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The Trail to Transformation

by Edmund Lawler

Paved with great expectations, grassroots donations ranging from \$5 to \$120,000 and a generous infusion of grants, the planned three-mile bike trail from Grand Beach, Mich., to a trailhead near downtown New Buffalo should see cyclists spinning along by fall 2024.

The non-motorized trail from just beyond Grand Beach's iconic white arch entrance to New Buffalo is the final segment of the 58-mile, multi-state Marquette Greenway taking shape from Chicago's Calumet Park, through Northwest Indiana and Indiana Dunes National Park to the terminus in New Buffalo.

Terminus may be the wrong term for the trail's planned endpoint at Smith and Mechanic streets in New Buffalo, currently a vacant lot. Gary Wood, the Friends of Berrien County Trails president, considers it more of a gateway.

"For the state of Michigan, this is a major connecting trail," says Wood, who heads the non-profit organization that has been a driving force for the stretch of trail north of the Indiana-Michigan state line. The en-

tire trail – from Chicago to New Buffalo – is expected to be completed by 2027.

The Michigan portion is being developed in two phases. Phase I runs from Grand Beach to New Buffalo. Phase II, slightly less than a mile, goes from the state line up to near the Grand Beach entrance. That segment is expected to be built and cyclist-ready in 2025. The estimated cost of both phases is \$5.6 million.

"Working with Berrien Be Healthy, we just completed in December a master plan of trails for the entire county," Wood says.

Be Healthy Berrien is a county-wide partnership to promote physical activity and healthy eating.

"The Marquette Greenway is a key component of our plan. The larger vision is that you'll be able to continue beyond Berrien County along the lakeshore and eventually up to Traverse City and over to Mackinac Island," Wood says.

Closer to home, the planned Red Arrow Linear Park Pathway will go from just north of New Buffalo toward Union



Three of the driving forces behind the Marquette Greenway project: Diane Pysnos (from left), Marcy Hamilton and Gary Wood. They are photographed by *The Beacher's* Edmund Lawler at the future trailhead of the Marquette Greenway in New Buffalo, Mich.

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The Trail to Transformation

Pier. Other segments, including the wildly popular section already open through downtown Union Pier, will continue north through Warren Dunes State Park to just south of Bridgman, according to Wood.

A variety of federal, state, local and foundation grants have laid the groundwork for the ambitious Marquette Greenway project, being built community-by-community over the course of nearly two decades. The Pokagon Fund contributed nearly \$800,000. In Michigan, individual donations have helped close some of the gaps.

Diane Pyshos, a member of Friends of Berrien County Trail's fundraising committee, was tasked with helping close a \$300,000 gap to make the Michigan segment a reality. The time line was tight. Certain grants or donations had to be matched by Dec. 31, 2022.

"A very smart person who is involved in this group told me, you've got to get this into the Chicago papers to get the big money," Pyshos says. "But I thought, 'How do I get this into the Chicago papers?' I told myself I was going to die trying.

"So every day, I woke up and made more phone calls and sent out more emails. Then an editor at *Crain's Chicago Business* responded and asked, what kind of project is this?"

With a curious editor on the hook, Pyshos explained the Marquette Greenway is a multi-community project designed to bring people in three states together.

"The thing is" she said, "the project sells itself if you put it in front of somebody."

The *Crain's* editor bought Pyshos's pitch and featured the Marquette Greenway story on its front page. The story also ran in *Crain's Detroit* and Grand Rapids publications. *The Chicago Tribune*

Continued from Page 1

and broadcast stations in Chicago and South Bend ran stories of their own.

Sure enough, the money began to flow.

Unsolicited, the Meijer Foundation in Grand Rapids pledged \$10,000. Don Wilson, the head of a Chicago financial-trading organization, donated \$100,000 from the Donald R. Wilson Jr. Family Foundation. And another Chicago donor, who asked to remain anonymous, pledged \$120,000, contingent on it being matched locally.

The match was met thanks to a groundswell of individual donations and a fundraising dinner and celebration in November at Bentwood Tavern in New Buffalo. Robert Kemper, owner of the waterfront restaurant, donated 50 percent of the well-attended event's food and beverage sales to the cause, writing a check to Friends of Berrien County Trails for more than \$60,000. The rapid-fire, three-and-a-half-month campaign exceeded its \$300,000 goal.

"It was a massive, coordinated effort," Pyshos says. "Everyone on our fundraising team – Willa Lang, Peggy McTigue, Joanne Sims – was working on this. And people were very motivated by the match. There were signs everywhere at the give-back dinner letting people know that every dollar they spent or donated was equal to \$2."

Wood adds, "The commitment from the community has been huge."



A thermometer charted the project's fundraising. Photo provided.



Smith and Mechanic streets in New Buffalo will be the site of the future Marquette Greenway trailhead. Photo by Edmund Lawler.



Joanne Sims (left) and Marcy Hamilton plan the Michigan portion of the trail in its early stages. Photo provided.

Piecing together the four-mile-long jigsaw puzzle is Marcy Hamilton, senior planner and deputy executive director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. She's been guiding development of the Michigan segment since the idea was first conceived in 2016.

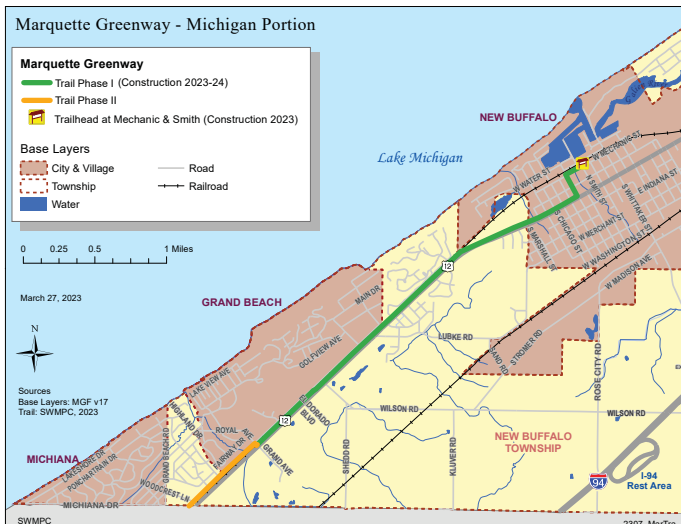
Hamilton has successfully written grants for the project and patiently negotiated with a variety of organizations, including Amtrak, the Berrien County Highway Department, Michigan Department of Transportation and several local governments. The trail, itself, is on its third and final design iteration.

Hamilton needed to sell the idea to the Village of Grand Beach, where some residents and leaders initially resisted the plan. But after she and others sold them on the recreational and economic benefits, the village has been an enthusiastic supporter.

As the Marquette Greenway crosses into Michigan, the trail will run alongside Grand Beach Road, which parallels the Amtrak tracks and U.S. 12.

At the Grand Beach Amtrak crossing, the trail will leave Grand Beach Road and move a short distance across the tracks and run along a path astride

Continued on Page 4



A map depicts the Michigan portion of the Marquette Greenway.

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The Trail to Transformation

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U.S. 12 toward New Buffalo.

A fence will separate the trail from the railroad tracks. No hard barrier will separate the trail from U.S. 12. Instead, a swale will provide a safe distance between the trail and highway, according to Hamilton.

There will be a physical separation between the trail and highway where the trail will move onto a boardwalk-style bridge over the large ravine south of downtown New Buffalo.

“Phase I goes to bid in June,” Hamilton says. “Contractors will submit their prices and we’ll find out if we’re fully funded. The goal is to get Phase I work under way this fall.”

Gary Wood sees the Marquette Greenway as one of four key ingredients to a bright future for the Michigan City-New Buffalo region.

“This area is going to go through a major transformation,” he predicts. “It’s going to become much more attractive with the South Shore Double-Track cutting the commute to Chicago to a little over an hour. This area will be more attractive as a sort of bedroom community to Chicago.”

In addition to the Marquette Greenway and South Shore Double-Track projects, Wood pointed



Gary Wood (from left), Heather Gradowski, Marcy Hamilton and Diane Pyschos are photographed at the give-back dinner at Bentwood Tavern in New Buffalo, Mich. Photo provided.

to the decommissioning of NIPSCO’s Michigan City Generating Station as the utility switches from coal to more environmentally conscious power sources such as solar and wind.

And north of the state line, Berrien County is planning to expand the infrastructure to support expanded high-speed broadband Internet service, which will boost telecommuting opportunities.

The trail, itself, is the path to a better quality of life in the area, Diane Pyschos says.

“It taps into people’s wishes for a more walkable, more bikeable community,” she said. “This is where our nation is headed. Trails bring people together.”

An Update on the Singing Sands Trail

Like the Marquette Greenway, the Singing Sands Trail – Michigan City’s contribution to the 58-mile non-motorized paved path from Chicago to New Buffalo – is a work in progress.

“The design and engineering of the entire nine-mile project is 99 percent complete,” says Shannon Eason, Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department assistant superintendent.

The Singing Sands Trail is being built in phases, with construction of two of the three segments completed in 2021. Funding is being finalized on three of four segments of the project’s final phase. No trail signage has yet to be posted as the project awaits completion.

Eason, who has managed the trail’s develop-



The Singing Sands Trail wends its way along Trail Creek. Photo by Edmund Lawler.

ment since 2009, anticipates the entire nine-mile path will be complete and open for cyclists and hikers in 2025.

The trail will produce economic benefits for Michigan City.

“The biggest benefit to the city is the property owners who are adjacent or near the trail,” Eason says. “A National League of Cities study has found

that a non-motorized trail will increase their property values by 20 percent.”

A non-motorized trail also boosts tourism in a community. Eason says she’s seen evidence of that, even with the Singing Sands Trail only partially open.

“Already, a lot of cyclists are coming into town and going to Zorn



A boardwalk bridge of the Singing Sands Trail in Michiana City.
Photo by Edmund Lawler.

Brewery or Shoreline Brewery, which are both near the trail,” Eason says. Before the South Shore Double-Track project interrupted the railroad’s Bikes on Trains program, cyclists from Chicago would hop off at the Dune Park stop with their bikes and pedal to the breweries for lunch, then continue up to Michigan.

When the South Shore resumes regular service upon completion of the Double-Track project next spring, she expects more cyclists arriving on the train with their bikes to enjoy the local trails.

Cyclists who can’t wait for the entire Singing Sands Trail to be completed, can start their ride at the LaPorte-Porter County line near Mount Baldy. Heading east, the trail traces U.S. 12 to City Hall. The first phase of the trail is 2.2 miles.

Phase 2 runs from City Hall southeastward along Michigan Boulevard to Eighth Street, where cyclists then head east to the trail’s current end at Liberty Trail. That phase is 1.4 miles.

In 2022, The Greenways Foundation of Indiana named Phases 1 and 2 of the Singing Sands Trail the year’s Outstanding Trail Project.

When completed, Phase 3 of the trail will snake its way through Krueger Memorial Park and Friendship Botanical Gardens. It heads east along Martin Luther King Drive to Oak Hills Park. The trail ultimately reaches El Portal Drive near Michiana Shores, adjacent to the Amtrak tracks. Phase 3 and all its segments are 5.5 miles.

LaPorte County will build the final segment in Indiana from El Portal Drive north to the state line. Michigan will take it from there.

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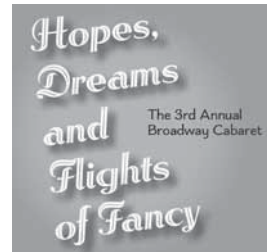
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“Air” is a Thrilling, Hilarious Look at Nike’s Pitch to Michael Jordan

by Andrew Tallackson



Nike salesman Sonny Vaccaro (Matt Damon) speaks with Deloris Jordan (Viola Davis) for the first time, hoping to make a strong impression, in “Air.”

Interesting, that “Air” and “Tetris” debut within a week of each other. Both are set amid the “Greed is Good” ’80s, with real people scrambling to crush competitors. In the process, they embark on career-awakening journeys into something greater.

What “Air” does even better is convey the American dream as a resuscitating life force. Told with fast-and-furious thrill by director Ben Affleck — doing double duty by playing Nike co-founder Phil Knight — the movie, thanks to the cast and Alex Convery’s Oscar-worthy screenplay, is compelling, invigorating, frequently hilarious and moving.

The story boils down to Nike, barreling toward bankruptcy in 1984, trying to court a 20-year-old Michael Jordan as its shoe spokesman. Adidas and Converse are chomping at the bit to snag him. Jordan prefers Adidas. We never see Jordan’s face, by the way, only from the back or sides. Smart move on Affleck’s behalf. Rather than fixate on who they cast, and whether the actor fit the role, the focus is on all the circling buzzards.

Affleck cast longtime pal Matt Damon as Nike salesman Sonny Vaccaro, and Convery’s screenplay gives him the tools to deliver one of his better performances. The actor, appearing doughy, worse for wear, creates the poster child for success = complacency. The drive is gone. But what Damon achieves is a man rediscovering his mojo. Where rising to the occasion brings out the best in him. To think outside the box. You can feel it in Damon’s performance: the anxious, breathy, giddy drive.

Affleck surrounds Damon with a dynamite cast, including Jason Bateman (“Arrested Development”) as Nike chairman Rob Strasser, Matthew Maher (“Our Flag Means Death”) as Peter Moore, who treats the creation of a new shoe reverently, Chris



“Air”

Running time: 112 minutes.

Rated R for language throughout.

Tucker (“Rush Hour”) as Howard White, future president of Nike’s Jordan Brand, and Chris Messina (“The Mindy Project”) as Jordan’s agent, David Falk, who has one of the all-time great meltdowns during a hilariously profane phone call with Sonny.

The heart of the picture exists in the scenes between Sonny and Viola Davis as Jordan’s mother, Deloris. The Oscar winner plays her as the Centurion at the Gate, keeping the howling wolves at bay. The acting fireworks arrive during the climactic phone conversation between Deloris and Sonny, where we see in Deloris a mother who is just as savvy as Sonny, but also fearsomely protective as a mother.

Davis brings out the best in Damon, particularly when Sonny goes “off book.” In particular is a scene that shouldn’t work. It’s the big pitch to Michael and family. Sonny, again, ditches protocol and speaks from the heart. Affleck, as director, cuts between Sonny’s wisdom and images of Jordan later in life. All the highs and heartbreaking lows. The scene comes close to being manipulative. Heck, it probably is. But the feverish, almost prophetic tone in Damon’s voice, coupled with images documenting the trajectory of Jordan’s life, remind us that we are witnessing a young man on the cusp of greatness, devastation, persistence and triumph.

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Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Chamber Festival Concert at Michigan City Church

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present violinist Jameson Cooper and pianist Ketevan Badridze in recital at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 16, at St. Mary's The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St.

Admission is free. The program will feature sonatas for violin and piano by Cesar Franck and William Grant Still. A meet-the-artists reception is after the concert at the St. Mary's Artists Studios.

Cooper was born in Sheffield, England. He rose to national attention when he was named concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra for its debut performance at the BBC Proms. Following graduation from the Royal Northern College of Music, he came to the U.S. to continue his violin studies. As a founding member of the Euclid



Ketevan Badridze (left) and Jameson Cooper.

Quartet, he has won numerous competition prizes and performed across the U.S. in venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Library of Congress.

His recordings with the Euclid Quartet include the complete string quartets of Bela Bartok, works by Kauder, Dvorak and Mar-salis, and an upcoming disc of quartets by Grieg and Debussy.

He lives in Mishawaka with his wife and children.

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, Badridze is an award-winning pianist who has appeared with Tbilisi Symphony, Georgian National Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Yerevan Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and South Bend Symphony Orchestra. Her collaborations include performances with Lisa Batiashvili, Alexander Korsantia, Gregory Fulkerson and Euclid and Georgian National Quartets.

Badridze recorded "Mozart Piano Concerto in C Minor" with Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra. Recent albums feature violin and piano works by Prokofiev and French violin sonatas with Cooper. Since spring 2005, she is on the music faculty at Indiana University-South Bend.

Visit www.mccmf.org, call (219) 561-1939, visit "Michigan City Chamber Music Festival" on YouTube or "MC Chamber Fest" on Facebook for more details.

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Exhibit Celebrates 1970s Miami Beach Community

Krasl Art Center’s next exhibit, Andy Sweet’s “South Beach,” celebrates Miami’s rapidly changing beach community, on April 15-June 4.

In the late 1970s, Miami native Andy Sweet began photographing South Beach’s elderly Jewish population. Sweet was in his early 20s and drawn to the group familiar to him from his youth. His images capture the eccentricity, glamor and kitsch of this brief moment in history. Examples include couples in matching bathing suits or friends dancing in crowded rooms and taking sidewalk strolls.

Sweet (1953-1982) was an American documentary photographer known best his street photography. His negatives were lost amid his death, leaving his original prints as the only record of his work. In 2006, small color “work prints” were discovered; since then, an effort has been made to restore his work and legacy.

A preview reception with archivist Edward Christin is from 6-8 p.m. EDT Friday, April 14. Those attending are invited to wear 1970s leisure clothes. An introduction by archivist Edward Christin is at 6 p.m. EDT. Live music is by Steve Butters of Pan Chicago, with small bites and a cash bar available.

A related program is the free “Coffee with the Curator” at noon EDT Thursday, April 20. Learn from Chief Curator Tami Fauver about Sweet’s 10-year



An example of Andy Sweet’s work.

photographic journey.

Visit www.krasl.org/andy-sweets-south-beach for more details. Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 for more details.



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Holdcraft Players



Alayna Lauritsen (from left), Grant Fitch and Joel Thompson star in "I Regret Nothing."

Holdcraft Players will present Romanian playwright Csaba Székely's "I Regret Nothing" — its first U.S. performance — April 14-16 and 21-23 at Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The two-act play, with a cast of three people, is set in Romania in the summer of 2006. Grant Fitch plays Dominic, a former member of the Romanian secret police unexpectedly visited by his former colleague, Alex (Joel Thompson), who may have sinister intentions. Meanwhile, Dominic develops a friendship with Liza (Alayna Lauritsen), his odd upstairs teen neighbor with an obsession about dogs. Rounding out the cast are Auriel Felsecker and Herbert Lemonger, lending voice talent to off-stage characters.

The show marks the directorial debut of local actor John Hutchinson, who contacted the playwright to get his approval to perform the show.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, April 14-15 and 21-22, and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 16 and 23. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, are available at www.yptcinc.com/tickets. The box office is open from 7-8 p.m. Wednesdays at the theater.

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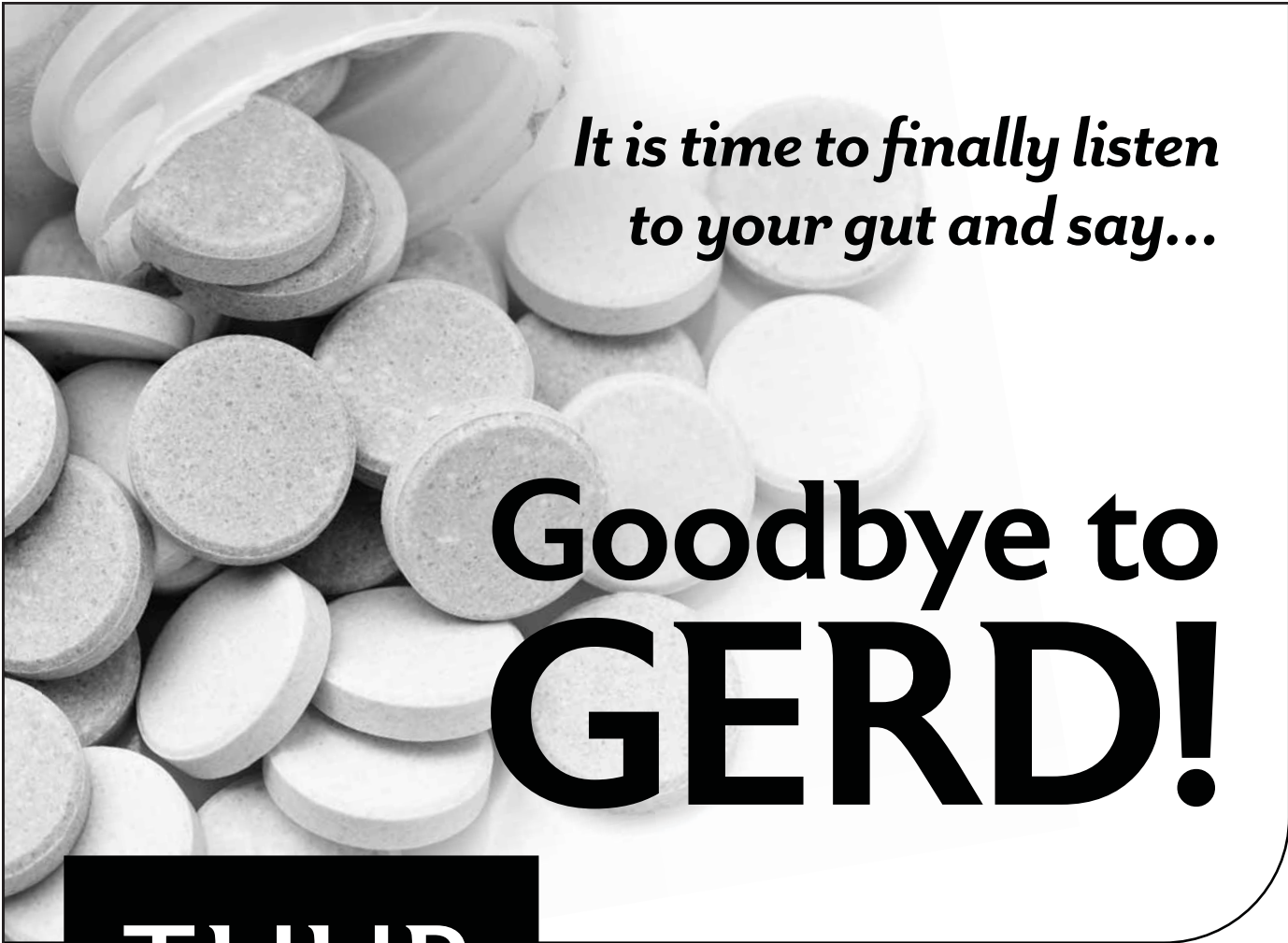
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Free Family Concert



The School of American Music will present North American Brass Company during a free family concert at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 16, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

A professional brass quintet, the North American Brass Company specializes in a wide musical repertoire that ranges from classical to jazz. Performing throughout Michiana, it features Jay Crouch and Charles Steck on trumpet, William Browne on French horn, Gary Cooper on trombone and Gary Kurtis on tuba. All members have taught music and play in regional orchestras and bands, in addition to their performances with the quintet.

A food-item donation to Neighbor by Neighbor is requested. Tickets are available at www.SchoolofAmericanMusic.com. Call SAM at (269) 409-1191 or email SchoolofAmericanMusic@gmail.com for more details.

The concert series is supported by donations and a Pokagon Fund grant.

Legacy Center Gallery

Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz and Dr. John Wilhelm are on display through June 30 at The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave.



Kime



Meraz



Wilhelm

Kime, who has been painting for the past two years, creates original oils featuring nature scenes. He has been an ordained priest for 25 years, and serves Queen of All Saints and St. Mary parishes as the pastor.

Meraz, while in college seminary, discovered a love for art and painting. He was immediately drawn to acrylics and has experimented with tools such as brushes, palette knives and sponges. He is as an associate pastor at St. Paul Catholic Church, Valparaiso.

Wilhelm is a Chicagoan, trained as a physician, who worked internationally for 13 years with the Washington-based health foundation Project HOPE, then for 15 years at the Chicago Department of Public Health, serving as health commissioner from 2000-2005. For the past 25 years, he has had a weekend home in the Indiana Dunes, exploring watercolor painting.

Center hours are 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays. Visitors should enter through the doors off Esther Street. Call the parish office at (219) 872-9196 for more details.

Spring Artisan Fair & Plow Day

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host its annual Spring Artisan Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 16.

More than 25 artisans will sell their works. Museum admission is by donation. Also planned that day is the LaPorte County Draft Horse Association's annual Plow Day. The event is held between the museum and Door Prairie barn.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

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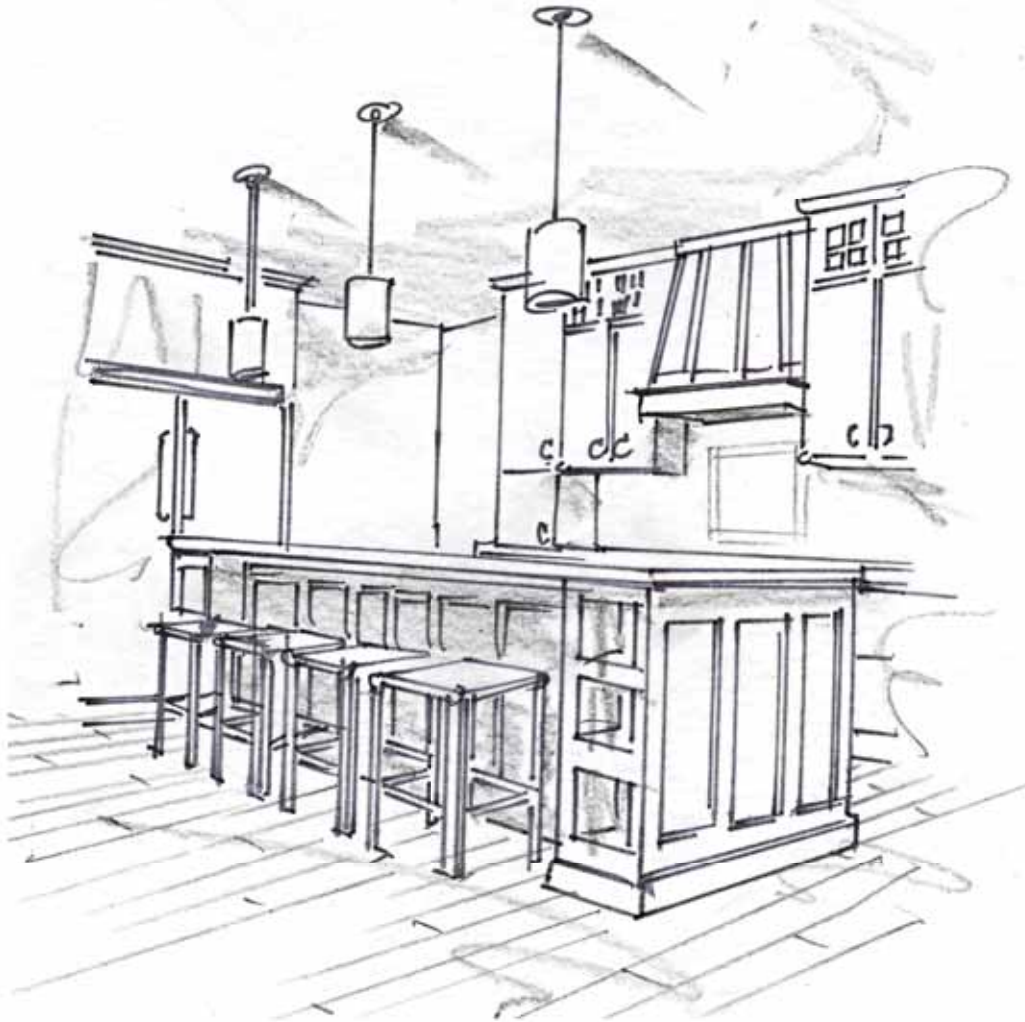
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NB Library Community Forum



A 1920s postcard of the Golfmore Hotel.

Researcher Tom Suhs will highlight the brief period of The Golfmore Hotel (1923-1939) during the next New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The free program updates Suhs’ popular 2018 talk. The hotel was located along Michigan Shores/Grand Beach, second only to Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel in size, appearance and amenities. The 175-room venue offered tennis, golf, a riding stable, dining and dancing, even a ski jump. It briefly was a training camp for boxers, including James Braddock.

However, the hotel found itself overcome with financial and legal problems. On the night of Nov. 20, 1939, it went up in flames, the cause never determined.

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“Tetris” Takes a Wildly Entertaining Look at Story Behind Classic Game

by Andrew Tallackson



Henk Rogers (Taron Egerton) tries to impress Nintendo officials with a new video game called “Tetris.”

I remember when “Tetris” came out. So simple, yet so addictive. Manipulating falling blocks so they lock — hopefully — in perfect symmetry with blocks at the bottom. I’d be on dinner break at work, fiddling with the game, desiring a brief reprieve from newspaper deadline pressure, when five minutes stretched into 10, 15, sometimes 20 minutes.

A nearly two hour film about the race to license, and profit from, the video game doesn’t sound like edge-of-your-seat stuff. More like catnip for social hermits cocooned in their parents’ basements.

But “Tetris,” the new Apple TV+ film directed by Jon Baird and written by Noah Pink, is wildly entertaining. Sure, you can tell where they’ve amped up the drama. But the energy level is high, bolstered by an inventive style and unexpected weight to the second act. Add to it another performance from Taron Egerton (“Rocketman,” last year’s Apple TV+ series “Black Bird”) that confirms the Welsh actor can do just about anything.

He plays Henk Rogers, who runs Bullet-Proof Software with his wife. In 1988, he’s at a Las Vegas consumer electronics show when he witnesses one of his employees playing “Tetris” at a nearby booth. The game, created in Russia, is so new, Henk sees dollar signs and springs into business mode.

Egerton, mastering another flawless American accent, plays Henk like a car salesman after gulping four Red Bulls. He’s always moving, fueled by

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Tetris”

Running time: 118 minutes. Apple TV+.

Rated R for language.

creative energy. “No” is not in his vocabulary, which is why he doesn’t blink an eye at heading to Russia, on Nintendo’s behalf, to secure the rights to “Tetris.”

The movie introduces key players in the negotiations. Like media tycoon Robert Maxwell (Roger Allam) and his sniveling weasel of a son, Kevin (Anthony Boyle). There’s also the great Toby Jones (“Empire of Light”) as Andromeda Software’s Roger Stein, who has a way of playing both sides of the fence. A lot of faces to keep track of, and a lot of industry jargon, but Baird, as director, frequently leaps from his actors into old school video game images to tell the story. That not only livens things up, but also makes a potentially complicated story easier to follow. The clever score by Lorne Balfe mimics the electronic-style soundtracks to these games, so what you have is a movie that is equally enthralled by the gaming world as the characters are.

The emotional core of the story arrives in the second act as we get to know Alexey Pajitnov, the creator of “Tetris,” played by Nikita Efremov. The actor creates a deeply empathetic man who is very much a product of the Cold War. Fearful of reproach

by the KGB, always looking over his shoulder. And we get it: from a production design standpoint, this is a dire, bleak look at Russian society before the Cold War's collapse.

For Alexey, making money off "Tetris" isn't his primary concern, more his family's safety, and avoiding a tragic family legacy. Thanks to Efremov, you don't want anything bad to happen to this guy.

In fact, it is Efremov who invigorates the movie's fabricated Hollywood finish, reminiscent of the Oscar-winning "Argo," that involves a car chase, then a feverish race to board a plane. Movies never resist "embellishing" the truth, but at the center of the chaos is Efremov's Alexey, who stands to lose the most if apprehended by the KGB.

It is a tribute to "Tetris" that the whole concept behind it never feels like a gimmick. These are real people, in an unstable world, fighting to secure a deal on their terms. And because of Egerton and Efremov, you care about these guys. Want them to succeed.



Nikita Efremov (right), as Tetris creator Alexey Pajitnov, becomes the heart of the movie.

I was surprised by how much I liked "Tetris."
Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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A Beloved Eatery in the Uptown Arts District Comes to a Close

by Andrew Tallackson

Mike Howard knew he and his late wife achieved something special with Station 801, but the week leading up to its final day was a reminder of how much it meant to people.

The corner restaurant, located at 801 Franklin St., had become a staple to many a resident here. A place for comfort food, where a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausage, or an appetizing lunch of burgers or sub sandwiches, didn't break the bank when the check arrived.

The sincere, friendly atmosphere was another plus, and not just among families stopping by, but also within Howard's own family that worked there, and among the servers who treated customers as they would want to be treated.

The regulars of Station 801 let everyone there know how much they appreciated it, every day until Friday, March 31, when after 18 years the doors closed for good to the public.

Howard does not take lightly what Station 801 meant to people, and what it meant to him and his wife, Donna, who passed away this past December.

"We never fathomed that this business would have been as successful as what it was," he told *The Beacher*. "We come in, thinking we're getting ourselves a little mom-and-pop place, just something we can kick back and make a decent living, help the community, but, oh my God, they were standing at the doors waiting to get in on the weekends."

Mike and Donna were practically newlyweds when they decided to buy the former Ceno's on the Square restaurant. Before then, Mike was a respected press operator/manager for *The News-Dispatch* and later *The Herald-Dispatch*.

But the new venture was something that excited the couple, and they sank their retirement savings into remodeling the place, from new carpeting and booths to tabletops. They also switched the decor from trains to Coca-Cola.

Station 801 officially opened for business Dec. 1,

"We come in, thinking we're getting ourselves a little mom-and-pop place, just something we can kick back and make a decent living, help the community, but, oh my God, they were standing at the doors waiting to get in on the weekends."

Mike Howard



Pictured outside of Station 801 are (from left) bus person Cameron Mishler, dishwasher/second cook Keith Yericks, head cook Justin Ludwig, server Paula Keehn, owner Mike Howard, server Shaun Fanson, dishwasher Agnes Clemens and dishwasher/bus person Krissy Love.

2005. Mike was still at *The Herald-Dispatch*, but eventually left his post there to work full time at the restaurant. Not only was Donna his business partner, but grandchildren helped out as servers. His mother, Anne, came on board as the restaurant's "public relations manager." Anne was a beloved fixture in the community, having retired as a phone operator with GTE after 17 years, and serving as a hostess at Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. She also volunteered with local groups, including Footlight Players. She even was involved with Station 801 until shortly before her passing on June 18, 2013.

The personal touch of Station 801 was something customers valued. Dora Mae Kayser, who runs the bindery at *The Beacher*, often tells of how she could call the restaurant, say only her name and the person on the other end of the line automatically knew what she wanted to order.

For Mike and Donna, the couple, interested in re-

tiring, placed Station 801 on the market before her passing. And when that happened, he contemplated the restaurant's immediate future, but realized his heart wasn't into it anymore. The building has been sold, he said, with the new owners announced at a later date.

For now, Mike plans to enjoy retirement, particularly camping. He also is thankful for what Station 801 meant to the community.

"The crew that I have had over the last 18 years, I could not ask for anyone better than them," he said. "They were a great part of making Station 801 a huge success. I am going to miss each and every one of them, and also to all of our customers...I want to thank you for making us successful. I am going to miss all of you as well, so for now, I am only saying, see you later."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



Above: Anne Howard, celebrating her birthday at Station 801, shortly before her passing in June 2013. **Below:** Mike's family photographed at the restaurant. The bottom row is (from left) granddaughter and former server Chloe Stantz with co-owner Donna Eaton. The top row is (from left) grandchildren and former server Michael Stantz, bus persons Peyton Stantz and Morgann Stantz, and Mike Howard.



Experiencing the Cult Classic “Road House” for the First Time

by Andrew Tallackson

Editor’s note — This is the next installment in our series exploring how older movies hold up today.



Patrick Swayze stars as “cooler” Dalton James in “Road House.”

Up until last week, I’d never seen “Road House.”

I know, I know. Believe me, I’ve heard it all.

“You...haven’t...seen...‘Road House’?”

“You call yourself a movie reviewer?”

That last one always gets me. Like I’d confessed to having never seen “Citizen Kane,” “Star Wars” or “The Godfather.”

“Road House” was released in May 1989, at the close of my freshman year at Indiana University-Bloomington. If memory serves, it debuted amid finals week for me. But even leaning on that iffy excuse for skipping it, why would there have been any interest? Even then, amid the tail end of ’80s excess, the movie looked like pure cheese. It was only through VHS and cable TV that the movie initiated a hearty afterlife, elevated over the years to this mythic cult status.

A few weeks back, I posted on Facebook that Jake Gyllenhaal is remaking the movie, and that I’d never seen the original. The comments were hilarious:

“Is this really you? Has your account been hacked?”

“I’ve never seen it, but there are people who swear by that movie.”

“Holy cow, it’s amazingly awful good.”

“If you like to see guys get hit in the crotch a lot,

past
present

Andrew Tallackson



it’s a good movie.”

“So campy, you should watch it.”

With that type of response, it was time to bury the hatchet. The movie was streaming just about everywhere for free. Time to go for it.

And my reaction? Nowhere near hostile. It’s not a good movie, by any measure, but it’s so good at being bad, it’s guilty pleasure good.

Having been indoctrinated into the world of Taylor Sheridan through five seasons of “Yellowstone,” you can see the movie’s rowdy cowboy influence. In fact, Sheridan’s Paramount+ series “Tulsa King,” when you get right down to it, is a virtual retelling of “Road House,” but with spiffier production values and wittier dialogue.

On another level, “Road House” is so unapolo-

getically crass, you almost feel nostalgic for it amid today's sanitized political correctness. There is no way the story, as is, would survive today. It would be an instant Cancel Culture casualty.

The story is B movie simple. Professional "cooler" Dalton James (Patrick Swayze) is lured to clean up a rough-and-tumble dive in Jasper, Mo. In the process, he ticks off local business magnate Brad Wesley (Ben Gazzara, in full thug mode), the result being bar fights, fires, explosions and shootouts.

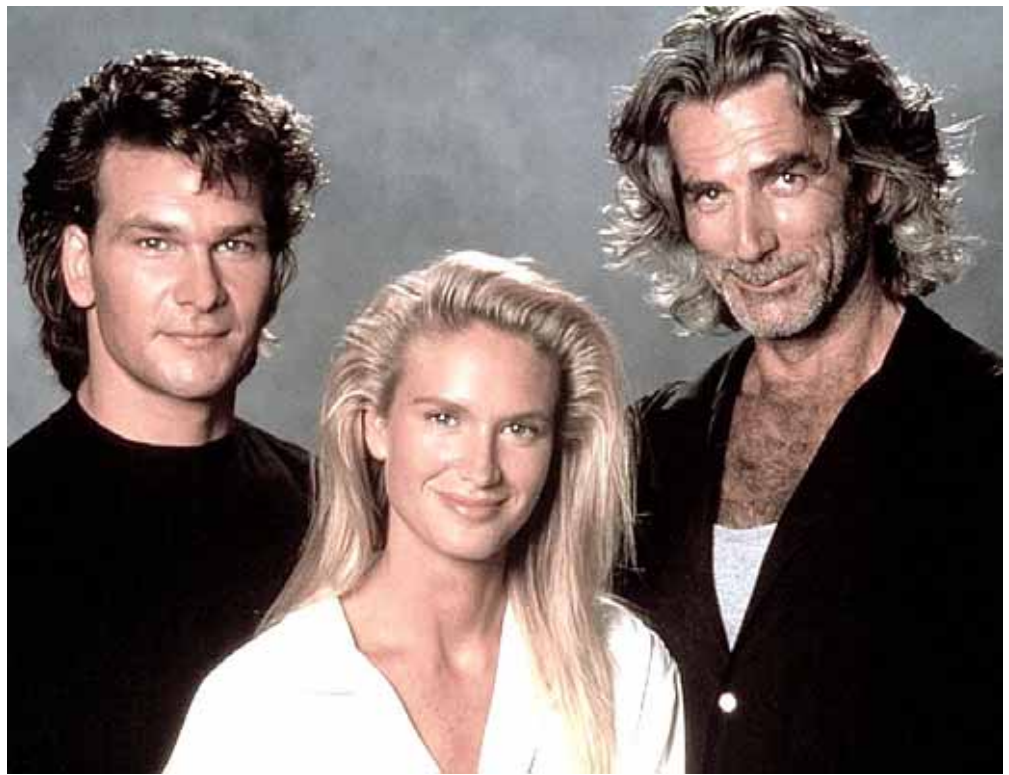
"Yellowstone" embraces the same turf, but makes it look classy by setting it in the world of the rich and powerful. "Road House," by comparison, is as rough around the edges as its characters. Where guys bark wisdom cribbed from bathroom stalls, and women behave as if

the feminist movement never existed. They wholeheartedly submit to being treated like trash because, ya know, everyone likes to have a good time.

On a basic level, watching Swayze whip the bar, and its scrappy employees, into shape is fun. Everyone loves to see losers get their acts together. And because this is the '80s, we know the bar has succeeded because it now has hot neon lights. And when legendary Marlboro Man Sam Elliott barrels into the picture, as Dalton's friend and mentor, we witness the actor in his middle-age prime. All swagger, that distinct growl of a voice matched by a glint in his eye that suggests he's having insane fun.

True, the '80s camp stamp is everywhere. The big hair. The insane amount of nudity, and not just from the ladies. Swayze appears deathly allergic to shirts, at one point revealing his bare butt to a female colleague who breathlessly marvels at it like she just viewed Michaelangelo's "David" sculpture for the first time. You also have Canadian guitarist Jeff Healey. And the "Miami Vice" clothes, which begs the question, why would costumer Marilyn Vance-Straker repeatedly dress Swayze in white, billowy shirts when he's constantly getting blood all over them? But I digress.

You have to laugh that Dalton isn't just a bouncer, but he majored in philosophy in college. *Yeah, right.* And Kelly Lynch is laughable as the love interest. When we first meet her character, we know she's a serious doctor because her hair is pulled back severely tight. But when it's date time with Dalton, she resembles one of those trashy teachers in a Van Halen video. At the end, when Dalton launches into



Patrick Swayze's co-stars include Kelly Lynch and Sam Elliott.

Rambo mode to take on Brad Wesley, the character violates his own "Be Nice" mantra and crosses the line into full-blown psycho. In fact, it was former "Daily Show" host Craig Kilborn who asked Swayze, "How would you describe your character in 'Road House': crazed redneck or enraged hillbilly?" Swayze wasn't offended. He just laughed.

I laughed a lot in "Road House." At the crude dialogue. At the way the movie seems to know it's trash, but isn't ashamed of it.

I wouldn't necessarily say I like "Road House"... but I get it. I get why it has endured. Somehow, all the crazy elements come together for a good time. Within the movie, and among the legion of fans beholden to it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Royal Fireworks

I was enjoying the CD I'd just purchased, for \$1, at our favorite thrift store in Stevensville, Mich., when the boldest of bold ideas smacked me in the forehead:

"You're listening to the 'Fireworks Suite' by Handel as you're passing the Harbert (Mich.) Antique Mall. So why don't you go on in and see if they have a vintage typewriter? You know — like a Royal or an Olivetti. You know you want one and, if we're being honest, buddy boy, you absolutely NEED one. To add to your growing collection."

That last bit surprised me, so I replied to myself, "Growing collection?!? Natalie would likely kill me if I bought another typewriter. What's wrong with the Remington Quiet-Riter I already have?"

I thought about it for a nano-second, then answered myself: "Nothing. Absolutely nothing. You've written reams of copy with that bad boy, even an autobiography. No, there's nothing wrong with the old 1950s vintage Quiet-Riter, but it might have to go for service, occasionally. And besides, Tom Hanks has quite the collection of old typewriters. So why shouldn't you? I mean, why shouldn't we?"

I asked myself, "Are you referring to that 2016 movie, 'California Typewriter'?"

"Indeed, we did," I told myself. "Well, now that you mention that film and Tom Hanks and his amazing typewriter collection. And recently deceased historian David McCullough and that beauty of a beast he did all his best writing on. Why, of course, we need another typewriter. No need, but **NEED!!!**"

So I took the three of us — me, myself and I — into the Harbert Antique Mall and walked the floor with an eye out for the prize.

Nada.

And then, when I was about to complete the circuit of stalls, my keen eyes caught a dazzling object in the corner of a booth full of bright baubles from yesteryear. It was none other than a well-preserved, 1935 Royal Deluxe typewriter.

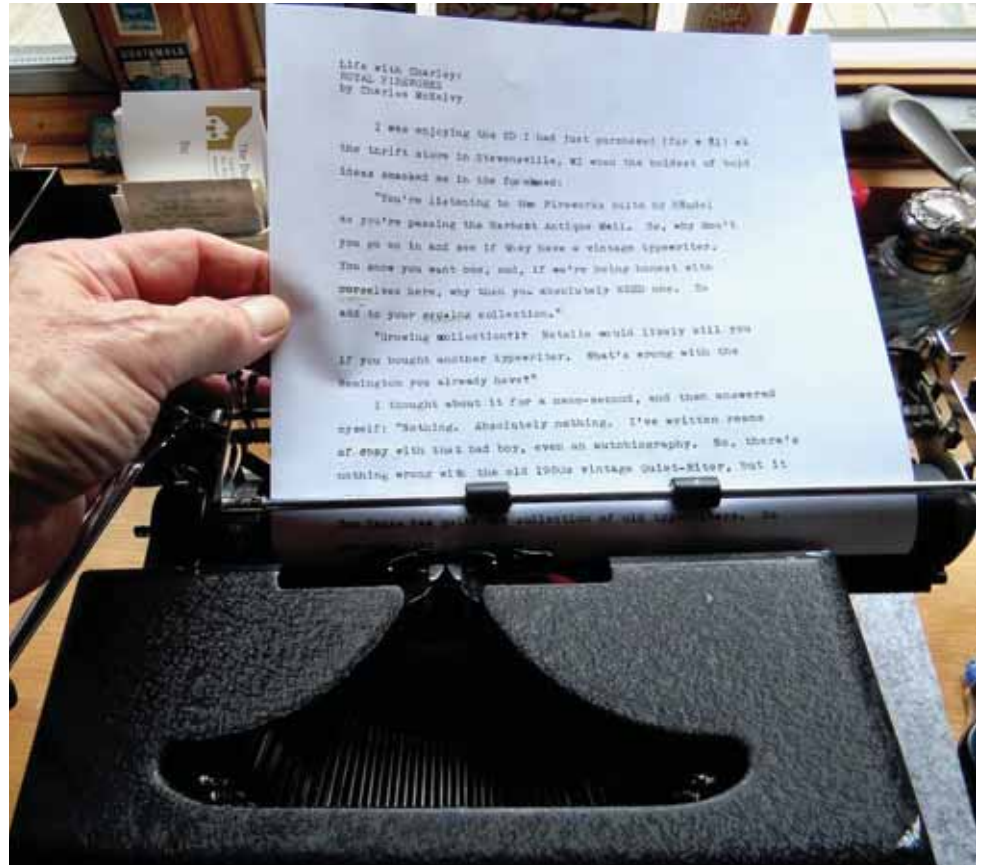
That's right. 1935.

"Nineteen-thirty-five," I whispered reverently. That year, you see, is when a New York Wall Street financial wunderkind and an Akron, Ohio, doctor met in the "tire city" to form what would be the way out for millions of alcoholics worldwide. Yes, I hap-

pen to be in that number. So, yes, 1935 was a welcome coincidence, and — for me, myself and I — a sure and certain sign I should grab the checkbook.

The mall staff had thoughtfully rolled a sheet of paper into the 88-year-old writing machine and left it standing for interested parties to have a go at it.

I had a go.



This just in!

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



And what a go it was. So much so that others took note, particularly a lovely woman behind the counter. She said she hadn't heard typing like that for many a year. It was music to her ears. I assured her that I had done more of my share of banging out copy for the *City News Bureau of Chicago* on a massive desk model.

I told the good woman I was a motivated buyer and was happy to pony up the suggested sales price (with tax) of \$131.44 within a week. Alas, Natalie hadn't let me loose with the checkbook, so I offered

to put some money down.

“Not necessary,” the good woman said. “We’ll set it aside for you for a week.”

“See you in a week,” I said, floating out the door.

Well, I wasn’t floating a short time later when I discussed my “find” with Natalie. She was less than thrilled with the prospect of parting with \$131.44. That was money we needed for, you know, little things like groceries, heat and taxes.

“You don’t need another typewriter,” Natalie insisted.

She was absolutely right, of course.

She had me there. I didn’t need a 1935 Royal Deluxe in questionable operating condition. And, I really couldn’t successfully argue the “want” part of the equation. So, I zipped my lips and listened to Natalie go on at some length about my continual obsession with collecting stuff. Stuff like fancy pens, and pipes (before the dentist told me to quit immediately) and, lately, swimsuits and goggles. Yes, and even the beginning of a creditable collection of big-time baseball gloves. One was too many and one hundred were not enough.

“You don’t need another typewriter, and you don’t really want another typewriter. So what gives?”

What gave up were my lips. They drooped.

Natalie softened immediately. (Hey, I haven’t been married to her for more than 45 years to not have picked up a heart-softening trick or two. And there was none more effective than the old drooping-lips trick.)

Natalie first fired up the computer and checked out what people were asking for 1935 Royal Deluxe typewriters. “Five hundred dollars and up,” Natalie said. “In some cases, even higher, depending on the condition.”

Then, without another word, Natalie handed me the checkbook and said, “Go. Buy the typewriter of your dreams today. It’s clear you want it, and we can afford it.”

“You sure?”

“I’m sure. Go and buy this typewriter from 1935 that actually appears to be something of a bargain.”

So, of course, I did.

I brought that little black beauty home and demonstrated to my dear wife that it truly was an amazing machine from long, long ago. From the year when two hopeless alcoholics found a way out, in Akron, Ohio, of all places.

We seek progress, not perfection, however, and the old Royal came home with a few defects, chief of which was a balky shift key.

I was happy to dub the typewriter the “ee cummings machine” for the poet who famously refused to use the upper case in his poems.

Natalie had a better plan: “Call Jim (Roe) at Independent Copier, and have him give it a good going-over. Jim will make it good as new, in no time flat, and you’ll be a really happy camper. He worked



The little Royal Deluxe is awakening to a new desk and an old reporter/writer who is delighted to tickle her keys for years to come.

wonders with your Remington Quiet-Riter, so, of course, he’ll do the same with this guy.”

And Jim Roe did, and then some.

When I took delivery of my made-over machine on a recent Sunday afternoon, Jim said, “You’ve got a real gem on your hands. It just needed some cleaning and lubricating, and the best way to keep it in working order is to type away on it, as often as you can.”

So, as we speak, I’m doing just that. That, of course, being to type the first draft of this article on my gift to myself.

What a gift!

What a typewriter.

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Sustainability Celebration

The two-part event “Toward Sustainability,” which includes a “House of Tomorrow” tour and panel discussion at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is Saturday, April 22.

The free program, hosted by House Painter Media and sponsored by Lakeshore Public Media, explores the impact of George Fred Keck’s “House of Tomorrow” on the discipline of sustainable home design, as well as the future of the field.

Tours of the Beverly Shores home, done in groups of 20, are at 15-minute intervals. Times are 2:30, 2:45, 3 and 3:15 p.m. The panel discussion, “Houses of Tomorrow: Sustainable Design Today,” is from 4-6 p.m. at LCA. Small breakout sessions will explore modern and prospective sustainable design practices with respect for the area’s history and cultures. Panelists include: Nancy Moldenhauer, Michigan City Sustainability Commission; Todd Zeiger, director of the Northern Regional Office at Indiana Landmarks; Nathan Kipnis, principal of Kipnis Architecture + Planning; Alicia Ponce, founder and principal at AP Monarch; and Dan Robinson, Indiana Program Associate for Solar United Neighbors.

A cash bar and door prizes are planned.

Due to scheduling necessities, register for each portion of the event separately at www.housepaintermedia.com/sustainablehouses.

The program is supported by a Historic Preservation Education grant from Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

River Valley Garden Club

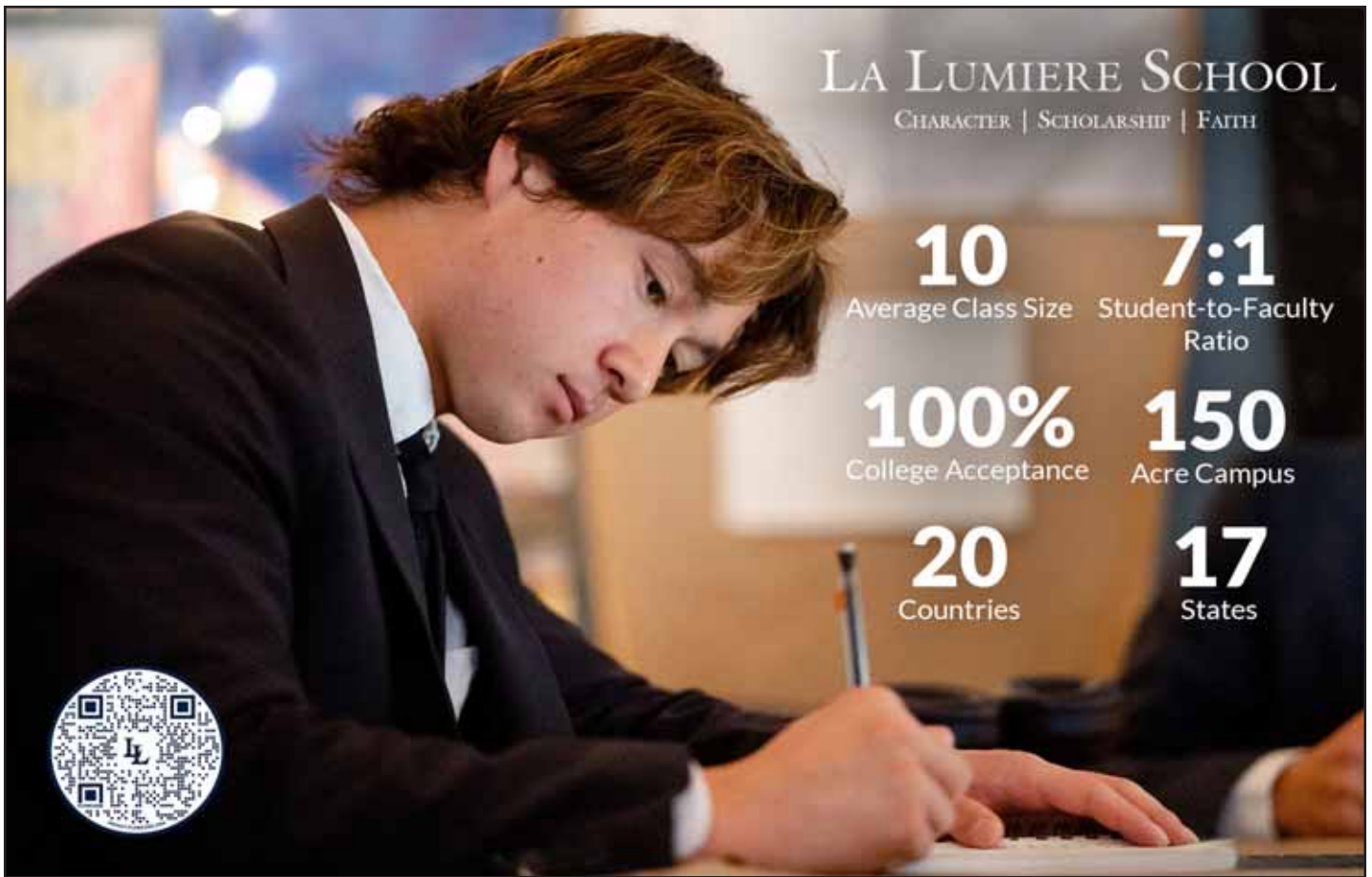
Making lawns more environmentally friendly marks the next River Valley Garden Club meeting at 1 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 18, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The speaker is Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Her expertise is in planning and facilitating recreation areas ecologically responsible in Southwest Michigan.

Also planned is discussion on starting new plants for the annual garden club plant sale May 20.


Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513, email evpalulis@yahoo.com or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org 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. 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 is 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 close while work is done.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 13.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Glow Stick Dance Party! (all ages) from 3-5 p.m. Friday, April 14.** Children can dance by the light of glow sticks (6 and younger must come with an adult). No registration is needed.
- **Spring Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Monday, April 17.** Listen to and share inspiring stories.
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling at 4 p.m. Monday, April 17, in the Makerspace.** Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 9-17, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.
- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18.** Designed as a way to unwind and

create, the library provides the paint, canvas and pompoms. An award goes to the piece voted Worst Art. No registration is required.

- **Write Now! (ages 10-17) from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 19.** Children can learn how to create characters, build a setting and set up a plot, as well as work with each another to craft tales. No registration is needed.
- **Toy Story Scavenger Hunt through April.** Find Woody, Buzz, Jessie and Mr. Potato Head in Youth Services. Clues are listed below each picture. Receive a prize for finding them all.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays in April.** Membership 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 April.** 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.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace. Supplies are limited.
- **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.



Volunteer genealogists can answer questions from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays (Pat Harris) and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month (Colleen Miltenberger).

(Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.)





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Meet Julie McGue

Area of Residence: Duneland Beach.

Title: columnist.

Years with *The Beacher*: Since July 2018.

What I love about my job: Figuring out the right topic/story for *The Beacher* audience, and how to craft it so that it is attention grabbing, thought provoking and induces conversation with family, friends and neighbors.



Favorite movies: “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” “The Sting,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Goodfellas,” “Tombstone,” “Top Gun,” “Sophie’s Choice,” “Pulp Fiction,” “12 Angry Men,” “Singin’ in the Rain.”

Favorite books/authors: Joan Didion, “The Year of Magical Thinking,” “Daisy Jones & The Six” by Taylor Jenkins Reid, “Inheritance” by Dani Shapiro, “The Dutch House” by Ann Patchett, “This Boy’s Life” by Tobias Wolff, anything by Elizabeth Strout, Lisa Wingate, Jody Picoult, and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” series by Stieg Larsson.

Favorite music: Adele, Luke Combs, Chris Young, Lady A, Miranda Lambert, Rascal Flatts.

Favorite TV shows: “The Voice,” “Chicago Med/PD/Fire.”

What I’m watching now: “Ted Lasso,”



“The Queen’s Gambit,” “Yellowstone,” “1923.”

Favorite food: Caesar salad with salmon, French fries.

Favorite sports team: Chicago Cubs.

Reason I love living in this area: Lake Michigan, her beaches and the sunsets.

THE
Beacher

The People
Paper

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday April 13.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll while observing the vast array of bird life in the park. Meet at the parking lot north of U.S. 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, April 15, 22 and 29.** Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. The Chellberg Farm parking lot is located at 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.
- **Hike With Your Hound from 9 a.m.-noon Sunday, April 16, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** Join a ranger for a leisurely hike through the beech maple forest at Chellberg Farm. Dogs must be on leashes. Take dog waste bags.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in April at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Paul H. Douglas Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturdays in April.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in April at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.



Indiana Dunes National Park has jobs for five teens this summer through Youth Conservation Corps, a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds.

The deadline to apply is April 30. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 4-Aug. 12, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire duration. Youth jobs

include working as part of a crew on manual-labor tasks, normally outdoors. Labor-type activities may include mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning restrooms, groundskeeping, weeding a historic farm garden and light trail maintenance. No experience is necessary. Participants will be selected by random draw. Participants must be U.S. citizens and 15 years old before June 4, but not turn 19 before Aug. 12. The application is available through high school guidance offices, the IDNP office at (219) 395-1772 or at <http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm>

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **G'Day Mate at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15.** Meet a naturalist in the Nature Center Auditorium to discover ways animals find/attract mates.
- **Who's Scat is That? at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 15.** Join a naturalist for the educational program in the Nature Center Auditorium.
- **Beach Birding Walk at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 16.** Meet a naturalist at the west side of the beach pavilion for a one-mile trek to the Bird Viewing Tower. The goal is to not only search for different bird species, but also learn about bird-migration data being collected there.
- **Critter Dinner at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 16.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.
- **Garlic Mustard Pulling Party from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 19.** Part of National Volunteer Week, join other volunteers to remove invasive garlic mustard. Long pants and garden gloves are recommended. The Friends of Indiana Dunes provides snacks and water.

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



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Free Kids' Fun Day



Children make a craft at St. Luke's "Kids' Fun Day" in January.

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host a free "Kids' Fun Day" from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 15.

Children ages 5-11 can participate in games, crafts, stories and a snack. The theme, similar to St. Luke's vacation Bible school, is "Finding Gold." Children will make a "Modeling Magic" craft.

Parents can drop off children and return at 10:30 a.m. to have breakfast before the 11 a.m. pickup. Register by visiting www.stlukeunitedlutheran.org or calling (219) 879-9415.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will visit Warren Woods State Park, Three Oaks, Mich., at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 15.

Warren Woods is known for old-growth stands of Maple, Beech and Tulip Poplar. Many trails offer a view of flood plains and bluffs with wildflowers. The hike, according to Pat Fisher, HCH president and hike leader, will follow the Galien River, and visit seldom-used sections of the park.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is invited. Attendees should dress for the weather, be prepared for muddy spots along the trail and take plenty of water. The hike is about 2.5 miles and lasts two hours. It is rated moderately physically difficult.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the Facebook page, Harbor Country Hikers, for more details.

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"Joy"ful Heart Challenge

Joy Elementary School's principal and three staff members delivered on a big challenge March 31, taking pies in the face from top students in an American Heart Association fundraiser.



First-grader Aleena Eckman "pies" Principal Jason Hopper as Instructional Assistant Shelly Malott (dressed in a bunny suit) looks on.

Principal Jason Hopper, teachers Julia Krisiak and Paige Roadruck and Instructional Assistant Shelly Malott were all "pied" to reward students for raising \$4,807.46 through the "Kids Heart Challenge" program. The students exceeded their initial goal by more than \$1,300.

The top fundraisers (who served as official pietossers) included:

1. Bobby Cabinaw (\$607.26).
2. Aleena Eckman (\$513.11).
3. Joshua Wadley (\$300.93).
4. Zoie LaTourette (\$278.78).
5. Ava Carabine (\$264.79).

"Kids Heart Challenge" also provides activities to help students discover ways to take care of their hearts and brains, while also practicing kindness and gratitude, and learning ways to de-stress.

"This is the best year for this program in my entire teaching career," Krisiak, the physical education teacher, told students during an assembly. "We have so much to celebrate!"

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In the Area

April 13 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 14 — Glow Stick Dance Party! (all ages), 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 14 — Author Visit: Helen Frost, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 14-16 — Holdcraft Players, "I Regret Nothing," Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Times: 7 p.m. April 14-15 & 21-22, 3 p.m. April 16 and 23. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/ students. Reservations: www.yptcinc.com/tickets

April 15 — Free "Kids' Fun Day," 9-11 a.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Registration: www.stlukeunitedlutheran.org, (219) 879-9415.

April 16 — Annual Spring Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

April 16 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival (violinist Jameson Cooper/pianist Ketevan Badridze), 7 p.m., St. Mary's The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St. Free. Info: www.mccmf.org, (219) 561-1939.

April 17 — Spring Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 17 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

April 17 — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.lapor-telibrary.org

April 17 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 18 — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 19 — Write Now! (ages 10-17), 4-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through April — Exhibits: "Works by Lydia Lemmons" & "Celebrating Our Depot," The Beverly

Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays/11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays. Info: www.bsdepot.com

Through June 30 — Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz, Dr. John Wilhelm, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 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.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner dance lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver dance lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. Starting Feb. 7: \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in April — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

In the Region

April 13 — Bird Walk & Talk, 9-10:30 a.m., parking lot north of U.S. 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

April 13 — 15th Annual Buchanan Chili Walk, 5-7 p.m. EDT, downtown Buchanan, Mich.

April 14 — The Arcadian Wild, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 14-16 — "A Year with Frog and Toad," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (all Eastern): 7:30 p.m. April 14-15, 3 p.m. April 16. Tickets: adults/\$25, students/\$19, seniors (62+)/\$23. Reservations: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/hoppy, (574) 848-4116.

April 15 — G'Day Mate, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 15 — Who's Scat is That?, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 15 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EDT, Warren Woods State Park, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

April 15 — Independent singer-songwriter Abbie Thomas, 7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$15/cabaret

seating & at door, \$12/general admission. Info/reservations: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>

April 15 — Bruce Katz Band with Resurrection Blues Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 15-June 4 — Andy Sweet's "South Beach," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Preview reception: 6-8 p.m. EDT April 14. Info: www.krasl.org/andy-sweets-south-beach

April 16 — Beach Birding Walk, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 16 — Hike With Your Hound, 9 a.m.-noon, Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 1220, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 16 — Critter Dinner, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 16 — The School of American Music free family concert (North American Brass Company), 3 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Reservations: www.SchoolofAmericanMusic.com. Info: (269) 409-1191.

April 16 — Bruce in The USA, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$55 + \$7.50 convenience fee, \$80 + \$7.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 18 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: evpalulis@yahoo.com, (269) 426-3513, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

April 18 — Program, "The Golfmore Hotel," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 19 — Garlic Mustard Pulling Party, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Through April 16 — Exhibit, artist-poet-artificial intelligence researcher Sasha Stiles, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

Through April 28 — Two exhibits, "Fiber Art '23" & CAC Youth Art Exhibition, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through April 30 — 2023 Community Student Art Exhibitions, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Reception: middle-, high-school/ 6-8 p.m. EDT April 20. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Through May 29 — "Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present," 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: \$11 - adults, \$9.50 - seniors 60+, \$7

- youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, www.studebakermuseum.org

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Saturdays in April — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9 a.m.-noon, Chellberg Farm parking lot, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in April — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in April — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, visit www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* "Air." Rated R. Times: 4 p.m. April 13, 7 p.m. April 14, 4 p.m. April 15, 7 p.m. April 16. *Also:* "Paint." Rated PG-13. Times: 7 p.m. April 13, 4 p.m. April 14, 7 p.m. April 15, 4 p.m. April 16. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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| 169 |
| 153 |

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- | |
|------------|
| 5-10 |
| 3-10, 5-10 |
| 2-7-8 |
| 5-7 |
| 2-7 |
| 7-8-10 |

THREE STRIKES

Deb Frederick, Ellyn Lynch

House on Fire by Joseph Finder (retail in hardcover \$28, or paperback \$9.99 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 368 pages.)

“Family...It’s a powerful thing, isn’t it? End of the day, it’s what holds us together.”

In this latest entry of the Nick Heller series, that statement helps examine the Kimball family and its very interesting members. There’s a father and his five children. There were several wives — all gone now — but don’t feel sad because Conrad Kimball is filthy rich and can pick up a woman whenever he wants. In fact, right now, he’s engaged to a former Russian model some 40 years younger than him. Yeah, must be true love...

Do family ties win out over ambition? Or does ambition push everything aside except the final prize of riches and power? Love and hate travel a very fine line, don’t they? You’re about to find out.

Conrad is a driven, self-made billionaire who started Kimball Pharmaceuticals. Not too long ago, the company was floundering until it came up with Oxydone, a new pain reliever — make that opioid — that has made the company billions.

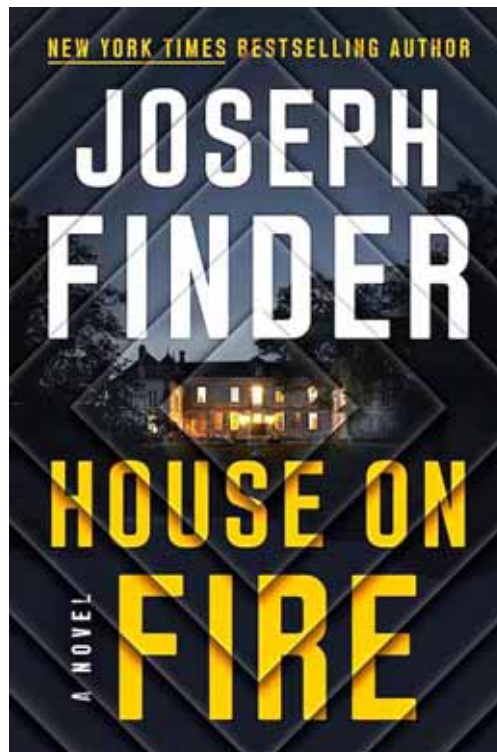
Now, there are stories that this miracle drug is very addictive, an alarming number of deaths connected to it. With the opioid affliction sweeping the country, Oxydone is at the heart of the battle for more control of these dangerous drugs.

Heller is former Army turned private investigator. A close friend, and former Army buddy, recently died after an Oxydone overdose. At his funeral, a woman approaches Heller and wants to hire him. She says clinical trials showing the danger of Oxydone were done by CROs — Contract Research Organizations — and hidden away. Can’t let that kind of information get out.

How does she know this? Because she’s Susan Kimball, daughter of said Conrad Kimball, with her own company producing documentaries. Does she realize this finding could put Kimball Pharmaceuticals out of business and her dad in jail? Of course. Wow. Not to mention it would make a heck of a documentary.

She tells Heller she visits the funerals of each Oxydone victim to make known the harm her family’s drug has caused.

Susan wants Heller to break into her father’s office at home and find the hidden trial discoveries



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



that will seal his fate. She knows he would keep them close. She invites him to a family gathering, and Heller is shocked to find an old lover and Pentagon employee, Maggie Benson, as guest to Susan’s brother Cameron. Only she’s calling herself Hildy.

She won’t tell Heller what she is doing there, and by morning, it doesn’t matter. Maggie is found dead outside the house.

Now, the hunt for the papers becomes personal to Heller. What did Maggie get herself into? Were they both looking for the same thing?

This is where Finder’s writing skills shine: What starts out as a paper chase morphs into a murder investigation and a need to make the deaths of Maggie and Heller’s Army buddy a personal mission. Yes, the rich and famous are different, as Kimball’s family soon proves. But there’s too many unanswered questions. And why has Susan suddenly decided not to pursue the paperwork and fires Heller?

Then there’s Heller’s attraction to Susan, which is soon reciprocated, adding to his problems:

“She had originally been a client, then a lover; what was she now?”

Or, is he now on his own, questioning whether she has told him all he needs to know.

Finder’s story picks up the pace, building page by page as smooth as grandma’s cheesecake.

The story follows the current headlines about the opioid crisis, with twists and turns that make it even more intense. Heller certainly is one of the good guys, but what den of wolves has he gotten himself involved with? There’s a ton of money involved here, with lives as well as reputations on the line.

Trust me, you can’t go wrong with a Joseph Finder novel. He is the award-winning author of 15 novels, two of which were made into movies: “Paranoia” and “High Crimes.”

Till next time, happy reading!

Correction

In last week’s *Beacher*, I reviewed *Harpie* by Ron Richie. In several instances, his last name was written as Ritchie. I apology to Ron and our readers for the mistake.

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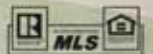


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