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A Golden Hoosier

by Kim Nowatzke

Often, it's the individuals behind the scenes who give freely and cheerily of their time, and in seemingly small ways, who make a big difference.

Jeanoma Babcock is one of those people.

Recently recognized with an Indiana Golden Hoosier Award, Babcock, 79, has impacted thousands of students' lives over the past 46 years as a Coolspring Elementary School library volunteer.

An unsung book hero.

"Some people say, 'You don't get paid,' but you do," she said with a knowing smile.

Kathy Schroll, the principal's secretary at Coolspring, has worked with Babcock for more than 25 years, calling her an asset to the school library.

"She instills her love and knowledge of books with our staff and students and is an integral part of running our library," Schroll said. "Coolspring School is so lucky and appreciative of her time and dedication."

Babcock was "speechless" after learning she was one of 21 people to receive the highest honor bestowed upon older Hoosiers, as explained by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch at an award ceremony last September in Indianapolis.

"Jeanoma has not only committed her time and talents to Coolspring School and its staff and students, but she has also committed her heart," MCAS

Continued on Page 2



Jeanoma Babcock holds the Golden Hoosier Award she received for volunteering in the Coolspring Elementary School library for the past 46 years. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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A Golden Hoosier

Continued from Page 1

District Librarian Gwen Hudson, who nominated Babcock, said. “She works endlessly to help in any way she can. She’s there four days a week without fail. She works both in the library and in teachers’ classrooms to help encourage and support a love of reading. We are all so blessed to have Jeanoma working with us.”

Begun in 2008, the Golden Hoosier award “is not one act of community service, but rather a lifetime of community service and commitment to serving others,” Crouch wrote for the awards-ceremony program.

Babcock’s library legacy is what you might call a life-long calling, planted as a seed in her heart by her own experience in her high school library.

“I always wanted to work in a library,” Babcock, who read a lot as a child, explained. “I wanted to make sure that kids would feel comfortable asking questions and finding books.”

When her oldest child, Blake, was in kindergarten at Coolspring, he brought home a note from Mary Johnson, Coolspring’s library secretary at the time, soliciting volunteers for the library.

“I got that little note and I said YES!,” Babcock recalled.

Today, she volunteers 26 hours a week. Due to the limited paid library staff within MCAS that service Coolspring, she provides the time and dedication that might otherwise be difficult to maintain.

“Mrs. Babcock is the most devoted volunteer in the history of Coolspring,” Principal Kim Palmer said. “She has the most admirable work ethic and

rarely ‘takes a day off.’ We are blessed to have her as part of our Coolspring Crew!”

While “on the clock,” Babcock has no problem filling hours. To begin with, 12 kindergarten through sixth-grade classes make weekly visits, when Babcock accomplishes much more than just checking books in and out. As students arrive and move through the library, she addresses them with Mr. and Miss, to help foster respect. She teaches how to use the card catalog and Dewey Decimal System.

“I teach them library skills,” she said. “I want them to know how to find books and find them quickly.”

To make that easier, she incorporates items around the library as markers. For example, stuffed animals atop a bookshelf designate the area for books about animals.

Sports balls show how to find sports-themed books. A small globe represents history and geography. Space-related toys indicate the astronomy section. She trains the children to use paint stirrers to mark a book’s spot on the shelf when they temporarily remove it.

“Anything that helps the kids find the books — kids have a hard time finding the thing they love to read,” she explained.

“But, once they find that, they are readers.”

When MCAS sixth-graders remained in elementary schools instead of advancing to middle school in 2014, Babcock created a special sixth-grade section targeting advanced readers. She’s proud of a new “Kindergarten Korner” this year that will make it even easier for the youngest students to find age-appropriate books.

And, she’s appreciative of a new wooden rolling cart gifted from the school. It bears a plaque that reads, “This Cart Is Dedicated In Honor Of Jeanoma Babcock.”



Coolspring Elementary School Principal Kim Palmer (left) and District Librarian Gwen Hudson present Jeanoma Babcock with a special rolling cart for the library in her honor. Provided photo.



In the Coolspring Elementary School library, a special plaque on a new rolling cart designates it in honor of Jeanoma Babcock. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

“The teachers and staff are so accommodating,” she said.

Her favorite part of time spent in the library is reading to students.

“I have one little girl in kindergarten who says to me after every book that I read, ‘Miss B, that was just lovely.’”

Behind the scenes, Babcock keeps busy ordering, managing and mending books.

“It’s important to update the inventory, especially non-fiction books,” she said. “Pluto isn’t a planet anymore, you know.”

Paperback books are covered in contact paper, plastic covers are placed on hardback books and any special stickers are attached. One book, “Book of Dogs,” is out of print but is so popular, Babcock recovers it every year.

“Any student that checks it out, I tell them they better take good care of it because I can’t get another one.”

Babcock admits she is “very protective of this library.”

She said it takes anywhere from 12-15 minutes to get a new book ready to add to the 14,000 books in the library.



Checking books in and out is just one of the many responsibilities that has kept Jeanoma Babcock busy volunteering in the Coolspring Elementary School library over the past 46 years. Photo provided.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

She coordinates a Scholastic Book Fair in February and October of each school year, with hopes to add a third buy-one-get-one-free event.

In addition to buying books for their children, she added, “Parents can buy books for our library or other classes. We get a percentage of sales in ‘scholastic dollars’ to buy more books, technology equipment or other school supplies.”

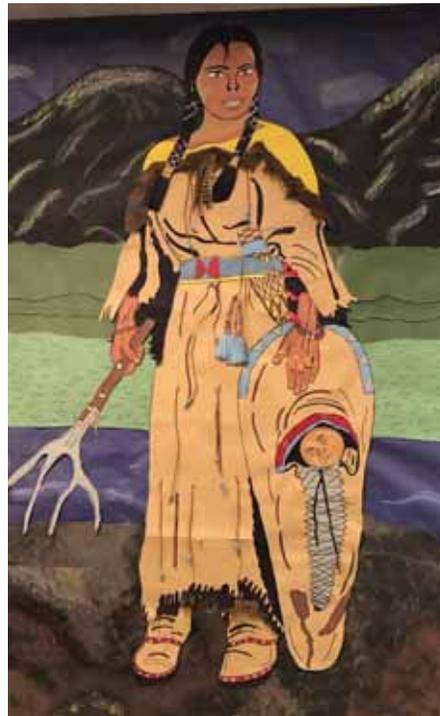
Babcock admits “kids aren’t reading as much as they used to, not as many diverse books and not as well.”

To help combat that trend, Babcock developed a summer reading program five years ago. Parents initial the students’ reading log. The one who reads the most books in each class earns an extra special prize.

One student read 120 books.

“I look for really cool educational prizes” she noted, showing off a TRUEChallenge Pro and Light STAX Junior Illuminated Blocks.

She incorporates different themes in the library throughout the year, reading books to students and often bringing in objects to accompany the stories. There’s a unit on the Preamble to the Constitution in



A bulletin board design created by Jeanoma Babcock for a unit on Native Americans. Provided photo



Jeanoma Babcock stands next to Little Drummer Boy artwork she made for the holidays. With her are Coolspring Elementary School students (from left): kindergartner Mar’Ziah Frazier, third-grader Charley Childers, first-grader Daisy Starett and second-grader Chance White.

Photo by Kim Nowatzke

which she breaks down the parts of it and how it applies to Americans. She teaches about different holiday celebrations, including Christmas, Hanukkah, *Posada* and Kwanza.

Coolspring students learn how the Iroquois nation invented the first baby bottle, and see an example of fry bread during the Native Americans unit. And, she finds interesting people, such as Joseph Lee, who invented the first breadcrumb

maker, to feature during Black History Month.

The last, she said, is her favorite because “the stories are so rewarding, exciting and inspirational.”

Babcock’s themes come to life with designs for the library’s approximately 63” wide by 72” high bulletin board, which she changes every other month. She’s created more than 40 different designs and uses an overhead projector to match up the pieces to their designated spot on the wall. Adding to the fun, she often would hide the names of her five grandchildren in the artwork.

She especially enjoys designs for the Native Americans unit. Her favorite is one of two Indiana boys riding horses, which originally took 42 hours to create and now takes two hours to assemble each year.

“Everybody loves it. It’s my favorite,” she said. “The kids relate to how they are so free and joyous riding the horses.”

The artist inside Babcock is grateful for what the bulletin board provides.

“Once I stopped doing theater (in 2018),” she said, “this gave me an outlet to be creative, which I enjoy a lot.”

She began appearing with Acting Theatre of Michigan City in 1990, which transformed into Metamorphosis Traveling Theatre that performs in schools, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Coolspring Elementary School isn’t the only place where Babcock volunteers. Each year, she plans and prepares a “13 1/2 Hours Meal” for first responders in LaPorte County through St. Luke United Lutheran Church. She coordinates vacation Bible school

there each year, was a Boy Scout troop leader for 13 years and is a former Salvation Army of Michigan City volunteer.

Babcock feels when it comes to helping out in a library, there is something for everyone.

“No matter what talent you have, you could use it in a library,” she said, “I can’t imagine anyone not enjoying working in a library.”

Over the years, she has been inspired by “a lot of great library helpers – that’s for sure.”

But, there are a few who stand out in her mind who “made time out of their busy lives to be here.”

There was Connie, who came even after two knee replacements and one hip replacement. There was Carol, who wore a wig because of cancer treatments. There was Karen, who was working full time and finishing college in the evening, yet still found time to volunteer. And, there was another mom who paid for a



Jeanoma Babcock shows off a Kindergarten Korner created this year with books designated for the youngest students, and a new rolling cart provided by the school in honor of her. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

babysitter for her toddler so she could volunteer in the library.

“Those are the people that inspire me in this library,” she said. “They energize me when I think of them.”

Currently, there are no other volunteers in Coolspring’s library.

“It’s so important,” she said. “I hope when people read this article, they will consider volunteering in a library,” she emphasized. “I’m not a public speaker, but anytime I get a chance to talk about volunteering in a library, I will. I’ve been quietly working here for 46 years. I’m not a person that likes to be in the spotlight, but I think it’s important if it inspires someone to help out in a library.”

Are retirement plans on the near horizon?

“I plan on staying at Coolspring for 50 years – I’ll be 83 – and then I’ll THINK about re-

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WinterFest Returns With a Full Weekend of Events

The annual WinterFest, organized by LaPorte Park and Recreation Department, returns Friday-Sunday, Jan. 27-29, with events planned throughout the community.

Many programs are free. The schedule is:

Friday, Jan. 27

- Ice sculpturing demonstrations, Friday afternoon, Plaza 618, downtown LaPorte. Free. Shops and restaurants will be open.

Saturday, Jan. 28

- Ice Dishing Derby, 6 a.m.-2 p.m., Pine Lake. Registration starts at 5 a.m. at The Blue Heron Inn, 1110 Lakeside St. The cost is \$60.
- Snowball Softball Coed Tourney, 9 a.m., Lions Field in Soldiers Memorial Park. The event is a double-elimination tournament.
- Introducing Kids Gymnastics, LaPorte Civic Auditorium lower level, 1001 Ridge St. Check the website for the time. The certified instructor is Christie Trksak. The class is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. A waiver is required.
- Parties on the Gogh Painting Class, LaPorte Civic Auditorium ceramics room. The adult class costs \$35, with pre-registration required at the park office, 250 Pine Lake Ave. All supplies and instruction are included. Check the website for the time.
- Frosty's Frozen Bike Ride, 1-3 p.m., Cummings Lodge. The event is free. Registration is at noon, with the ride beginning at 1 p.m. Participants take a leisurely one-hour ride and return to Cummings Lodge for snacks and hot chocolate.
- Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt, 5-7 p.m., Fox Park Amphitheater. The event is free. The park will serve as a template for glow-in-the-dark letters that, when combined, allow people to successfully complete the challenge. Take a flashlight.

Sunday, Jan. 29

- Kiwanis Club of LaPorte Pancake Breakfast,

7:30-11:30 a.m., LaPorte National Guard Armory, 2391 W. Indiana 2. The breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage and refreshments. The event is free; however, donations benefit LaPorte County 4-H Club.

- Ice skating, 1-7 p.m., downtown LaPorte Ice Rink, Monroe and State streets. The event is free by



entering the discount code WINTERFEST during checkout. Skate rental is available for \$3. A signed waiver is required. Reserve a spot at www.laporteparkandrec.com

- Horse-drawn wagon rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Cummings Lodge. The program is free. After heading through Soldiers Memorial Park, return to the lodge for hot chocolate.
- Snow Art, 2-4 p.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center. The free program is weather dependent. All ages are welcome, and no pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.laporteparkandrec.com/ for more details.



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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available.
- **National Park Themed Movie from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturdays-Sundays in January at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The schedule is: Jan. 28-29: "Heroes on Deck."
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 28.** 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 is closed.
- **Snowshoe Open House at Chellberg Farm (snow permitting) from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in January at the Park Connection Office at Chellberg Farm.** At least 3 inches of snow is required, and a limited number of snowshoes are available for loan. Regardless of snow, the farmhouse may still be open for hikers to stop by. Call the visitor center at (219) 395-1882 for details. Park at the lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.



IDNP is accepting applications for businesses of-

fering approved services, such as guided hikes, overnight backpacking and camping trips, photography lessons, instructional classes, guided kayaking, canoeing, paddle boat tours and mobile food trucks.

The park will review all proposals. Depending on the type of service, there may be some requirements, such as having insurance and following federal, state and local food-handling ordinances.

Applications can be sent to: Indiana Dunes National Park, Attn: Steve Rossi, Concessions Management Specialist, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304. There is a \$100 nonrefundable fee to process the application. The permit is valid through Dec. 31, 2023, and all approved service providers will be listed on the national park's website as an authorized vendor. Visit [/tinyurl.com/2n5ya2vb](http://tinyurl.com/2n5ya2vb) for an application or more details.

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

- **Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops on Saturday, Jan. 28.** Sessions are from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1-2:30 p.m. Learn the art of wire wrapping to make beach-glass jewelry. The cost is \$7, and pre-registration is required.
- **"Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O" at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to help fill bird feeders and play the game.
- **Nature Myths at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.** Meet at the Nature Center to help shatter myths about animals that call the dunes home.

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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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The library is changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will close while work is done.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Glow Stick Dance Party! for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27.** Children 6 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Call Youth Services at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in January.** 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.

- **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.

□

The library seeks volunteers to help at least one day a week during tax season (February-April) through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for details.

□

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required. (Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.)

All-State Honor Choir



Michigan City High School senior Makalinn Jenks (alto, left) and junior Brooklynn Wade (soprano) competed earlier this month in the Indiana All-State Honor Choir. They performed in Fort Wayne at the Indiana Music Educator's Conference, joining 150 other high school choral students from across the state. Wade and Jenks auditioned by preparing music to sing before a judge and performing various musical excerpts by sight.

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“Enchanted Lands” Collage Exhibit



Works included in the exhibit by the late Scott Hatt.

“Enchanted Lands: The Collage Works of Scott Hatt, which features 56 pieces by the late South Bend artist, runs through March 5 at Elkhart’s The Midwest Museum of American Art.

Works come from the Scott Hatt Estate. Brian Byrn, the museum’s director and curator, has worked closely with Dr. David Barton, professor of music emeritus and sole executor of the estate, to present the exhibit. Chosen from more than 400 pieces, it emphasizes nostalgic images of family life in the Atomic Age of the 1950s alongside references to European art of centuries past.

The museum is located at 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Admission is: \$10 per adult, \$6 for ages 8-12, and \$8 for ages 13-18 and college students with ID. Call (574) 293-6660, visit www.midwestmuseum.us or email info@midwestmuseum.us for details.



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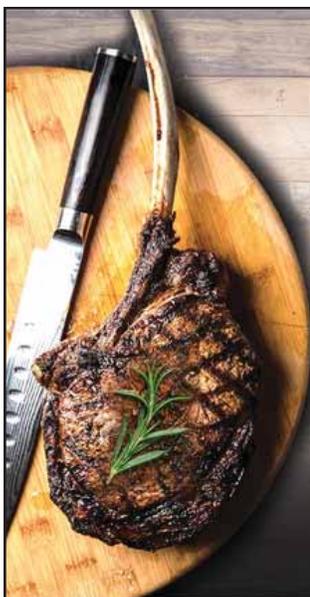
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LaPorte County Public Library

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.).

LaPorte County Public Library patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines when an item is returned late. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.

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- The following programs are planned:*
- **Personal Archiving (Adults 19+) from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Participants will learn practice tips and tricks for storing papers, photos and other personal items, as well as how to begin organizing them for reference later.
 - **Stories & More from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Coolspring branch, and 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
 - **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, at the main library.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
 - **Virtual Author Talk with Randall Munroe (Adults 19+) from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31.** Munroe is a *New York Times* bestselling author. Registration is at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/22017>
 - **Readers Corner-Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Refreshments will not be served, but participants may take coffee or tea.
 - **Crafty Kids (ages 6-11) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, in the main library multipurpose room.** Children learn new craft styles and techniques while developing fine motor and listening skills.

□

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 programing through the Exchange building.

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A.K. Smith Culinary Students Headed to Disney World

Patrick’s Grille representatives presented a \$1,500 check to Emmanuel Johnson, an A.K. Smith Career Center Culinary Arts student, to cover a Walt Disney World trip later this year.

Johnson is one of nine students from the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Culinary Program who will participate in the “Cook Around the World” competition in April in Orlando. According to Mary Koselke, one of two A.K. Smith culinary instructors, Johnson, who works part time at Patrick’s Grille, was selected based on classroom merit.

There are approximately 60 students enrolled in the Culinary Arts program, coming from schools throughout LaPorte County, as well as New Buffalo, Mich. Nine selected for the trip were chosen based on classroom work, work ethic and leadership.

During “Cook Around the World,” students will compete against other students from across the country, attend seminars and meet celebrity chefs. They also will attend the Disney theme parks.

The trip’s total cost for all students is more than \$16,000, but students have been working to raise funds through bake sales, give-back events and sponsorships. Patrick’s Grille, 4125 Franklin St., will host a give-back event Thursday, Jan. 26, with 10 percent of sales supporting the students.

Anyone wishing to contribute financially to the



Emmanuel Johnson holds the Patrick’s Grille donation.

experience or the Culinary Arts program can contact Koselke at mkoselke@mcas.k12.in.us. More information about the program is available at www.EducateMC.net/culinary.

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“Otto” is the Perfect Vision of Beloved Backman Book

by Andrew Tallackson



Oscar-winner Tom Hanks stars as the title curmudgeon.

Kinda funny, if you think about it. Sweden wasted no time bringing “A Man Called Ove,” the winning debut novel by native son Fredrik Backman, to the big screen...but it’s Hollywood that got it right.

The author’s style is an acquired taste. He is a bit of a philosopher about human nature: amused by his offbeat characters, but driving them full-speed ahead toward a resolution that is all heart.

You would think Backman’s home turf would crush it with any adaptations. If anyone “gets” him, it’s the Swedes. But I found the film versions of “A Man Called Ove” (2015) and “Britt-Marie Was Here” (2019), as well as the HBO Max mini-series of “Beartown” (2021), rather empty. Like watching the CliffsNotes equivalents: all the key ingredients present, the heart and soul missing.

Now, 10 years after “A Man Called Ove” thrust Backman into the limelight, Hollywood arrives with “A Man Called Otto,” and it is perfection, consuming the Swedish adaptation whole. How so? Director Marc Forster (“Monster’s Ball,” “World War Z”) and screenwriter David Magee, whose Oscar-nominated script for 2012’s “Life of Pi” is a master class in book-to-screen adaptation, embrace the full weight of the author’s story.

On the page, “A Man Called Ove” deconstructs the myth of the grumpy old man. That a sour demeanor is not a symptom of age, but a life drenched in grief.

In this American update, Otto, played with old-pro restraint by Tom Hanks, is a massive crank who



“A Man Called Otto”

Running time: 126 minutes. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving suicide attempts, and language.

storms through his neighborhood hellbent on enforcing all the “rules.” How people park or recycle. The neighbors try to be agreeable, even when Otto isn’t: scowling, muttering under his breath, believing everyone is an idiot.

Thing is, Otto’s wife passed away four years earlier. She was his rock. His true love. The one who not only tolerated his quirks, but reined them in.

That’s the beauty behind this adaptation. Forster and Magee find an even balance between Otto in the past *and* present so we have a better grasp on him. And as Otto repeatedly contemplates suicide, it is his quirky neighbors who delay those plans. They are constant intrusions demanding his services, whether he wants to help or not.

The Swedish film picked the most relevant supporting players and either discarded the rest or downplayed them. But here, thanks to Magee’s screenplay, they are all here. In the flesh and thoroughly fleshed out.

The most magnificent — it’s a wow-who-is-this-actress performance — is Mexican stage-screen star Mariana Treviño as the very pregnant Marisol. She moves in across the street with her dim-bulb husband (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, “The Lincoln Lawyer”

star nearly unrecognizable) and two adorable children. You fall in love with her instantly. Marisol operates on a different plane. The actress creates a woman of enormous good cheer and persistence. Someone unaccustomed to hearing the word “no,” whose innate kindness warrants reluctant kindness in return from Otto. You truly believe this woman could pull a curmudgeon like Otto out of his shell.

Then again, the entire neighborhood never gives up on Otto: his wife’s best friend Anita (Juanita Jennings) and her ailing husband (Peter Lawson Jones), once Otto’s best friend; a transgender teen (Mack Bayda) disowned by his father; a social media journalist (Lamor Wilson) who takes an interest in Otto after he rescues an injured man at the train station; Jimmy (Cameron Britton), the health nut who, literally, marches to his own beat. They’re all there, creating a more fully realized world.

I wondered if this Hollywood version would pile on the schmaltz. But with Forster’s steady hand, and Hanks firmly rooting Otto on brittle ground, “A Man Called Otto” expertly moves from scenes of laughter to moments when the characters gradually draw closer...and your heart is full because of it.

By staying true to Backman’s work, the final scenes of “A Man Called Otto” work their magic on you. There was plenty of sniffing going on in the theater where I saw the film, but for once, you don’t



Prepare to fall in love with Mariana Treviño (left) as Otto’s new neighbor, Marisol.

feel manipulated. Everything falls into place precisely as it should. And maybe it’s because the cast shows such tremendous affection for these people that everything clicks.

Beautifully.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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“Aftersun” Takes a Challenging, if Incomplete, Look at Memories

by Andrew Tallackson



Calum (Paul Mescal) and his daughter, Sophie (Frankie Corio), take a break during their vacation in Turkey in “Aftersun.”

“Aftersun” is tricky because it deals with an abstract concept not typically suitable to film. It’s a meditation on memory, where a daughter, long estranged from her father, dissects one moment in time to see if it gels with the reality of who he was.

The movie, available through View on Demand, is gobbling up award after award for its first-time writer-director, Charlotte Wells. It’s also generating Oscar buzz for its star, Scottish actor Paul Mescal (“The Lost Daughter,” “God’s Creatures”), although his young costar, Frankie Corio, as his daughter, walks off with the entire picture. The movie, itself, feels incomplete, but it hints at the greatness to come from Wells.

If “Aftersun” feels aimless, that’s because Wells is trying something different. Set in the late 1990s, we meet 11-year-old Sophie (Corio) while on vacation in Turkey with her 30-year-old father, Calum (Mescal). The camera lazily trails these two, capturing the rhythm of their time together. Lounging about the pool, grabbing a bite to eat, chatting about life itself. Calum, initially played by Mescal with tender attentiveness, is perceived by his daughter as perfection: fun, understanding, trusting. But Sophie’s tendency to place her father on a pedestal gives way to snippets of truth. That he is divorced, but amicably so, from Sophie’s mother. That he’s struggling professionally and financially. That he may be deeply unhappy, depressed. At one point, he tells a



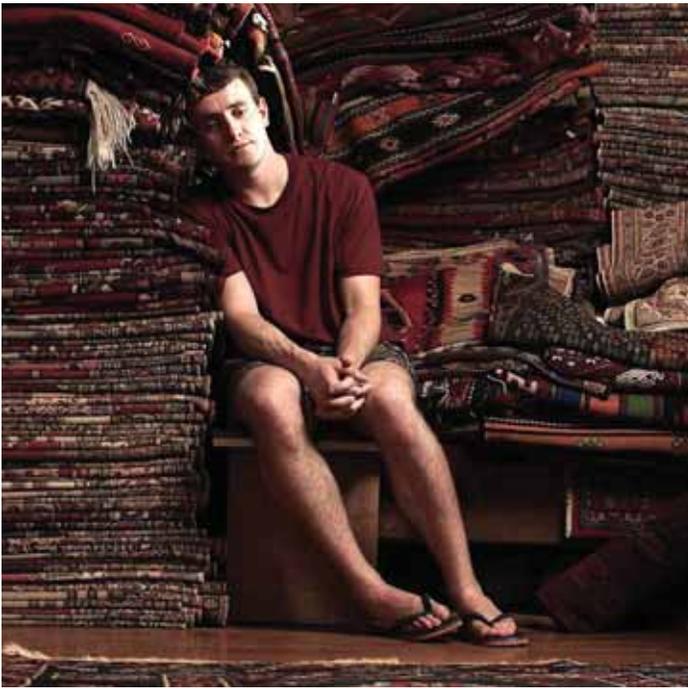
“Aftersun”

Running time: 102 minutes. View on Demand. Rated R for some language and brief sexual material.

diving instructor he’s surprised he made it to 30, with little optimism for reaching 40.

With Corio, we never once feel like we are watching a performance. More, like we’ve been granted permission to observe a real little girl, one of astonishing intelligence and perceptiveness. Sophie is a portrait of childhood on the brink of more mature behavior. Observing the way teens slightly older than her kiss or show affection. How adults react around other adults. And Sophie, herself, still carries herself with the innocence that life is a party waiting to be explored. There is not one false note in Corio’s performance. Every smile, every subtle reaction, feels natural.

Wells includes brief flashes of Sophie 20 years later, where it is suggested Calum is no longer part of her life. There is something heartbreaking about the final scene between father and daughter. The exchange, as we see often “Aftersun,” is captured on video. With Sophie prolonging the farewell, returning to wave goodbye, the sensation of finality, of this chapter in their lives closing forever, consumes you.



Little by little, "Aftersun" reveals the sadness to Calum's existence.

I was not overwhelmed by "Aftersun," though, because it feels like it's missing something. Like a hint of what happened to Calum. How the adult Sophie feels now about her father. Wells does not afford us that luxury. She allows those variables to drift away, much like memories themselves. Instead, she prefers that Sophie not be consumed by the outcome of the relationship with her father, but by the memory of it. That holiday in particular.

Every movie is not required to spell everything out for you. But it is human nature, when a movie observes its characters this closely, to want more truths revealed. Wells, for all her considerable talents, keeps those secrets all to herself.

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SLAM DUNK SUCCESS



LaPorte Civic Auditorium was host to the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference LaPorte Basketball Invitational on Jan. 5-7.

Judging by the turnout, it was a huge success. The NIBC includes prep school teams from across the country, with the NIBC uniting with ESPN and several corporate sponsors to support the teams and stage the tournament. La Lumiere School was part of the conference.

Bob Wellinski, who took photos of the event for *The Beacher*, described it this way: "Great basketball, great crowds, great atmosphere."

Continued on Next Page



Learn more about the staff of The Beacher Weekly Newspaper

Meet Tom Minogue

Area of Residence:

Shoreland Hills.

Title with *The Beacher*: Sales.

Time with *The Beacher*: 1 year.

What I love about my job:

Meeting local business owners and connecting their business solutions with consumer needs.

Favorite experience: My favorite experience at *The Beacher* has been building an advertising strategy with “new” business owners and watching their success



Favorite movies: “Remember the Titans,” “Saving Private Ryan,” “The Two Popes.”

Favorite books/authors: “It’s Your Ship” by Michael Abrashoff, “The Art of Racing in the Rain” by Garth Stein, any John Grisham book.

Favorite singer/music: Van Morrison, Chris Stapleton.

Favorite TV shows: “Yellowstone.”

TV shows I’m watching now: “Tulsa King.”

Favorite food: All Italian food.

Favorite pro sports team: Chicago Bears.

Reason I love living in this area: The serenity of Lake Michigan.



Photo by James Conlin

“Empire of Light” Creates Mostly Sweet Tribute to the Cinema

by Andrew Tallackson



Olivia Colman stars as a lonely duty manager at a seaside movie theater.

There are wonderfully nostalgic moments in “Empire of Light,” a reverence for movie theaters that, before COVID-19, would simply exist as time-capsule entertainment. Now, with home streaming the norm, the movie’s setting tugs at you, like witnessing a dying art form.

The new movie by director Sam Mendes (“American Beauty,” “Skyfall,” “1917”) reminded me of the 1995 Generation X gem “Empire Records.” Both view a setting of some cultural significance as a microcosm of society. A melting pot of gender and race, and the interaction between the two.

Mendes hasn’t been this tender in, well, honestly, maybe never. Then, the movie goes uncomfortably dark, allowing the mental illness of Olivia Colman’s character to consume the picture and nearly erase the otherwise sweet tone.

The story begins in the waning days of 1980, in one of those majestic old movie houses that’s just begun to fuse a bit of the new with the old. The cinema, called Empire, is situated in an idyllic coastal town on the north coast of Kent, England. Where the main drag hugs a long stretch of beach.

Colman, the Oscar winner for 2018’s “The Favourite,” is Hilary Small, the theater’s duty manager, and at first, her story is a bit hazy. She is terribly lonely — that, we get — submitting to rushed, private dalliances with the owner. He’s played by Colin Firth, who these days seems to enjoy playing sleaze following HBO Max’s increasingly yucky mini-se-



★ ★ ★

“Empire of Light”

Running time: 115 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for sexual content, language and brief violence.

ries “The Staircase.”

The Empire’s employees, though, are a treat. Like Norman, the aging camera operator played by wonderful character actor Toby Jones. He has the movie’s best scene, a moment of near fragile beauty as he conveys to Hilary the wonder of film itself.

There is the new employee, Stephen (Micheal Ward), who is young, black and an instant hit with his colleagues. The movie holds no punches with the racism he experiences outside of the theater. He and Hilary strike up a friendship that starts with sex, but eases into something more meaningful.

The theater is the glue that holds these varied folk together. That helps make sense of life. That’s the charm of “Empire of Light,” along with the cavalcade of movies shown, from “The Blues Brothers” and “Stir Crazy” to “The Elephant Man” and future Oscar winner “Chariots of Fire.”

Mendes, who wrote the screenplay, infuses just enough reality so the story has enough meat on its bones. The surprise is the lyrical score by otherwise edgy Oscar-winners Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross (“The Social Network,” “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,” “Mank”). Rarely has a score by them been

this sensitive, filled with longing and regret.

Then, Hilary's mental health takes a dramatic turn, and "Empire of Light" explores the hard truths of mental well-being. Colman is no slouch. She can handle it, as evidenced by the Oscar-ready scene where Hilary loses all grip on reality in her apartment. The intensity of the scene is stark, unsettling. As it should be. But that very intensity radically alters the tone of the movie. Its easygoing feel gets lost.

When all seems lost, Hilary, now stabilized after hospitalization, watches a movie at the Empire. She confesses to Norman that she cannot recall the last time she watched a picture from start to finish. In her plea to Norman, she asks him to pick any movie. He selects the Peter Sellers classic "Being There." The joy of discovery on Colman's face, of entering another world through cinema, is so moving, the cinephile in me choked up.

From there, Mendes recovers his tale's original tone, ending it exactly as it should. However bleak



Hilary (Olivia Colman) enters a complicated relationship with the theater's new employee, played by Micheal Ward.

the film gets, it finds its heart again, intending to win you over.

It did me. For the most part.

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Salvation Army Campaign Update

The Salvation Army of Michigan City is at 90 percent of its 2022 holiday campaign goal.

Each Christmas season, the campaign raises money through red kettles, on-line/mail-in donations and sponsorships. The funds aid local families during the holidays, but also throughout the year.



This year, more than 650 families received holiday assistance with food and toys, including more than 1,400 children. Also, approximately 450 meals were distributed Thanksgiving Day.

Supported by Christmas Campaign donations as well as a year-round food pantry, diaper bank, utility assistance, weekend backpack feeding program, youth summer camp and Pathway of Hope case management.

More information is available at (219) 874-6885 or www.samichigancity.org

Fourth Friday Speaker Series

The Valparaiso International Center will resume its Fourth Friday Speaker Series, which will focus on the Ukraine, at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, 201 N. Washington St., Valparaiso.

Enter on the west side of the church.

The speaker is Dr. Myron Lewyckyj, a local ophthalmologist and first-generation Ukrainian who makes frequent trips there for surgical mission work. He will speak about those trips, Ukrainian life and culture and the current situation.

Lewyckyj also created the Tryzub Ukrainian Kitchen in Chicago, a restaurant established to display Ukrainian art history and culture.

The monthly series features speakers who are natives of the subject country, or have special expertise to offer. Recent talks covered Iran, Russia, Canada, Uruguay and Ghana.

The free program is open to all ages. Visit www.valpovic.org and the Facebook page at [facebook.com/valpovic](https://www.facebook.com/valpovic) for more details.

Call for Entries

Feb. 28 is the deadline to submit entries in The Art Barn School of Art's 29th Juried Art Exhibition.

The event promotes the creation and recognition of original, quality two-dimensional art, as well as ceramic arts, complete with \$4,000 in awards. Artist-professor Aimee Tomasek is the juror.

The exhibit runs April 15-May 19, with an opening reception from 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 8.

The Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for additional details.

In Memoriam



A photo of Lillian Coffee at a recent birthday celebration.

Lillian Coffee died Jan. 5, 2023, in Waynesville, N.C.

She was a longtime resident of Long Beach and Michigan City, where she was a member of the Methodist church, a golden girl in Philanthropic Educational Organization and a member of Daughters of the American Revolution. She lived these last many years with her oldest son, Leo, and wife, Barbara, in Waynesville.

Lillian was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Elyria, Ohio, to Carl and Esther Notley. She shared the family home with three younger brothers, William, Thomas and David, all of whom preceded her in death.

She married the love of her life, Leo, in 1942. They had four boys: Leo (Barbara McGee), Dick (Toni Czarnecki), Carl (Luanne Weber) and Jim (Lori Nowfel). Each loved their mother very much and will miss her immensely. So will everyone who knew her.

Life goes on, it is said, and it certainly did for Lillian for more than 102 years. But, the mark she made on the world through her children and their children will last forever. Eleven grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren all carry the imprint of the love and affection for their “white haired” grandma. Whether it was her cookies baked, songs sung while washing dishes, stories read on the living room couch, it’s all there still.

If there’s one thing to know about Lillian Coffee, it is that she knew how to love, and she inspired it in all these people she leaves behind.

Lillian was a lover of God and a believer in Heaven, and she is now happy to reunite with her husband. She’s been looking forward to that, and we’re all sure that he has, too. It’s been too long a wait.

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JROTC Takes Awards at Meet

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps earned second-place trophies in Armed Regulation and Inspection on Jan. 14 at the Portage High School drill meet.

The event was the precursor to the Jan. 28 Marine Sectional Meet at Indianapolis that will decide who competes at the National Marine Championship this spring in Washington, D.C.

"Our cadets have put in the time and effort to improve, and I think they showed that at Portage," Senior Marine Instructor Maj. Tom McGrath said in a press release. "We still need to progress to be competitive at Ben Davis."

The Armed Regulation platoon, commanded by sophomore Cadet Sgt. Marcus Mantel, is presented to the head judge.

The Ben Davis meet is even more competitive because it's the national qualifier. Regardless of how the Wolves do in Indianapolis, they plan to compete March 4 at Concordia High School in Fort Wayne. This will be another tough meet, as schools from all services participate, and to include schools that drill at the All-Service Championship in Florida.

Ice Fishing Derby

The third annual DeCamp Band of Brothers Ice Fishing Derby is Saturday, Jan. 28, on LaPorte's Pine Lake only, with the preparty from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at Pompeii's/Boardwalk Bar at Blue Heron Inn, 1110 Lakeside St.

The preparty features the Brian McCoy Band. On Saturday, registration, which includes signing a waiver, is at 5 a.m. at Blue Heron Inn, with fishing from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. The cost is a \$60 buy-in, with \$5 from each entry donated to the DeCamp Band of Brothers

Payouts go to: Longest Fish; Smallmouth Bass; Largemouth Bass; Crappie; Northern Pike; and Bluegill.

Raffles and food are planned. The event's backup date is Saturday, Feb. 4.

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Michigan City Education Award

Renee Hall has received Michigan City Chamber of Commerce’s annual Michigan City Education Award.

Presented by Comcast Business, the community award recognizes educators or educational programs that made a significant impact in the community over the last year. Hall is a Lake Hills STEM Elementary guidance counselor. Comcast Business representatives Philip Goodrich and Deb Piscola presented the award to her during a morning assembly. Students, staff, community members and Lakey the Lion gathered in the gym to celebrate her achievements.



Renee Hall (right) is photographed with MCAS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins.

Chamber president Katie Eaton shared the following from the nomination: *“Ms. Hall has been a part of Michigan City Area Schools for more than 20 years and has done so much for not only our school, but also the community. In addition, she also runs amazing career fairs each year and does her best to get local businesses to participate to not only benefit our students’ learning experience, but to help those local businesses flourish and get more recognition. She volunteers her time after school with Girls on the Run, giving her time and energy to mentor young girls at our school.”*

The nomination period for the 2023 award opens in September. Visit www.MichiganCityChamber.com or call (219) 874-6221 if interested.

Insights in History

Archivist Travis Childs will describe Civil War medical practices during The History Museum’s “Insights in History” at 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Admission is \$3. Reservations are required by Jan. 30.

Also planned is a tour of “Fighting Fear: Pandemics Past and Present.” The exhibit addresses the fears, prejudices and resilience of communities while facing mass illness. The display is supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Indiana Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. It is presented in partnership with the museum and Saint Mary’s College faculty and students.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

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In the Area

Jan. 27 — Glow Stick Dance Party!, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Jan. 27 — WINTERFEST: ice sculpting demonstrations, afternoon, Plaza 618, downtown LaPorte. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 28 — WINTERFEST: DeCamp Band of Brothers Ice Fishing Derby, LaPorte's Pine Lake only. Pre-party: 6-9 p.m. Jan. 27, Pompeii's/Boardwalk Bar at Blue Heron Inn, 1110 Lakeside St. Registration at Blue Heron: 5 a.m. Fishing: 6 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost: \$60 buy-in.

Jan. 28 — WINTERFEST: snowball softball coed tourney, 9 a.m., Lions Field, Soldiers Memorial Park. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 28 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 9 a.m.-noon, parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/ind

Jan. 28 — WINTERFEST: Frosty's Frozen Bike Ride, 1-3 p.m., Cummings Lodge, LaPorte. Free. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 28 — WINTERFEST: Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt, 5-7 p.m., Fox Park Amphitheater. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WINTERFEST: Kiwanis Club of LaPorte Pancake Breakfast, 7:30-11:30 a.m., LaPorte National Guard Armory, 2391 W. Indiana 2. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WINTERFEST: Ice skating, 1-7 p.m., downtown LaPorte Ice Rink, Monroe and State streets. Registration: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 29 — WINTERFEST: horse-drawn wagon rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Cummings Lodge. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WINTERFEST: LaPorte County Parks snow art, 2-4 p.m., Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: <https://laporteparkandrec.com/>

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

Jan. 31 — Virtual Author Talk with Randall Munroe (Adults 19+), 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://library.org/laportelibrary/22017>

Jan. 31 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m.,

Coolspring Library Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 1 — **BLACK HISTORY MONTH BEGINS.**

Feb. 1 — Crafty Kids (ages 6-11), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

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.

Thursdays in January — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Through January — Ernie Pyle exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

Jan. 27 — The Valparaiso International Center Fourth Friday Speaker Series, 7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, 201 N. Washington St., Valparaiso. Free. Info: www.valpovic.org

Jan. 27 — Led Zeppelin 2, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Jan. 28 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Times: 10:30 a.m.-noon, 1-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$7. Preregistration: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 29 — "Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O," 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 29 — Nature Myths, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 29 — The Acorn's Dance Showcase-Fusion Center for Dance, 3 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25-35 + \$3 convenience fee for adults (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Feb. 1 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EST, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$3. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through Feb. 26 — "Stories from the Soil" (Jon Hook-Andrea Peterson exhibit), Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>

Through March 1 — "Sense of Place: Works from the Artists in Residence of Indiana Dunes National Park," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth

St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through March 2 — Oil painter Judy Davis, The Village Gallery, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Through March 5 — “Enchanted Lands: The Collage Works of Scott Hatt, Elkhart’s The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adult, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/ages 13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660, www.midwestmuseum.us

Through March 24 — Group exhibit, “Sense and Sensibility: Poetry in Painting,” South Shore Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. Opening reception: 5-8 p.m. Jan. 26. Artist panel discussion: 2 p.m. Jan. 28.

Through May 29 — “Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11 - adults, \$9.50 - seniors 60+, \$7 - youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, www.studebakermuseum.org

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

Saturdays-Sundays in January — National Park Themed Movie, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays-Sundays in January — Snowshoe Open House at Chellberg Farm (snow permitting), 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Weather updates/info: (219) 395-1882.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.



American Red Cross

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

- Kingsbury Elementary School, 802 W. County Road 400 South, LaPorte, 2-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.
- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 12:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.
- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., Michigan City, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.
- Long Beach Police Department and Friends of Violet Van Gieson, 2501 Oriole Trail, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31.
- St. John’s United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1.

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.

Reins of Life Fundraiser

Tickets are on sale for the Reins of Life fundraiser, “A Quarter Century of Change: The 25th Annual Kelsey Meekhof Memorial Dinner & Auction,” which is at 5:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 28, at South Bend’s The Armory.

The emcee is Bob Montgomery of WSBT, while the live auction host is Chuck Freeby of 46 Sports. The event includes cocktail hour, dinner, silent and live auctions. All proceeds support equine-assisted programs for children and adults with disabilities at facilities in South Bend and Michigan City.

Visit www.reinsoflife.org for tickets or additional information.

Special Blood Drive

A blood drive to honor Violet Van Gieson is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at Long Beach Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

The event is hosted by Long Beach Police Department and Friends of Violet Van Gieson. She survived a battle with MRSA thanks to donated blood.

Visit www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On January 26, 1788, the first European settlers, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in the approximate area where the Australian city of Sydney now stands.

On January 26, 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol, a harbinger of the present “Library of Congress.”

On January 26, 1838, Tennessee became the first state to enact a prohibition law, whose stated purpose was “to repeal all laws licensing tippling houses.” While it put a stop to legal drinking, the main effect of the law was to improve the financial status of bootleggers and moonshiners.

On January 26, 1918, to conserve meat and grain, World War I food administrator Herbert Hoover asked Americans to voluntarily observe “wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays; and meatless Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.”

On January 27, 1756, Austrian music composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born at Salsburg.

On January 27, 1854, the first regularly scheduled trains began rolling on the Canadian Great Western Railway.

On January 27, 1943, during World War II, U.S. bombers staged their first air raid on Germany.

On January 27, 1967, at Cape Kennedy, Fla., astronauts “Gus” Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire during a routine test aboard their Apollo I spacecraft.

On January 27, 1978, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio were declared federal disaster areas as severe winter storms swept the areas.

On January 28, 1807, London’s Pall Mall became the world’s first street illuminated with gaslight.

On January 28, 1878, in New Haven, Conn., the first telephone switchboard went into operation.

On January 28, 1878, the first daily college newspaper, *The Yale News*, began publication in New Haven.

On January 28, 1902, with a \$10 million gift, Andrew Carnegie established the Carnegie Institute.

On January 29, 1845, “The Raven,” Edgar Allen Poe’s most famous poem, was first published in *The New York Evening News*.

On January 29, 1894, Detroit’s C.B. King received a patent for a pneumatic hammer.

On January 29, 1900, baseball’s American League was organized. It consisted of teams from Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis,

Kansas City, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

On January 29, 1936, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson were elected as the first members of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

On January 29, 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married.

On January 29, 1983, the Washington Redskins won Super Bowl XVII, beating the Miami Dolphins by a score of 27-17.

On January 30, 1798, a brawl broke out in the House of Representatives, meeting in Philadelphia, after Matthew Lyon of Vermont spat in the face of Roger Griswold of Connecticut.

On January 30, 1933, the first episode of "The Lone Ranger" was broadcast on Detroit's radio station WXYZ.

On January 30, 1962, two members of the famed Flying Wallendas high-wire act died when their seven-member pyramid collapsed during a performance in Detroit.

On January 30, 1974, at the end of his State of the Union message, President Richard Nixon insisted he would not resign and called for a speedy conclusion of all Watergate investigations.

On January 31, 1797, world-famous Austrian composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

On January 31, 1835, Illinois authorized the village of Chicago to establish a police force.

On January 31, 1865, the House passed a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery.

On January 31, 1931, Ernie Banks, the Hall of Fame infielder and power hitter for the Chicago Cubs who would become known as "Mr. Cub," was born in Dallas.

On January 31, 1949, television's first daytime soap opera, "These Are My Children," was broadcast from Chicago's NBC studios.

On January 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with the launching of Explorer 1, its first successful launching of a satellite into orbit.

On February 1, 1862, Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was first published in *Atlantic Monthly*.

On February 1, 1865, the signing of the 13th Amendment to the American Constitution marked the end of slavery in the United States.

On February 1, 1893, in Orange, N.J., Thomas Edison completed work on the world's first motion picture studio. The cost was less than \$650.

On February 1, 1898, the Travelers Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., issued the first automobile insurance policy. The insured was a Dr. Truman Martin of Buffalo, N.Y., and the annual cost was \$11.05.

On February 1, 1911, in the Criminal Court of Cook County, Ill., fingerprints were used for the first time as evidence to obtain a conviction. The conviction was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.



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Part-Time Position**

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Jan. 17, 2023

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	4	0
1. Dolls With Balls	4	0
2. Pin Pals, Split Ends	3	1

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. June Salmon	189
2. Carolyn Wiggins	165
3. Barb Macudzinski	163
4. Dottie Brinckman	159
5. Tammy Vouri	155
5. Ann Bogart	155
6. Kim Stokes	153
7. Kathy Osborne	152
8. Nancy Kubath	150
9. Mary Lou McFadden (series)	415

SPLITS

June Salmon 2-7

THREE STRIKES

Holly Dres

Home Watch Accreditation

Home Watch of Southwest Michigan has earned accreditation from the National Home Watch Association for the sixth year.

The NHWA debuted in 2009 to establish and maintain high industry standards for home-watch and absentee-homeowner services throughout the United States and Canada.

Home Watch of Southwest Michigan is owned by Southwest Michigan resident Jim Sarno. The company is a *Beacher* advertiser.

Chili Cookoff

Messy Church will hold its annual chili cookoff at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Those interested can compete or simply attend. Contact Trish Johnsen at trishatchurch@gmail.com or call the church at (219) 872-7200 for more details.

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The Housemaid by Freida McFadden (paperback, \$12.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as a eBook and an audiobook; 325 pages.)

The housemaid. An innocuous person who quietly goes about sweeping, moping, shuffling children back and forth to school, maybe taking on cooking. She's in the background listening to and observing the dynamics of the house. No one pays any attention to her, she's like part of the furniture. But what information does she file away for future reference? Especially if she's a live-in maid. On the other side of the coin, what secrets does the housemaid harbor? Is that resumé she turned in all true?

"If I leave this house, it will be in handcuffs...Now that the police officers are in the house and they've discovered what's upstairs, there's no turning back."

This twisty, mind-bending thriller is told from the perspective of two women. The first is Millie. She's fresh out of prison, her offense not revealed until much later in the story. She's trying hard to get a job with the well-to-do Winchesters without the lady of the house finding out her real background.

The lady of the house is Nina Winchester, a once beautiful woman who let herself go, weight-wise. And yet, she is impeccably dressed and groomed. Husband Andrew is "an incredibly handsome man." He is in great physical shape, with dreamy eyes — seemingly the perfect husband. They have a daughter, Cecelia, in elementary school, with at least a dozen after-school activities. She is sharp-tongued for her age, and demanding, too.

Praise be to whatever gods there are, Millie gets the job as a live-in housemaid. She has an attic bedroom to herself. However, it has a sloping ceiling, a single window painted shut and the weirdest of all — the door locks from the outside. Millie overlooks this strange room because it has a bed. After sleeping in her car for weeks, this seems like heaven.

There also is an Italian groundskeeper, Enzo, who seems to speak very little English, but keeps his eyes on everything.

All too good to be true? Just wait and see...

Nina soon starts out giving Millie mixed messages. Like telling her to pick Cecelia up from school when another mother is there to take her to soccer practice — something that happens every week. That's something you don't forget.

Nina also makes messes in the house by breaking glasses, leaving clothes all over the furniture, spilled food on the kitchen floor, all to annoy Millie, who takes it in stride. Let's face it, she has to put up with it because the pay is too good!

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Andrew always smooths things over, and Millie can't understand why he puts up with Nina, especially since Cecelia is not his child.

OK. What's going on? Something is rotten in the state of Winchester, and McFadden is such a good storyteller, figuring out this family dynamic is like going through a maze — frustrating and never-ending.

Millie starts to have sympathy for Nina when overhearing that she is unable to have another baby, something her husband badly wants. But then the spoiled, temperamental Nina surfaces, and all sympathy is erased.

So who's zooming who? It's really hard to tell with these three characters.

"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong, and at the worst possible time." So says Murphy and oh so true in the Winchester household. Millie's feelings for Andrew are getting stronger, and he seems to want to reciprocate. As Millie should be sticking to her housework, an opportunity presents itself for her to be alone with Andrew. This can only go bad...or will it? Millie can't help but imagine being mistress of this house. Be careful what you wish for, Millie! But then,

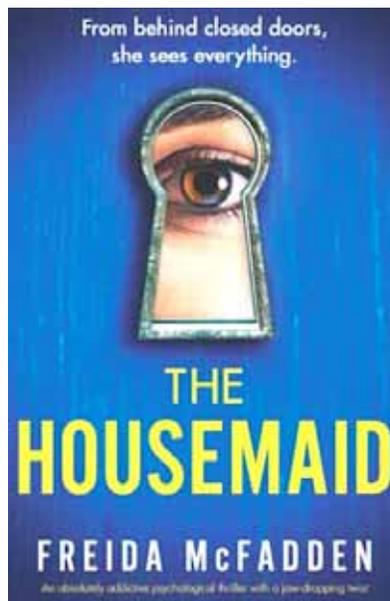
we still don't know Millie's background, do we?

Then the day comes when Millie takes a book from Andrew's shelves and forgets to put it back. For the first time, Millie sees another Andrew emerge, this one an entirely different man. What's going on here?

Millie's ace in the hole? No one knows what she's capable of. And that, my friends, may just be the thing that takes down this house of cards. But who really wins in the end? That's the prize-winning climax that will knock your socks off!

The final word: You simply can't put this book down. No surprise, film rights have been purchased by producer Todd Lieberman — in a four-way auction, no less.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Thank you to all my past and current clients! There are many options out there, I greatly thank you for putting your trust in me. Real Estate is such a relationship driven business and I truly appreciate you all.

Thank you to the Staff and support system at @properties Christie's International Real Estate. Your tools, systems, and guidance provide a true competitive advantage. To the Title Companies, Escrow Officers, Photographers, Inspectors, and service providers I work with, I literally couldn't do it without you.

Thank you Mom (Micky Gallas)! The best way to be successful is to learn from successful people. Thank you for teaching me this business, the right way. I learn something new from you each and every day. I am blessed to learn from the best.

Lastly, thank you to my wife, Bridgette, and daughter, Griffin. This is a long hour, impromptu schedule, 24/7/365 career. Your constant support, understanding, and encouragement means more than you'll ever know. I couldn't do this without you!

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Ashlan Siford



Chip Jones

1540 Weller Ave. LaPorte, IN

4 beds | 1.75 baths | 2,753 sq ft

Three tree filled acres, overlooking Stone Lake and Craven Pond. Large portion of the lot is fenced. Set back from Weller Ave, this listing has lots of updates. Newer kitchen flooring, 10 foot ceilings on main level, 2-year old windows, metal roof and a 5-year-old HVAC system.

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More Info: <https://bit.ly/3vIZIYV>

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4 beds | 2 baths | 2,268 sq ft
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Nancy Morgan | 219-393-0025
nancym1123@yahoo.com



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Listed at: \$324,900

More Info: <https://bit.ly/3TyjJRM>

Todd Saboff | 219-363-8192
todd@saboff.com



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3 bed | 1 bath | 2,226 sq ft
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