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# Living the Dream

*by Andrew and William Tallackson*



Brad Oman is photographed at Sundance Film Festival with Mark Hamill, who was involved in the 2017 comedy-drama "Brigsby Bear."

Brad Oman has interviewed the likes of Hugh Jackman, Zach Braff and Marvel stars like Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Paul Rudd and the late Chadwick Boseman.

He's visited the sets of box-office hits like "Real Steel" (2011), "Captain America: Civil War" (2016)

and "Thor: Ragnarok" (2017).

Lines from his reviews appear on posters and in movie trailers.

And the best part of it? He's doing what he loves — writing about the entertainment industry — from the comforts of his LaPorte home.

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The 37-year-old 2004 LaPorte High School graduate, born in Michigan City, is among the core team of editors with /Film (shorthand for Slash Film), the online publication that covers the latest in movie and TV. He's been with it since 2015.

"Because I love movies so much, it doesn't often feel like work," he said of /Film. "This is all stuff I love to do. I love watching movies. Being able to write about them, and why I love them and convince people to seek them out, or turn them on to stories they're not familiar with, I love that aspect of it."

Brad's parents, Janet and late Glenn Oman, shaped his love of pop culture early. Janet, a movie buff, recorded movies off movie channels like HBO and Showtime. Many of her favorites became Brad's favorites. "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." Disney classics. The early 1990s "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" movies. And, strangely enough, the Oscar-winning "Rainman."

"I don't know what it was about that movie," he says, laughing. "It's not a movie kids would necessarily enjoy, but I liked watching it when I was a kid. I was obsessed with trying to find a toy car like the Buick Roadmaster in the movie."

And like most children, Brad watched these movies over and over and over again. On average, he says, a movie a day.

"I've always liked the idea of escapism," he says. "Stories that were unlike anything you could see in the real world. I've always loved the adventure aspect, anything that feels like a departure from the

real world. That's entertainment to me. I like seeing different characters, and going places that we otherwise would never see in our lifetime."

Becoming an entertainment writer, or writing about pop culture, never occurred to him at first. It was while attending LaPorte High School that the idea of it began to click. He got involved in speech and debate at the urging of his father.

"That really honed my writing skills, and soaking up all different kinds of writing, and performing, too," he said, adding with a laugh, "I'm kind of a ham when it comes to that."

Writing for the school newspaper, he says, felt like a natural progression.

"I've always been able to express myself through writing, so being able to write about stuff I loved, it didn't feel like work to me," he says. "It was so easy for me to describe what I liked and why I liked it. I also was constantly reading books about how movies were made. I was always into behind-the-scenes books, where they talked to the filmmakers."

A prime example of this was in 1993 when Steven Spielberg released "Jurassic Park," which this year



Brad, photographed on the set of "Captain America: Civil War" in Atlanta, Ga.



Brad is photographed by *The Beacher's* Andrew Tallackson at his computer, the home page visible for /Film, where he is among the core team of editors.

celebrates its 30th anniversary. In conjunction with the release was a TV special about the making of the Michael Crichton adaptation.

“I was very interested in Spielberg as a director and how he did his job,” Brad said. “It was a mix, actually, because I loved dinosaurs as a kid, and how they were able to make the dinosaurs look so realistic in the movie, that was absolutely fascinating to me.”

After graduating from LaPorte High School, Brad’s dream colleges with esteemed film departments, such as The University of Southern California and Columbia University, came with hefty price tags. So, Brad headed somewhere closer to home: Purdue University in West Lafayette. He initially pursued a double major in journalism and film studies, but journalism required certain studies that didn’t interest him. Ultimately, he earned a degree in film and video studies.

Part of his graduation requirement was an internship he completed with Mosaic Media Group Inc, a talent management and production company in Los Angeles. Brad moved there to complete the position in 2009. The game plan was to make necessary connections and gain valuable experience that could open doors to publications like *Entertainment Weekly*. Unfortunately, the internship arrived amid the fallout of the 2008 economic crisis. Entry level jobs were impossible, what with companies downsizing and/or laying off staff. People lucky to find jobs, Brad says, had more experience.

It was time to come home.

Brad worked at Kohl’s for a year. Fortunately for him, before leaving L.A., he attended a book signing with future Oscar-winner Guillermo del Toro, who

Continued on Page 4

Oh, those pillows.

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## Living the Dream Continued from Page 3

was promoting the first book in his “The Strain” series about parasitic-like vampires. Brad met a guy in line who worked for the movie website [www.firstshowing.net](http://www.firstshowing.net). It was a small venture he ran himself, a few others helping with writing and reporting. The guy remembered Brad, eventually reaching out to him to join [firstshowing.net](http://firstshowing.net).

“I started doing that for fun on the side for free because it was something to do, and it kept me active and writing about movies,” he said.

Through [firstshowing.net](http://firstshowing.net), Brad covered everything from Marvel tent poles to small indies. The experience, the non-stop writing, was the training ground he’d desired. He attended Sundance Film Festival, the birthplace for many independent movies to find a distributor. That was in 2011.

“It’s unbelievable, the coolest thing,” he said. “It’s the kind of film festival where they are playing independent movies before anyone has seen them, so the buzz is starting there. Pretty much all these movies, there are no trailers. You have a couple of movie stills, a synopsis and you take a chance, and hope, that the filmmaker and the cast deliver something that is interesting.

“That’s really exciting,” he continued, “because the buzz is tangible. Everyone there loves movies, and everyone’s talking about things like, what have you seen? What’s your favorite? Everyone there is so passionate about movies.”

[Firstshowing.net](http://firstshowing.net) also led him to movie-set visits.

“When you do set visits, it’s with the understanding that you’re not going to talk about any of this stuff until the embargo date,” he explained. “This

is the date when you can write stories about what you saw. There is a very clear system set up so there are not any leaks. Sometimes, like on Marvel movie sets, you can have your phone on the set, but there is a special sticker they put over the lens of the camera so that if you ever take it off, or part of the sticker comes away, it’s clear you tried to take it off.”

Take, for example, his experience on the set of “Captain America: Civil War.” Marvel is vehemently secretive, fearful of any leaks to the Internet. Buzz was substantial about a new actor cast as Spider-Man. Everyone on the set was tight-lipped...until a costumer inadvertently spilled the beans that he’d designed two different costumes for the Spider-Man actor (Tom Holland). The movie publicist, Brad says, immediately warned all media present NOT to report on what they’d just learned.

“Studios are so secretive about a lot of things,” Brad said, “but there seems to be this disconnect that they don’t understand that, for people like me, we’re not going to risk our jobs to leak something to the Internet just so people can find out secret cameos or anything like that.

“But the funny thing is,” he adds, “when you’re on those sets, you are trying to find out as much as possible. That means trying to get people to talk about things about the movie.”

Brad joined /Film in 2015 under the writing name Ethan Anderton. He’d created the pseudonym before then to shield himself from potential backlash if he wrote anything disparaging about a film.

One perk attached to his line of work is seeing lines from his reviews used to help promote film. The first time that happened for Brad was back in 2012 for an indie time-travel picture called “Safety



Brad (left) on the Michigan set of “Transformers: The Last Knight.” Director Michael Bay is pictured in the center.

Not Guaranteed.” The director, Colin Trevorrow, would go on to direct “Jurassic World” (2015). The one that thrilled him the most was “They Came Together” (2014), a little-seen rom-com spoof from the team behind “Wet Hot American Summer” (2001) and “Role Models” (2008) The movie featured a top-heavy cast that included Paul Rudd, Amy Poehler, Cobie Smulders and Max Greenfield.

Does Brad have a wish list of people he’d love to interview? Definitely. He has met Spielberg, but hopes to one day sit down with him for a full interview. He’d also love to talk with Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Jim Carrey.



Brad, in London, before an actual Aston Martin used in the James Bond film “No Time to Die” (2021).

Whatever the interview, Janet, as his mother, is incredibly proud of her son.

“To hear him come up with all these questions when he does interviews, it’s just amazing,” she said. “And I’m saying this not because I’m his mom, but because his writing really impresses me, and not just with movies. When he writes a Mother’s Day card, or when he puts something on Facebook, like when his dad passed away, that tribute, well, he just has a way with words. He is just incredibly talented.”

For Brad, being part of the /Film team is something he doesn’t take lightly. He can see him doing this for years to come. In some ways, he likens himself to the young main character in Cameron Crowe’s Oscar-winning “Almost Famous” (2000). Whereas the teen protagonist can’t believe he gets to write about his favorite band, Brad, too, pinches himself at getting paid to write about movies and pop culture.

“It’s always surreal,” he says. “There’s always a time when I take stock while being on a movie set, and I’m always like, this is crazy. I’m from this small town of LaPorte, Indiana. Who am I to do this cool stuff, being on a movie set?”

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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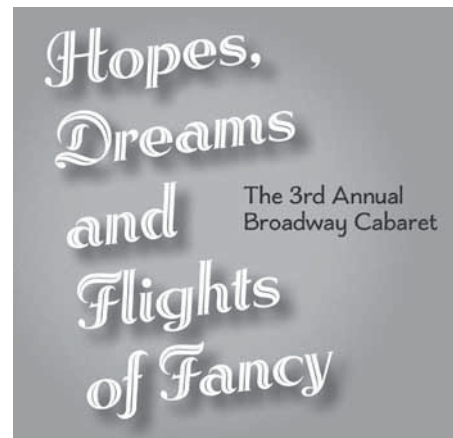
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## David Ross, Mitch Daniels Among Sinai Forum Speakers

The 70th season of Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum kicks off with Mitch Daniels, former Purdue president and two-term Indiana governor, at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.

All programs are held Sundays at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville. They start at 4 p.m., with doors opening at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum). In-person and virtual options are available. To celebrate the 70th season, season ticketholders receive access to select archived speakers' programs.

Regular season tickets with general seating cost \$175. Patron season tickets, including a reserved seating section and exclusive reception with speakers before each program, are \$300. Patron and regular season tickets include a link to allow for virtual viewing, if preferred. Virtual season tickets cost \$125. These tickets allow only for virtual viewing through a weblink. College and high school students can attend for free by showing a valid ID. Registration is required online due to limited seating availability that varies by program.

The full schedule is:

- **Mitch Daniels, Sept. 17, "Never Park the Car: Making Change When Change Says No."** While at Purdue, Daniels championed online education and technological advancements, expanding Purdue's global reach and accessibility.
- **Jennifer Griffin and Benjamin Hall, Oct. 1, "Protecting Journalists and Journalism in Today's World."** As a national security correspondent for Fox News, Griffin brings expertise and insight into international and military affairs. Hall has provided in-depth analysis and firsthand accounts from war zones and areas of political unrest. In March 2022, he sustained serious injuries while in the Ukraine. Griffin worked collaboratively to coordinate and facilitate his evacuation from a war zone.
- **Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., Oct. 15, "What Happened to You? A Conversation on Trauma, Resilience and Healing."** Perry is the principal of the Neurosequential Network, a professor (adjunct) in the departments of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago and the School of Allied Health in the College of Science, Health and Engineering at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. During the last 30 years, he has been an active teacher, clinician and researcher in children's mental health and neurosciences. His most recent book, [What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience and Healing](#), co-written with Oprah Winfrey, was released in 2021.
- **Peter Zeihan, Nov. 5, "The End of the World...**



Daniels



Hall



Griffin



Perry



Zeihan



Hinton

### And Other Opportunities."

Zeihan is a geopolitical strategist and author known for his analysis of global affairs. With expertise in demography, energy and security, he offers insights into the future of nations and the global landscape. Best-selling books include [The Accidental Superpower](#) and [The End of the World is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization](#).



Ross

- **Anthony Ray Hinton, Sunday, Nov. 19, "The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row."** Hinton survived for 30 years on Alabama's death row, his story a decades-long journey to exoneration and freedom. In 1985, he was convicted of the unsolved murders of two fast-food restaurant managers based on state-ballistics experts who claimed the crime bullets came from a dusty revolver found in Hinton's mother's closet. Without a competent expert to challenge the theory, an all-white jury convicted him and he was sentenced to death. After years of petitioning to have the revolver re-analyzed, and with the assistance of the Equal Justice Initiative, led by attorney Bryan Stevenson, he was freed in 2015.
- **David Ross, Dec. 3, "Talking Baseball with Chicago Cubs Manager David Ross."** Ross' career as a catcher spanned 15 seasons in the Major Leagues. His journey culminated with the Cubs, where he played from 2015-2016, helping lead the team to its historic 2016 World Series victory. After retiring as a player, he transitioned into coaching and serves as manager of the Cubs.



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## “Honky Tonk Angels” Celebrates Women of Country Music

Canterbury Summer Theatre presents its final musical of the 2023 season, “Honky Tonk Angels,” on July 19-29 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Created by Ted Swindley (“Always...Patsy Cline”), the celebration of female country-music stars mixes 30 songs into the story of three women determined to better their lives by heading to Nashville to become the Honky Tonk Angels. Selections include “I’ll Fly Away,” “Stand by Your Man,” “9 to 5,” “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” “Ode to Billy Joe,” “These Boots Are Made for Walking,” “I Will Always Love You” and “Harper Valley PTA.”

John Berst does double duty as director and music director, having previously helmed “John & Jen,” “Tick, Tick...Boom!” and “Love, Linda: The Life of Mrs. Cole Porter.” The cast includes Victoria Hickman, Sophie Stechmann and Jenna Weisbach, with Hickman serving as choreographer. Scenic design is by Ray Scott Crawford, with lighting by Alex Gray. Amber Garitt provides costume design, while Anabelle Lamb is the stage manager.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors (62 and older) and \$10 for students and military. Make reservations by phone at (219) 874-4269 or email [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org)



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### Shirley Heinze Land Trust Announces “Nature in the Arts” Series

Shirley Heinze Land Trust aims to connect visitors to nature through “Nature in the Arts,” a series of free, family-friendly activities at its Northwest Indiana nature preserves.

Visitors can explore each preserve, learn about rare ecosystems and create art. SHLT partnered with arts and community organizations to provide instruction and plein air demonstrations. Programs are held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays (the South Bend program is on Eastern time). The schedule is:

- **“The Art of Mindfulness,” St. Francis Nature Preserve, 3500 Franciscan Way, Michigan City, July 22.** Join community partners in sound-healing and art activities led by Franciscan Health Michigan City, Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Brown Faces Green Spaces.
- **“Pairing Plants & Pollinators,” Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso, Aug. 19.** In addition to guided hikes, visitors can create a mixed-media

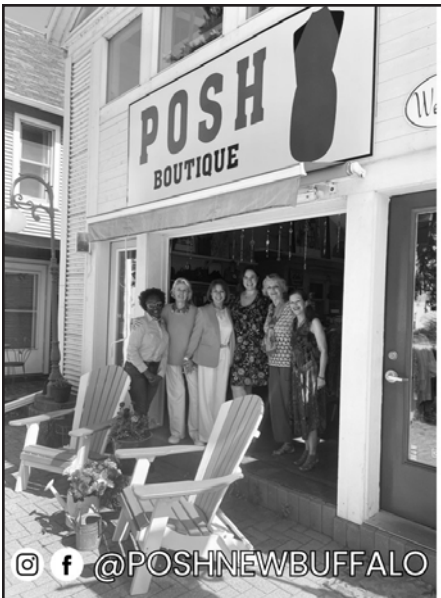


A collaborative canvas painting created at Lydick Bog.

project that celebrates native plants and pollinators. The Art Barn School of Art and Chesterton Art Center will lead visitors in activities using watercolor, pastel, collage and drawing media.

- **“Bug-Eating Plants of the Bog,” Lydick Bog Nature Preserve, 25898 U.S. 20, South Bend, Sept. 30.** South Bend Museum of Art staff will lead visitors in creating art that represents the bog’s carnivorous plants. Participants also can visit with Northern Indiana Pastel Society plein air artists.
- **“Wetlands and Watercolors,” Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve, 750 Colfax St., Gary, Oct. 7.** Create art to represent the alternating landscape of a dune and swale habitat. Indiana-based plein-air artist Avon Waters is part of the program, with hands-on crafts led by Brown Faces Green Spaces and South Shore Arts.

Visit [www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts](http://www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts) for additional information.



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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.

### Citywide School Supply Drive

Several local organizations are participating in a community Michigan City Area Schools school supply drive that runs through July 26.

Supplies collected will be distributed to area students needing materials to start the school year. Many area businesses have collection bins: Al's Supermarket (Franklin Street and Karwick locations); Captain Ed's Candy Island & Furniture Showroom; First Trust Credit Union; MCAS' Administration Building; City Hall; Meridian Title Co.; First United Methodist Church; and Restore Dental Arts.

Businesses, churches and other organizations can join the collection drive. Supplies collected by community organizations and individuals may be brought to the MCAS Administration Building, 408 S. Carroll Ave., from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, July 26.

Suggested donations include: pencils, black pens, spiral notebooks, three-hole notebook paper, markers (washable), dry erase markers and erasers, glue sticks, erasers, pencil boxes, two-pocket folders, disinfectant wipes, gallon and quart size Ziploc bags, highlighters, composition books, hand sanitizer, scissors, crayons and index cards.

The annual Citywide Back-to-School Rally is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at Elston's Gill Field. It is a collaborative effort supported by numerous community agencies. This year, the organizing committee includes representatives from Indiana Black Expo, MCAS, Franciscan Health, Anthem, American Licorice, LaPorte County Family YMCA, Sodexo and the LaPorte County NAACP. Information on volunteering, sponsorships and exhibiting at the rally are available at [www.educateme.net/BackToSchoolRally](http://www.educateme.net/BackToSchoolRally)

### New Teacher Luncheon

The annual New Teacher Luncheon, which celebrates new Michigan City-area educators, is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, at Pottawatomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

Lakefront Career Network, the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce young-professionals committee, hosts the event, with Purdue University Northwest serving as the sponsor. New teachers and administrators from Michigan City public and parochial schools are served lunch and welcomed by local businesses and organizations.

LCN seeks additional sponsors to help provide lunch for the educators, who also receive goodie bags with donated items, which can include branded items, discounts, coupons and gift certificates.

Friday, July 28, is the deadline to register or be a sponsor. The luncheon is open to the public. Register at [www.mcachamber.com](http://www.mcachamber.com). Call (219) 874-6221 or email [kswistek@mcachamber.com](mailto:kswistek@mcachamber.com) for more details.

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### THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

**5:30pm**..Ribbon Cutting @ Sunset Grille  
**6-8pm**...VIP Party @ Sunset Grille  
**6-9pm**...RockDogs playing @ Sunset Grille/Pavilion Stage  
**7-11pm** ..AFTERMATH playing classic rock & country @ Washington Park Beach

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

**Noon-10pm**..Food Court Open  
**5-8pm**..... Shop•Sip•Support Local - Hosted by Lake Life Social Events in Downtown Michigan City  
**6-10pm** ..... Race Team Welcome Party @ Washington Park Beach  
**7-11pm** ..... Nawty playing Motown hits & more @ Washington Park Beach

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

**8am-3pm**.....Four A's Vintage Car Show  
**9am-10:30pm** ..Free Parking/Shuttle Service @ Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets North Lot (601 Wabash St)  
**9am-10pm** .....Food Court Open  
**9am-4pm**....VIP Tent Open - Sponsored by NIPSCO @ Washington Park Boardwalk 10am-2pm – Brunch Served  
**10am-4pm**..Time Trials  
**11am**.....National Anthem  
**Noon-10pm**..XINSURANCE Block Party in Downtown Michigan City - Hosted by Lake Life Social Events  
**6-8pm**.....XINSURANCE Boat Parade on North Franklin St.  
**7-11pm**..... Point'n Fingers playing classic rock @ Washington Park Beach

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

**9am-4:30pm** ..Free Parking/Shuttle Service @ Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets North Lot (601 Wabash St)  
**9am-5pm**.....Food Court Open  
**9am-4pm**.....VIP Tent Open - Sponsored by NIPSCO @ Washington Park Boardwalk 10am-2pm – Brunch Served  
**10am-4pm**..... Boat Racing  
**11am** ..... National Anthem  
**4pm** ...Kasim Whiting Duo playing @ Sunset Grille/Roof-top

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9AM-10:30PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUG 6  
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### Music in the Gardens



The Whistle Pigs is the main entertainment for Music in the Gardens.

The Whistle Pigs will perform during Music in the Gardens, presented by The History Museum and 88.1 WVPE, from 5-9 p.m. EDT Friday, July 28, in the museum's Oliver Gardens.

The Whistle Pigs perform everything from contemporary and classic rock to jazz and rhythm and blues. Guests are encouraged to take lawn chairs or blankets for lawn seating. No chairs are provided. The Landing will sell food and drinks; no carry-ins are allowed. Guests also can browse the museum's exhibits, including "Indiana Lore" and "Turning Point: The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863."

Tickets cost \$10 at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or at the door. Corporate packages for \$500 or \$350 include tickets, coupons, special seating, recognition from the stage and on-air announcements through WVPE.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

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### Brett Dennen

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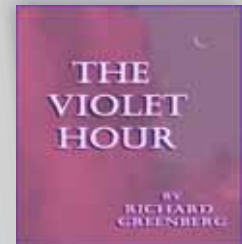
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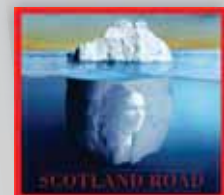
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July 5- 15



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July 19-29

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### Old Lighthouse Museum

Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road, will celebrate its 50th anniversary, complete with a memorial service honoring the S.S. Eastland, from 10:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 22.

The day begins with a fanfare performed by Michigan City Municipal Band, followed by a memorial service and laying of a wreath in Trail Creek by members of the U.S. Coast Guard Station. The service honors the 844 lives lost on the Eastland when it capsized in the Chicago River on July 24, 1915.

Guest speakers will focus on the Eastland, and recount the lighthouse's history. After a short program that includes honoring volunteers, the museum will be open for free until 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Those attending can see the newly remodeled Eastland Memorial. Each anchor-chain link represents the 844 passengers who lost their lives on the Eastland. The Stimley family and crew made contributions to the effort.

Limited parking is available at the museum and Millennium Plaza. Additional parking is available at Washington Park beach, with a \$15 entry fee for those without stickers.

Email [contact@mchistorical.org](mailto:contact@mchistorical.org) or call (219) 872-6133 for more details.

### South Shore Line Teacher Special

Local educators can ride for free on all off-peak weekday and weekend South Shore Line trains July 24-30.

Off-peak weekday trains arrive at Millennium Station after 9:30 a.m. and depart Millennium Station before 3:30 p.m. and after 6:30 p.m. To ride, educators must present a valid school ID.

Also available is the Kids Ride Free Program, allowing up to three children 13 and younger to ride free with each paying parent or guardian on off-peak weekday and all weekend trains.

To accommodate construction for the Double Track NWI project, the South Shore Line is bus-ing passengers between Carroll Avenue and Gary Metro stations for all weekday and weekend trains. Carroll Avenue to Gary Metro bus service will operate on the regular SSL train time schedule.

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## Marine Captain Stops by Museum



Scott Montefusco is photographed in front of his vehicle.

Retired U.S. Marines Capt. Scott Montefusco stopped by LaPorte County Historical Society Museum amid a special cross-county trip.

Montefusco is recreating the first transcontinental automobile trip achieved by Horatio Jackson in 1903. Dr. Peter Kesling also recreated this trip in 2003, the event's 100th anniversary. Kesling also drove the same kind of car as Jackson, a 1903 Winton on display at the museum.

Montefusco calls the trip the "Great American Road Trip for Vets," hoping to raise awareness and funds for Tunnel to Towers, a non-profit that supports military and first responder families. He is scheduled to enter New York City on July 26, the same day Jackson did.

## New Buffalo Township Library

- Magic Show from 3-4 p.m. Monday, July 24.
- New Buffalo Township Library Book Club at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 25.
- Non-fiction author William Hazelgrove at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.
- First "Friendraiser," presented by Friends of the New Buffalo Township Library, from 7-9 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 12, at the library. Proceeds benefit FOL programs and services. Tickets, which are \$50 and include entry, wine and appetizers, are available at the library. The event is adults only.

### Weekly programs:

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



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



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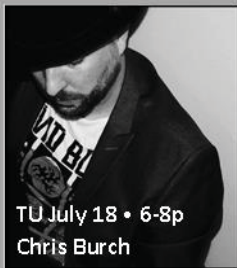
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## Old School Run Celebrates its 26th Year

Article submitted by Kevin Higdon

It was a glorious July 4 morning as the Long Beach Old School Run, sponsored by *The Beacher* and Town of Long Beach, commenced for the 26th year.

Besides celebrating the nation's 247th birthday, the race celebrated beautiful running weather, as it was sunny and a bit humid, but not yet overwhelmingly hot, for the 7 a.m. start.

The event is for all runners and walkers who want to start the day with a low-key, no-frills competition of fewer than three miles. Distance and time don't matter, but running through Long Beach and the Long Beach Cove loop makes it a scenic journey.

The run again is organized by Camille and Kevin Higdon, with several of their family members and friends contributing. Registration started at 6 a.m. at the community center with the customary laying out of the "Old T-shirts and sweatshirts" for all the finishers. The town contributed use of the building and Chief Mark Swistek and his staff had water for everyone, which helped ensure everyone was properly hydrated.

The race entry is a \$10 donation, with a \$5 donation for students, with all proceeds going to the town for the community center. This year's event ended up with 135 participants, back up to pre-COVID levels, and just 11 finishers short of the record. This year, it generated \$1,200 to present to the Long Beach Town Council for use at the center.

*The Beacher* continues to be a loyal supporter every year since inception by providing advertising space and certificates for all the finishers.

Camille Higdon and her helpers had things organized by making sure registration went smoothly. As in prior years, all sections of the United States were represented, from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, and many other areas in between. One country represented was Moldova, which is next to Ukraine.

As 7 a.m. drew near, runners lined up on the starting line for the traditional playing of The National Anthem. The race started out quickly as runners tried to gain momentum, almost overtaking the bike directing the race. Jake Jaskowiak from Glen Ellyn, Ill., visiting his girlfriend's family for the weekend, took it out hard and separated him-

self from the rest of the group almost immediately. A former Collegiate Cross-Country star from perennial NCAA Division II power North Central College, Jaskowiak pushed hard over the hills on Floral Trail and through the golf course S-curve hill near the second hole into Long Beach Cove. A group of three runners also broke away from the pack, staying together for much of the first half of the race.

Jaskowiak continued his strong pace, with the group of three keeping him in their sights. Two of the three were former winners of the past Old T-shirt Runs, including: 4:20-miler/Culver Academy High School's Will Ruszkowski, Long Beach, the son of John and Stephanie Ruszkowski; former University of Notre Dame runner-current Houston NASA aerospace engineer Kyle Higdon; and Ben Hendricks, visiting family in the area. Ultimately, Jaskowiak continued onward alone to the finish, ending with a sensational time of 15:02. Ruszkowski and Hendricks broke away from Higdon, with Ruszkowski using his miler speed to finish in 16:05. Hendricks and Higdon stayed strong with a time of 16:26 and 16:44, respectively.

In the women's race, a blistering pace was being set by former collegiate runners who grew up in the area.

Three runners broke away from the rest, running in the top 10 of the field. Young friends Emily Waggoner and Elena Lancioni ran together, chit-chatting, but keeping the pace honest. Lancioni is the former LaPorte High School-Bowling Green University star whose parents live in the beach area. Both were being closely followed by former Michigan City Elston-Indiana University star Megan Leahy, who grew up in Long Beach and owns a home here. Leahy led the Elston Red Devils to two state titles and recently completed her first Boston Marathon. Ultimately, Waggoner pulled away through the Long Beach Cove area, finishing up with a strong time of 17:58, one of the fastest women's times ever on the course, ending up seventh overall, right behind Masters winner Phil Latchford. Lancioni finished close behind her friend with a strong time of 18:15 and 10th overall. Finishing right behind her was Leahy in an outstanding time of 18:29.

Runners continued to pour into the finish line, with walkers comingled with them. The first walker was 8-months-pregnant Maddie Higdon, wife of Wesley Higdon.

Everyone achieved a good morning fitness workout, aiming to experience afterward the parade and community activities. The most important aspect was the typical camaraderie participants share, catching up on life over the past year.

So, until next year, keep up the training, stride on and wear your Old T-shirt proudly.

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Photos provided by Camille Higdon

## “The Thing” Remains a Masterpiece More Than 40 Years Later



Kurt Russell delivers one of his best performances in John Carpenter’s “The Thing.”

John Carpenter’s “The Thing” may be the most extreme example of a movie reviled upon release, revered decades later.

How, and why, does this happen? Maybe, we are not ready for certain films when they debut. Time alters our perspective. Fine-tunes it.

How else, then, to explain “It’s a Wonderful Life” and “The Shawshank Redemption” fizzling upon release, then, over time, celebrated as classics.

“The Thing,” however, is a different story. Universally loathed upon release in June 1982. Dismissed by critics as “a freak show,” “wretched excess” and “instant junk.” Today, it is hailed as a masterpiece. Influential. A superior remake. Carpenter’s best, more so than “Halloween,” his 1978 debut.

Again, what happened?

Again, my theory. In the summer of 1982, audiences weren’t ready for a bleak mix of horror and science-fiction. They only had room for one alien, and that was a sweet, stranded one.

That’s right. “The Thing” arrives in theaters two weeks after “E.T. The Extra Terrestrial.” Universal Studios was behind both...but what was it thinking, unveiling them so close to each other? But that summer, ironically, reflected a certain trend. Audiences embraced Steven Spielberg’s moving tale, but had no time for edgy. “The Thing” wasn’t the only casualty. “Blade Runner” and “Tron” experienced the same crushing abandonment.

Last year, “The Thing” celebrated its 40th anniversary. Journalists, bloggers and the like wrote with such affection for the movie that nearly de-

past  
present

Andrew Tallackson



railed Carpenter’s Hollywood career.

It struck me, earlier this year, that I’d never read “Who Goes There?,” John Campbell Jr.’s 1938 novella that inspired 1951’s “The Thing From Another World” and Carpenter’s remake. Ordering it off Amazon, here was my discovery.

It sucks.

Big time.

A germ of an idea is there, but mostly, it’s people standing around talking. And, Campbell’s writing is so clumsy, the conversations spilling into each other, many times, you have no clue who is talking. By the end, my only reaction was, “This is a classic?”

You get it, then, why Hollywood tinkered with the story. Carpenter, working from a screenplay by Bill Lancaster (“The Bad News Bears”), hued closer to Campbell’s vision of the alien, that it arrived thousands of years ago in Antarctica, was subsequently frozen and, once reawakened, can assume the form of anyone or anything in its presence.

A terrifying notion, but in 1982, audiences could not get past the hideously original, and nauseatingly grotesque, visual effects supervised by Rob

Bottin, who two years earlier made a name for himself with the werewolf transformations in “The Howling.” We hadn’t seen effects like this before. Dogs and humans coming apart from the inside out, the alien, once detected, ravaging the human body so what remained was a combination of the two. This was achieved with what we call today “practical effects.” Computerized images were in their infancy with “Tron,” but Bottin relied on the wizardry of makeup effects. It was graphically real *and* surreal, the most horrifying being two faces locked in a frozen pose of agony and terror. By the time a detached head sprouts legs, the crackling sound from the protruding appendages gnarly to the extreme, many a theater owner at the time reported people bolting for the exit. Too grossed out to stay put.

That the visuals haven’t lost their bite more than 40 years later is a testament to Bottin’s ingenuity.

For me, and why “The Thing” remains influential is Carpenter’s talent for creating an exceedingly paranoid thriller.

Who can you trust, who do you believe to be human, when you’re trapped in an Antarctic research station? That is the thrust of the movie. Not the startling effects, but the mounting unease. The inability to have faith that the person standing next to you can be trusted.

Carpenter beautifully sets the tone for its isolated setting in the opening scene. A sea of white. No life or activity. Only a helicopter pursuing a dog across the frozen landscape, a gunman firing away at the animal. The pulsing score by the great Ennio Morricone achieves a potent sense of dread.

Why would anyone try to kill a dog? When the animal arrives at the research station, populated by a relatively tight crew, Carpenter’s camera frequently rests on the dog’s face. No sound. Just the feeling that something isn’t quite right with the animal. That there is something behind its eyes, plotting.

By staying silent for so long, Carpenter is teasing us. Taunting us that something horrible is about to happen. And horrible it definitely is.

Most people, it seems, remember only the gore. But in revisiting it recently, it still works on your nerves because of how rapidly the research team discovers any one of them could be infected.

That leads to one of the all-time great sequences in horror: a blood test that may indicate whether someone is human or alien. With each ensuing try, the primal terror on the faces of these men is practically queasy. Carpenter also unleashes one fantas-



The minute the alien appears, Rob Bottin’s gory special effects turned off audiences back in 1982.

tic jump-scare because you don’t anticipate it.

Technically, “The Thing” is a triumph of production design. The research station, buried under mountains of snow. Dean Cundey’s gorgeous cinematography, contrasting the pounding snow against dark blacks and blues.

And the performances, especially Kurt Russell and Keith David, are succinctly drawn. No backstory, no moments of insight. Just men under constant fire, their nerves fraying.

The movie’s final scene was deemed too bleak, with only Russell and David surviving, no sign of rescue in sight. Also, ambiguity in terms of whether either are still human. Carpenter, ironically, dropped one heck of a bomb last year when he expressed confusion about that. Look closely at the two men, he said. You can see Russell’s frozen breath while he speaks. Nothing from David. An inhuman trait.

*Mind. Blown.*

Is David’s character the alien? We never find out because the movie fades to black. That adds a whole other dimension to the film, another layer of mystery. Carpenter never quite rebounded from the critical and box-office failure of “The Thing.” The following year, he directed an adaptation of Stephen King’s “Christine,” switched gears entirely for the touching “Starman” and achieved cult status again with the yuppie parable “They Live.” But Hollywood never quite trusted him again with sizable budgets, so he was reduced to cheapies.

“The Thing,” however, is a masterpiece. Intelligent, scary. Carpenter at the top of his game. It’s just a shame it took moviegoers so long to realize it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-11 a.m. Thursdays in July at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll while observing plant and bird life. Meet at the Visitor Center and carpool to a chosen location.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 5-6 and 7-8 p.m. Thursdays in July.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. Rangers will lead two groups of 10 paddlers into the lagoon. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
- **Beach Fun Friday from 1-8:30 p.m. Fridays in July at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.** Join staff for activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays in July.** 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, July 21, 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 8-11 a.m. Saturday, July 15, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** 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.
- **Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in July.** Participate in a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 3-5 p.m. Saturdays in July.** 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.
- **Dune Ridge Hike from 5-6 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the Kemil Beach parking lot.** Join rangers for the hike that includes views of the Great Marsh. The parking lot is located north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road in Beverly Shores.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in July.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Critter Talk from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 23, at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.** Learn about animals that make the Indiana Dunes home. Discover how and where they live throughout the park's many ecosystems.
- **Rocks on the Beach, Geology 101 in Sandals from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 23, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** Regional expert Dave Dolak discusses the geology of the dunes and rocks found on the beach. The Bailly/Chellberg parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in July.** 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 July 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 July 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.
- **Dunes Kankakee Hike from 9-11 a.m. Mondays in July at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Explore the grounds at the center and hike the paved Dunes Kankakee Trail. In the process, learn about birds, plants and the area's cultural history.
- **Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays in July at Central Avenue**



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**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.

- **Dog Days at Chellberg from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays in July at the Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** Take pets and join a ranger to learn how dogs can become a B.A.R.K. Ranger. After getting sworn in, visitors can take pets on a hike. The program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes. Visit [www.dunefriends.org](http://www.dunefriends.org) for more details.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in July at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in June at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](http://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4:30 p.m. daily in July.** 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

### Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22.** Meet at the Nature Center for a 1.5-mile flat walk to the beach and back.
- **Reptile Rendezvous at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22.** Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to see live turtles and snakes, the emphasis being how they survive the cold winter months.
- **Moth Mysteries from 8:30-11 p.m. Saturday, July 22.** Meet at the Nature Center, where moth enthusiast Chris Joll will set up his mothing equipment. See moths up close and learn how to better identify them.
- **Morning Bird Walk at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 23.** Take binoculars or borrow a pair for an easy walk searching for birds.
- **Spider Show N' Tell at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 23.** Meet at the nature center to learn about arachnids 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.*

NATURE IN THE ARTS

## 2023 Schedule

**St. Francis Nature Preserve**  
3500 Franciscan Way, Michigan City, IN  
July 22, 10 am - 1 pm CT

**Meadowbrook Nature Preserve**  
109 W 700 N, Valparaiso, IN  
August 19, 10 am - 1 pm CT

**Lydick Bog Nature Preserve**  
25898 US-20, South Bend, IN  
September 30, 10 am - 1 pm ET

**Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve**  
750 Colfax St, Gary, IN  
October 7, 10 am - 1 pm CT

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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.

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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:*

- **Virtual Author Talk with Ethan Kross (adults 19+) from noon-1 p.m. Thursday, July 20.** Registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/28652>.
- **Jim Gill's Sing-a-Thon of Celebrated Songs from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, July 20, in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** Families are invited to join the award-winning musician-author for the program.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday,**

**July 21, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.

- **Author Talk with Sean Phillips from 4-5:30 p.m. Friday, July 21, in the Main Library Meeting Room B.** Phillips is the local author of [Alexander's Run](#), a dystopian story about a hemophiliac boy on the run from population control.
  - **How to Use Online Tabletops (teens 13-18) from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 22, in the Main Library Meeting Room A.** Learn how to play D&D and other tabletop games online for free or minimal cost.
  - **Readers Corner: Kids Edition (ages 6-10) Book Club from 5-6 p.m. Monday, July 24, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** The summer club focuses on a different book each month.
  - **Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden from 6-7 p.m. Monday, July 24, at the main library.** Meet in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.
  - **Virtual Author Talk with Erika Sánchez (adults 19+) from 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.** Registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/28937>.
  - **Coolspring Readers Corner (adults 19+) Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** The focus is this month's selection.
  - **Snack and Read Book Club (ages 5-8) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, in the main library multipurpose room.** Participants will discuss a book and make a themed snack. The focus is Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad Are Friends."
- 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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details.*

## Cocktails at the Grand Cottage

Michiana Humane Society will present its 12th anniversary "Cocktails at the Grand Cottage" from 5-9 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 29, at 11551 Marquette Drive, New Buffalo, Mich.

The benefit includes light hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, a raffle and live auction. The cost is \$125 per person. Visit [tinyurl.com/4tymcmef](http://tinyurl.com/4tymcmef) for reservations and more details.

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## Michigan City Public Library

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

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in July.** 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.
- **Build-A-Button from 3-5 p.m. Monday, July 24.** Children of all ages can use a button maker to make designs and wear them. No registration is required.
- **Film Showing: "Batman The Movie" (1966) from 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, July 25.** Based on the TV series, and the first full-length theatrical adaptation of the DC character, the film stars Adam West as Batman and Burt Ward as Robin. It is Rated PG.
- **Angels Among Us from 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in July.** 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 Maker-space. 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.
- **Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt in July.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters hiding there and win a prize.
- **Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! through July 22.** For every 10 hours a person reads, reads to someone else or listens to someone read, they have a chance to win a raffle item. Record reading hours and select the desired raffle prize for a chance to win.

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



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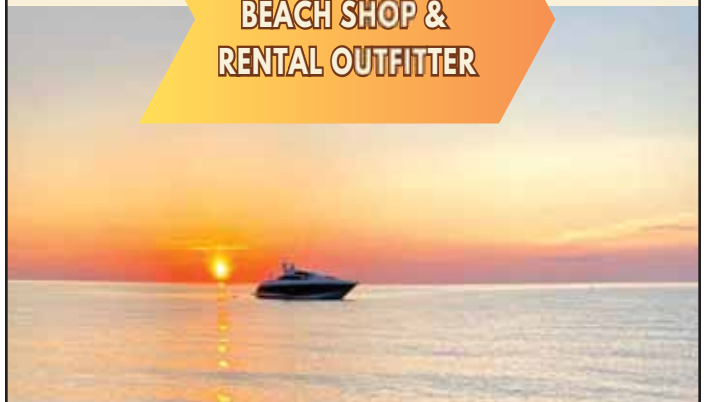
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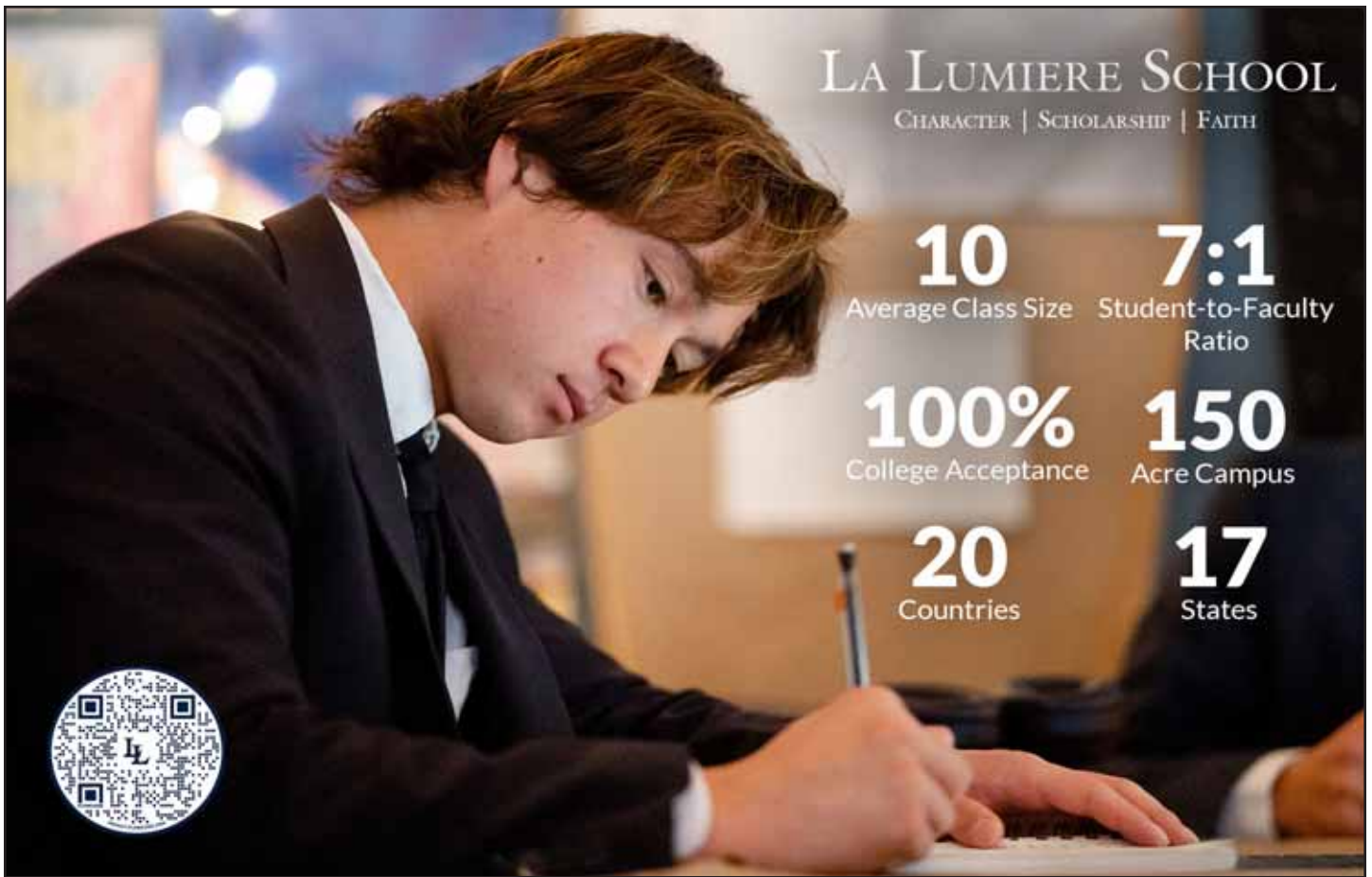
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## Michigan City Robotics Program Receives Cleveland-Cliffs Grant

The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation Board of Trustees awarded a grant to the Michigan City Area Schools Safe Harbor afterschool program to help fund its fall program, "STEM for Life: Kids Build Robots – Robots Build Adults."

"This grant will allow Safe Harbor to start robotics teams in the fall at each of the six elementary schools that we serve," Safe Harbor Program Coordinator Brenda Johnstone said in a press release.

Much of the grant funding will support efforts to start FIRST Lego League teams at Coolspring, Edgewood, Joy, Knapp, Lake Hills and Marsh elementary schools.

"As we developed our plan to expand the Safe Harbor robotics program, we leaned heavily on the results of the Indiana University STEM interest study to guide our efforts," Al Walus, the senior robotics mentor, said in a press release. "A majority of the nearly 8,000 participants in the IU study indicated that something sparked their interest in STEM fields prior to entering sixth grade. That finding has led to our initial focus to reconstitute and significantly expand our robotics programming for elementary students.

Next, we plan to add middle school robotics programming to maintain and deepen student interest as students progress to our existing high school robotics programs."

The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation grant program invests in communities where it has operations, with a focus on supporting education and improving the environment.

Julie Kreighbaum, the Safe Harbor STEM/Robotics coordinator, is planning to leverage the Cleveland-Cliffs grant to create more FLL teams.

"If we can raise some additional funds, our goal is to start two FLL teams at each of our six elementary school sites, with one team at each site being dedicated as an all-girls team," she said in a press release.

"And if we reach our goal of 12 teams, we can host an FLL tournament in Michigan City and showcase the skills of our students to the community."

Anyone interested in having a student join an FLL team, serving as a team coach or non-engineering mentor, or discussing funding opportunities to support the all-girl FLL teams, can contact Kreighbaum at [jkreighbaum@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:jkreighbaum@mcas.k12.in.us)



The Coolspring Elementary Lego Viper FLL team practices with its robot in the pit area during the 2019 Regional FLL Tournament at Indiana University-Northwest.

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Christ Church Sunday Worship (10 a.m.)

### Interim LaLu Head of School

Andy Webster is the next interim head of school at La Lumiere School.

The appointment follows Webster's 18-year tenure as head of school at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in suburban New Jersey. A graduate of Brown University and University of Virginia, he has served as a history teacher, coach, advisor, director of admissions and upper school head at previous schools.



Webster

"My goal," he said in a press release, "is to create a vibrant culture that balances the need to challenge and care for its community members, to guide its students toward a clear sense of purpose and spiritual growth, and to work toward meaningful academic innovation while maintaining a high level of excellence."

### 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.

### Public Art Committee

Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 20, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

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# American Red Cross

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

- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Thursday, July 20.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, July 21.
- American Legion Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20, Michigan City, 12:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25.

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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more details.

## Bringing Nature Home

Shirley Heinze Land Trust again will host its “Bringing Nature Home” program, which celebrates individuals, businesses and organizations that create gardens free from invasive species and rich with native plants.

“These gardens not only help to restore native plants, but they also provide critical habitats for native pollinators,” Programs Coordinator Mari Patis said in a press release.

Certain plants are adapted to specific habitat types, so it is recommended to research which plants are best suited for the area containing the garden.

Anyone with a native plant garden that is at least in its second year of growing may apply at [www.heinzetrust.org/bnh-application](http://www.heinzetrust.org/bnh-application). Applicants will fill out information about their garden’s location, size, a list of plant species and some photos of the garden. The garden must have a form of water conservation present, such as a pond, bird bath, rain garden, mulch or rain barrel. Applications are open through Aug. 1.

Recipients will receive a garden sign commemorating their commitment to native plants and wild-life habitat, and be featured on Shirley Heinze Land Trust’s social media and fall newsletter.

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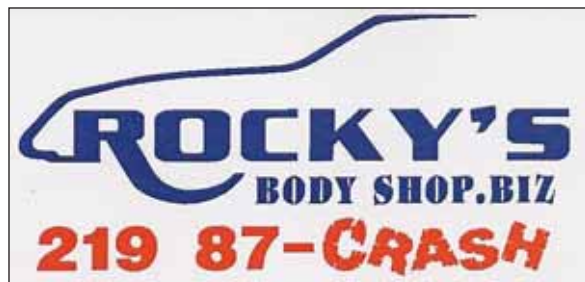
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## Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



### North Course, "Early Birdies,"

July 6, 2023

Event: Closest to

Pin Drive: Hole #6

#### A Flight

Low Gross: LuAnn Uremovich.

Low Net: Pat Czizek.

Low Putts: LuAnn Uremovich.

#### B Flight

Low Gross: Linda Wabshall.

Low Net: Linda Wabshall.

Low Putts: Linda Wabshall.

#### C Flight

Low Gross: Carol Hullings, Kathy Nelson.

Low Net: Hullings, Nelson, Mary Schlunz.

Low Putts: Kathy Nelson, Charlotte Wozniak.

#### D Flight

Low Gross: Nancy Wilhelm.

Low Net: Nancy Wilhelm.

Low Putts: Kathy Grott.



Birdies: Carol Tylisz: Hole #6.

Event: Carol Tylisz.

#### A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.

Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.

Low Putts: Barb Rumbuc.

Event: Barb Rumbuc.

#### B Flight

Low Gross: Jane Spang.

Low Net: Jane Spang.

Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall.

Event: Mary Lou Marshall.

#### C Flight

Low Gross: Ann Batagianis.

Low Net: Batagianis.

Low Putts: Mary Schlunz, Alice Wozniak.

Event: Ann Batagianis.

#### D Flight

Low Gross: Kathy Grott.

Low Net: Kathy Grott.

Low Putts: Jan Smith.

Event: Nancy Wilhelm.



Chip-Ins: Tylisz, #4; Wozniak, #1; Smith, #9.

### North Course, "Early Birdies,"

July 10, 2023

Event: Longest Drive on Fairway: Hole #4

### South Course, "Par-Tee

Women's Golf League,"

July 5, 2023

#### Flight A

Low Gross: Lu Ann Uremovich.

Low Net: Lu Ann Uremovich.

Low Putts: Lu Ann Uremovich.

#### Flight B

Low Gross: Paula Hutchinson.

Low Net: Paula Hutchinson.

Low Putts: Jill Mellen, Wendy Shaver.

#### Flight C

Low Gross: Linda Gorman.

Low Net: Linda Gorman.

Low Putts: Linda Gorman.

#### Flight D

Low Gross: Sandra Provan.

Low Net: Sandra Provan.

Low Putts: Provan, Sheila Brackin, Nancy Ash.

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## Annual Old Car Show

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host the 15th annual Old Car Show from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, July 22.

The registration cost for people entering vehicles is \$15. Vehicles must be at least 30 years old. Entrants receive dash plaques and compete for awards and trophies.

Tickets for visitors cost \$3, while youth 18 and younger are free. Museum admission is included with car-show tickets. Food trucks and vendors will be on site. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.



# LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

July 6, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

### A Flight

- First — Kathy Kenefick.
- Second — Donna Hennard.
- Third — June Salmon.
- Low Putts – Donna Hennard.
- Birdie – Sue Luegers (#1).
- Sunken Approach – Julie McGue (#1).

### B Flight

- First — Marci Meyer.
- Second — Amanda Ferlmann.
- Third — Pat Bailey.
- Low Putts – Amanda Ferlmann.
- Birdie – Marci Meyer (#3).
- Sunken Approach – Ferlmann (#12), Meyer (#3).

### C Flight

- First — Alison Kolb.
- Second — Tina Sonderby.
- Third – Kathie Mole, Jude Stahmer.
- Low Putts – Alison Kolb.

### D Flight

- First — Regina Bradley.
- Second — Katie Flores.
- Third — Jeanne St. Peter.
- Low Putts – Katie Flores.



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### In the Area

**July 19-29** — “Honky Tonk Angels,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Shows: 2 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m. Thur.-Sat. Tickets: \$20/regular admission, \$18/seniors, half-price discounts/students & military personnel. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, [info@canterburytheatre.org](mailto:info@canterburytheatre.org)

**July 20** — Virtual Author Talk with Ethan Kross (adults 19+), noon-1 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/28652>.

**July 20** — Jim Gill’s Sing-a-Thon of Celebrated Songs, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 20** — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *July 20* — Kennedy’s Kitchen. *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

**July 22** — 50th anniversary celebration, 10:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road. Free admission. Info: (219) 872-6133, [contact@mchistorical.org](mailto:contact@mchistorical.org)

**July 21** — Author Talk with Sean Phillips, 4-5:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 22** — 15th annual Old Car Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Vehicle registration: \$15. Visitor fee: \$3, 18 & younger/free. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**July 22** — Shirley Heinze Land Trust, “The Art of Mindfulness,” 10 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Francis Nature Preserve, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: [www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts](http://www.heinzetrust.org/nature-in-the-arts)

**July 24** — Build-A-Button, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**July 24** — Readers Corner: Kids Edition (ages 6-10) Book Club, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 24** — Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 25** — Film Showing: “Batman The Movie” (1966), 10 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**July 25** — Angels Among Us, 2-3 p.m., Michigan

City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**July 25** — Virtual Author Talk with Erika Sánchez (adults 19+), 3-4 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/28937>.

**July 25** — Coolspring Readers Corner (adults 19+) Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**July 26** — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

**July 26** — Snack and Read Book Club (ages 5-8), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Through July 30** — Exhibits (“If You Build It, They Will Come: Artistic Depictions of Beverly Shores Architecture,” “Architecture in Beverly Shores, Past and Present”), The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

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

**Through Sept. 30** — Artwork by Kristina Knowski, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 872-9196.

**Through Oct. 21** — “Vivian Maier: In Color,” “Under the Same Sun,” “to render the infinite,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.LubeznikCenter.org](http://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** — 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.

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

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

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



**Saturdays through Oct. 28** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com)

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

### **In the Region**

**July 21** — 2023 Singer-Songwriter Competition Finals, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 21** — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 22** — The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 22** — Reptile Rendezvous, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 22** — Reception, sculpture installation (Tibetan prayer wheel), noon-5 p.m. EDT, Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich.

**July 22** — Dune Ridge Hike, 5-6 p.m., Kemil Beach parking lot, north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road, Beverly Shores. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 22** — Journeyman: A Tribute to Eric Clapton, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 22** — Moth Mysteries, 8:30-11 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 23** — Morning Bird Walk, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 23** — Critter Talk, 10-11:30 a.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**July 23** — Rocks on the Beach, Geology 101 in Sandals, 10-11:30 a.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**July 23** — Spider Show N' Tell, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 23** — Midwest Made: Buddy Pearson 3, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 24** — Magic Show, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**July 25** — New Buffalo Township Library Book Club, 10:30 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**July 25** — Historical program (author William Hazelgrove, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free. Info: (800) 291-9287, [galler@courtyardfineart.com](mailto:galler@courtyardfineart.com)

**Through July 31** — “Budgie’s Garden” Art Show, Front Street Crossing, 227 S. Front St., Dowagiac, Mich. Featured artist: Lisa Quinlan-Heibutzki (past collaborator with *Beacher* columnist Charley McKelvy).

**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](http://www.pinesvillage.org)

**Through Aug. 30** — Emily Casella’s “In Emotion to Entrain,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: [www.chestertonart.org](http://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](http://www.krasl.org), [info@krasl.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com)

**Thursdays in July** — Bird Walk and Talk, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Thursdays in July** — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 5-6 & 7-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

**Fridays in July** — Beach Fun Friday, 1-8:30 p.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Fridays & Sundays in July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Saturdays in July** — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-11 a.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Saturdays in July** — Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., 100 N.

Continued From Page 41

# Business cards



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Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Saturdays in July** — Pinhook Bog Open House, 3-5 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in July** — 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](http://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 July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Mondays in July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Mondays in July** — Dunes Kankakee Hike, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

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

**Wednesdays in July** — Dog Days at Chellberg, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Wednesdays in July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Daily in July** — 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing*: "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One." Times: 7 p.m. July 21, 3 p.m. July 22, noon & 7 p.m. July 23. *Also*: "The Miracle Club." Rated PG-13. Times: 4 p.m. July 21, 7 p.m. July 22, 4 p.m. July 23. *Also*: "Mamma Mia!." Rated PG-13. Time: 7 p.m. July 20. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

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### Behind-the-Scenes Tour

A specialty behind-the-scenes tour is at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 22, at South Bend's Oliver Mansion, which is located at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

Deputy Executive Director Kristie Erickson will discuss efforts to upgrade electricity in the 38-room mansion. Visits to several rooms and the lower level help chronicle the project, including how the museum updated wiring, receptacles and all other electrical components.

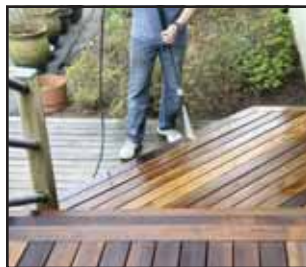
The tour is limited, and reservations are required. Tickets, which cost \$25, or \$20 for members, can be purchased at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or by calling (574) 235-9664.

### NB Library Community Forum

Author William Hazelgrove, who specializes in American history, will spotlight the horrors of Morristown at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, July 25, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The focus is the fall of 1779, when George Washington took his 10,000-man army into winter camp in Morristown, N.J. It was a brutal winter of suffering, depression, starvation, betrayal, mutiny, treason and an attempt by the British to kidnap Washington.

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



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Find a "sneak peek" on our Facebook and Instagram pages at thegirlfriendsale. Note: Please obey all parking signs or you will be ticketed. You may pull in and park on the grassy triangle at the front of the building with all 4 tires off the pavement. Do not park on residents' properties or down any side streets. We do not have extra help to transport and load your purchases to your vehicle.

**Looking forward to seeing you all there!**

**Thank you for your support.**

After the Good Things Sale, the love continues when we will host a "Give Back Sale," where all remaining items will be available for purchase at 1/2 off, plus an additional 25% off purchases over \$100. The proceeds will benefit Michiana Humane Society on Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.-noon, cash only. And bonus!!! The Long Beach Community Center, Garden Club and Park Board are hosting an "open house" with access to the historical room, which is truly fascinating. The courtyard yard garden located in the center of the building will be open to enjoy, plus the most delightful 3rd annual "Art in the Park" showcasing 18 local artists will be just outside on the grounds. The LBPD will assist you with parking. Plan to make a day of it!

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**The Only One Left by Riley Sager** (hardcover \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 383 pages.)

*“But as I get closer, the luxurious grandeur of the place fades like fog, revealing the neglect hiding in plain sight...At last, a place as broken as I feel.*

*“With that in mind, I take a deep breath, pass through the door, and allow Hope’s End to swallow me whole.”*

You want atmosphere? This week, I have it in spades. A crumbling Victorian mansion precariously perched on a rocky Maine coast ledge overlooking the ocean. What a perfect setting for murder...oops, I’m getting ahead of myself.

It’s 1983, and Kit McDeere is accused of giving her suffering mother the pills that end her life. She is a registered caregiver working for Gurlain Home Health Aides. She should have known better than to leave the fentanyl by her mother’s bed.



Absolved of any crime, although suspended from work for six months, Kit now finds herself called back by Guerlain to take another job: Lenora Hope, the rich old woman living at Hope’s End. Due to several strokes, she is unable to talk or walk. Only her left arm has any movement. Kit will live there for the duration of her job.

Nice to be back to work...but...let’s face it, both Lenora and Hope’s End are creepy.

Back in 1929, on the eve of the great stock market crash, Lenora’s mother, father and sister are killed in the house. Only Lenora was spared. Of course, she was suspect No. 1, but the police could not find any evidence against her.

Being a small town, rumors abounded, even a Lizzie Borden-type rhyme was repeated by the children. “Lenora Hope, Hung her sister with a rope”... and so on, and so on.

The mother and father were killed by a kitchen knife, while the other daughter, Virginia, was found hanging by a chandelier in the ballroom. The staff had the night off, and there was no evidence of a break-in. Time passed, and the police put the murders in the unsolved case file.

The staff is much smaller now than in 1929. Mrs. Baker still lives there, handling all the head housekeeper chores. There is one groundskeeper, a chef and a maid.

Kit has a room adjoined to Lenora’s and must wear a white nurse’s uniform. They belonged to the former caregiver, Mary, who disappeared mysteri-

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ously one night, never to be heard from again.

Did the crumbling mansion, with its blood stains that were never cleaned properly, and the sloping floors, give Mary pause to believe she had entered one of the circles of hell? Especially with the dour and demanding Mrs. Baker in charge.

Kit discovers Lenora can type with her left hand, making communication with each other a modicum better. And, of course, Kit and Lenora have something in common — both were blamed for deaths they didn’t commit.

Lenora and Kit slowly begin an understanding of each other...ha! Both have secrets to hide and no intention of telling the other. Seems everyone left in this household has something to hide. Meanwhile, things began to happen, like shadows in Lenora’s bedroom that Kit observes under their connecting door. And no one seems to know why Mary, the last caregiver, left all her stuff behind before disappearing one night. Hope’s End, the center of all this Gothic mystery, shows more and more of its descent into falling apart at the seams, what with cracks in the walls and the tilting floors giving the impression of being on a wind-swept ship.

One thing is for sure — take nothing at face value. The truth is out there, they tell us, but the dead can’t speak, or can they?

Read this book in a dark room with only your reading lamp above your head for the full atmospheric experience. You won’t be able to put it down!

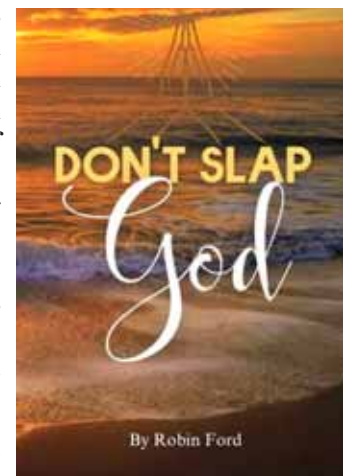
*The final word:* Hope’s End isn’t a home. It’s a cage built of secrets.

**Don’t Slap God by Robin Ford** (paperback available online from Amazon or Barnes & Noble for \$19.99)

Robin is a local resident whose love of her religion comes shining through like a rainbow after a rain storm. A reaffirmation of her faith and a message to follow the Bible’s teaching is considered here, concisely and emotionally.

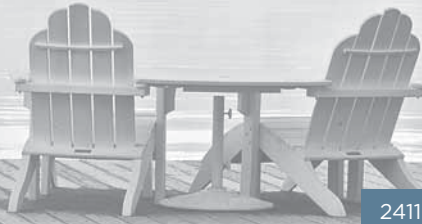
Especially relevant in this uncertain world is Robin’s quote from the book of John: 13-34: “Christ called on all people to love one another...” How apropos.

Till next time, happy reading!



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Michiana Shores IN



**Sale Pending 325,000**

804 E Sportsman Lane  
Rolling Prairie IN



**SOLD -Buyer's Agent  
Represented 770,000**

221 N Pokagon  
Michiana Shores IN



**For Sale 339,000**

7 Orange St  
Three Oaks MI



**SOLD -Buyer Agent  
475,000's**

172 N 400 W  
LaPorte IN

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