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Helping Others Grow

by Kim Nowatzke

Jackie Carroll and Carol Nolan are relatively new to the Master Gardener program, but they cannot sing its praises enough.

Carroll, of Michigan City, earned Master Gardener status in 2020. She recommends the program for several reasons.

“It continually broadens your knowledge through education and volunteer activities,” she said, “and provides an opportunity to interact with other Master Gardeners who are knowledgeable and passionate about gardening.”

Nolan, a LaPortean, took the Master Gardener class in 2021 and is working on achieving the Master Gardener title. She is considered an intern until fulfilling her volunteer commitment.

“The world of gardening is ever-changing,” she said. “The community you become a part of all shares the same goals and intentions. No one person knows everything there is to know about gardening, and learning from each other is the best classroom of all.”

With the seeds planted in 1996, the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program continues to bloom nearly 30 years later.

Master Gardeners Jackie Carroll (from left), Marcia Koselka and Bob Koselka volunteer at Friendship Botanic Gardens this past June. Provided photo.

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Helping Others Grow

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Today, there are 74 active Master Gardeners in LaPorte County “Helping Others Grow,” a motto for the program organized through the LaPorte County Extension Office.

The program helps participants increase their knowledge on horticultural subjects, according to the website (www.lpmastergardener.org). In turn, volunteers share their knowledge with others, in addition to embracing leadership and service through educational gardening activities in the community.

The program is an integral part of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service (www.purdue.edu), a non-profit organized for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

Ann Klosinski, who lives in LaPorte and earned her status in 2007, described the Master Gardener class as “a personal learning experience in home gardening while making friends along the way.”

The original Master Garden Program began in 1972 in Seattle after an overwhelming demand for home-gardening information. Indiana’s program began in 1978 with only four counties. Today, there are 86 counties. Statewide this year, there are 1,987 active volunteers who have served more than 67,979 volunteer hours worth the equivalent of more than \$1.8 million. Last year in LaPorte County, there were 578.25 volunteer hours.

Purdue is Indiana’s land grant college — something each state has — meaning it researches and teaches agricultural and horticultural issues, according to www.purdue.edu. This primarily is accomplished by the Purdue College of Agriculture through the Extension Service. Each county has an office and a person designated as the extension educator (Agriculture & Natural Resources), who can begin a Master Gardener program if there’s enough interest.

The requirements to become a Master Gardener include:

- Complete a Master Gardener volunteer application and agreement.
- Be selected from a pool of applicants.
- Complete the training program (see this story’s sidebar for information on

the upcoming class).

- Pass an examination administered by the local extension educator.
- Volunteer at least 40 hours of public service through the LaPorte County Extension Office within two years after completing the training and passing the exam.

Nikky Witkowski, extension educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources, for the Porter County Purdue Extension Office, said a Master Gardener status can be transferred to another county.

In 1996, Rolling Prairie resident Marcy Dailey enrolled in the first Master Gardener class offered in LaPorte County. She considers herself a “late bloomer” since she was in her 30s before beginning her “gardening adventure,” but added, “Once bitten, I was hooked!”

“I developed a voracious appetite to learn all things gardening...I’ve been reading books, attending lectures and symposiums, experimenting with growing herbs and heirloom perennials in my home gardens, and (I) wanted to expand my knowledge. I appreciated the fact that the Master Gardener program and information is based through Purdue University.”

There’s a long list of possible ways to fulfill the 40 hours of public service required to become a Master Gardener, including: presenting educational pro-



Master Gardener Carol Nolan staffs the Master Gardener hot line. Provided photo

grams; working with youth, such as Girls Scouts, Boys Scouts and 4-H Club; community beautification projects; and question-and-answer booths at events such as county fairs.

“Over the years, I’ve served as a board member, vice president and president of the association, and planned plant sales, field trips and symposiums,” Dailey said. “A highlight was being successful in securing a nationally-know speaker/educator, Dr. Alan Armitage, to keynote for one of our garden symposiums. I’ve been a featured speaker several years for the Elkhart County Garden Expo and also at our own LaPorte County Garden Shows. I continue to prove the monthly Master Gardener newsletter, *The Latest Dirt*, serve on Q&A panels/tables at local events and extol the myriad virtues of herbs (my first love) when I volunteer in the Pioneer Garden at the LaPorte County Fair.”



One Master Gardeners project is the Pioneer Garden at LaPorte County Fairgrounds. Provided photo.

Other Master Gardener projects Witkowski mentioned include Arbor Day events, a past Brown Bag Series of educational seminars at the LaPorte County Extension Office and maintaining plant beds at the Extension Office and at LaPorte County Fairgrounds.

The Master Gardener program, she stressed, emphasizes research on evidence-based knowledge and information proven in more than one circumstance, while discouraging home remedies.

Witkowski said current “hot topics” include information on droughts and drought-related plant symptoms. Heirloom vegetables, including Brandywine or Cherokee purple tomatoes, as well as new varieties like cucamelon, are popular gardening trends as well.

Questions about invasive species such as the Japanese knotweed, along with invasive pests, includ-

Continued on Page 4

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Helping Others Grow

Continued from Page 3

ing aphids and the spotted lanternfly, are common.

“Some Master Gardeners are focusing on recognizing invasive groups in the area and helping (build) community awareness about what they are and what they can do about it,” Witkowski said.

To retain their titles each year, Master Gardeners must fulfill 12 hours of volunteer service and six hours of education.

One way education hours are accrued, Dailey explained, is by attending local Master Gardener general meetings when a program/speaker is featured.

“I also pick up extra education hours by attending online programs offered by various universities or approved sites,” she said. “Over the years, I’ve traveled to Chicago Botanic Garden, Fernwood (Botanical Garden) and other botanic gardens to hear world-renowned speakers, purchase their books and, of course, have them inscribe my books!”

Since she works full time, Nolan also uses webinars to fulfill education hours. Since COVID, Witkowski said, more virtual instruction is available.

Klosinski said she earned most of her volunteer hours by serving four hours a week at LaPorte’s farmers market. She also has staffed the local Master Gardener Hot Line, a free service where, this year, the community could call with gardening questions from 9 a.m.-noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday, April 18-Sept. 29.

As she chaired the annual Spring Garden Show, (next year’s event is from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. March 16, 2024, at Michigan City High School), Klosinski achieved enough cumulative volunteer hours (1,000) to elevate her status to Advanced Purdue Extension Master Gardener Gold 1,000. She is close to her goal of Advanced Extension Master Gardener Gold 2,000.

Besides the initial certification, becoming an Advanced Extension Master Gardener requires at least 10 hours of approved additional instruction, plus a minimum of 25 hours additional volunteer service.

For Dailey, learning through the Master Gardener program has been especially impactful. She accomplishes this through Purdue University’s research-based educational programs, her own research to ready herself for presentations, networking with other Master Gardeners, collaborating on Master Gardener projects and working in her own garden and using the knowledge she’s gained.

“The more I know, the more I know that there’s



Bob Koselka (from left), Marcia Koselka, Sharon Stitch, Janice Casper and Randy Russell volunteer at Friendship Botanic Gardens last July in a garden dedicated to the son of a member who has juvenile diabetes. Bob, Marcia and Randy are Master Gardeners. Provided photo.

so much more to know,” she said. “I’ve always told my audiences that you can read all the books, watch the videos and attend the lectures, but ‘to know it (plants), you’ve got to grow it!’”

Mistakes are an important part of the learning process.

“Garden author/lecturer Rob Proctor once stated at an event I attended, ‘The best gardeners kill the most plants,’ and I share that with my audiences,” Dailey said. “Gardeners tend to test the limits with our plant selections, and we make mistakes, but through that, we learn. Besides, I tell them, ‘What’s a dead plant but compost and compost is a good thing!’ Writing and sharing garden poetry or fun stories in rhyme about my experiences in gardening has also added to my enjoyment...”

For Klosinski, the benefits of becoming a Master Gardener include not only improving her gardening knowledge and know-how, but also gaining leadership and organizational skills. Making friends along the way is another plus.

“I enjoy interacting with others, both with other members of the Master Gardener association and with the members of the public that we serve,” she shared.

The program also provides a “camaraderie of a lot of people with similar interests where you can learn from one another – developing a learning community with a common goal,” Witkowski says. “It’s a way to get together and be social.”

Dailey appreciates how the Master Gardener program has allowed her to “make friends with others who share common interests – going on tours and outings together to nurseries, arboretums, bo-

tanic gardens, garden shows and garden walks,” or just “meeting for drinks after the Master Gardener meetings.”

About 75 percent of the master gardeners are women, Witkowski says. The program is popular with retirees who typically have more time to pursue their interests. Often, couples take the class together and work toward Master Gardener status. The minimum age requirement is 18; there is a Junior Master Gardener program, but it is not available here.

Nolan said interaction with the public is one aspect of the Master Gardener program she enjoys the most.

“It is amazing how educated about their gardens that most people are,” she said. “I learn from them and am happy when they learn from us as well.”

Dailey savors getting to share knowledge with the community through events such as garden shows, festivals, county fairs and farmers’ market booths, the Master Gardener Hot Line and newsletter articles. This includes answering questions received through personal phone calls and social media outlets.

“Being associated with Purdue adds credibility to the assistance we provide,” she explained.

Nolan may speak for everyone when she says, “Gardeners are happiest when outdoors working their soil. Sitting back and seeing what one has created is very satisfying.”

The Next Training Program

The Purdue University Extension Master Gardener Program will host its basic training program from 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 30-Dec. 5, at Purdue University Northwest, Westville.

Call (219) 465-3555 or email brow2274@purdue.edu to register. The class has a limited number of openings.

After acceptance into the program, students must attend the weekly three-hour classes and pass a final exam to become a Master Gardener Intern. Required core topics include: pesticide safety and pesticide alternatives; plant disease diagnosis; soils and plant nutrition; lawn care; insect identification and control; and woody ornamentals.

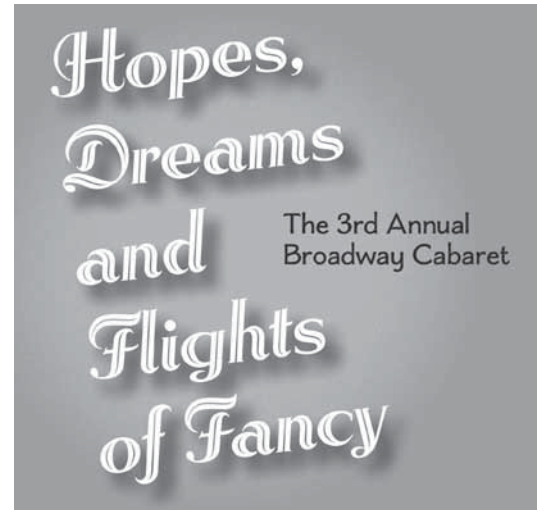
Interns are required to volunteer for a minimum of 40 hours within two years, representing Purdue University, to be certified. To maintain the status, a Master Gardener must volunteer 12 hours and attend six hours of educational training each year.

The \$200 class cost includes a name badge, training materials, handouts, mailings and opportunities to network with other Master Gardeners.

Contact the Purdue Extension Porter County Office at (219) 465-3555 for more details.

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“Demeter” Revisits Dracula from a Stylish, Thrilling New Perspective

by Andrew Tallackson

There is magnificent moviemaking in “The Last Voyage of the Demeter,” but I fear the movie is doomed to down-the-road cult status.

The approach is akin to “Rogue One” (2016), which transformed a footnote in the “Star Wars” universe into its own epic triumph. Here, director André Øvredal, working from a long-gestating script by Bragi Schut Jr. and Zak Olkewicz, takes one chapter from Bram Stoker’s “Dracula” and expands it so what exists is like “Alien” on the high seas. And while it falls short of being a genuine classic, it comes pretty darn close.

The focus is the vampire’s journey, tucked away in crates of his native soil, aboard the ill-fated Demeter from Transylvania to London. We’ve seen snippets of the passage from Stoker’s tale in the 1931 Bela Lugosi version, and a tad more in Francis Ford Coppola’s lavish 1992 update. And as we know, things didn’t go well for the crew.

When the band of Roma that transports the crates watches from a cliff as the Demeter heads out to sea, Bear McCreary’s ominous score accenting the dread, we know we are in good hands. Øvredal is in love with old-school storytelling...but with a lavish, 21st century twist.

We meet the compact crew, and there are standouts: Corey Hawkins (“In the Heights”), as Clemens, is the last-minute addition, an educated black doctor fighting racism and distrust; Aisling Franciosi as Anna, a stowaway who knows plenty about Dracula; Toby (Woody Norman), a young boy who takes to Clemens immediately; and the captain (Liam Cunningham, of “Titanic,” “Lord of the Rings” and “Games of Thrones” fame), whose commanding voice is made for the movies.

The crew experiences warning signs that evil is aboard their ship. The rats flee. The animals below deck are slaughtered. Then, one by one, they’re picked off at night.

The irony is that Dracula, himself, is the least interesting presence. He’s more of an effect. Øvredal does not give him the classic entrance he deserves, nor stages him as genuinely frightening beyond the

expected jump scares. He’s more an elaborate mix of CGI and makeup.

The tension, then, emerges from the same tone as “Alien,” where a disparate crew realizes it’s up against an enemy it cannot defeat. The paranoia, the crushing sense of death — all of it captured



Corey Hawkins and Aisling Franciosi star in “The Last Voyage of the Demeter.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“The Last Voyage of the Demeter”

Running time: 118 minutes. In theaters.

Rated R for bloody violence.

in dynamite sequences, the most unnerving being when Toby is locked in a room with Dracula approaching.

Because we know things don’t fare well, we wonder how the film will treat characters we’ve come to appreciate. The movie finds an agreeable compromise, although framing it as the doorway to a potential sequel is unnecessary.

I suspect “The Last Voyage of the Demeter” won’t find an audience until it hits streaming. Maybe Dracula has fallen out of fashion. Or maybe, moviegoers are still basking in the afterglow of “Barbenheimer.” Whatever the reason, the film is a treat, particularly for horror fans. Moviemaking of a high caliber.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Dunes Summer Theatre will present “Hopes, Dreams and Flights of Fancy,” a family friendly Broadway concert, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 18-20, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

The cast, which performs selections from Broadway musicals, includes current and previous mem-

bers of the acting company, including: Max DeTogne, Lili Galluzzo, Danielle Kerr, Khyel Roberson, Amir Smith, Peter Stielstra and Kate Turner. The musicals include “Amelie,” “Spring Awakening,” “Kinky Boots,” “Guys & Dolls,” “The Music Man,” “The Secret Garden,” “Waitress” and “Godspell.”

The program is indoors, but patrons can sample snacks and drinks on the patio and lawn.

Times are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at \$25. Make reservations at www.dunesarts.org or call (219) 879-7509.

Trivia Night

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25.

Hosted by Trivia Master Mark Kline, doors open at 6 p.m. Food and drinks will be sold. Teams of 8-10 people are suggested.

Funds raised benefit St. Luke’s ministry to serve First Responders. The church hosts an annual “13 and a Half Hour Meal” each spring for police, fire and EMTs, and will hold a “12-Hour Salute” church service and meal Sept. 10, feeding First Responders from noon-midnight.

Call or text (219) 877-7770 to register a team.

Public Art Committee

Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, in the City Hall Mayor’s Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.



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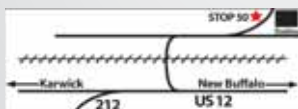
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Lubeznik Arts Festival Returns This Weekend

The 41st annual Lubeznik Arts Festival will feature more than 70 artists from around the United States from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 19-20, on the art center grounds, 101 W. Second St.

Lubeznik staff anticipate more than 3,000 people will attend. In addition to fine arts and crafts, the event includes indoor exhibits by contemporary artists, family activities, free artmaking, live demonstrations, beer, wine and local food vendors.

Saturday admission is \$5, but free for LCA members, children 16 and younger, active military and veterans. Sunday is Free Family Day thanks to support from McDon-



alds of LaPorte County. On display at the LCA is "Vivian Maier: In Color." Centered on Chicago History Museum's new Vivian Maier collection, it features 50 color prints spanning the late 1950s through the 1970s.

Also, LCA's Gallery Shop will be open.

Free parking is available in the You Are Beautiful lot just south of LCA. No dogs are allowed on the grounds except for service dogs.

Festival proceeds support the non-profit LCA, which in addition to exhibits and classes provides outreach programs in the community.

Visit www.LubeznikCenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.

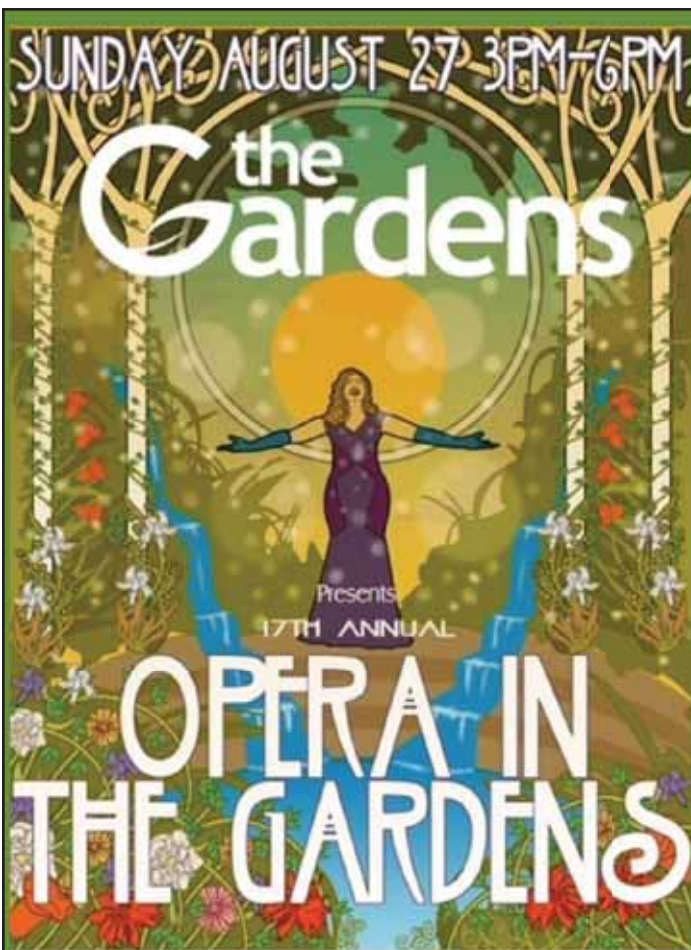
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Find more events at

acornlive.org

Shirley Heinze Land Trust to Host Nature in the Arts

“Pairing Pollinators & Plants,” a free family event that’s part of the Nature in the Arts series, is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust and community partners host the series.

Art activities explore the diversity of Meadowbrook’s native plants and pollinators. Chesterton Art Center will provide templates for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and beetles, which participants can customize with watercolors and pens. Valparaiso’s Art Barn School of Art will lead a mixed-media activity to create a native wildflower scene, which will provide a background for the pollinators.

Activities are under the Meadowbrook pavilion; the event shifts to the Meadowbrook office if the weather is poor.

Guided hikes are at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. for those who want to learn more about the preserve; visitors also may walk the trails on their own. Public parking, water and restrooms are available. Pets are welcome if kept on a leash. The series is supported by South Shore Arts and Indiana Arts Commission, which is supported by the state and National Endowment for the Arts. Visit www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts for more details.



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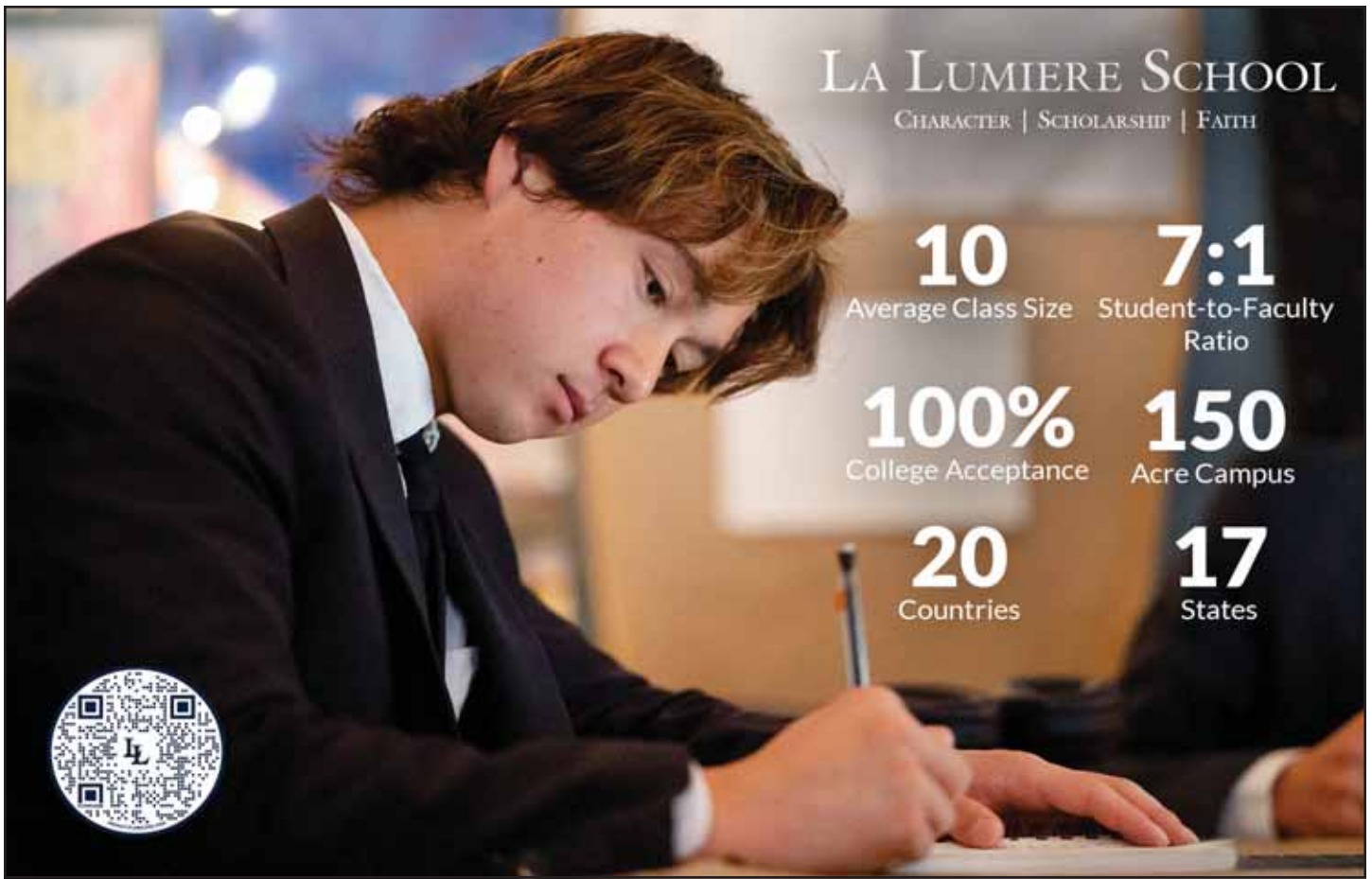
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"Pairing Plants and Pollinators"

Discover how plants and pollinators rely on each other through hands-on art activities and guided hikes at Nature in the Arts. Visitors can enjoy creating a mixed-media art project to make their own wildflower and an assortment of pollinators. Watercolor, pastel, collage and other drawing media will be used.



Scan for more information and to RSVP







Nature in the Arts activities are made possible in part by South Shore Arts and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Harbor Country Film Group



Harbor Country Film Group will view and discuss Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane" (1941), widely regarded as the greatest movie ever, at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Aug. 21, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The film is noted for its inventive storytelling and camera work.

"Here is a film of rare type, one that stays fresh and compelling no matter how many times we've seen it before," Film Group Leader Eve Moran said in a press release.

The film is ranked No. 1 on the American Film Institute's list of 100 greatest American films of all time. It was voted the second-greatest film by directors participating in the British Film Institute's Sight & Sound poll for 2022.

The screening, which is free, include an introduction and discussion afterward. Free popcorn is available.

NB Library Community Forum

Psychologist Janis Clark Johnston will reveal secrets to a successful retirement at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 17, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The free program is part of the Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum.

Johnston's program is based on a survey of people close to retirement and well past it. She has a doctorate in counseling psychology from Boston University, has been a psychologist in schools and a mental health center, and has run a private family psychology practice.

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Reins of Life, 9375 W. County Road 300 North, will hold new volunteer training from 2-4:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, and 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Reins of Life is a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding organization serving adults and children with any diagnosable disability. Each participant requires one to three volunteers per lesson. With more than 100 participants per week, Reins relies on volunteers at all times of day, seven days a week.

Volunteers are trained to prepare horses for lessons and walk next to riders to provide extra support.

Additional training sessions are:

- Interactive Vaulting volunteers from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28.
- Therapeutic Carriage Driving volunteers from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31.

Interactive vaulting volunteers actively boost riders and trot next to horses, while therapeutic driving volunteers hitch the horse to a wagon, then wait until they are needed again.

Experience is not required. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old and wear closed-toe and closed-heel shoes. Call (219) 874-7519 or visit <https://www.reinsofflife.org> for more details.

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Historical Society Museum



LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host Indiana Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "Be Heard: Latino Experiences in Indiana," through Sept. 14.

The exhibit shares stories of what it has been like to be Latino in the Hoosier State in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Also, Thaddeus C. Gallery refurbished the Holy Family Hospital Chapel window that now hangs permanently next to the medical display in the basement. Founded in 1900, Holy Family was the first hospital in LaPorte. The Questers and Dr. M. Barbara Backer helped make the display possible.

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LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., hosted the 2023 Row Crop Tour and Barbecue, which included tours of the museum and Door Prairie Barn. Historic and modern farm equipment were displayed. Afterward, a dinner included the presentation of the Row Crop Ag Scholarship recipients, as well as recognition of those who planned the event. Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, along with LaPorte County officials, attended the event.

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Lilly Scholarship Application

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application is available on the Unity Foundation website through Sept. 8.

The program, administered by Independent Colleges of Indiana and locally by Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, will provide two area students with four-year, full-tuition scholarships to an accredited Indiana college or university of their choice, and an annual stipend for required books and equipment.

Applicants must: be a LaPorte County resident; graduate by June 30, 2024, from an accredited high school that serves LaPorte County; intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an eligible college or university in Indiana; have a grade-point average (unweighted) of at least 3.75 as of the beginning of senior year; and submit a complete application at www.uflc.net/scholarships/lilly by the deadline.

Applications are evaluated based on academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed, and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee will interview finalists before recommending two students to the Independent Colleges of Indiana, which makes the final selection.

Over the past 25 years, 72 LaPorte County students and their families have benefitted from the program, totaling more than \$4.8 million.



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Remembering the Heart, Humor and Talent of Robert Swan

by Andrew Tallackson



Robert Swan (left), seen here with Gene Hackman in the 1986 Oscar-nominated "Hoosiers." Swan passed away Aug. 9.

Robert Swan entered the room, our first encounter in person some 10 years ago, and his presence seemed to fill the space entirely.

Imposing in height.

A voice booming with authority and confidence.

A firm grip.

It feels like a lifetime ago, my nervous uncertainty in his presence. Then again, at 5' 6", most people tower over me, so this was not unusual. As we discussed Harbor Country Opera for a *Beacher* article, something was readily apparent. Swan was not the lurching Goliath to my diminutive David. He was a Teddy bear. Gracious, filled with good cheer.

From then on, he was simply "Bob."

A friend.

And now, Bob is gone, and we have lost one of the good guys.

His good friend, Betty Hoeffner, kept me updated over the past week on his declining health. Even though his passing was imminent, we never truly are prepared for death. For the void left by one's departure from this earth.

Last Christmas, when conducting my annual interview about "Christmas at The Acorn," I teased him that he was this region's equivalent of the Energizer bunny. So many health struggles, but in each case, he bounced back in time for the holiday show. He laughed in response, saying he didn't know if the upcoming Christmas show would be his last, but he would savor it as always.

Since then, we communicated by phone and email on his work in progress, a screenplay called "The Saint & The Scoundrel." He was constantly revising it, always proud of it.

I'm going to miss those talks with Bob.

When news hits that a friend or family member has passed, I take solace in memories and keepsakes that offer a smile amid the sadness.

The memory is of Drew White, shortly after he took over as *Beacher* print salesman when Steve Galinowski retired. Bob was in the office, paying for posters we'd printed. "Hoosiers" is one of Drew's favorite movies, if not his favorite. As Janet Baines wrapped up the purchase, Drew approached him. He voiced his appreciation not only for "Hoosiers," but especially Bob's role in it. He asked him to reenact the scene where his character tears up a ballot and declares, "Coach stays." A huge smile on face, Bob complied. With Drew holding up his cell phone, filming the moment, Bob vigorously shredded a piece of paper and, in his thunderous voice, shouted, "COACH STAYS."

We laughed and applauded.

I'm smiling now, as I write this.

My keepsake is the email Bob sent me last December. It came out of nowhere, humbling me. Journalists, particularly those like myself now considered the "old guard," don't do our jobs seeking accolades. We do it because we love it. Praise, if it arrives, is graciously treasured.

I've posted the email here, not to stroke my own ego, but to convey Bob's generous heart.

What follows is a portion of the information included in Bob's obituary. It spells out as much of Bob's life, and career, as is possible.

Just know that Bob was talented. And kind. And that he lived a good life. That's all you can ask from our time on this earth.

□

Robert Swan, 78, died at 5:47 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, in his Rolling Prairie home.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Collins; his brother, David, and his wife, Elizabeth; a brother, Charles; nephews, Christopher, Bryan and Daniel; two dogs, Baci and Chico; and good friends.

Swan's film resume included not only "Hoosiers," "The Dollmaker" with Jane Fonda and the Oscar-winning "The Untouchables" (1987), but also "Natural Born Killers" (1994), "Rudy" (1993), "The Babe" (1992), "Backdraft" (1991) and "Somewhere in Time" (1980). TV credits included "Missing Persons," "The Equalizer," "All My Children" and "Spenser: For Hire."

(It was during his stint as a heavy on "All My Children" that a woman in New York ran up to him and hit him, recognizing him from the character he played.)

"The Saint & The Scoundrel," a screenplay he'd worked on over the past few years, was honored in the PRIX ROYAL Paris Screenplay Awards. It centered on Samuel Johnson, who created the first modern dictionary, suffered from Tourette Syndrome and is credited with many memorable quotes. A reading of the screenplay, featuring Daniel J. Travanti as Johnson and Si Osborne as his biographer, will take place at a date to be determined.

Robert started his career as a boy soprano singing at St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church in Chicago's Hyde Park area. In his early 20s, as a bass baritone, he sang at various synagogues and church-

es, plus the Lyric Opera chorus and Chicago Symphony chorus. He worked on and off at Court Theatre at the University of Chicago.

In the early 1970s, he performed at Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Ill. He lived in a tent and rode his bike to rehearsals and performances of "Fiddler On the Roof" with Shelly Berman, and in "1776" with Robert Conrad.

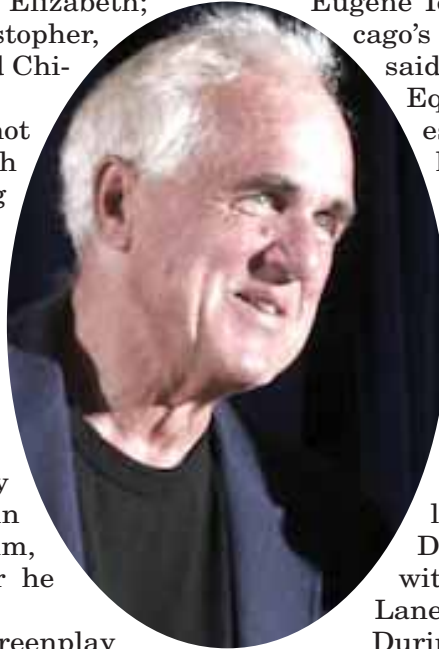
He eventually made it to Broadway as one of four original members of Goodman Theater's original cast of "Freedom of the City." Yearning for larger roles, he produced a production of "The Lesson" by Eugène Ionesco at the Orphans Pub on Chicago's near north side. It also involved, he said, "a new kind of contract allowing Equity actors to perform in new spaces called the COLT contract, which helped give rise to a bunch of theater groups, including a new outfit called Steppenwolf." The play, which featured Barbara Gaines as the student and Mike Nussbaum in his directorial debut, was, by itself, nominated for more Jefferson awards than all the productions at Goodman that year.

He worked with Mickey Rooney in "Show Boat" in Philadelphia. He later worked with him at Chicago's Drury Lane Theatre. He also worked with Broderick Crawford at Drury Lane.

During a lull in his career, he scored voice-over work in Chicago. He was the voice of Busch Beer, Nine Lives Cats Food, United Airlines, Schlitz and The Beef Council.

A celebration of life service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Harbor Country Opera at www.harborcountryopera.org

A retrospective video of Swan's career, created by his dear friends — radio personality/anti-bullying advocate Betty Hoeffner and radio DJ/professional musician Anthony Pratscher — is viewable online at tinyurl.com/39y7k3w9



From: **Robert Swan** hcopera@gmail.com
 Subject: reviews
 Date: December 23, 2022 at 2:48 PM
 To: Andrew Tallackson drew@thebeacher.com

RS

Well Drew, You are my favorite movie critic. I loved your Banshee review. So glad I didn't travel to see it. But it had so much going for it, especially the actor combo. I suspected the hype, too. The writer ran out of ideas. Brendan couldn't think of a reason he killed the burrow. "It was an accident." Really? Your reviews reflect the true spirit of the movies. You get the feeling that you are wishing every movie you see, well. I haven't seen Tar yet, but I appreciate what you had to say about the sad, inevitable, and thus less interesting character arc. You never give in to the temptation of showing off how much smarter you are than the maker of whatever movie you review, which is the curse of most critics I read these days, especially the NYT boys. You are a local treasure who deserves a national forum. There, I said it. My Christmas gift to you. By the way we're not doing our show tonight. First time in my 50+ year career. Performers can't get in. I'm snowbound as well. Too dangerous for the audience. The Acorn is refunding everybody's tickets, as well as my rental. Good on them. Can you read my script? I promise it's easier on the eyes now. Bob

GREAT LAKES GRAND PRIX



Mother Nature may not have cooperated, but the 14th annual XInsurance Great Lakes Grand Prix managed to pull off another thrilling afternoon of powerboat racing.

Festivities were planned for Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 2-6, in the Uptown Arts District and Washington Park. Persistent rain canceled Saturday's boat parade; however, the races commenced Sunday. The Dirty Money Racing team suffered an accident out on the lake, but thankfully, the racers were unharmed.

Beacher photographer James Conlin captured images in and around the races.

Idris Elba's Great Performance, Tension Make "Hijack" Soar

by William D. Tallackson

Apple TV+



Sam Nelson (Idris Elba) tries to prevent terrorists from killing more passengers in "Hijack."

When I watch a TV show that keeps me on the edge of my seat, eagerly anticipating what happens next, my nerves kick in, my heart rate skyrockets.

I know I'm watching something incredible.

Apple TV+'s "Hijack" goes above and beyond. Creators George Kay (creator-writer of Netflix's mystery-thriller "Lupin") and Jim Field Smith (director of Prime's supernatural-comedy "Truth Seekers") blend their techniques to deliver a compelling seven-episode plane thriller that makes it a stunning achievement. It's one that even impressed author Stephen King, who endorsed it on Twitter.

What makes "Hijack" impressive is that it's told in a real-time format, much like Fox's action drama "24," with the action in each episode lasting exactly one hour, the story unfolding over seven hours.

The day starts in Dubai as corporate business negotiator Sam Nelson (Idris Elba) boards Kingdom Airlines flight KA29 to London to return to his estranged wife, Marsha (Christine Adams), and son (Jude Cudjoe). Elba evokes desperation and sadness as Sam longs to reunite with his family, leaving his empty world behind. He enters the sleek aircraft filled with a stressed-out mother constantly scream-

ing at her husband to help their two children stay in their seats. There's also three teen female soccer players, a kind, young, single lady, and a stewardess who is having an affair with the pilot (Ben Miles). The kind of people you expect to see when flying.

After takeoff, one of the soccer players discovers a bullet in the bathroom, alerting a passenger standing outside the bathroom, who assures her that he'll notify the cabin crew. However, she is unaware that he is secretly part of a five-person hijacking crew. Instead, he takes the bullet to first class to the crew's leader, Stuart (Neil Maskell), whispering to him to initiate the takeover. However, Sam and some nearby passengers overhear their conversation. He becomes increasingly suspicious, realizing something is wrong.

Then, the hijackers spring into action, demanding everyone stay seated. Shots are fired, people are screaming, guns are pointed at passengers' heads, phones are confiscated in a fast-paced action sequence. Stuart makes his way to the cockpit, forcibly removing the pilots, who managed to alert the ground about a serious security incident. Sam manages to keep his phone hidden, texting his wife about an incident on board.

Not only does “Hijack” take place in the air, but also on the ground. Marsha receives Sam’s text and alerts her new boyfriend, Daniel (Max Beesley), a police officer, who contacts his ex, Zahra (Archie Panjabi), a counterterrorism specialist. She looks into the incident, suspecting a possible hijacking. The action then alternates between rescue efforts on the ground and the tense situation on the plane.

For example, when two passengers start to fight one of the hijackers, Sam uses his corporate skills to negotiate with the hijackers. His ability to reach agreements with others, and his desperation to reunite with his family, give everyone hope for survival. Elba’s stunning performance successfully transforms Sam into an everyday action-hero.

Kay and Smith draw suspense and tension without creating any distractions that would hurt the overall pacing and story. They integrate these techniques into multiple scenes, such as when passengers look out their windows to find Romanian fighter jets prepared to fire at them. In another scene, Sam secretly has the passengers pass a note down the aisle, and the tension comes from not wanting them to get caught. The same goes for when a little girl gets out of her seat and people are desperately looking for her. The real-time format works in this situation, as the suspense and tension can make a scene much more realistic.

By the last episode, you will be on the edge of your seat the whole time. “Hijack” is able to make



Neil Maskell stars as Stuart, who leads the terrorists when they hijack the plane.

this plane thriller soar while reinventing the action genre.

Contact William Tallackson at williamdtallackson1@gmail.com



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Why I Can't Get Enough of "Jury Duty"

by Andrew Tallackson



Ronald Gladden (center, next to James Marsden) is the only "real" person in "Jury Duty." The rest are actors.

"Jury Duty" is my latest obsession.

Not the legal obligation. Good heavens, no. With my Crohn's disease, I'd make a disastrous juror. No, I mean Prime's eight-episode comedy series. Since its April debut, I've watched it twice. Tumbled down countless YouTube rabbit holes to learn about the cast. Posted about it on social media.

Now that it scored four Emmy nominations — Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Writing and Casting for a Comedy Series, and Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series (James Marsden) — I may have to revisit it again.

Why this show. It's basically an elaborate hoax. A meticulously executed prank. Somehow, what might have been a disastrous blunder emerged as a triumphant middle finger to lazy reality TV. Lightly scripted, largely improvised, with a beating heart that makes you adore these nutty characters. And, you marvel at how they pulled it off.

The concept: Ronald Gladden, a San Diego solar contractor, believes he's answered a Craigslist ad to appear in a documentary with full access to the judicial process. In reality, the trial is fake, everyone involved, from the judge, to the attorneys, to fellow jurors, are actors. Gladden, however, believes he's part of the real thing.

It helps that a few key players know what they're talking about. The judge, played by Alan Barinholtz — father of actor Ike Barinholtz — was an attorney with 40-years experience. Evan Williams, as the de-

fense attorney, has some legal background.

Everyone else? Actors, largely with improv backgrounds. Provided with a script that served largely as an outline, but otherwise, left them to their own devices.

How'd they keep Gladden from figuring it out? The specifics are revealed in the final episode.

The achievement is that it never feels like a stunt. Where you fixate on the mechanics of it. The result feels entirely real. Director Jake Szymanski (a veteran of "Funny or Die" sketches) and writers Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky achieve a comedy that surprises you, makes you laugh out loud and by the end, unexpectedly moved by what the show, itself, refers to as "a hero's journey."

They're referring to Gladden. The success of the show rests on whether or not you like the guy. Had he been a moron, a clueless dolt, then the conceit would have crumbled. Instead, Gladden is the genuine article. A nice guy with a tender heart. One who takes charge within the jury, and treats fellow jurors with respect, no matter how outlandishly they behave.

Outlandish, indeed.

The civil trial involves Cinnamon and Sparrow, a shishi poopoo shop where a batch of shirts are ruined by an employee, Trevor (Ben Seaward), who allegedly was drunk and/or high at the time.

Gladden now admits in interviews that, by Day 2 of the trial, he had a feeling something was off.

How could he not? Trevor's attorney (Williams) is an incompetent whose antics range from being ill-prepared, to knocking over a TV, to presenting an epic-fail digital rendering of the "crime scene."

The jurors are a riot. A few of the highlights:

- Barbara Goldstein (Susan Berger), who keeps nodding off during key testimony.
- Noah Price (show co-writer Mekki Leeper), a wholesome ride-share driver whose girlfriend took off on vacation and may be cheating on him.
- Jeannie Abruzzo (Edy Modica), who is attracted to Noah, and whose mission is to "corrupt" him.
- My favorite: Vanessa Jenkins (Cassandra Blair), one of two African Americans on the jury. At one point, she dismisses the case as "rich white lady problems." Later, her reaction to a ditzy blond's testimony — the woman refers to herself as a "social media ambassador" — is so uproarious, I've viewed it countless times online.
- Todd Gregory (David Brown), the socially inept "inventor" whose "chair pants" are impossible to maneuver.
- Inez De Leon (Maria Russell), who pines for the title of jury foreperson, and who has hysterically funny, back-and-forth verbal wordplay about why she does *and* does not like the plaintiff.

The show finds one outrageous scenario after another for these characters. A field trip to Cinnamon and Sparrow. Dinner at Margaritaville that backfires when the bill arrives. Jeannie's attempts to "deflower" Noah. A birthday picnic gone insanely wrong.

And, you have Marsden playing an extreme version of himself as the alternate juror. Watch him in interviews, and the "X-Men" star is humble to a fault. But here, he pokes fun at actors and their narcissistic extremes. Self-absorbed celebrities who believe everything should be about them. Marsden is fearless, unstoppable. The Emmy nomination is deserved. The joke of his "character" is how quickly the jurors tire of him: ignoring him, belittling his vain outbursts. That's especially true of the bailiff (a riotously deadpan Rashida Olayiwola). Worse, since Marsden is the "alternate," he can't vote. The flashes of vulnerability Marsden shows, of wanting to feel included, are comedic genius.

The laughs come so quickly in "Jury Duty," it requires that you pay swift attention. The punch line involving the plaintiff's real name, and how it gets



James Marsden (right), seen here with Ronald Gladden, deserves his Emmy nomination for playing a narcissistic version of himself.

distorted, evolves from early testimony. Gladden's gentle prodding when Barbara falls asleep during trial are an early sign of his tenderness.

And when juror Ross Kubiak (Ross Kimball), a teacher experiencing marital woes, stalls the jury vote, it seems the series is headed for another punch line. Instead, Ross confesses his private life is so unhappy, being with fellow jurors has been the best time of his life.

You know what? By this point, we get it. We are not ready to say farewell either. These oddballs, all drawn to the goodness inherent in Gladden, become a family. Ready for the trial to be over, but not quite ready to let go of each other.

My wife made the astute observation that there's no way a second season of "Jury Duty" can exist. The show was so popular, she's probably right. Over the past year, Amazon Prime shelled out more than \$800 million combined for the "Lord of the Rings" snoozefest and the so-so spy thriller "Citadel"...and the ratings were dismal. "Jury Duty," by comparison, cost less than \$20 million. By late June, word of mouth carried it to where the series was on track to become one of the most watched in Prime history.

As time passes, and people move on to the latest streaming sensation, I'll remain devoted to "Jury Duty." Forever in awe at how they pulled it off, and how a nice guy named Ronald Gladden became the moral compass amid the madness.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

A Deeper Dive into Dowagiac

We have long wanted to get a closer look at those stately old homes that dot the Dowagiac landscape, over yonder in Cass County, Mich.

Years ago, when we were newly minted Michiganders, we would walk about the city we'd heard so much about. Usually after a leisurely meal at a posh Front Street eatery. We set off on the omnipresent sidewalks into sylvan neighborhoods near downtown, peering into one house after another, wondering what they were like inside.

Just a wee peek is all we wanted.

Then, seemingly out of the ether, we finally got our chance to get a truly inside look at some of Dowagiac's vintage houses. That chance came from my recent reconnection with Dowagiac on account of seeing a physical therapist there after shoulder replacement surgery in early April. In the course of going to therapy in Dowagiac, we met another patient, Nancy Gorham, and her husband, Jim Casebolt. We hit it off immediately with the couple who moved to Dowagiac in the last year from northern California.



The Altus Apartment offers "luxury living" in downtown Dowagiac.

(If that seems strange, it's because Nancy is from Kalamazoo and has a lifelong love of Southwest Michigan. When California got to be too much for them, they bought a home in Dowagiac.)

So, in the course of conversations with Jim and Nancy, we landed on a topic of particular mutual interest: the cool old homes of Dowagiac.

Bingo!

Jim and Nancy invited us to join the Dowagiac Home & Garden Tour on June 24.

We signed right up, and on the baking-hot summer Saturday in question, we set out with our new friends for a deep dive into seven choice Dowagiac domiciles. And I say domiciles, because one of the "homes" on the tour was the Altus Apartment, which the owners bill as "a luxurious, modern apartment

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



in a historic building in the center of downtown Dowagiac, just steps away from the train station." And, I would add, right across Front Street from Caruso's Candy & Soda Shop, which recently celebrated "100 years of sweetness."



Heading in for a closer look at the restoration in progress at 209 Oak St.

Yes, wedding planners, Dowagiac is touting itself as your one-stop wedding destination, complete with venues for the rehearsal dinner, the aforementioned Altus Apartment for the happy couple or your relatives, even the 1870 House for Sunday brunch.

We most certainly climbed the stairs for a grand tour of the Altus and would recommend it without reservation for newlyweds, or those looking for a weekend getaway.

(Contact them at 206-856-5181 or info@thealtus-dowagiac.com)

All seven residences were fascinating, fun and fabulous, but in the space remaining, I would like to concentrate on two of the older homes on the tour:

- The Arthur K. and Bessie (Rich) Beckwith House at 209 Oak St. that was built in 1887 in an East-lake Stick style and is owned by Chris Hilton. It is being restored by Corey Crocker.
- The William F. and Dorcas (Dora) B. Hoyt House at 204 W. Telegraph St. Built in 1895, it was restored in 1977 by Don and Joan Lyons.

First the Beckwith House, where restoration artist Crocker was holding court with fans of reviving

old treasures from the past. Crocker's current challenge is to allow the exterior cladding to literally breathe after being suffocated for decades by siding.

Jim, our new friend, knows all about restoration, having done wonders with one of their previous homes in northern California. He brought his wood-working tools, benches and equipment to Dowagiac, and even crafted a custom "finger ladder" for me so I could continue my shoulder therapy at home.

I nudged Jim to go and chat up Crocker about restoration. Jim looked up at all that spoiled, exterior wood needing to be replaced and shook his head: "My days of going up on a scaffold and tearing off old wood are long gone."

Then, Jim rued the day when siding salesmen spread through the land, persuading owners of old stick-built homes that they needed to "protect" their homes with siding.

Vinyl was a popular choice. Soon, the landscape was full of vinyl-sided old houses.



One of five stained glass windows at 209 Oak St.

And, we covered our furniture with plastic, slapped linoleum on old wood floors and basically did everything we could to cover up the musty old past. But, we eventually came to our senses and started reclaiming our architectural heritage, one board at a time.

Crocker is doing a magnificent job on the Beck-with House. We were particularly impressed with what he has done with the curving staircase up to the second floor, as well as with two of the five stained-glass windows that line the staircase. One should have an illuminating experience when climbing or descending the stairs.

Crocker has certainly provided it.

Now on to the Hoyt House, where Don and Joan Lyons greeted home tourists with tales of how they spent two years restoring all four floors of their graceful old home. Noting they had spent considerable time in Asia, Joan said that experience in-



Every house has a 1932 Packard sedan in the driveway, right?

formed their choice of wallpaper. They did all the wallpapering themselves, and there was yards and yards of it, everywhere, including the ceilings.

I got tired just looking at it all.

But now, the Lyonses can rest on their laurels and enjoy showing off their masterpiece. They even parked their 1932 Packard sedan in the driveway for a mini car-show.

William Hoyt, so you know, was the bookkeeper at Dowagiac Shoe Drill Co. He patented many of the drill parts, and by 1895 was secretary and manager of the company. So, as one of Dowagiac's leading citizens, Hoyt decided to celebrate by building what *The Dowagiac Republican* hailed as "a fine modern residence."

A fine, restored residence is what we toured — all four floors — during our first (of many) Dowagiac Home & Garden Tours.

So, thanks be to Jim and Nancy for inviting us to tag along. We especially enjoyed our last home before home: the mansion at 106 Green St.

We settled in the solarium — every house has a solarium, right? — and just let the sun shine in on the day we finally took that long-awaited deeper dive in Dowagiac.

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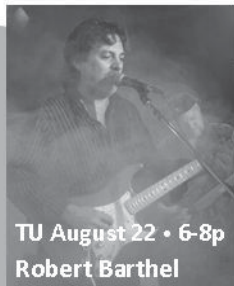
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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **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.
- **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.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Calumet Dunes parking lot, 1596 N. County Road 300 East.** Join a ranger to hike the park's trails this summer, with each week featuring a new trail. It's 19 hikes covering 66 miles to honor the year the park was established.
- **Wonders of Wildlife from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Aug. 19, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Join a ranger to learn what makes the Indiana Dunes unique.
- **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.
- **Octave Chanute Aviation Day from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Learn about the aviation pioneer who experimented with gliders in the dunes, and contributed to the Wright brothers' success.
- **Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.** Join a ranger for a hike up and down sand dunes and through a globally rare black oak savanna. Meet at 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes.
- **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.
- **Pollinator Hike from 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Tolleston Dunes main parking lot, 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes.** Join the Indiana Dunes pollinator research crew on a hike through the Tolleston Dunes trail system to explore pollinators and wildflowers they help pollinate. The hike winds through varied habitats ranging from oak savanna to wetlands and plants such as prickly pear cactus, woodland sunflowers, spiderwort and whorled milkweed. It is a moderately difficult hike, with consistent changes in elevation gaining up to 127 feet with a 2 percent average grade and 9 percent maximum grade. No bathrooms or water stations are available. Binoculars are recommended.
- **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

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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:

- **Awesome Amphibians at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.** Learn about frogs, toads and salamanders.
- **Beach Mysteries at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18.** Meet at the Nature Center to identify items found on the beach.
- **Leapin' Lizards Hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.** Participants in the moderate hike will seek out the fastest and only lizard in the dunes.
- **Ant Lion Safari at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for the short discovery walk.
- **Owl Prowl at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.** Join a naturalist to walk from the campground gate to try and call nearby owls.
- **Turtle Pool Party at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 20.** Meet outside the nature center to learn more about turtles.
- **Ssssnakes Alive! at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, and Wednesday, Aug. 23.** Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.
- **Critter Dinner at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.

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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Middle School Students Complete Summer Leadership Camp



The summer leadership camp was open to students entering sixth through eighth grades.

Leadership LaPorte County recently completed its Summer Leadership Camp for middle-school students at Creek Ridge County Park.

LaPorte County students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades participated in activities on leadership skills and positive character development.

A Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grant supported the camp. The facilitator, Leadership LaPorte County Executive Director Monica Komaskinski, coordinated it with support from several

community volunteers.

“The concepts learned at camp provide a framework for personal growth, confidence and skill-building,” Komaskinski said in a press release. “Camp activities provide experiential learning of key concepts such as team building, personal responsibility, self-confidence and respect for others.”

During the school year, the students will continue training through meetings and activities that focus on community, volunteerism, philanthropy, servant leadership and civic responsibility. A select group is invited to participate in Youth to Youth, a program on the grant-making process for youth projects here. Unity Foundation of LaPorte County funds this program.



Contact Leadership LaPorte County at (219) 325-8223 or info@leadershiplaportecounty.com for more details.

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American Red Cross

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

- Eaton Chiropractic, 8690 Pahs Road, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.
- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 12:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.

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.

Beach Safety Classes

Summer beach safety classes are tentatively scheduled for Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 19-20, Aug. 26-27 and Sept. 9-10, along Michigan City's lakefront.

Programs are weather-dependent, and estimated to start at 2 p.m. They will focus on basic orientation for beach safety, when to stay out of the water and what to do if someone is in trouble in the water.

Program sponsors include Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, Southern Lake Michigan Water Safety Task Force, Stella Maris Chicago, Coast Guard Michigan City Station and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The first 10 people who come for the training receive a free "beach training 2023" T-shirt. Additional shirts will be sold for \$15 each. Email pmpe84@yahoo.com for details.

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LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.

The following programs are planned:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18 at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Teen D&D (ages 12-18) from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game. Registration is required.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, in the main library multipurpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Snack and Read Book Club (ages 5-8) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, in the main library multipurpose room.** Participants will discuss a book and make a themed snack. The focus is David Adler's Cam Jansen and the First Day of School Mystery.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Cassandra Clare (adults 19+) from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23.** Clare is the author of The Mortal Instruments series. Registration is at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/23190>

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

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 following programs are scheduled:

- **Film Showing: "Book Club: The Next Chapter" at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18.** The movie is Rated PG-13.
- **Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Scratch + Micro:bit Game Controllers (ages 9-17) at 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21.** Remix the code in Scratch Games to work with a design of a Micro:bit game controller. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Diamond Painting (ages 10-17) from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23.** Registration through the website is required due to limited supplies.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in August.** 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.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in August.** Children ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend.
- **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.
- **"Star Wars" Scavenger Hunt in August.** Visit Youth Services, find hidden characters and win a prize.

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



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Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers gather before setting off on a 2020 walk through Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.

Harbor Country Hikers will learn about the differences, and benefits, of Goldenrod blooms and ragweed at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 19, at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.

Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher will lead the hike, starting with a brief presentation. The property is located off Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, Mich. It consists of just more than 263 acres and hosts at least eight distinct ecosystems.

The hike is about two miles long and lasts about two hours. It is rated easy to moderate in physical difficulty. Goldenrod, which starts blooming in mid-August, is visible in the preserve's prairie area. Those attending should wear long pants (preferably tucked in), a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots. They also should take insect repellent and plenty of water. Depending on the weather, there may be muddy areas.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is invited. An all-terrain rollator — a wheeled walker with oversized tires for unpaved surfaces — is available for those with difficulty walking.

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

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Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



North Course, "Early Birdies,"
Aug. 7, 2023
Event: Closest to the Pin Drive,
Hole #6

A Flight

Low Gross: Linda Hirsch, Jane Shuger.
Low Net: Linda Hirsch, Jane Shuger.
Low Putts: Linda Hirsch, Jane Shuger.

B Flight

Low Gross: Paula Hutchinson.
Low Net: Carol Hullings.
Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall.

C Flight

Low Gross: Alice Wozniak.
Low Net: Alice Wozniak, Charlotte Wozniak.
Low Putts: Alice Wozniak.

D Flight

Low Gross: Shirley McCarty.
Low Net: Shirley McCarty.
Low Putts: Tina Kintzele.

Birdies: Jane Shuger, Hole #3.
Event: Barb Rumbuc.

South Course, "Par-Tee Women's Golf League,"
Aug. 9, 2023

Event: Total Pts-Birdies, Pars, Bogeys & Double Bogeys

Flight A

Low Gross: Jane Shuger.
Low Net: Jane Shuger.
Low Putts: LuAnn Uremovich.
Event: Linda Hirsch, Jane Shuger.

Flight B

Low Gross: Wendy Shaver.
Low Net: Wendy Shaver.
Low Putts: Paula Hutchinson, Jane Spang.
Event: Wendy Shaver.

Flight C

Low Gross: Pat Collado, Mary Lou Marshall.
Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall.
Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall.
Event: Mary Lou Marshall.

Flight D

Low Gross: Sandra Provan.
Low Net: Sandra Provan, Bev Szybala.
Low Putts: Sandra Provan.
Event: Sheila Brackin, S. Provan, Bev Szybala.

Chip Ins: LuAnn Uremovich, Hole #3.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

Aug. 3, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

A Flight Low Net

First — Janet Andreotti.

Second — Donna Hennard.

Third — Sue Luegers.

Low Putts – Julie Doyle.

Birdies – Andreotti (#5), King (#3), Luegers (#5, #8).

Sunken Approach – June Salmon (#3).

B Flight Low Net

First — Nancy Thill.

Second — Susan Keeley.

Third — Diane Rubey.

Low Putts – Babs Ward.

Sunken Approach – Gloria McMahon (#18).

C Flight Low Net

First — Marti Doherty.

Second — Alison Kolb.

Third — Barb Beardslee, Teresa Curi, Kathi Mole.

Low Putts – Alison Kolb.

Sunken Approaches – Beardslee (#12), Doherty (#3).

D Flight Low Net

First — Kathleen Flores.

Second — Marge White.

Third — Jackie Purcell.

Low Putts – Regina Bradley.

Sunken Approach – Jackie Purcell (#3).

New Buffalo Township Library

- **“Take the ‘Tired’ out of ‘Retired’: Transform Your Retirement!”** The program is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.
- **Avian Wonders.** The program is from 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Weekly programs:

- Mommy and Me Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. Mondays at New Buffalo Township Park.
- 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.

Art Barn School of Art

Julia Holmaas will host a virtual review, presented through Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, from 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22.

The idea is to provide feedback on recent work. The cost is \$5. Visit www.artbarnschool.org 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.



In the Area

Aug. 17 — MCCMF: “Baby Beethoven,” 6 p.m., HeadStart/Niemann Elementary, 811 Royal Road. Free. Info: www.MCCMF.org, (219) 561-1939.

Aug. 17 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *Aug. 17* — Middle of the Road.

Aug. 18 — Film Showing: “Book Club: The Next Chapter,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 18 — Music Under the Stars Presents Robert Rolfe Feddersen, 7 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: online — \$15/members, \$20/non-members; at door — \$25/members, \$30/non-members; free/children 12 & younger. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

Aug. 18 — MCCMF: “A Celebration of African-American/European Musicians,” 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Info: (219) 561-1939, www.MCCMF.org

Aug. 18-20 — Broadway cabaret, “Hopes, Dreams and Flights of Fancy,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets start at \$25. Reservations: www.dunesarts.org

Aug. 18-20 — “The Dastardly Doctor Devereaux,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Aug. 19 — MCCMF: “Come Together!,” 6 p.m.,

Head Start/Niemann Elementary, 811 Royal Road. Free. Info: www.MCCMF.org, (219) 561-1939.

Aug. 19-20 — Lubeznik Arts Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., art center grounds, 101 W. Second St. Saturday admission: \$5, free/LCA members & children 16 and younger, active military, veterans. Sunday: Free Family Day. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org, (219) 874-4900

Aug. 20 — MCCMF, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Info: (219) 561-1939, www.MCCMF.org

Aug. 21 — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 21 — Scratch + Micro:bit Game Controllers (ages 9-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 21 — Teen D&D (ages 12-18), 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 21 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 23 — Snack and Read Book Club (ages 5-8), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 23 — Diamond Painting (ages 10-17), 4-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 23 — Virtual Author Talk with Cassandra Clare (adults 19+), 7-8 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through August — “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. Info: www.bsdepot.org

Through August — Pat Herman’s “Perspectives & Retrospectives,” SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St. Info: www.PatHermanArt.com

Through August — Summer Fun Exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Sept. 4 — “Water: Above and Below — Photographs by Timothy D. Lace, 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. 14 — Indiana Historical Society’s traveling exhibit, “Be Heard: Latino Experiences in Indiana,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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.

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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 — Yoga in the Gardens with April Fallon, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

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.

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. 17 — Awesome Amphibians, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 18 — Beach Mysteries, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 18 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 18 — Bowmanville, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45 + \$4 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 19 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-10:30 a.m., Calumet Dunes parking lot, 1596 N. County Road 300 East. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 19 — Leapin’ Lizards Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 19 — Wonders of Wildlife, 10 a.m.-noon, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighbor-

hood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 19 — “Pairing Pollinators & Plants,” 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso. Free. Info: www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts

Aug. 19 — Octave Chanute Aviation Day, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 19 — Ant Lion Safari, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 19 — Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Aug. 19 — Baseball trivia, 4 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission.

Aug. 19 — Owl Prowl, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 19 — Mucca Pazza-A CLUB ACORN Show, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 20 — Turtle Pool Party, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 20 — Midwest Made: Drew Stolz & Priscilla Sabourin, 7 p.m. EDT, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 20, 23 — Ssssnakes Alive!, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 21 — Critter Dinner, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 21 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, “Citizen Kane,” 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Continued on Page 46



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Continued From Page 45

Aug. 22 — Avian Wonders, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Aug. 23 — Potawatomi Audubon Society nature hike, 9 a.m., 2401 Village Point, Chesterton.

Aug. 23 — Pollinator Hike, 2-3:30 p.m., Tolleston Dunes main parking lot, 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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

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 Center 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*: "Dreamin' Wild." Rated PG. Time: 7 p.m. Aug. 18, 4 p.m. Aug. 19, 7 p.m. Aug. 18. *Also*: "Close to Vermeer." Not Rated. Times: 4 p.m. Aug. 18, 1:30 & 7 p.m. Aug. 19, 4 p.m. Aug. 20. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickers-theatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

The deadline to submit items in Upcoming Events is 9 a.m. Thursdays

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An Honest Man by Michael Koryta (hardcover \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 369 pages.)

I've never read Koryta before, but after racing through his latest book, I will be reading more. His prose is scary, poetic and top-of-the-line thrilling.

The story takes us to a small island off the coast of Maine. Salvation Point is the name, but these days, there is no salvation to be had. The federal government had declared a large portion of the ocean around the island a Lost Zone, meaning commercial fishing has been shut down. Businesses close, many folks leave for the mainland seeking work and the few who stay are too stubborn to leave the only home they know.

Can a murderer also be an honest man? Israel Pike doesn't know what he is anymore. He spent the last 15 years in jail for the murder of his father, Charlie Pike. And, yes, there's quite a story there. An abusive one, to be sure. But, whispered stories around the island — how could he kill his own father? — grow to make him the pariah of the Pike family. If only they knew the truth...

His grandfather built fishing boats and when he died left the boatyard and equipment to Israel. That didn't go over well with Israel's uncle, Sterling Pike. He's the only law on the island, a deputy sheriff. And he carries a huge grudge against Israel for killing his brother. Israel often wonders how such a wonderful man as his grandfather could have fathered two such terrible sons.

"The yacht appeared nine weeks after Israel returned to his father's house, and even from a distance and under the squeezed red sun of dawn, he could see that the vessel was in trouble. Adrift, rudderless, a possession of the sea rather than a partner of it."

It's just after dawn, and Israel motors out to a horrific scene. The boat is named the Mereo and is at least 100 feet long. A floating palace. Seven men on board are dead. Two of them are political rivals vying for the position of state senator. Why in the world are they together on a pleasure cruise?

And one obvious point — where are any women? A cruise on a luxury ship surely would mean female companionship, right?

After Israel calls 9-1-1, Sterling shows up along with a woman, Lt. Jenn Salazar of the Maine State Police major crimes division. Nothing is said between them, but there are hints that Jenn and Israel know each other. Sterling hasn't a clue about that — and that's probably a good thing.

Of course, to Sterling, the killing onboard the yacht makes Israel suspect No. 1. Dear Uncle Ster-

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ling will see to that. Until...

Israel is approached by a man who calls himself Caruso, saying he can help make the murders on the ship go away. He talks like the man you wouldn't buy a used car from. Israel puts him off for the moment. Jenn says she never heard of him.

Israel next walks into an ambush by three island men who aim to teach him a lesson because of something his loving uncle told them. Jenn's intervention is the only thing saving him from a massive beating — or death.

What's going on here? There's more to Israel's story to come — slowly, but surely, like the storm brewing over the ocean headed for Salvation Point. And did I mention? One of the seven dead men on the yacht is the attorney general who put Israel in prison when he was a prosecutor...Israel can feel the prison bars closing around him. He knows Sterling has more ammunition to put him away for life. Israel is discovering that sometimes, trying to be a good man can backfire.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the island, a 12-year-old named Lyman Rankin spends his time hiding from his father. His mother left after years of abuse by her husband, but how could she leave her only son to this drunken madman? A man who takes a belt to his son for every perceived disrespect.

Lyman finds peace and quiet in an empty house nearby at the ocean's edge. It is an empty house, its owner long gone. But this time, Lyman finds it's not empty — a young woman faces him from the other side of the room...

"She was pretty, he realized, if you overlooked the blood and the bruises and the torn-up feet. And the hatchet, of course. That would be hard to get past for a lot of people."

Only a 12-year-old boy would look at her that way, right?

How all these lives finally intersect makes a powerful story of greed, sex, politics and a whole lot more. Koryta's writing is razor sharp, with words that slash across the page, making you wonder if anything in Israel's life can ever be normal again.

The final word: The fight scenes make you hear the punches thrown, and the ocean, not to be left out, makes its own wild music. It's a pulse-pounding climax that will confirm whether Israel is an honest man or the murderer he has been labeled. Watch out for the twists and turns — you may get dizzy!

Till next time, happy reading!



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1-3 ads - \$9 each. 4 or more ads - \$7.50 each. (Additional lines \$1 each)

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www.reprographicarts.com**Lefty Summertime Blues.** Back to school. Girls high school golf starting. Football season? Aren't we lucky not to have to putt a ball with pointed ends and laces? Seriously, I love summer, but it seems to get shorter every year. Fortunately, we have September-October next up. Time to enjoy splendid weather, reaping of the harvests and some of the finest golf weather of the year. Lefty, Pogo, Yogi and Olive have been blessed with another great business year. We would like to thank all of our golf clients, great friends and super families for helping make this possible. Successful buying and selling at trades were made, and a huge amount of kids clubs were used for the excellent lessons and tournament opportunities made available by local public courses and country clubs. Kudos to all for another fine season of instruction and competition in the wonderful world of golf. Lefty's Pro Shop is open and a vast inventory available at pre-inflation prices. **Call (219) 873-0858 for an appointment date and time.** Namaste, Lefty, and Olive says, brush your teeth and do your homework.**A Call Away Transportation and Wine Tours** offers transportation needs for weddings, bachelor and bachelorette parties, wine tours, airport or just a night out! Call today to book your next event at (219) 214-0820.**A Call Away Executive Housekeeping.** We are new with plenty of availability! Residential & commercial, boats & yachts! We are one call away!!
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Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that the self-storage units listed below will be sold on a public website by competitive bidding ending at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25, at www.lockerfox.com for the property at:

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Michigan City, IN 46360

(219) 872-4247

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\$2,700,000

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Robin Willoughby is a Real Estate Broker and Property Manager. Born and raised in Sheridan Beach she fell in love with this area. As a Realtor, she loves to help her clients find the perfect place to call home. As a Property Manager, she enjoys sharing with her guests all the amazing attractions that Northwest Indiana has to offer, From the beautiful sandy beaches of Lake Michigan to the best food our local restaurants have to offer.



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