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by Andrew Tallackson

Opening Her Heart and Home

Heidi West holds the 4-month-old S'mores, her latest foster through Lakeshore PAWS, at her home. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

With everyone hunkered down in self-isolation, the COVID-19 pandemic in its relative infancy, Heidi West received a plea for help.

It was May 2020. A female German Shepherd, part of a puppy mill, arrived at the Emergency Veterinary Care Centers at Purdue University Northwest. She was in distress, delivering 11 puppies by caesarean section, but not surviving the process.

Heidi, who fosters dogs through the non-profit animal-rescue organization Lakeshore PAWS, Valparaiso, received a call about taking some of the pups. She welcomed two into her home. Being in their infancy required care beyond what West typi-

cally provides.

"I had to bottle feed them. It was crazy. I was setting the alarm at 2 in the morning to do so," she recalled. "But getting to watch them grow, that was the thing. I was home. We even had the Pack 'N Play in the living room so it was like having babies with you.

"Just to know we helped keep them alive, they were teeny-tiny, but now, they are these beautiful German Shepherds."

Heidi wouldn't have had it any other way. Now in her 11th year as a Lakeshore PAWS foster volunteer,

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Opening Her Heart and Home

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she is part of a group — begun only one year prior to her becoming involved — created by two business women and animal lovers. Concerned by what they saw as growing numbers of homeless animals, they set out to find caring places for them.

Funded entirely by private donations, the organization, as evident on its website, wears its heart on its sleeves. *“For every foster that opens their heart and home to a pet, that is another pet saved from suffering,”* it states. *“A foster parent takes in the pet as their own: they love the pet, help the pet adapt to a new home and take care of all their daily needs.”*

Lakeshore, however, does not expect foster caregivers to pay the subsequent costs. It provides all supplies (food, crates, beds) and covers all medical

expenses. The foster volunteer also talks to those considering adopting the pet, shedding light on the animal’s temperament or personality.

Lakeshore’s website states it averages nearly 99 percent positive outcomes for dogs. In 2021, for instance, 631 dogs arrived at the facility, 4611 Evans Ave., with 595 adopted. Euthanasia is only considered, according to the website, *“when a pet demonstrates behavioral concerns that pose a threat to people or other animals, or when they face significant quality-of-life concerns.”*

In terms of foster volunteers, you couldn’t ask for a better example than Heidi.

The daughter of Beth Tonsoni and retired family practice physician Sam West, Heidi grew up at Stop 32 in Duneland Beach. She attended the former Long Beach School, then Krueger Middle School and in 1996 graduated from Michigan City High School, which had consolidated Elston and Rogers high schools.



In the left photo, Heidi had to bottle feed the German Shepherd pups she fostered during the early days of COVID-19. In the right photo, Heidi and her daughter, Molly, are photographed with the dogs, now older and doing much better. Provided photos.

Graduating with a degree in secondary education from Indiana University-Bloomington, she moved around a bit for a few years before teaching English for 17 years at Portage High School. She was part of what's called the "looping program," remaining with the same at-risk students for ninth and 10th grades.

"I'm most proud of that," she said. "We kept those students for two years, and it's amazing to see the growth they show over those two years. It's a very rewarding situation. Challenging, but rewarding."

Having taught for 22 years, she's switched gears, having just begun her new post as assistant principal at New Prairie Middle School. Her eldest daughter, Kate, is headed to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her son, Sam, will be a LaPorte High School sophomore and her daughter, Molly, will be a Kesling Middle School seventh-grader.



Sam and Molly pose with Strike, one of the family's pets and a former Lakeshore PAWS foster. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

Heidi has always loved animals. Her father, in fact, is a passionate animal lover. Growing up, she had dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs and a chinchilla, named Scout, as pets. When she left for college, Scout became the classroom pet for her aunt, Meg Kanyer, then a Joy Elementary School teacher.

"I was just always drawn to animals," she said. "I've enjoyed taking care of them, and that companionship. And dogs, I've always loved dogs all my life."

Continued on Page 4

Join us for Fika Time! Saturday August 5



Award Winning Author Jonni Hegenderfer, long time resident of Grand Beach, will be signing her Swedish Family Cookbook and sample some of her recipes.

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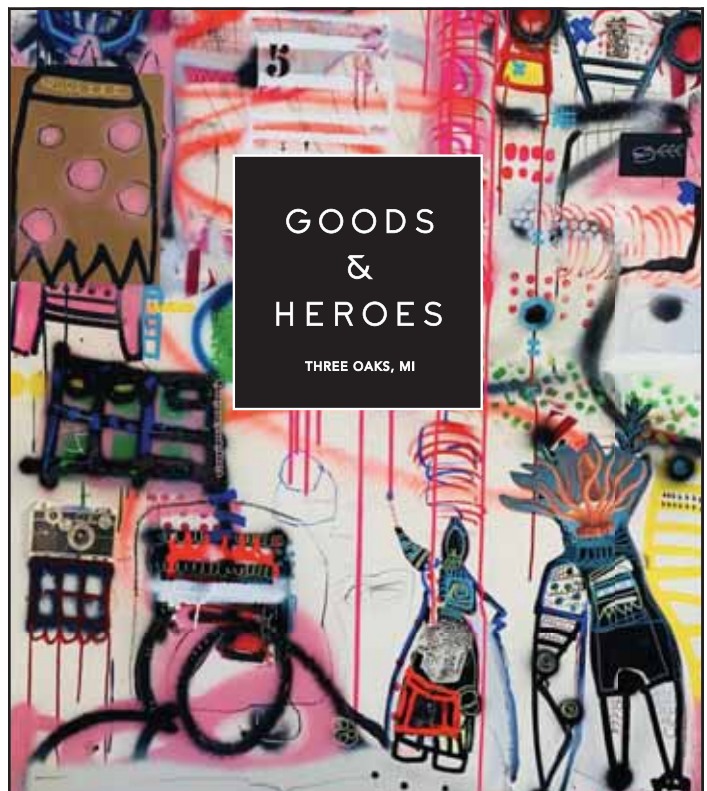
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Opening Her Heart and Home

Continued from Page 3

Readers of *The Beacher* also are well-acquainted with Heidi and her longtime pals — best friends since fifth grade — who are photographed together every summer, right before Long Beach's annual July 4th festivities.

Since becoming a Lakeshore PAWS volunteer, Heidi estimates she has fostered 275 dogs. She learned about it through her teaching partner at Portage High School. Having three young children in 2012, she realized this was something she could handle, starting slow and gradually caring for more than one animal.

Her first “foster” was a small black Labrador Retriever mix named Buddy.

“Everyone who knew me thought I would keep him,” she said, “but I started slow. I fostered one or two puppies at a time, but then, once I started to do litters, what I primarily do now is medical fosters, moms and puppies.”

Heidi appreciates that Lakeshore PAWS takes care of the animal's many necessities.

“There is no expense to the person fostering at all,” she said. “Just your time and your love.”

She added that Lakeshore PAWS does not pressure volunteers into accepting animals, or animals of which the volunteer is not comfortable.

“They will call and say, ‘This is coming in. Can you take this dog, or this litter, or this mom?’ It's a low-pressure situation. You can say no.

“You have to have a special place to do this,” she continued. “You have to have a good setup that's best for the mom and her puppies. I have a foster room in my basement dedicated to moms and their puppies. I have my own dogs and keep them separate.”

Four of her own dogs, to be precise. All mutts, all welcomed into her home through the Lakeshore PAWS experience. They range in age from 7 to 2. The 4-year-old Strike, for instance, she calls him the equivalent of the “fun uncle” to all the foster pups.

“He loves the puppies more than anything. He lets them crawl on him,” she says, laughing. “It's helpful to have the dogs. The moms can get the puppies socialized. That makes them more adoptable.”

Lakeshore PAWS is responsible for finding homes

for the dogs. Its success rate, as mentioned earlier, is exceedingly high. Word of mouth and especially social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, play roles in connecting pets with owners.

Is it tough for Heidi to say farewell to pets who've found their “forever home”?

“There have been dogs over time that I cried about and had a really hard time letting go,” she admits. “A couple have been adopted by me. My dad adopted one I adored, and he lived a wonderful life. He was a senior dog who had been in a shelter for nine months.

“There is an emotional pull for me, but I tell myself, I am helping them get to a place where they need to be. It is difficult sometimes, but I keep focused that you're helping them find the right spot.”

Heidi says her children have been helpful over the years, particularly in providing love and attention. “Snuggles,” especially.

Molly, for example, takes pictures of the foster dogs for Lakeshore PAWS to use when finding homes for them. She also helps when the dogs need baths or their nails clipped.

“It's a lot of fun,” she said. “It's fun to be surprised



Heidi, Sam and Molly are photographed with their goats, Franny and Cisco. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

by, like, who's coming next.”

Sam feels the same way, although he admits it is tough to say goodbye when the dogs find new homes.

“It is really fun, but it kinda sucks when you lose them. That's one of the worst parts of it,” he said. “But, it's been so much fun to grow up around dogs. Like, there's never *not* been dogs around me, or some type of pet.”

Sam says he helps with care outside. Like making sure the goat pen is cleared of weeds. He also helps



Molly is photographed with Iris, a rabbit they adopted from Michiana Humane Society. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

feed and provide water for the goats and chicken. Some pets require more care than usual. Heidi fostered one dog with a leg amputation. Another dog was pregnant, requiring setting up a nesting box. Resulting litters can be anywhere from 6-8 pups to 9-10.

Honestly, though, Heidi does not tire of the experience. It is the endgame for her, the homes found for these animals, that explains why she does it.

“Sometimes, you need a break, but then I start to get that itch, like, we need to get puppies here,” she says. “It’s a way to give back, and selfishly indulge in my love of animals. There are some sad situations, but then you get to see those dogs who get adopted by people who love them so much.

“Just knowing they are in a good home makes you feel good. The puppy snuggles don’t hurt. I really enjoy a good puppy snuggle.”

(More information about Lakeshore PAWS is available at <https://lakeshorepaws.org/>)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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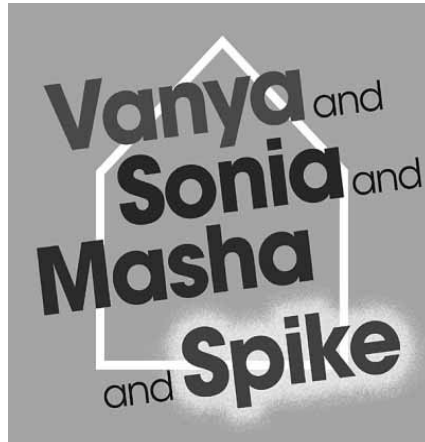
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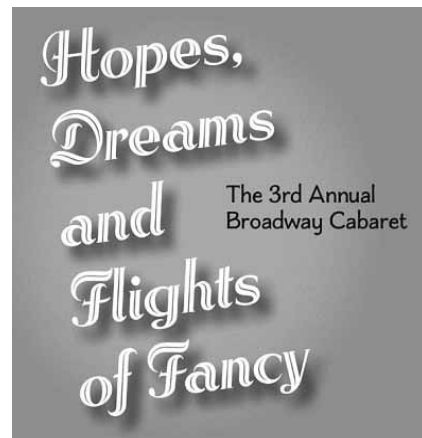
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“They Cloned Tyrone” Takes Social Satire to Wild Extremes

by Andrew Tallackson

Instant cult status time.

“They Cloned Tyrone,” at press time Netflix’s No. 1 film, takes one bonkers ride through the decades. It has the social satire of 21st century Jordan Peele (“Get Out”). The raw dialogue of ’90s Tarantino. The “Stranger Things” vibe of ’80s sci-fi. And the clothes, cars and setting of ’70s blaxploitation, with Kubrick’s “A Clockwork Orange” tossed in for good measure.

Juel Taylor’s directorial debut should be a colossal hot mess. But Taylor, working from a script he co-wrote with Tony Rettenmaier, knows what he’s doing. Every distinctive element exists for a reason, and when we figure it all out, this goofy movie has more to say about race today than any Oscar bait.

Set in the present, in a neighborhood called the Glen, the movie unites three archetypes from ’70s blaxploitation. The drug dealer (“Star Wars” veteran John Boyega), the pimp (Oscar-winner Jamie Foxx) and the prostitute (new Marvel regular Teyonah Parris). When Boyega’s Fontaine is gunned down, but wakes up the next morning with nary a scratch, and with half the neighborhood shocked he’s still alive, he realizes a conspiracy is afoot. So, he turns to Foxx’s Slick Charles and Parris’ Yo-Yo for help.

Boyega, Foxx and Parris make a great team, trading barbs like pros and feeding off each other so effortlessly, they fuel much of the laughs in “They Cloned Tyrone.” The dialogue is so outrageous, I found myself laughing, pausing and rewinding to catch it again.

The conspiracy uncovered not only has to do with shady government cloning, but also mind control through products — food, music, hair care products — targeted at black culture. And it is here the message of “They Cloned Tyrone” emerges, that by



Teyonah Parris (from left), Jamie Foxx and John Boyega star in Netflix’s “They Cloned Tyrone.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“They Cloned Tyrone”

Running time: 122 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for pervasive language, violence, some sexual material and drug use

trapping black society in dated stereotypes, white society maintains control.

Stinging social satire, indeed. My only quibble, and it’s likely a sign of getting older, is that the language is excessively foul. At times, an ear-shattering assault. One day, when Taylor rewatches his debut after years have passed, he’ll realize the biggest laughs come from the outrageous exchanges. Not by how many times people drop the F bomb.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com





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Great Lakes Grand Prix Schedule

2022 Beacher file photo by James Conlin



The 14th annual XInsurance Great Lakes Grand Prix runs Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 2-6, in the Uptown Arts District and Washington Park.

The schedule is:

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2

- Noon – Golf Outing at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course. Registration is at 11 a.m. The cost is \$400 per foursome and \$100 per hole sponsor. All drinks, lunch and prizes are included. The after party is at Creekside Bar and Grill. Contact Katie@michigancitylaporte.com for more details.

THURSDAY, AUG. 3

- 5:30 p.m. — Ribbon Cutting at Sunset Grille.
- 6-8 p.m. — VIP party at Sunset Grille.
- 6-9 p.m. — RockDogs at Sunset Grille/Pavilion Stage.
- 7-11 p.m. — Aftermath plays classic rock and country at Washington Park beach.

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

- Noon-10 p.m. — Food court open.
- 5-8 p.m. — Shop•Sip•Support Local, downtown Michigan City.
- 6-10 p.m. — Race team welcome party at Washington Park beach.

- 7-11 p.m. — Nawty plays Motown hits and other music at Washington Park beach.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. — Four A's Vintage Car Show.
- 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. — Free parking/shuttle service at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets north lot, 601 Wabash St.
- 9 a.m.-10 p.m. — Food court open
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. — VIP tent open at Washington Park boardwalk. Also, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: brunch served.
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Time trials.
- 11 a.m. — National Anthem.
- Noon-10 p.m. — XINSURANCE Block Party in downtown Michigan City.
- 6-8 p.m. — XINSURANCE Boat Parade on North Franklin Street.
- 7-11 p.m. — Point'n Fingers playing classic rock at Washington Park beach.

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. — Free parking/shuttle service at Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets north lot, 601 Wabash St.
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Food court open.
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. — VIP tent open at Washington Park boardwalk. Also, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: brunch served.
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Boat racing.
- 11 a.m. — National Anthem.
- 4 p.m. — Kasim Whiting Duo playing at Sunset Grille rooftop.



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Canterbury Summer Theatre Closes Season With "Scotland Road"

Canterbury Summer Theatre concludes its 2023 season with the mystery-thriller "Scotland Road" on Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 3-5, at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

The play is written by Jeffrey Hatcher, a veteran playwright-screenwriter whose other works include "The Turn of the Screw" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," both of which Canterbury produced in previous seasons.

In the last decade of the 20th century, a young woman in 19th-century clothing is found floating on an iceberg in the middle of the North Atlantic. When rescued, she says only one word: Titanic.

The woman is taken to an isolated spot on the coast of Maine, where an expert on the sinking, a mysterious man named John, has arranged to interrogate her for six days. His goal: crack her story, get her to confess she's a fake and reveal her true identity. His one clue: her enigmatic references to an unknown place called "Scotland Road."

The show is recommended for audiences high



Blaine Fultz, Sarah Noelle Foster and Riley Burns star in "Scotland Road."

school age or older.

The cast features Blaine Fultz as John, Sarah Noelle Foster as Halbrech, Riley Burns as The Woman and Lauren Holland as Frances Kittle.

The play is directed by Canterbury Artistic Director Ray Scott Crawford and is produced in association with Bossier Parish Community College, where he heads the theater program. The production will premiere at Canterbury and continue a performance run in Louisiana. Rona Leber is the costume designer, David White the technical director/designer, with Jim Boyter as props master. Johnathon Houghes is the stage manager, with Brody Hines serving as assistant stage manager.


Performances are at 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors (62 and older) and

\$10 for students and military. Make reservations by calling (219) 874-4269 or e-mail info@canterburytheatre.org

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Chesterton Art Center to Present 64th Annual Chesterton Art Fair

Typically drawing nearly 4,000 people from across the Midwest, the 64th annual Chesterton Art Fair returns on Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 5-6, at Dogwood Park, 1504 S. 23rd St., Chesterton.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Booths feature more than 80 artists displaying a variety of media, including painting, glass, wood, leather, sculpture and jewelry.

Entertainment begins at 10 a.m. each morning. Saturday, Aug. 5, includes Patti Shaffner, Billy Foster and Marco Villareal. Sunday, Aug. 7, includes Alexis Bratsakis, Jeff Abbott, Leann Stutler and Captain Ambivalent.

Food vendors include Ben's Soft Pretzels, Dog Days Ice Cream Parlor, Tacos My Fren, The Cheesy Food Truck and sweet treats from St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church.

Tickets are \$5 per person, while children 12 and younger are free. They can be purchased at www.chestertonart.org or at the gate.

Proceeds support Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., a non-profit arts organization providing



educational and outreach programs, a calendar of exhibits that showcase local and regional artists, and various community events and partnerships.

Visit www.chestertonart.org for a complete schedule of events and more details.



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Salvation Army Plans Light the Path Dinner & Auction

The Salvation Army will host “Light the Path Dinner & Auction” to support Pathway of Hope, its case-management program, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St.

Pathway of Hope aims to break the cycle of generational poverty.

“We work closely, one-on-one with families who are ready to make a change within the family unit, and are ready to become more self-sufficient,” said Maj. Rebecca Simmons, who oversees The Salvation Army with her husband, Maj. Dale Simmons. “Through Pathway of Hope, our social worker can provide resources to help meet educational goals or mental-health needs, find employment and child care or obtain housing.”

Individual tickets, which cost \$50, are available at www.salarmy.us/lightthepath, with sponsorship packages starting at \$150. Dinner will be served, with a cash bar available. Carnessa the Poetess is set to perform spoken-word poetry. Live and silent auctions are planned.

In addition to Pathway of Hope, The Salvation Army of Michigan City offers a food pantry, utility



Betsy Kohn of Michigan City Area Schools participates in last year's auction.

assistance, diaper bank, weekend backpack feeding program, summer camp, youth programs, holiday assistance and spiritual care.

More information about the fundraiser or Salvation Army services are available by calling (219) 874-6885 or at www.samichiganacity.org



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Chamber Fest “Warm-up” Concert

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present violinists Nic Orbovich and Jameson Cooper in concert — a “warm-up” event to next week’s festival — from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, at Fiddlehead’s, 422 Franklin St.

Part of First Friday events, the concert will feature classics as background music for diners. It will preview the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival that runs Aug. 12-20. MCCMF board members will attend with brochures and more concert information.

The award-winning Orbovich has soloed with numerous orchestras around the country, having performed concertos and works by Wieniawski, Vieuxtemps, Sarasate, J.S. Bach, Beethoven and Vivaldi.

Performer-teacher Cooper was born in Sheffield, England. He rose to national attention when he was selected as concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra for its debut performance at the BBC Proms. As a founding member of the Euclid Quartet, he has won numerous competition prizes and performed across the U.S. in venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Library of Congress.



Orbovich



Cooper

Visit www.mccmf.org, Facebook at MC Chamber Music Fest, or YouTube at Michigan City Chamber Music Festival for more details.

A full preview of the annual chamber festival appears in the Aug. 10 *Beacher*.

Family History Workshop

A free family history workshop is from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 402 E. Coolspring Ave.

To link participants to the database and aid in the search, those attending should take certain information about parents, grandparents and other family members: given names and surnames, birthdates (at least the approximate year of birth) and residence at the time of birth and/or death.


Light refreshments will be served.

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School of American Music Extends Tuition Promise

Four organizations have joined forces to extend School of American Music's tuition promise to Northwest Indiana students.

Doing so overcomes a "border" problem for Northwest Indiana students who want to enroll at SAM, located in Three Oaks, Mich., because many foundations restrict use of their funds to local township, county or state boundaries.

SAM provides professional-level music instruction to students of all ages, the mission being that tuition is affordable and students who need scholarships receive them. In addition, 100 percent scholarships are offered to young clients of the Michigan non-profit Neighbor-by-Neighbor, with free musical instruments from Drew's Gift of Music. Adding support is the LaPorte Service League, which supports arts, culture and education projects with programming and scholarships.

The "border-free" tuition promise is:

- Apply for music instruction at <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/>



Receiving the funding for the extended tuition promise are (from left) Chuck Steck (Drew's Gift of Music), Donna Mitchell (School of American Music), Sandra Young and Jaunda Knellers (LaPorte Service League past co-presidents).

- NxN clients apply for scholarships at <https://neighborbyneighbor.org/>
- Northwest Indiana residents apply at LaPorte Service League at <https://www.laporteserviceleague.com/>
- Visit www.drewsgiftofmusic.com/ for more information about Drew's Gift of Music.



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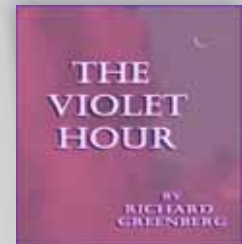
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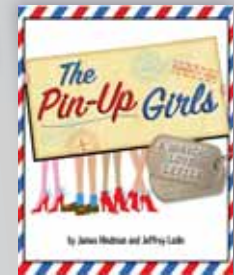
Canterbury Summer Theatre

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By Land or by Sea for 2023!

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5. Except for rare periods (2006-2010 is one we all remember; before 1976 was the previous period), never has the appreciation of house values in the Indiana lakefront not exceeded the mortgage interest rate of a loan on the house.
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8. You have to live somewhere so you have two questions to answer: "How much can you afford?" "Where do you want to live?"
9. No current mortgages have "pre-payment penalties," so you can refinance whenever you wish if rates come down. Just remember you will have to pay \$2,000-\$4,000 in mortgage app fees.

Now, you can answer the question for yourself!

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Beverly Shores Depot

Two exhibits about early settlers and the Potawatomi debut Friday, Aug. 4, at The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

An opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11. Part of the event is a Native American dance performance accompanied by a Potawatomi drummer.

In the gallery is "Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium — Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten."

In the heyday of the Anishinaabe Confederacy, the Potawatomi were spread across Indiana, Illinois, Canada, Michigan and Wisconsin. Hoogstraten is a photographer of Potawatomi descent who creates formal portraits of present-day tribal members in traditional dress, all sewn incorporating the old arts of ribbonwork, beading and quillwork.



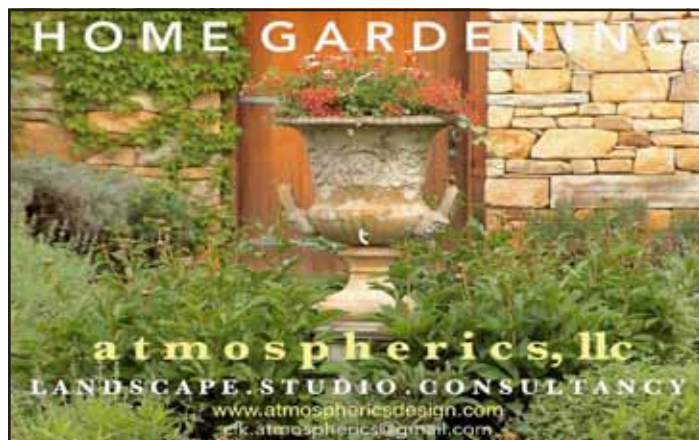
An example of the work included with "Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium — Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten."

Hoogstraten's large-format canvas portraits of the Potawatomi have been exhibited in museums and institutions like the Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of the American Indian and the State Museum of Illinois. They also are included in the permanent collection of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center.

This exhibit closes Sunday, Oct. 1.

In the museum is "Early Settlers and Area Native Americans." Guests can learn about Native Americans who once lived, hunted and traversed this area. The exhibit closes Aug. 27.

Visit www.bsdepot.org for details.



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Becoming My Mother

Yesterday morning when I went into the garage to stow the trash, I discovered the overhead garage door facing the side street wide open. Alarmed and dismayed, I wracked my brain. Had I neglected to close it when locking up for the evening? I backtracked, retracing my actions from the previous day.

Since I keep a small garage door control fob in my purse, I reasoned I might have inadvertently triggered it when tossing my purse on the kitchen counter. Or perhaps my oversight was due to the brain fog I've been suffering from because of jet lag and a bad head cold. But as I scanned the interior of the car and the contents of the garage, praising the safe and honest neighborhood in which I live, a thought stormed through the congestion in my head.

"Uh-oh! Am I becoming my mother?"

Not quite a decade ago when my mom was in her early 80s, she suffered a memory lapse that terrified my sister and me. At the time, Mom was independent and still driving. On the day on which this disturbing incident occurred, I had met my mother at the hospital, where we visited with my dad who had been admitted for a recurring condition. Because Mom had her own doctor's appointment, our time with my dad was limited. Even though we had driven to the hospital separately, I suggested my mother ride to her appointment with me.

That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



"That's silly. Then we'd have to come back for my car. I'll drive myself," she said.

My mother can be stubborn, so I agreed to meet her in the waiting room at the doctor's office. When I watched Mom place oversized sunglasses into her heavily sprayed wash-and-set hairdo, then drive out of the hospital parking garage in the white four-door Ford Taurus, I assumed I'd see her in 10 minutes. Twenty minutes later, I ventured up to the receptionist in the medical office and asked if my mother had called explaining her delay. The lovely young woman expressed concern, but shook her head, "No." I returned to my seat and phoned my sister.

"I bet she doesn't have her cell phone with her. Or she forgot to charge it," my sister said.

I groaned. Teaching my mother to use a cell phone and persuading her to use it were two separate, infuriating issues. While I waited at the doctor's office in case Mom showed up, my sister promised to hop in her car and cruise the major streets leading to the facility. I held my breath. My mother in a car wreck or a victim of a crime was not something the family needed on top of Dad's hospitalization. My sister phoned me from the road with several updates. No traffic issues. No signs of Mom. I checked in with the receptionist again, and she suggested I call the senior living center where my folks lived to verify whether my mom had gone home for some reason.

By the time my sister joined me at the medical office, the senior living center staff had entered my parents' apartment and scoured various parking areas for my mother and her car. No sign of the Ford Taurus or an 80-something gray-haired woman with

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huge sunglasses. As my sister and I stared at one another, wide-eyed with worry, we dared not voice the frightening scenarios roiling up our insides.

A few minutes later, the receptionist motioned me to the counter: "Would you like me to phone the police and set up a 'silver alert?'"

"Let me discuss this with my sister," I said.

Just as I plopped down next to my sibling to chat about this option, the electronic office doors glided open, revealing a flushed and flustered elderly woman: Mom! My sister sprang forward and guided her to a chair. We flanked her, smothering her with hugs and are-you-OKs. Then my mother explained in labored whispers how she must have taken a wrong turn out and got going in the wrong direction.

"It was quite some time before I realized my error," Mom said between several deep sighs.

Once relief washed over us, reality set in. Our mother's stubbornness, poor memory, challenged sense of direction and refusal to carry a charged cell phone had frayed the nerves of an army of concerned souls. My sister gave me the stink eye, which meant several things. We can't keep this episode from our other siblings, and mom's driving privileges might need to be revoked. I swallowed hard. That outcome would not only devastate Mom, but add an extra burden to the busy lives of my four siblings and me.

The incident of my mother getting lost is more extreme than my neglecting to close the garage door on a single occasion, but the parallels bear reflection. Like I did with my mother following her disappearance, I offered myself compassion and forgiveness regarding the misstep. I also upped my vitamin B & C to help with travel fatigue and general healing. While my homeowner negligence was potentially dangerous, no one was harmed. I take it, however, as a warning to slow down, be careful and heed the mindful practice of be present and be aware.

And since I'm being candid and realistic, it behooves me to admit that, yes, I am becoming my mother. We all become our parents. Getting older is non-negotiable. Beyond exercise, proper fluids and medication, we can't control the when and how aging unfolds. What we can affect is how we recognize health changes and age-related issues, and how soon we respond to them proactively. Because how gracefully we transition through life ensures not only our own safety and dignity, but it preserves our relationships with those we love and who care for us.



UPCOMING SHOWS

Trouble Ahead
A Jerry Garcia Birthday Show
FRI 8/4 8 P.M. ET



Mark Ficks & The Significant Others
Midwest Made
SUN 8/6 7 P.M. ET



Brett Dennen
THU 8/10 7 P.M. ET



Tim Stop
FRI 8/11 8 P.M. ET



The Chicago Experience
SAT 8/12 8 P.M. ET



Mike Struwin Band
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SUN 8/13 7 P.M. ET



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The Cast is Triumphant in Talky, But Terrific “Vanya”

by Andrew Tallackson

The characters in Christopher Durang’s “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” are trapped. Stuck in a funk. Life, and its many possibilities, seems to be galloping by without them.

Durang mines his premise for laughs and poignancy, but there are certain aspects to it, a little more than a decade after it debuted, that dramatically do not age well.

Having said that, director Steve Scott, a Goodman Theatre veteran who’s swiftly become one of Dunes Summer Theatre’s greatest assets, assembles a cast that is so unbelievably good, it catapults this season into one of the finest offered. Ever.

In the play, brother and sister Vanya (Long Beach resident Ted Hoerl) and Sonia (Suzy Krueckeberg), named by their theater-loving parents after Chekhov characters, exist in limbo in a farmhouse in Bucks County, Pa. They’ve taken care of their ailing parents for 15 years, but now that they’re deceased, the next step in life is one big fat question mark. Neither one employed, they’re supported by their aging actress sister, Masha (Laura Leonardo Ownby), who drops by with her much younger, dim-bulb lover, Spike (Nathan Kirk), specifically, it seems, to rub her success in their dour faces.

The performances by the actors as the three siblings are a study in contrasts. Hoerl plays Vanya as someone wearily resigned to his fate. Krueckeberg, however, presents Sonia as having that “itch,” that feeling that something better exists. And Ownby, as Masha, treats her with a haughty superiority.

Durang did not write his comedy insisting audiences be well-acquainted with Chekhov. But he’s clearly in love with the Russian playwright, and in honoring the weighty discussions that permeate his works, Durang allows for too much talk. Especially early in the play when Vanya and Sonia ponder their lots in life. The conversations almost stall the pull of the play, where you don’t feel the drive that this is all headed somewhere. That’s also true of Masha’s in-your-face ego. A little of that gets stretched a long way, even as you admire how Ownby is ferocious in making Masha appear unstoppable. Ditto Vanya’s late-in-the-action rant about better days before this. Hoerl shows no fear, but the rant stretches beyond its welcome point.

(The play, with intermission, stretches to about 2 1/2 hours when it really should be only two, at the most.)

And it is early in “Vanya” that Durang introduces the siblings’ housekeeper, the aptly named Cassandra (Felicia Hinojosa), who is one of those charac-



Above: Spike (Nathan Kirk, center) performs his failed audition for “Entourage 2” for (from left) Vanya (Ted Hoerl), Nina (Danielle Kerr), Sonia (Suzy Krueckeberg) and Masha (Laura Leonardo Ownby). Top right: Kerr, seen here in an awkward dwarf costume, is an absolute delight. Bottom right: Felicia Hinojosa gives everything she’s got to an overly theatrical role. Photos by Andrew Tallackson.

ters that exists only in plays. Insanely theatrical, walking and talking in grand gestures, the character is rarely allowed to speak as real humans do. Thing is, and boy, give Scott credit for casting here, Hinojosa is so likable, hurling everything she’s got into the performance, she’s able to trump the limitations of the role itself.

Kirk’s performance, as Spike, requires a certain bravery, as he’s required to appear only in his skivvies for most of the show. But his comfortability with that allows him to go more for laughs, and a sneaky shift in tone, where what first comes across as a sweet simpleton may be the arrogance of youth. He is the catalyst, by the way, for introducing the most refreshing presence in the play: Danielle Kerr as theater-obsessed Nina. The actress brings such sweet energy to the role, Nina becomes the play’s symbol of youthful hope and untainted innocence.

What I admire about Scott’s direction here is how he skillfully paces the laughs and drama to an extraordinarily satisfying close. And he does so not with big moments, but quiet ones that allow the actors to shine. The most moving is Krueckeberg,

whose Sonia receives a phone call from a guy at a costume party the previous night. He’s taken with her, and she doesn’t know how to react. The actress balances awkward humor with schoolgirl giddiness, and we realize, of all the dramatic arcs in the play, Sonia may be the one Durang champions the most. We do, too.

Ownby gets to soften Masha as well, and it is so believably achieved, we accept the transition as well-earned. In fact, the final image of the play, of three siblings seated together on a sofa, may not sound like the stuff of brilliance, but Scott allows the actors to prove these characters have grown. Changed for the better.

I was moved by that final scene. Scott and his dynamite cast prove that Dunes Summer Theatre, in 2023, has been untouchable. *The tough act to follow.*

(See Upcoming Events on Page 48 for show times, dates and ticket prices).

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



“Barbie” is Better Than Anyone Might Have Predicted

by Andrew Tallackson



“Stereotypical Barbie” (Margot Robbie) is surprised to discover that Ken (Ryan Gosling) is accompanying her into reality in a scene from “Barbie.”

The word “subversive” sneaks into every online discussion of Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” movie, and to some extent, that’s true. The movie isn’t a benign kiddie flick, but a satire on gender inequality.

We could go there in this review, but instead, how about we use the word “subversive” to explain how “Barbie” subverts our expectations to be better than we could have predicted.

Learning a year ago that Gerwig was attached to this project, my heart sank. An actress with stellar directing credits (“Ladybird,” “Little Women,” both Oscar-nominated), it seemed she’d sold her soul to the Hollywood devils.

Turns out, Gerwig gets the last laugh. Working with longtime partner Noah Baumbach (“Marriage Story”) on the script, they’ve created a movie that is smart, laugh-out-loud hilarious and unexpectedly moving.

The idea is that Barbie dolls live in Barbieland, controlled by the humans who play with them in the real world. Barbieland is a matriarchal society where women call the shots, are eternally happy and optimistic. Men are beach eye candy.

Set designer Sarah Greenwood and decorator Katie Spencer really went to town here. Barbieland is the living embodiment of everything Barbie: the homes, cars, props and especially the Pepto Bismol



“Barbie”

Running time: 114 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13
for suggestive references and brief language.

color schemes. The vibe is ’60s-’70s groovy, complete with a dance party featuring the cast boogying to Dua Lipa’s “Dance the Night.” The tone is so lively, so playful, the cast so game for fun, we appreciate how, for once, everyone involved in a movie is giving you more. To make you smile by its wild, eccentric energy.

But the acidic narration by Oscar-winner Helen Mirren exists for a reason. “Stereotypical Barbie” (Oscar-nominee Margot Robbie) suddenly experiences dark thoughts, like ruminations on death. Worried, she visits “Weird Barbie” (Kate McKinnon, in full Kate McKinnon sneaky-snarky mode), who tells her she must visit the real world to mend the rift. Clearly, someone playing with her is unhappy.

Barbie is unexpectedly accompanied into reality by Ken. He’s played by Ryan Gosling, who hasn’t been this loose, this relaxed and silly, in, well, maybe never. He plays Ken as a himbo whose only mission in life is to make sure Barbie notices him. When Ken, once in the real world, discovers male

patriarchy, he becomes “empowered,” returning to Barbieland to reinvent it so men call the shots. Gosling, who usually plays men in control, does not hesitate to make himself look and sound ridiculous.

Barbie, meanwhile, tracks down the working mom (America Ferrera) and her teen daughter (Ariana Greenblatt) who are the source of her mental anguish.

Gerwig has said in interviews her “Barbie” screenplay made Mattel, the company responsible for the doll, squirm. No doubt. The movie exists as a criticism of how the doll forged unrealistic expectations for women. We get that in Ferrera’s blistering speech in which she defines, layer by layer, every contradictory male expectation of women.

But here’s the thing. Tucked in beneath the cynical attacks is the story’s beating heart. Specifically, the bond between mothers and daughters, and how dolls are a bridge between them. We see that not just in tender images of Ferrera and Greenblatt, but also in the deeply affecting montage of mothers, of all shapes, sizes and colors, and what they represent to their daughters.

Gerwig is having her proverbial cake and eating it too. Embracing a Barbie doll as a plaything, and attacking society for how it cherry-picks meaning from it.

Sounds heavy, but Gerwig knows how to pull back at the right moment. The final scene is a dynamite example, fading to black with a killer punch line.

Gerwig has achieved a rarity: the perfect blend



The musical number early in the film, set to Dua Lipa’s “Dance the Night,” is a perfect example of the movie’s goofy charm.

of summer blockbuster and wicked satire. The two extremes rarely meet, but somehow, Gerwig makes it look effortless.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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A Day to Celebrate and Remember

by Kim Nowatzke



With sunshine and a steady breeze, Saturday, July 22, was a perfect day for Old Lighthouse Museum's 50th anniversary celebration/Eastland Memorial Ceremony.

Michigan City Municipal Band kicked off the festivities, then Kirk Rogers, Michigan City Historical Society co-president, greeted the crowd seated on picnic tables in the museum's backyard. He gave kudos to past president Jim Retseck for "his vision, his idea and his fortitude to put it (the event) together." The U.S. Coast Guard placed a wreath in Trail Creek as a memorial to the 1915 Eastland disaster, after which Brother Shaun Gray, the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church pastoral assistant, gave a benediction.

Then, Retseck told the tale of the Eastland disas-

ter, which took the lives of 844 crew and passengers when it rolled on its side in 20 feet of water while docked in the Chicago River.

What began July 25, 1915, in Chicago as a much-anticipated Western Electric Co. picnic at Michigan City's Washington Park turned into the largest loss of life from a single Great Lakes shipwreck. In fact, it ranks as one of the worst maritime disasters in American history. Retseck noted 290 children perished. Seventy percent of the victims were between ages 15-30, another 56 percent were females and 175 women survived as widows.

The more than 2,500 passengers on board were the working-class poor. There was no manifest of passengers. The Eastland was one of five such ships set to make the 38-mile trek across Lake Michigan.

A total of more than 7,000 tickets were sold for the outing.

"When the Eastland went over, no one knew who the victims were," Retseck said. "It was chaos. Body identification was extremely difficult."

The Eastland, itself, he continued, had a "questionable sea-worthy reputation for 12 years," and was known as a "tender ship."

"It became a deadly ship," he added. "Speculations and legal proceedings went on for years."

Retseck said the memorial on the museum's east side makes its way to



the Trail Creek wharf where Eastland passengers would have arrived. The anchor chain consists of 844 chain links going through custom-machine stanchions.



Retseck mentioned the three meditation benches included in the memorial: one is for Anna Kubiak, who turned 17 four days prior to the disaster, and whose family owned a farm on Wozniak Road. She perished in the disaster.

Speaking about the museum's 50th anniversary, Retseck said, "I can't thank enough all the people that helped get it open."

He called Shannon Eason, Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department assistant director, a "guardian angel." She secured grants for the lantern-room replacement, and for phases one and two: exterior projects that included the roof, windows, porches and pillars.

Eason, who was in attendance, shared with *The Beacher* that the event "was an amazing program," and that "this museum wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the (Historical) Society."

Mayor Duane Parry spoke next, detailing some of the museum's history. He explained how it was in operation from 1858-1940 (until 1904 as a working lighthouse, then as housing for the keepers) when the last operator left, locking the door behind him. It sat abandoned for 20 years before becoming Michigan City property in 1960.

Restoration by the Michigan City Historical Society began in 1965. It opened as a museum in 1973.

"Clearly, the lighthouse marks Michigan City's identity in a place and time as a vital Great Lakes community," Parry said. "It's important, proper and



necessary to celebrate the Old Lighthouse Museum. It's a cornerstone in our great town, Michigan City."

District 8 State Sen. Mike Bohacek shared his personal connection to the Eastland disaster: his ancestor, Anton Bohacek, was scheduled to be on the Eastland, but didn't make it. He mentioned the "great (Eastland) memorial we should all look at and remember" at Old Lighthouse Museum.

U.S. Rep. Frank Mrvan wrapped up the slate of speakers, stating, "Sharing the history of where we live is vitally important so we can learn from it... this great lake is one of our greatest assets."

Speaking about the Eastland disaster, he said, "I'm honored here today to make sure that those families are remembered."

After the event, attendees enjoyed free museum tours, as well as complimentary hot dogs and root beer from Carlson's Drive-In.

Lifelong Michigan City residents John and Kathy Roach were among those present.

"I love the history of Michigan City, and I come to events whenever I can," Kathy said. "More people in Michigan City need to take advantage of events like this that the city offers."

John donated an all-copper prism light to the museum about a decade ago. It was previously owned by his father, Robert, who worked for 25 years at Lakeview Amusement Co., which had amenities at Washington Park.

After the event, Rogers told *The Beacher* he was "happy with the beautiful weather and great breeze, and pleased with the turnout." His wish is that "more people from Michigan City will visit the museum."

(Kim Nowatzke took most of the photos that accompany this article. Shelly Wolsiefer took the photo of those seated on picnic tables at the event.)

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An Evening With Anthony Schmidt

Anthony Ryan Schmidt is a teen with autism from Washington state whose artistic abilities, combined with his passion for collecting model cars, turned him into a world-renowned photographer.

Dr. Joshua Diehl, former chief program officer for Child and Adolescent Services at LOGAN Center, will moderate a conversation with Schmidt at 6 p.m. EDT Friday, Aug. 4, in the Wiekamp Auditorium at Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend.



Program topics will include Anthony's photography, his vision and process, and Diehl's experience working with the autistic community and the arts.

Schmidt practices forced-perspective photography: a technique utilizing optical illusion to make objects appear smaller, larger or closer to the camera, or further away. His work has been featured in *Car & Driver*, *Hemmings* and a special segment on "NBC Nightly News." He also won an award at the Hall of Honor ceremony in Las Vegas for his contribution to the diecast car culture.

Schmidt will be available after the talk to sign copies of his new book, Shifting Perspectives, and select photographic prints.

Tickets include admission to the museum, access to the exhibit — "The Photography of Anthony Schmidt" — and the talk. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. EDT, with the theater program at 6 p.m. EDT. Because seating is limited, advanced tickets are strongly recommended at the museum store or at tinyurl.com/2mcds78x

General admission is \$11, or \$5 for members. Children 17 and younger are free.



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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series



Carey Scheck.

The 22nd season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series concludes at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

The program features LaPorte pianist-organist Carey Scheck. A LaPorte Community School Corp. music teacher, she also teaches piano, and performs with groups such as LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. Her recital will include "Gather Us In" by Charles Lenz and the "Toccatà" from "Sonata for Organ, Opus 42, No. 1," by Charles Marie Wider.

Performers present concerts on the church's 1891 Roosevelt Opus 506. The church is air-conditioned. Call (219) 608-5358 for more details.

Leprechaun Hunt

The non-profit Share Foundation will host its annual Leprechaun Hunt from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, at Sharing Meadows.

Located on 185 acres on County Road 300 East in Rolling Prairie, Share Foundation serves the residential, vocational and social needs of adults with intellectual disabilities.

At the event, families can hunt for one of 33 leprechauns with pots of gold worth \$50-\$1,500. Also planned is Irish and American food, entertainment and games.

Live entertainment includes: Kennedy's Kitchen, Irish kitchen music; House of Hamill, indie Irish rock; Doolin Clan, Irish music; and John Measner magic. Humane Indiana Wildlife will attend with live animals.

Food includes barbecue ribs, chicken, corned beef, hot dogs, pulled pork, hamburgers, tacos, nachos, roasted corn, beer, wine, pop and desserts.

Tickets are \$60 at the gate. Seniors 65+ cost \$50 at the gate. Children 13 and younger are free when accompanied by an adult.

Visit <https://sharefoundation.org> for more details.

Paladin Annual Golf Outing

Paladin Inc. will host its annual golf outing from noon-5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11, at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, 4000 E. Michigan Blvd.

Paladin supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors and children in Northwest Indiana

Visit tinyurl.com/yyssekvt for more details about the golf outing.

Potawatomi Audubon Society

Potawatomi Audubon Society will lead a nature walk at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at Wilson Shelter at Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

A park entry fee or state pass is needed.



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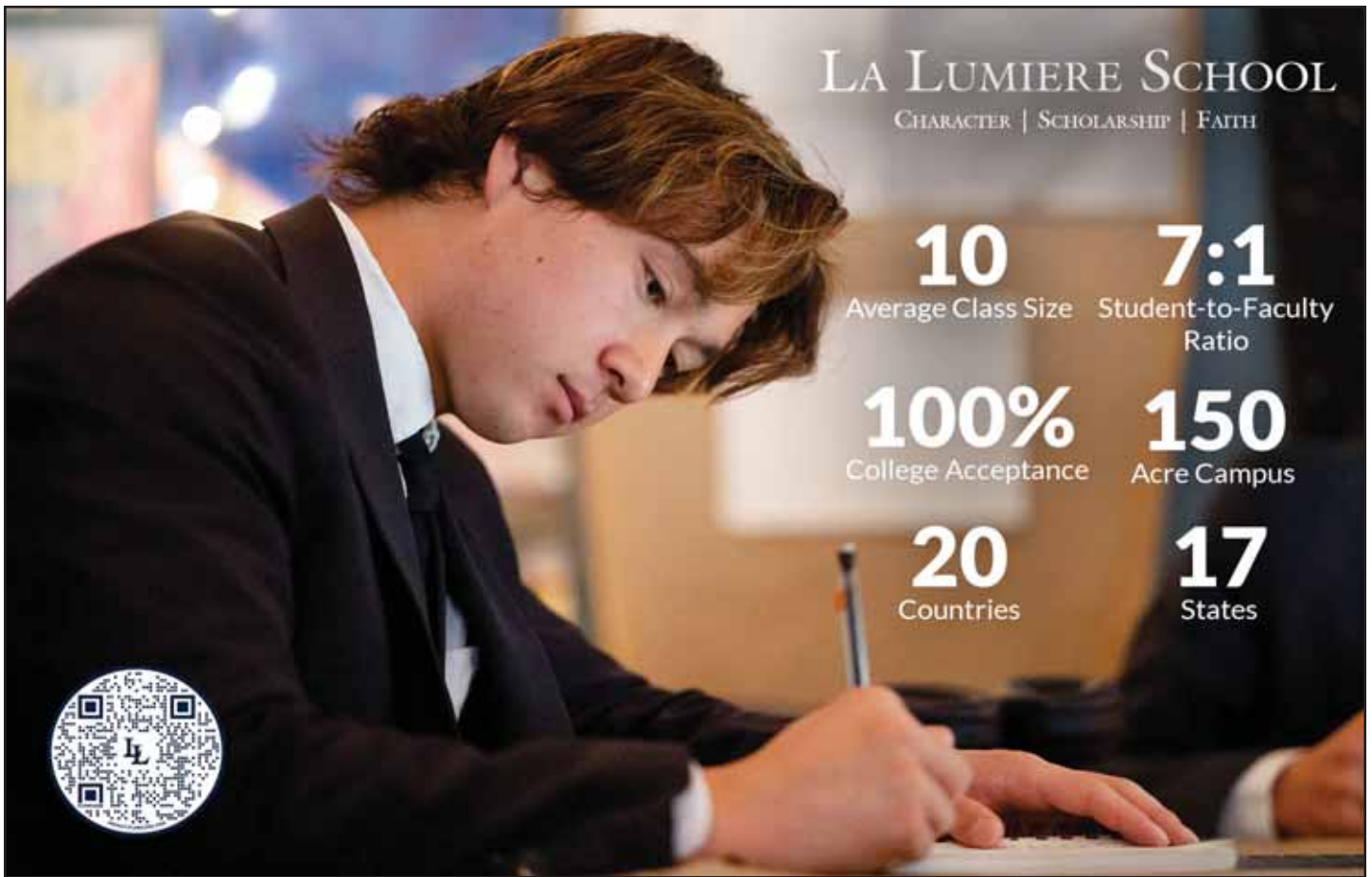
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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-11 a.m. Thursdays in August at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll while observing plant and bird life. Meet at the Visitor Center and carpool to a chosen location.
 - **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 5-6 and 7-8 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 10.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. Rangers will lead two groups of 10 paddlers into the lagoon. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
 - **Beach Fun Friday from 1-8 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 11 at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.** Join staff for activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming.
 - **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
 - **West Beach Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5.** Join a ranger for the hike and learn how the dunes grows its forests. The trail goes up 270 stairs and from the top showcases a view of the dune and Lake Michigan. Park at 376 N. County Line Road.
 - **Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in August.** Participate in a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone.
 - **Pinhook Bog Open House from 3-6 p.m. Saturdays in August.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
 - **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
 - **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in August** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
 - **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in August at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
 - **Pitcher's Thistle Program from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays in August at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.** Talk to the ranger stationed at the west parking lot about the park, and some of the threatened and endangered species being protected. Afterwards, take a self-guided hike or head to the beach.
 - **Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays in August at Central Avenue Beach.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll along the beach and learn about the origins of the Great Lakes and Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Central Avenue Beach parking lot. Passes are required.
 - **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in August at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
 - **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in August at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and 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.
 - **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4:30 p.m. daily in August.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
-
- 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:

- **National S'mores Day Fun from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4.** The program includes a trivia game, marshmallow toss and a chance to sample s'more variations provided by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes.
- **The annual Perseid Meteor Shower & Stargaze from 8:30 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Aug. 12.** Telescopes for deep sky viewing and constellation talks will be in the west parking lot at 8:30 p.m. The best star observations are after 9:30 p.m. Take a chair, towel, bug spray and flashlights. The program is weather-dependent.

□

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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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

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A Flight

First — Eunie Nondorf.

Second — Pat Bailey.

Third — Donna Hennard.

Low Putts — Cindy Levy.

Birdie — Jeannie Muldowney, #13.

B Flight

First — Nancy Thill.

Second — Diane Rubey.

Third — Amanda Ferlmann, Mary Weithers.

Low Putts — Diane Rubey.

C Flight

First — Sally McCarthy.

Second — Ginny Hogan, Katherine Shannon.

Third — Alison Kolb, Anne Linnen.

Low Putts — Kathy Hanley, Katherine Shannon.

Sunken Approach — Barb Beardslee, #4, Kolb, #3.

D Flight

First — Rosann Conroy.

Second — Regina Bradley, Joanie Doyle, Katie Flores, Jeanne St. Peter, Marge White.

Third — Toni Hyland.

Low Putts — Rosann Conroy, Ellen Roche.

Sunken Approach — Rosann Conroy.

18-Hole League

July 18, 2023

Flight A

First — Peg Cooney.

Second — Vicki Hill.

Third — Kellie Burke.

Flight B

First — Nancy Thill.

Second — Pat Bailey.

Third — Linda Wilson.

Flight C

First — Paulette Harnach, Gloria McMahon.

Third — Barb Hall, Barb Beardslee.

Sunken Approaches

Pat Bailey — #14.

Kellie Burke — #18.

Linda Behringer — #12.

Kathy Kenefick — #10.



Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies,"

July 24, 2023

Event: Animal Golf Game

A Flight

Low Gross: Linda Hirsch.

Low Net: Linda Hirsch.

Low Putts: Linda Hirsch.

Event: Paula Hutchinson, Barb Rumbuc.

B Flight

Low Gross: Evelyn Cassin.

Low Net: Evelyn Cassin, Mary Lou Marshall.

Low Putts: Evelyn Cassin.

Event: Jane Spang.

C Flight

Low Gross: Sandra Provan.

Low Net: Sandra Provan.

Low Putts: Sandra Provan.

Event: A. Batagianis, C. Hullings, B. Szybala.

D Flight

Low Gross: Linda Sperling.

Low Net: Linda Sperling.

Low Putts: Shirley McCarty.

Event: P. Betcher, K. Grott, S. McCarty.



Chip-Ins: Linda Sperling, Hole #1.

Birdies: Linda Hirsch, Hole #6.

South Course, "Par-Tee Women's Golf League,"

July 26, 2023

Event: Day 5 Eclectic Tournament

Flight A

Low Gross: Tina St. Germain.

Low Net: Tina St. Germain.

Low Putts: Tina St. Germain.

Flight B

Low Gross: Jane Spang.

Low Net: Jane Shuger.

Low Putts: Jane Spang, Patty Jercich, Jane Shuger.

Flight C

Low Gross: Pat Collado.

Low Net: Pat Collado.

Low Putts: Ev Cassin, Daphne Craft.

Flight D

Low Gross: Linda Komp.

Low Net: Linda Komp.

Low Putts: Carolyn Cooney.



Chip Ins: Jane Spang, Hole #10.

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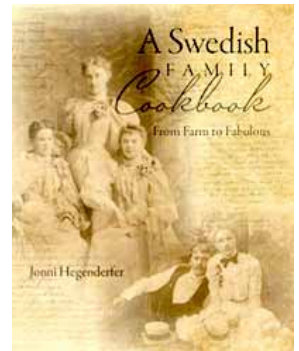
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Book Signing

Longtime Grand Beach summer resident Jonni Hegenderfer will sign copies of her award-winning cookbook, A Swedish Family Cookbook, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 5, at Stockholm Objects, 13630 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Mich.



The cookbook includes more than 80 illustrated recipes, along with the history of her grandparents' emigration from Sweden to the south side of Chicago in 1895.

Refreshments will be served.

"Perspectives and Retrospectives"

Award-winning local artist Pat Herman will unveil her new show, "Perspectives & Retrospectives," from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, at SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St

The show, which runs through August, will feature her new series, "Ponderosa Iterations," inspired by ponderosa pines. These works incorporate black-and-white ink, watercolor and colored pencil on black-and-white paper. A portion of her previous series, "Odes to the Sycamore," will be included, as well as individual pieces not previously exhibited.

Herman is PAN-O-PLY's July Artist of the Month. Her work has received awards in exhibits at Art Barn School of Art in Valparaiso, Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, Chesterton Art Center and galleries in Fountain Hills, Ariz. One of her "Sycamores" was juried into the 99th Annual Hoosier Salon Exhibition, which opens next month at Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

Locally, Herman's works have appeared at The Depot and Ellen Firme galleries in Beverly Shores, The Rising Phoenix and Legacy Center galleries in Michigan City and Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art.

SFC Gallery is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Visit www.PatHermanArt.com for more details.

SculptFusion

Michigan City Public Art Committee will unveil the latest installment of "SculptFusion" at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Leed's Public House, 401 Franklin St.

The kickoff, which includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash car, will highlight new sculptures and a donated piece on display in Washington Park.

RSVP to jedaley@comcast.net

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American Red Cross

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

- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesday Aug. 8.

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.

FIT-Together Classes

Registration is open for Franciscan Health Michigan City's free FIT-Together program, a family-centered approach to health and wellness.

The 10-week program is from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 10-Oct. 12, at the LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St. It is intended for households with children between ages 8 and 14. Topics include making healthy choices in activities, relationships and emotional health, nutrition and exercise, and activities to improve stress management, effective communication, problem solving and connection.

Participants also will learn the seven Cs of family resilience: control, competence, coping, confidence, connection, character and contribution. They should wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes to each session.

Registration is required. Contact Nila Williams, community health improvement coordinator, at Nila.Williams@franciscanalliance.org or (219) 283-9649 to do so or for more details. The program is supported by Franciscan Health Michigan City, General Insurance Services, Kia Can Cook, Michigan City YMCA and The Temple Total Fitness.

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Old Car Show Winners

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., hosted its 15th Annual Old Car Show on Saturday, July 22, with 97 vehicles entered.

The winners are:

- Mayor's Choice — Jackie and Barney Hiler, 1967 Corvette.
- County Historian's Choice — Gary Rowland, 1935 Auburn Speedster Boattail.
- Museum Staff's Choice — Dan Fear, 1977 Volkswagen Van Camper.
- Sheriff's Choice — Steve Tukos, 1956 Mercury Montclair Convertible.
- Historical Society President's Choice — Scott Hines, 1969 Dodge Rat Rod.
- Kesling Memorial Award — Dale Winfrey, 1966 Pontiac GTO.
- Show Coordinator's Choice — Linda Unland, 1930 Hupmobile.
- Fern Eddy Schultz Preservation Award — Greg Drufke, 1937 Hupmobile.
- Best In Show, Pre World War II — Linda Unland, 1930 Hupmobile.
- Best in Show, Post World War II — Jack Cosenza, 1956 Oldsmobile Coupe.
- Public's Choice — Ray Allen; Doug Berg, 1968 Camaro; Milan Milanovich Jr., 1972 Chevy Chevelle.
- Participant's Choice — Bob Smith, 1955 Ford Thunderbird; Ray and Kathie Saunders, 1958 Ford Fairlane; Jessie Brewer, 1976 Plymouth Feather Duster.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Starlab Planetarium from 3-4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7.**
- **First "Friendraiser," presented by Friends of the New Buffalo Township Library, from 7-9 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 12, at the library.** Proceeds benefit FOL programs and services. Tickets, which are \$50 and include entry, wine and appetizers, are available at the library. The event is adults only.

Weekly programs:

- Mommy and Me Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. Mondays at New Buffalo Township Park.
- Guitar Lessons for Beginners (sign-up only) for ages 8-11. The time is 4:30-5:15 p.m. July 20.
- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

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In the Area

Aug. 2 — Michigan City Public Art Committee “SculptFusion” unveiling, 5:30 p.m., Leed’s Public House, 401 Franklin St. Reservations: jedaley@comcast.net

Aug. 3-5 — “Scotland Road,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Shows: 7 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sat. Tickets: \$20/regular admission, \$18/seniors, half-price discounts/students & military personnel. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, info@canterburytheatre.org

Aug. 3 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. Aug. 3 — Cripple Creek. *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

Aug. 3 — Stomp Rockets (kids and teens), 10:30 a.m.-noon & 2:30-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 4 — Super Smash Bros Tournament (ages 10-17), 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 4 — Opening reception, Pat Herman’s “Perspectives & Retrospectives,” 5-8 p.m., SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St. Exhibit runs through August. Info: www.PatHermanArt.com

Aug. 4 — First Friday Open Studios, 5-8 p.m., St. Mary’s Arts, 326 W. 10th St.

Aug. 4 — Debut, “Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium — Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten” & “Early Settlers and Area Native Americans,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Opening reception: 5-7 p.m. Aug. 11. Info: www.bs-depot.org

Aug. 4 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival “warm-up” concert (Nic Orbovich & Jameson Co-

per), 6-8 p.m., Fiddlehead’s, 422 Franklin St. Info: www.mccmf.org

Aug. 5 — Local Poet Talk: Brett Starr (adults 19+), 2-3 p.m., Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 5 — Jay’s Auto Performance annual car & motorcycle show (charity event), 1-5 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Aug. 6 — Share Foundation Leprechaun Hunt, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sharing Meadows, County Road 300 East, Rolling Prairie. Tickets: \$60, seniors 65+/\$50, children 13 & younger/free when accompanied by adult. Info: <https://sharefoundation.org>

Aug. 7 — Kid Bingo!, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 7 — Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 8 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 9 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Carey Scheck, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Through Aug. 13 — “Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: Fri. & Sat./7 p.m., Sunday/2 p.m. General admission: \$30; students/seniors/\$27; groups of 4 or more/\$25. Reservations/info: www.dunesarts.org

Through Sept. 4 — “Water: Above and Below — Photographs by Timothy D. Lace and Paintings by Diane Grams,” Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.

Through Sept. 30 — Artwork by Kristina Knowski, 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.

Through Oct. 21 — “Vivian Maier: In Color,” “Under the Same Sun,” “to render the infinite,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

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 lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays in Michigan City — Creative Tech Activities, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.



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

Thursdays in August — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Washington Park's Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater.

Saturdays through Oct. 28 — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: www.emichigancity.com

Sundays through Sept. 24 — Farmed & Forged Market (LaPorte Farmers Market), 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monroe & Lincolnway.

In the Region

Aug. 4 — National S'mores Day Fun, 7-8:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 4 — "An Evening With Anthony Schmidt," 6 p.m. EDT, Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. General admission: \$11, \$5/members, free/children 17 & younger. Reservations: tinyurl.com/2mcds78x

Aug. 4 — Trouble Ahead: A Jerry Garcia Birthday Show, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 5 — Book signing, Jonni Hegenderfer's Swedish Family Cookbook, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, Stockholm Objects, 13630 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Mich.

Aug. 5 — West Beach Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., 376 N. County Line Road, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 5-6 — Chesterton Art Fair returns, Dogwood Park, 1504 S. 23rd St., Chesterton. Times: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat./10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$5, children 12 & younger/free. Reservations: www.chestertonart.org. Tickets also at gate.

Aug. 6 — South Bend Record Show, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, Gillespie Conference Center at Hilton Garden Inn, 53995 Indiana 933, South Bend. General admission: \$2/adults, children 12 & younger/free. Info: <https://southbendrecordshow.com>

Aug. 6 — Midwest Made — Mark Ficks & The Significant Others, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 7 — Starlab Planetarium, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Aug. 8 — Harbor Country Singers sing-along, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Stage at Arts and Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Free.

Info: schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, (269) 409-1191.

Aug. 9 — Potawatomi Audubon Society nature walk, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

Through Aug. 17 — Display, Long Beach's Connie & George Kassal, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: www.pinesvillage.org

Through Aug. 30 — Emily Casella's "In Emotion to Entrain," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through Sept. 4 — "The Art of Elizabeth Catlett from the Collection of Samella Lewis," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org, info@krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Through Sept. 17 — Theda Sandiford's "Triggered, Truth & Transformation," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: tinyurl.com/yckh57jx

Through October — "Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age," Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through May 12, 2024 — "Indiana Lore," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

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

Thursdays through Aug. 10 — Bird Walk & Talk, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu

Thursdays through Aug. 10 — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 5-6 & 7-8 p.m., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Fridays through Aug. 11 — Beach Fun Friday, 1-8 p.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Fridays & Sundays in August — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays/9-11 a.m. Sundays, parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Saturdays in August — Paul H. Douglas Cen-

Continued on Page 50

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Continued From Page 49

ter Open House and Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in August — Pinhook Bog Open House, 3-6 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in August — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9-11 a.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street (next to Thomas Centennial Park). Info: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8z2utd>

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

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

Mondays in August — Pitcher's Thistle Program, 9 a.m.-noon, West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Tuesdays in August — Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger, 6-7 p.m., Central Avenue Beach. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesdays in August — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Daily in August — Chellberg Farm Open House, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* "Oppenheimer." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Aug. 4, 3 p.m. Aug. 5, 6 p.m. Aug. 6. *Also:* "Barbie." Rated PG-13. Times: 3 p.m. Aug. 4, 7 p.m. Aug. 5, 3 p.m. Aug. 6. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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Harbor Country Singers Sing-Along

Harbor Country Singers will perform songs of the '60s-'70s, music that dominated outdoor sing-alongs, at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Aug. 8, on Spring Creek Stage.

The Three Oaks, Mich., venue is located at the Arts and Education Center, 14 Maple St., facing Dewey Cannon Park.

Songs include "Dock of the Bay," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Cecilia" and "Sweet Caroline." Songbooks with music and lyrics will be provided. Musicians can take instruments to play along. Guests can take lawn chairs and/or blankets. If it rains, the sing-along moves to the shelter house at Carver Memorial Park, U.S. 12 and Elm Street, Three Oaks.

School of American Music instructor Ron Spears will provide guitar accompaniment. Harbor Country Singers members Donna Mitchell, Diane Ruzevich and Pat Putnam are the song leaders.

Harbor Country Singers is a program through SAM and supported by a Pokagon Fund grant. Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, or visit School of American Music on Facebook or <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com/> for more details.

Sand Sculpting Festival to Return

The Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival, a three-day art event celebrating Michigan City's lakefront, will return to Washington Park for its third year June 7-9, 2024.

The event debuted in June 2022 and was a huge success, the centerpiece being a professional sand-sculpting exhibit and competition. It also includes a Kidz Zone, sand-sculpting demonstrations, the Quick Sand speed-sculpting show, live music, an artisan market and a variety of food and beverages.

Michigan City Special Events again will partner with The Sand Lovers LLC, which specializes in major sand-sculpting events.

Visit tinyurl.com/5n7va2c2 for more details.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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

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




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Welcome to Beach Town by Susan Wiggs
(hardcover, \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 319 pages.)

Two themes always stand out in the rom-com genre — I don't care for the term "chick-lit" — that make it ideal for beach reading: new beginnings and second chances. I picked up this book because the jacket offers so much more; also, I'm a sucker for a well-done jacket.

Our heroine is Nikki Graziola, who lives in a small California town called Alara Cove. It's well-known for its great surfing beaches, attracting tourists each season. Now in high school, Nikki is one of those consummate surfers, having learned at an early age from her surfer father.

Nikki's father, Guy, owns vintage Airstream trailers he rents out, mostly to the surfer crowd. He owns the trailers, but not the land they're on, and therein lies a problem...

Nikki gets a scholarship to Thornton Academy, a private high school in town whose students are mostly the rich kind — sons and daughters of movie stars, senators, real-estate magnates and more. Nikki has worked extra hard to prove she has what it takes to become valedictorian of her class, an achievement she earns with flying colors.

Just before graduation, however, her friend, Mark McGill, dies of a drug overdose after a late night party on campus with the club known as the Buccaneers. The school doesn't want to recognize that Mark was not a drug user, or that the school allowed such a thing to happen. Bottom line, they don't want the bad publicity, so they announce that Mark was an addict. Period. Full stop. Nikki is incensed. Her friend should not be remembered that way, so she decides to make a public declaration of it...

The valedictorian's speech she works hard on and is approved by the principal now seems trite and false. So, she throws caution to the wind and says what she feels needs to be said on graduation day — she talks about Mark and how the school is not carrying out a proper investigation into his death. And a lot more. Needless to say, she is hustled off the stage, her diploma withheld. Now, she is the pariah of Thornton Academy.

Without a high school diploma, she can't enter college, so she spends the summer surfing and helping her dad while nursing her wounds.

She forgets about the application she filled out for the Global Surf League and is surprised when a good-looking guy shows up with an invitation for

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



her to show her stuff to the exhibition committee. His name — this hunk with the Australian accent — is Johnny Mercury. Really? Nikki goes to the meeting, gets the job and gets the guy to boot. Nikki and Johnny get married and begin their world tour of surfing competitions.

There are good years and lean years. Jump forward 15 years — they're living in Australia — and Johnny is killed in an automobile accident. Nikki is crushed, even more so when she finds out her visa is no good and their marriage was never legal.

Only one thing to do: Time to go back to Alara Cove and her dad. She finds changes in the small town, some not so good. The first is that Jason Sanger is now mayor. He was the head of the Buccaneers when Mark died that night. A happy find is her longtime childhood friend, Cal Bradshaw — tall, lanky, quiet — who is now pumped up, looking very sexy and a policeman.

No time for romance. Nikki has to help dad find a way to keep his trailer rental park before Sanger kicks him out. Nikki's friend, Shasta, actually comes up with the answer, and it's quite good. Will all end well for Nikki and her dad? Cowabunga!

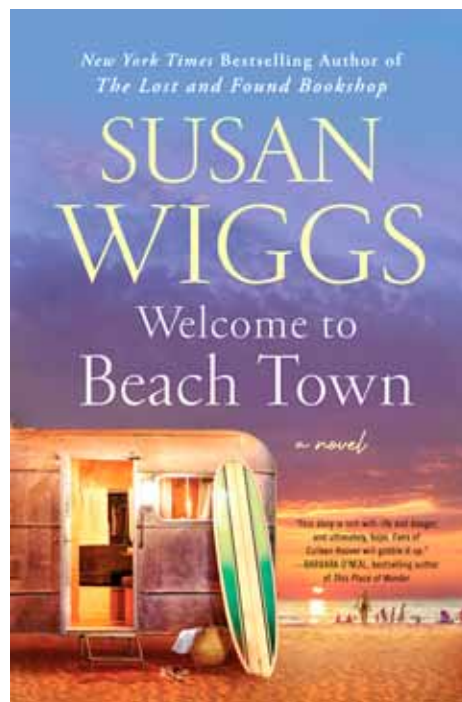
There are mountains to climb, make that waves to conquer, before

we can close the book. Wiggs gives us an interesting, strong-willed character in Nikki, and her father is a hoot. The California coast and surfing life are lovingly described. You can almost hear the crunch of warm sand on your feet as you follow Nikki down to the water.

The final word: These fast reads are perfect for the beach or poolside. Wiggs joins a group of authors who can take you to any number of coastal areas of the U.S. and present a story that may engage you enough to forget to put on the sunscreen. Don't dismiss these books as a lot of fluff. You may be pleasantly surprised at some of the plots. Other popular beach-read authors you might consider are Mary Kay Andrews, Elin Hilderbrand, Emily Henry, Jennifer Weiner and Nancy Thayer, to name a few of the best.

The final word: Sunshine, a cool lake breeze, a tall, tasty drink and a book — what could be more relaxing?

Till next time, happy reading!



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