later appointed bishop of York, he founded the monastery at Beverly, to which he eventually retired, dying there on May 7, 721. Following his death, his shrine became one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in England. St. John of Beverly was canonized in 1037."

And I just know he was watching my sixth birthday party in Beverly on May 7, 1956. From a sky box, of course.

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“The Woman King” is One of the Year’s Best

by Andrew Tallackson



Naniwa (Viola Davis) serves as the general to King Ghezo (John Boyega) in “The Woman King.”

“The Woman King” is sensational, a compelling story made all the more emotional by a cast that holds back nothing to tell it.

The story is inspired by the Agojie, female soldiers for the West African kingdom of Dahomey. They were called the Dahomey Amazons, and it’s a fitting description. Physically imposing, with combat skills that were second to none.

“The Woman King,” a career high for director Gina Prince-Bythewood (“Love & Basketball,” the Charlize Theron actioner “The Old Guard”), exists as historical fiction, but the story offers a parallel to today’s #metoo climate. And with the cast, led by the great Viola Davis, ferociously tearing into the material, there is not a dull moment.

The story is set in the 1820s as Dahomey, ruled by King Ghezo (“Star Wars” alumnus John Boyega) is under threats from the Oyo Empire. Ghezo turns to his general, Naniwa (Davis), to train the next generation of female fighters to combat them.

The training scenes are interesting specifically for the dialogue in Dana Stevens’ concise script. The building up of these young fighters, many of them barely adults, if that, involves stripping them of emotion. Of personal connection. Never defining themselves through the eyes of men.

“Train hard. Fight harder. We fear no one,” Naniwa tells her students. Later, her advice is her most ironic: “To be a warrior, you must kill your tears.”



“The Woman King”

Running time: 135 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of strong violence, some disturbing material, thematic content, brief language and partial nudity.

I say ironic because Naniwa, and here is where “The Woman King” draws its #metoo parallels, is the victim of sexual assault some 19 years earlier. The man responsible happens to be leading the Oyo Empire’s charge against Dahomey. The child she bore was given to missionaries.

Many of the young women who train with Naniwa are victims of similar violence. So, as these new Agojie warriors take shape, the contemporary message is clear: These women are reclaiming the violence directed at them and redirecting it back at their male attackers.

As an actress, we expect Davis will command the screen. This is the woman who stood tall against Denzel Washington in “Fences” (2016) and won an Oscar for it. The actress bulked up for this role... but look at her eyes in combat scenes. They could bore through steel. She’s in the moment, reducing her foes to scraps of meat, but there is more going on here. A refusal to allow the past to destroy her.

She’s not the only one. Marvel actress Lashana

Lynch ("Captain Marvel") is a born scene-stealer, investing great humor and physical skill as Izogie, a mentor to women training under Nanisca's command. She's something else. The same holds true of South African actress Thuso Mbedu (Amazon Prime's "The Underground Railroad"), who is extremely affecting as Nawi, the most aggressive of the trainees. She has the face of a child, but the transformation to relentless Agojie warrior is stunning. And talk about emotional range: The scene in which she cries after an Agojie fighter dies in combat tears you apart.

Prince-Bythewood treats the fight scenes as a combination of martial arts and full throttle warfare. It never veers into comic-book excess, although I was surprised the movie earned a PG-13 rating. Maybe the fact that actual gore is kept to a minimum did the trick, but the violence itself is as close to an R as you can possibly get.

The movie also does not shy away from the issue of the slave trade, specifically European slavers who formed an alliance with the Oyo.

The big finish to "The Woman King" beautifully



The movie's two scene-stealers: Lashana Lynch and Thuso Mbedu.

brings Nanisca's past full circle, but then, Prince-Bythewood does something interesting. She pulls back and allows Nanisca to experience closure with one of her warriors. Nanisca's fearsome exterior cracks, just a bit, and we are deeply moved.

What a movie. No doubt, one of the year's best.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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“Cobra Kai” Keeps Getting Better and Better

by Andrew Tallackson



William Zabka (front, from left), Ralph Macchio and Yuji Okumoto make for a killer team in “Cobra Kai.”

Here’s what I love about “Cobra Kai.” It reinvents itself, upping the ante each season by forcing characters to stay frosty. And right when it seems you’ve predicted the outcome, the unexpected happens.

In other words, chalk up the show’s longevity to smart writing.

We’re now at Season Five of the streaming sequel to the “Karate Kid” movies. One might think fatigue would kick in, like with AMC’s “The Walking Dead,” where the show is spinning its wheels. Not here. This show remains fresh, allowing its characters to grow and amping up the risks.

Haters say the show isn’t as funny. True, but the humor of the first two seasons largely stemmed from the clash between trapped-in-the-’80s sensei Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka) and 21st century sensibilities. However, you can’t base an entire series on a one-joke concept. Because then, what you have is a sitcom. One that pounds the same joke into oblivion. If a series is to survive as a comedy-drama, then the characters, for better or worse, have to grow. And boy, have these characters evolved.

The driving force behind the series is what propels most reboots. A fusion of the old with the new. Bring back the familiar faces, but introduce the next generation.

Season Five opens with unfinished business as Miguel (Xolo Maridueña) heads down to Mexico in search of his biological father. We know the guy is bad news if Miguel’s mother, Carmen (Vanessa Ru-

bio), fled out of fears for her family. But the early episodes are less about the outcome of Miguel’s mission and more about Johnny, joined by son Robby (Tanner Buchanan), healing the rift both boys feel. That he can be a father figure in both of their lives.

From there, Season Five settles into the latest villain: Terry Silver (Thomas Ian Griffith), who managed one whopper of a sucker punch to his mentor — franchise heavy John Kreese (Martin Kove) — by framing him and sending him to prison.

If Kreese is like a pit bull chomping at the bit, then Silver is the sophisticated heavy: deceptively calm, disguising reprehensible behavior with community minded projects.

With each passing season, the frenemies tension between Johnny and Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio) dissolves to where now, old grievances are tossed aside. A genuine friendship exists, not just between the two, but among their significant others, which includes Carmen and Daniel’s wife, Amanda (Courtney Henggeler). Seeing these four together, along with returning scene-stealer Yuji Okumoto as Chosen Toguchi, and you have adult characters who have been written sharp and are exceedingly likable.

Season Five isn’t above melodrama. It revels in it, having Terry Silver recruit the best, and meanest, instructors possible. All five, especially Alicia Hannah-Kim as the leader, behave like fascist androids in search of a Chuck Norris flick.



That the wives in "Cobra Kai," played by Courtney Henggeler (left) and Vanessa Rubio, are now friends is a sign of the character growth throughout the series.

However, the show tones down the high school melodrama that saw franchise haters dismiss it as teen-angst drivel. In fact, Tory (Peyton List), depicted in previous seasons as one-note hateful, emerges as a character worth celebrating: savvy enough to realize Cobra Kai in Silver's hands is bad news.

There are sly touches elsewhere. Forcing Kreese into counseling while incarcerated, the therapist urging him to get in touch with his feelings, is like asking a vampire to quit slurping blood. The return of two "Karate Kid III" characters includes Sean Kanan as Mike Barnes. The big-finish smackdown is like the "Cobra Kai" answer to "Avengers: Endgame." And the last scene, which sets the stage for the final season, may be a nod to "The Silence of the Lambs." No joke.

The idea of a final season is a bummer. These actors clearly enjoy being together, and Zabka, as Johnny, is a deadpan genius. But quitting while you're ahead is wise. Best to wrap things up knowing you stayed at the top of your game.

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- First Place Youth Division: Savannah Holley.
- Second Place Youth Division: Krishaa Motycka.
- Joe Mellen Award Winner: Addison Stout.

All photos by Bob Wellinski

Continued on Next Page







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Dynamite Performances Add to the Tension of “Goodnight Mommy”

by Andrew Tallackson



Naomi Watts (center) stars as a mother whose twin sons, played by Nicholas and Cameron Crovetti, develop fears about her in “Goodnight Mommy.”

I tend to loathe English-language remakes of foreign films. It adds to the dumbing down of pop culture, the assumption that we as Americans can’t handle subtitles.

But with Amazon Prime’s “Goodnight Mommy,” I’m going to make an exception. Having not seen the 2014 Austrian original is a plus. Not only would it spoil the sucker-punch twists here, but also deprive people of seeing three dynamite performances.

The film is a slow-burn, 92-minute mind game. The director, Matt Sobel, and his writer, Kyle Warren, relish the pleasure of the tease. Is their film a psychological thriller, a paranoid monster movie... or both? Like “The Sixth Sense,” it may require more than one viewing to appreciate how carefully constructed it is.

The story begins with two twins, Elias (Cameron Crovetti) and Lucas (Nicholas Crovetti), being dropped off at their mother’s rustic estate in the middle of nowhere. We’re not exactly sure of their situation. Are they the product of a divorce, their dad (Peter Hermann) pushing them off on mom for the weekend?

Whatever the case, the two are caught off guard when their mother, after searching quite a bit in the darkened home, is found in her bedroom, her face covered in gauze. The explanation: she’s recovering from plastic surgery, and she has a few “rules.” No loud noises. No disruptions or combative behavior. And don’t go to the outside barn.



“Goodnight Mommy”

Running time: 92 minutes. Amazon Prime.

Rated R for some language.

Mom is played by Naomi Watts, an actress who never elevated to the same star status as longtime pal Nicole Kidman. Her performance in Peter Jackson’s 2005 “King Kong” remake deserved an Oscar nod, while her Oscar-nominated work in the 2012 disaster film “The Impossible” is one of the all-time greats...period. Here, she keeps you guessing. The woman covered in bandages doesn’t feel like the same person we see at the beginning, in a cell-phone video, gently singing a lullaby to her sons. She’s cold. Any maternal instincts long gone. As the mother’s behavior becomes increasingly erratic, alternating between outbursts and phony reassurances, Watts is like some plucking away at piano wire. Frazzled nerves barely held together.

Elias and Lucas aren’t buying mom’s behavior. They are convinced she is not the same person. That the truth behind her demeanor is linked to the barn outside.

We keep waiting for an explosion of violence. An ample dose of gore and mayhem. That’s how American remakes work, isn’t it? Whereas European thrillers toy with the mind, Americanized remakes literalize the thrills to excessive extremes. Again,



The tension in "Goodnight Mommy" comes from the escalating anger between a mother and her children.

the dumbing down of American intellect.

"Goodnight Mommy," however, never goes there. Instead, it allows the phenomenal performances by Cameron and Nicholas Crovetti to propel the tension. The young actors, as twins, have that unspoken connection where a nod, a shirk, convey everything they need to know. The emotion pouring out of these two is a superb match for the controlled venom seething out of Watts. And by seemingly pitting one twin against the other, the queasy edge to the picture intensifies scene by scene.

Just when you are convinced "Goodnight Mommy" is one kind of film, twists pile up in the last 15 minutes. The effect is heartbreaking. You have to digest it for a bit, that's for sure, allow the meaning to sink in completely. And when it does, "Goodnight Mommy" has used the framework of a thriller to explore something far more profound and disturbing than cheap thrills.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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2. Mary Lou McFadden	159
2. Tammy Vouri	159
3. Dottie Brinkman	155
4. Nancy Kubath	154

SPLITS

Debbie Novak	3-10
Susan Kieffer	2-7, 4-5
Nancy Klausner	2-7-8, 7-8
Mary Lou McFadden	4-5-7 (2), 2-7
Dottie Brinckman	3-10

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Historians of the Year



The 2022 Historians of the Year were honored earlier this month at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. The recipients are Greg Fruth, Mark Williams and the Peter C. and Charlene J. Kesling Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Fruth; Susanne Kamont, a Kesling Foundation representative and winner of a lifetime Historical Society membership; Historical Society President Bruce Johnson; and Williams.

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"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.



Ahern

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

Pet Blessing

A pet blessing is at 11 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 1, at The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The day was chosen because it is the Saturday before the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The Rev. Darlene Kuhn will officiate at the local church service. Those attending also can support Michiana Humane Society by donating goods, including dog treats, "tuff" toys, towels or make a financial donation.

Cat Shelter Yard Sale

Aunt Kitty's Fall Yard Sale is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 1-2, at Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville.

Sale items may be dropped off from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30. No clothing, linens, electronics or large furniture will be accepted. The event also includes a bake sale and cat toys.

Visit www.catsociety.org or call (219) 785-4936 for more details.

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Pictured are (front row, from left) Sandy Kinsey Cipares and Sue Keller Cavanaugh. The middle row is (from left) Dianne McCollough, Kim Marquiss Stokes, Patti Marth and Jamie Miller. The top row is (from left) Jim Hill, Jeff Thorne and Debbie Brown Dill. Not pictured are committee members Carol Pier Sloane and Wendy Wilcox Kermen.

The Elston Class of 1970 held its 52nd reunion Aug. 13 at Blue Chip Casino, with 215 people attending. The 50th reunion was scheduled for 2020, but postponed due to COVID-19.

Following the reunion, the committee donated \$1,970 on behalf of the Class of 1970 to The Graduates of Isaac C. Elston High School Education Support Fund. Established in 2018, the fund benefits Michigan City Area Schools students, teachers and administrators. It makes supplemental financial resources available for items such as summer camps, educational materials, equipment and special programs not included in the schools' annual budgets.

The fund also is part of the 30-hour Give Day that lasts through 8 p.m. Oct. 1 and is sponsored by Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

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Arts in the Park Fall Festivities

Arts in the Park kicks off fall with multiple fundraisers from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Fox Park's Dennis Smith Amphitheater in LaPorte.

Events include AIP's FoxTrot 5k run/walk, Unity Gives Day and a fall festival with a performance by Point'n Fingers Band.

The race begins at 11 a.m., with registration and packet pickup at 10 a.m. The run follows Chessie Trail starting off Truesdell Avenue and ends near the amphitheater. Adult registration costs \$30. Children ages 11-14 cost \$15, while those 10 and younger may participate free with an adult runner. Proceeds support Arts in the Park, with money raised supporting free concerts and events.

After the race, Point'n Fingers performs from noon-2 p.m. Band members were pivotal in construction of the Wolf Plaza area, concession building and performer suite. The festivities will help honor their support. Family offerings include kids' games and arts and crafts. Concessions will be available. A LaPorte County Give Day Booth will be accessible in Fox Park to help further the nonprofit's efforts. Visit www.laportecountygives.net for more details.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will learn how to help birds and other wildlife survive winter during a hike at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 1, at Harbert Road Preserve, Three Oaks, Mich.

Led by Alex Schrader, Chikaming Township Parks facility manager, the two-mile, two-hour trek will stress how individuals can promote native vegetation, and enhance environments crucial to migratory birds and local wildlife for food and shelter.

Harbert Road Preserve is an out-of-the-way, 90-acre property with wide trails through wetlands, prairie and woodlands. Physical difficulty is rated moderate. Participants should wear long pants (preferably tucked in), a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and take insect repellent and water.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is invited. An all-terrain rollator — a wheeled walker with oversized tires for unpaved surfaces — is available on a first-come, first-served basis by emailing harborcountryhikers@gmail.com.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details.

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Community Concert Association



Members of the North American Brass Company.

North American Brass Company kicks off the latest LaPorte Community Concert Association season at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, at Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

NABC is a classically trained brass quintet comprised of members from the Michiana area, including trumpeter Chuck Steck. The group has performed for colleges and service events, including at Andrews University, Valparaiso University and with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra.

The program is included with season tickets. Tickets at the door cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-5292 for more details.

LaPorte County Gives

Unity Foundation of La Porte County is celebrating 30 years by hosting LaPorte County Gives, a 30-hour fundraiser between Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at www.laportecountygives.net

In addition to the online giving, donors may contribute in person at the Unity office, 422 Franklin St. (second floor), until noon Thursday, Sept. 29. At 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, the results will be revealed.

Donations will be matched in proportion to dollars raised, and participants will share an additional \$31,000 in prizes. LaPorte County Gives benefits 56 local causes with endowed funds at Unity.

Unity's 25th anniversary LaPorte County Gives raised more than \$360,000 for 60 funds.

Visit www.laportecountygives.net or call (219) 879-0327 for more details.

Westville Pumpkin Festival

The Westville Pumpkin Festival returns from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Prairie Meadow Park, U.S. 421 and U.S. 6.



The event includes a 5k run/5k walk, dunk tank, garden tractor pull, kids games, entertainment in the park shelter and food.

Visit www.westvillepumpkinfestival.com or Facebook for more details.

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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. A section above the front entrance will have specialized color lighting for seasonal themes. The expected completion date is Sept. 16. 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:

- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29.** 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.
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Pokemon Scavenger Hunt through Sept. 30.** Children and teens can ask for a Pokedex at the Youth Services desk and look for the Pokemon. When finding them, write their names down and turn in the completed sheet for a prize.

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.)

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Horseback Riding on the Beach from 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Oct. 2, at West Beach.** Take your own horse because no rentals are available. Space is limited, and reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882. The fee is \$25. West Beach is located at 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.
- **Feed the Farm Animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays in October.** 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.



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The Beacher's office hours are:

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

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

Closed: Saturday & Sunday

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Lunch and Lead Speaker Series


The Leadership Institute and Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest have announced the Fall 2022 Lunch and Lead Speaker Series.

The virtual program, according to a press release, is designed to help community and business leaders develop knowledge and skills, while raising awareness of best practices from other leaders.

Jon Gilmore, Tonn & Blank Construction president and CEO, kicked off the series Sept. 20. Upcoming speakers are:

- Tuesday, Oct. 11: Angela Nelson Deutch, I&D Squared Consulting president and Michigan City Common Council member.
- Tuesday, Nov. 8: Karen Bishop Morris, PNW associate professor of English and Northwest Indiana Writing Project director.
- Tuesday, Dec. 6: Adam O'Doherty, United Way of Northwest Indiana president and CEO.

Sessions, which are through Zoom, start at noon and run for 45 minutes. Registration is free and open to the public. Visit www.pnw.edu/soi or email societyofinnovators@pnw.edu for details.



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In the Area

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — Fall Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road.

Oct. 1 — Westville Pumpkin Festival, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Prairie Meadow Park, U.S. 421/U.S. 6. Info: www.westvillepumpkinfestival.com, Facebook.

Oct. 1 — Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. Info: (219) 363-5677.

Oct. 1 — Open House Market, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Manjushree Hermitage, 10303 U.S. 12, Michigan City.

Oct. 1 — Michiana Humane Society “Fall Into Art” benefit. Schedule (all times Eastern): Check-in, It’s A Breeze, 11 a.m.-noon; studio tours, noon-5 p.m., after party, 5-8 p.m., Color Pop. Online reservations: tinyurl.com/yc63vf25

Oct. 1-2 — Aunt Kitty’s Fall Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Independent Cat Society, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville. Info: www.catsociety.org, (219) 785-4936.

Oct. 2 — LaPorte Community Concert Association (North American Brass Company), 2 p.m., Kessler Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets @ door: \$15/adults, \$5/students. Info: (219) 362-5292.

Oct. 5 — Crafty Kids (ages 6-11), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 6 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Registration: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Oct. 5 — Pet Parade and Social, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

Through Sept. 30 — Michigan City Art League, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church’s Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

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 Histor-

ical 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

Sept. 30 — Mississippi Heat, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee; reserved/\$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 1 — Shirley Heinze Land Trust “Nature in the Arts,” 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve, 750 Colfax St., Gary. Focus: “Make Your Own Dune & Swale Art.” Registration: tinyurl.com/ymwkbtx6

Oct. 1 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Harbert Road Preserve, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com, Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook

Oct. 1 — Jonathan Edwards, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$40 + \$6 convenience fee; reserved/\$65 + \$6 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 2 — Horseback Riding on the Beach, 10 a.m.-noon, West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. Fee: \$25. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Oct. 2 — Dave Knoebber watercolor exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, Art Loft Studio and Gallery, 10232 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, Mich.

Through Oct. 1 — “Journey Through Indiana: The Photographs of Kay Westhues and John Bower,” Elkhart’s Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri./1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/ages 13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660.

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

Through Oct. 30 — “The Avanti: America’s Most Advanced Automobile,” The Studebaker National Museum, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10/

adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

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 — *Now Showing:* "Burial." Times: 3:15 p.m. Sept. 30, 3:30 p.m. Oct. 1-2, 6 p.m. Oct. 3. Also: "See How They Run. Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 3:15 p.m. Oct. 3. Also: Manhattan Short (final 10 selections in 25th Annual Short Film Festival). Times: noon Oct. 1-2. Special event \$20 price. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Garden Hotline

Friday, Sept. 30, is the final day that LaPorte County Master Gardeners can answer questions through a free garden hotline.

The service has been available this summer from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

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

Michigan City-area residents can call (219) 874-5611, Ext. 2010. Ask to speak with a Master Gardener. Questions also can be emailed to lpmastergardener@gmail.com. The service resumes next year.



American Red Cross

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

- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6.

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



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Cold Snap by Marc Cameron (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 336 pages.)

If you can't wait for winter, here's a book to frost your fingers! The title doesn't do it justice as we head up to springtime in Alaska for this thrilling fourth installment about U.S. marshal Arliss Cutter. His job actually is as a tracker. Once he locates the bad guys, he generally steps back and lets other marshals do the arresting. Well...that's the way it's supposed to happen, but in the north of Alaska, rules are subject to change, without notice...

What starts out as two different stories blends into one heart-stopping climax in the far north of Alaska where spring doesn't listen to the calendar and snowstorms are all too frequent.

However, the story starts in Dutch Harbor where Cutter and his deputy, Lola, are about to board and seize a Russian freighter for "a series of violations of maritime and U.S. law."

Imagine their surprise when the ship reveals 300 French bulldog puppies in the hold. They weren't expecting that. Well, that is someone else's problem now...and Cutter is sure once the media gets a hold of the story, there will be plenty of uproar.

Lola gets a message as they load up prisoners: "Another body washed up out near Beluga Point...well...a piece of one anyway."

So it's off to Anchorage.

Meeting up with the PD at Beluga Point, Cutter is briefed on this finding, and it's not the first of its kind...

Officer Sandra Jackson tells them: "We've recovered five body parts: an upper arm last spring off the beach below Kincaid Park, the foot at Bootleggers Cove a couple of weeks ago, the torso you found off Point Woronzof last week, Rainbow Toes at Bootlegger Cove, and now this torso." Someone's been very, very busy...

No time to start an investigation of this latest murder when Cutter is asked to fly up to far north Deadhorse and back down to Fairbanks with three prisoners. Not unusual, and generally a quick trip up and back; turn over the prisoners, get a flight back to Anchorage and done.

Finally on board and ready to leave. Sky not looking promising, but the pilot says no problem, as long as they go now and no more delays. Cutter is joined by Bill Young, a former officer and now contract guard, to make sure the prisoners get back safely.

Up in Deadhorse, Cutter learns about his three passengers: Chance Spivey, Nolan Lamp and Edward Nix — all wanted on state and federal charges.

Night before leaving, Cutter enters a bar, sees a

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



man roughing up a waitress and ends up in a fight and arresting the man. At the police station, booking the prisoner, Cutter is told the man was to be his pilot. Oops. Another delay as a new pilot is sought and a fourth felon added to the passenger list.

Dave Larsen, pilot, and Bud Bishop, co-pilot, are ready to go. The plane is smaller and cramped, the felons with plenty of chains around waist, hands and feet.

Suddenly, Larsen flies off the route, saying he's checking on scientists who haven't been heard from. Reaching their camp, they find the cabin is up in flames, one man is up a tree, the two women are screaming and pointing to a very large brown bear.

Upon landing, Cutter tells Young to stay with the prisoners while he and Larsen go to help.

It all goes to hell when the plane suddenly erupts into flames, and soon three prisoners are out and running — as fast as chains and snow permit — and the bear, just coming out of hibernation, probably wondering if supper is being served.

Larsen tells Cutter no one knew he was going to make this departure, and the satphone was in the now-burned

out plane.

Just another day in the life of a U.S. marshal? Cutter is mad as hell at Larsen, but has to worry more about the prisoners and one hungry bear...

To tell more would be a felony on my part, so I end here with my hand-over-heart-swear that the action begins in spades. Don't be left behind...

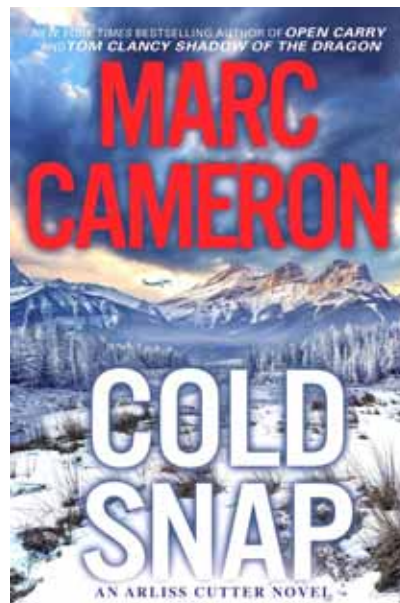
Imagination, what I call the camera of the brain, is working overtime with descriptions of the Alaskan wilderness: beautiful and dangerous, usually at the same time. It is like walking with Cutter and Lola side by side.

I am impressed that Cameron has years of experience as a mounted police officer, detective and various jobs at the U.S. Marshals Service (too many to mention). His jobs have taken him north and south and east to west. He and his wife live in Alaska.

If you like adventure with a destination, this is the series for you. Don't know why I didn't check out Cameron sooner. An exciting read with danger around every page...and maybe a chuckle or two.

The final word: more action than raw language, a plus for many readers.

Till next time, happy reading!



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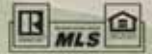
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