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# Simply the Best

by *Connie Kuzydym*

Tim King is a rare gem.

Humorous, talented, happy, he radiates a positive, can-do attitude. At the end of this month, he retires as LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's executive director. Not only did he fulfill the role magnificently, but his charismatic personality and depth of experience helped ensure the orchestra's longevity.

When Tim moved to the area in 2013, upon learning LaPorte had an orchestra, his assumption was tepid. Upon hearing it perform, though, he was

stunned at how good it was.

So when longtime symphony supporters Leigh and Marsha Morris asked him to volunteer, he happily accepted and began work on *À La Carte*, a unique fundraiser now in its ninth season.

Tim went from volunteer to temporarily assuming executive director duties at the start of 2015. Having worked with The Louisville Orchestra, doing so felt natural.

He recalls LCSO's 2014 financial situation as aw-

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Tim King has a laugh on stage with Cherri Blair-Drayton during the 2022 Hoosier Star. *Beacher* file photo by Bob Wellinski.

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ful, with little funds in the bank and no revenue for three months.

“I got in there and thought, oh my Lord, what have I done? It was frightening,” he said. “I’d never been in that kind of situation before, but gradually we worked through it.”

Having worked with a multimillion-dollar budget in Louisville and now looking at a couple hundred-thousand-one here, Tim was puzzled. The sound of the orchestra was really good. The budget was not.

So, Tim asked what LCSO musicians were paid and was told, not very much.

“I was so impressed with the quality of the talent on stage, with the musicians, that I just wanted to help,” Tim said.

He did. Feeling musicians deserved more recognition and more money, they went to work on achieving just that.

“I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been thanked by the musicians in the orchestra,” he said. “They appreciate what I’ve done to try to help...I think that’s the reason I’ve stayed as long as I have stayed.”

Tim also encountered the symphony having a soured rapport with numerous individuals in the community. Meeting with past sponsors and subscribers, he explained the new vision and direction.

Within nine months, the financial situation began to turn around. The budget was balanced, with money left over. On better footing, Tim handed the reins over to a new executive director and went back to volunteering.

Three years later, Tim received another call asking for his help again.

With hearty laughter, Tim recalls telling board chair Michael Drayton, “I’ll come back. I’ll stay for six months. That’s all I’m going to do. The six months has turned into 4 1/2 years.

The “Bravo Maestro!” search for a new music director had begun. But by March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, pausing the search. Tim felt he needed to stay. By the time the search

concluded, the 50th anniversary was upon them. At that point, he definitely did not want to leave.

Tim’s biggest success involved helping to financially turn around the organization. Understanding that money problems had plagued the symphony since its inception, the Music Forever Campaign was implemented, successfully raising more than \$1.7 million, ensuring LCSO’s financial stability for years to come.

“The orchestra is in a much better financial situation now and hopefully is well thought of in the community,” Tim said. “Based on our success with the Music Forever Campaign, I think a lot of people’s opinion about the orchestra really turned around.”

With the LCSO 50th celebration complete, Dr. Carolyn Watson in her second year as music director and the orchestra financially set, Tim is ready to hand over the reins to incoming executive director Emily Yiannias.



Tim is highly successful at getting people to willingly do almost anything. It is impressive. When



Tim is helping incoming executive director Emily Yiannias transition into the position.  
Photo by Bob Wellinski.



Tim King has been passionate about his role with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra since Day One. *Beacher* file photo by Bob Wellinski.

asked about this, hearty laughter erupts. “You mean I’m persuasive?,” he replies.

“I don’t think I would ask anybody to do anything that I wouldn’t do myself,” Tim said. “I’m not one of those people who says, OK, you do that while I sit here...I think you’ve got to practice what you preach basically.”

That is evident if you have seen

him working, but it is so much more than that. After a moment, the question was reframed as, was it the way you were brought up?

His immediate response: “Yes. Did I answer that quickly enough?” When asked to expound, the story of his childhood comes to life.

Tim innately knew music was his passion. Although he came from a nonmusical family, where his parents viewed music as a hobby, not a profession, they supported him.

He grew up in the small town of Grassy Lick near Mount Sterling, Ky., on a hobby farm with three sisters and a brother. Tim’s father worked at the post office; his mom stayed at home. On 30 acres, they raised/sold cattle and set three acres of tobacco. The tobacco work was hard, but put five children through college.

Being raised on a farm provided each family member with an admirable work ethic. There were expectations, requirements and discipline. They were raised not to procrastinate. All are educated and successful; his siblings still live in that area.

“It was a pretty tightly run household, but all my siblings are the same way,” Tim said. “You have a job, you do it. You do it well, and that’s just how we were brought up.”

Feeling as if he had done 17 years of hard labor, he knew farming was not a career option. He was the only one in the family who showed interest in the arts.

Tim’s music career began thanks to his high school choral teacher, John Stegner, who saw something in him and helped cultivate his voice. He attended Eastern Kentucky University, earning a music education degree in 1980. Upon graduating, he

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met his wife, Debbie, and they moved to Louisville, where Tim taught K-8 music at Holy Spirit School.

He interviewed with The Louisville Orchestra, becoming its education director (1985-1992). He became general manager of Louisville Gardens: a 6,000-seat arena managed by the Kentucky Center for the Arts (1992-1995), then one of two senior vice presidents at KCA (1995-98). He returned to The Louisville Orchestra (1998-2003) as operations director, overseeing daily operations of a \$10 million orchestra, 70 full-time musicians and a staff of 25.

After his second stint with the orchestra, where he dealt with a variety of stressful situations, he realized he was missing daughter Sara's high school experience. He decided on a major change, working for a friend's landscaping business for two years.

"The landscaping job enabled me to work like a dog between 9-5," Tim said. "I took a 60 percent pay cut, but my nights and weekends were open. I was able to spend time with Sara...I was able to see her in her productions and watch her grow as a young woman."

(Sara shared her parent's passion for singing. Divorced, Tim and Debbie remained friends, raising Sara together. Tim credits Debbie with being a gifted singer, a wonderful mother and Sara's only voice teacher until after high school.)

Reflecting back on that time, he realizes it was the best thing he did for his soul and psyche.

From that point on, he has never interviewed for a job again. Established, respected, with a good reputation, job opportunities came through phone calls seeking him out.

The first call, Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, which runs the state fair, asked him to handle sponsorships. Two years later, KentuckyShow contacted him to assist in putting together a 30-minute multimedia presentation.

His final call came from Jefferson County Public Schools, based in Louisville. In Jefferson County, there is only one public school system. It has 110,000 students within 90 elementary schools, 35 middle schools and 25 high schools. To say the call

was a huge deal is an understatement, especially for what he was asked to accomplish.

"They called me and said, we have this project and we think you're the right person to do it," Tim said.

The position: director of performing arts for Jefferson Public School. The teacher's concerns: Talented high school students did not know the basics, so they were spending time teaching something that should have been taught earlier. The solution: Take an existing, functioning elementary and middle school and turn them into art schools that would become the feeder program for the highly successful Youth Performing Arts High School.

"That was a two-year all-encompassing project," Tim said. "I had to hire staff, principals, put in dance floors, buy grand pianos, etc. We were able to transform these schools. The high school then had a really good magnate program starting from elementary through middle school. I loved it. It was one of the best things I did, besides the job I have now. It was a real highlight for me."

In 2011, at age 53, Tim retired from Jefferson Public School with ease knowing the principals would take great care of everything. His husband, Kevin Noland, whom he has been with for 17 years, was supportive of the decision. Kevin, himself, had retired from the Kentucky Department of Education as general counsel and chief operations officer.

Being in Louisville for 32 years, Tim and Kevin started escaping to Southwest Michigan to get away from the sweltering heat. They loved the surrounding area and began looking for a place when Kevin happened upon the house of Tim's dreams in Rolling Prairie.

"It literally was everything I ever wanted in a house," Tim enthusiastically said. "Contemporary, lot of glass, lot of steel, concrete floors, heated floors fireplace, land."

They saw it on a Sunday in December. Their offer was accepted the next day. In a whirlwind month, they headed back to Louisville, sold their condo and moved to the area in January 2013.

"We didn't know a soul...we moved in and gradu-



Tim, pictured here with Kevin on their Rolling Prairie property, says they fell in love with the place immediately. Photo by Bob Wellinski.



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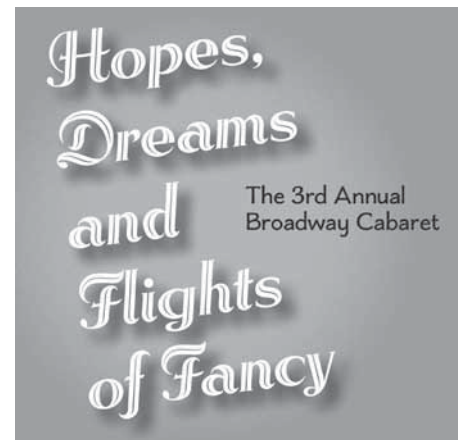
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ally, we started making friends,” Tim said.

Little did they know what the future had in store for Tim. For the LCSO, he was a godsend.

As he reflects on his time as executive director, two things of which he is most proud are the Music Forever Campaign and performances by the orchestra during the pandemic.

“We’re the only orchestra in Indiana that did that,” he said. “One of a few in the country that did that.”

Tim believes part of the success of the Music Forever Campaign came from the tenacity to continue playing during unprecedented times, instead of shuttering the doors.

“We have wonderful patrons here,” Tim said. “This is a very supportive community, and I think they appreciated the fact that we were trying.”

His most memorable moments: a livestream of the Holiday at the Pops concert not working and the final concert of this year’s season.

“I felt we were giving LaPorte a real class act between the Purdue Glee Club and the Texas Tenors,” he said. “It reminded me of my times where we would bring these big pop artists in with The Louisville Orchestra. Here’s our orchestra playing with these groups... We’re giving LaPorte a little something extra here with a nationally known group. That was a really nice feeling.”

□

Tim is passionate about music and singing. Both his professional and personal life were about music, which opened up his world. He wants to ensure others have the same opportunity.

“I had a teacher who turned my light on, and that’s what I want: the light turned on for some of these kids who didn’t know this was possible,” Tim said.

He loves the fact the LCSO is the only symphony in the region that provides free student admission to concerts, charging a dollar for the children’s concerts. He is supportive of Drew’s Gift, which provides students with a free instrument, and the Steck Music Education Fund, which will assist with funding private lessons.

Classically trained as a tenor, his professional career began in his 30s. While working on his master’s

degree in music performance at University of Louisville, he began and continued training with voice teacher Donn Everette Graham, a baritone boasting a singing career in Germany for years.

“He looked at me one day and said, ‘Tim, I’ve heard you sing now for five or six years. I really like the sound of your voice, but you’re using about 10 percent of it.’ He said, ‘It’s time to open the barn doors.’”

That simple statement stuck with him. Tim sang between 150 and 200 concert performances over the years, working with various conductors and orchestras across the country.

His singing career put him in a unique situation of seeing the orchestra from two sides: as a performer and as an administrator, affording a broader perspective.

“I was in the background and foreground,” he said. “I was able to experience being a performer, but I was also able to experience all the prep that it takes to put on a performance. That was fun.”

In a poignant moment, Tim shares the most chilling moment he had on stage. His mother had passed away in January 2012. The first concert after losing her, he was to sing “Bring Him Home” from “Les Misérables.” A difficult piece to sing, he wasn’t happy with the afternoon rehearsal, making him nervous about the piece.

With great emotion, he proceeds: “I went to the microphone, and I looked out in the audience, and there was my mother in the middle of the audience smiling at me. I don’t remember singing the song, I don’t remember any of it. All I remember is when it was over and the audience stood. I turned to the conductor, he went, ‘Wow!’ That’s all I remember, and then she was gone. I wasn’t emotional when I sang it, when she was there, I was really happy. I just remember being happy. As soon as she went away, that’s when I got emotional. I walked off stage, crying. I’ll never forget it. That was an amazing moment, it really was. It’s 11 years later, and still affects me.

His singing career provided him so many opportunities and special moments.

One such time was when he sang for the pope at the Vatican.

Tim chose to stop singing while he still sounded good. With his usual upbeat demeanor, he looks at the flip side: “I sang for 40 years. How cool is that!”



Tim (right) and Kevin (left) are photographed with Tim’s daughter, Sara King Bliss, and her husband, Clayton Bliss.

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Like her parents, Sara has a passion for singing. She has had many opportunities to do so, such as singing at The Kennedy Center. Currently, she has a musical career performing at Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, Ind.

Tim tells a heartwarming story of when he realized his daughter could sing. She was 3. The radio was on, she was in her car seat: “All of a sudden, I hear this other voice behind me singing every word along with this female pop singer, in tune...it was Sara. It was perfect. I almost wrecked. I thought, what is this!

Tim and Sara hit the stage together when she was 10. They started off small, singing for the Rotary Club, Kiwanis, weddings. When she was 15, The Louisville Orchestra called, asking them to do a series of Christmas performances.

He laughs heartily as he recalls that time: “That year, we did seven different performances. I’m always really nervous before I go on to sing...that’s just me. I remember Sara would be over on the side...doing her homework just like nothing was going on. ‘Sara, you’re up.’ ‘OK,’ and she’d just walk over.”

Father and daughter enjoyed singing with each other, their voices blending. Tim made sure to keep the tears at bay amid such heartfelt experiences.

“I just thought, I get this special moment with my daughter,” he said. “How many dads get that special moment with their daughter? Especially after we started doing orchestra performances together, I would have moms and dads come up to me and say, what’s that like, and I’d say, it’s the most special feeling in the world.”



Tim looks forward to retirement. He chuckles when asked where is he moving. He replies, “I’m not going anywhere.”

“I never thought I would love it as much as I do. I knew I would like it because I like the topography here and I love the seasons,” he said. “We have made so many friends, our plan is to stay here. We love it here. We’re Hoosiers now. We’re not Kentucky people anymore. We’re not bluegrass

people anymore. We’re Indiana people.”

As his time as executive director comes to an end, Tim will continue as an LCSO volunteer. His plans include working with Leigh Morris on the orchestra’s planned giving program, called The Encore Society, which he calls an untapped resource, and also taking care of the “nitty gritty” of *À La Carte*.

From there, he says with a laugh that his initial retirement plan is to not do a darn thing and sleep for a month. If you’ve had the privilege to work with Tim, you know he can easily occupy his time. He will enjoy the calm of his home and the numerous gardens he and Kevin have planted. Tim goes to every garden doing the daily maintenance of pulling weeds, even if it’s just one. A voracious reader, there are a number of inviting spaces on his property to wander and read.

True to his roots of living in Derby land, when asked if he will join Kevin in cycling and pickleball upon retirement, his response and resigned look left us heartily laughing at his analogy.

“I’ve been told I’m going to. The difference between Kevin and me is, Kevin is a race horse and I’m a plow horse. I’m a stocky farm boy. Kevin has lots of stamina and I have strength, but I don’t have stamina,” he says. “So, I’ll do the biking, but I can’t do the 60 and 70 miles that he does. I’ll do 10 or 15. Kevin has gotten totally into pickleball, which I know is a huge deal right now. I’m going to try it. I don’t think I’m going to be into it like he is, but I’ll try it.

When he hangs up his LCSO shoes, he will miss not being in the know.

## A Few Parting Words From Tim

Support the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra.

If you’ve lived here, you just think this is the way it is everywhere. If you haven’t lived here, you understand this is an anomaly. This is very, very unique that we have a situation here in LaPorte County where an orchestra is this good for a community our size.

We have a jewel here in LaPorte County, and we need to keep supporting this jewel. It’s something to brag about. It’s something to be proud of, and it’s rare. You just don’t see this in other parts of the country. With our population size, to be able to support an orchestra of this caliber is unheard of.

It’s a quality-of-life issue with me. Music has the power to heal. It has the power to make you excited. It has the power to make you sad. It has the power to evoke any kind of emotion you could ever possibly want or think of. What’s it’s done for my life is I can’t even begin to tell you. The experiences I have been able to have, and the memories I have now, it’s great.

“I like to be right in the thick of it,” Tim said. “I’ll miss the staff that I work with on a daily basis. They’re all great. I think that is what I’m going to miss the most, and the talks.”

Tim’s professional and personal life have been filled with music. For that, he is grateful.

“I have done something all of my life that I love. I love music, and I think it makes a difference in people’s lives,” he says. “I really wonder if that teacher (Stegner) had not come into my life, where would I be right now? What would I be doing? He saw something that someone else didn’t. He had faith in me. I thank him many times for it.”





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## With “Oppenheimer,” Christopher Nolan Arrives at His Masterpiece

by Andrew Tallackson

Nearly an hour into Christopher Nolan’s epic-length “Oppenheimer,” I was lost. Nolan, purveyor of the summer event movie (“Dunkirk,” “Inception,” the “Dark Knight” trilogy), was tackling one of the most ambiguous individuals in history, one responsible for one of the most singular events in history. Honoring that complexity, he orchestrates a tricky juggling act...and I couldn’t keep up.

Then, Nolan plunks his A-list heavy ensemble in Los Alamos, and from then on, believe the hype that what Nolan has achieved is riveting.

Nolan, who wrote the script based on 2005’s American Prometheus by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, easily could have sanitized his subject. Downplayed his messy private life. Sidestepped his Jewish identity. Glossed over the implications of atomic power. Instead, it’s all here.

But to kick tired biopic tropes to the curb, Nolan turns to editor Jennifer Lame as his savior, cutting across a lot of material. A lot. Early, there were points when I wasn’t sure what time period we’d entered. We have the early days of Oppenheimer (Nolan regular Cillian Murphy) in academia. His on-again, off-again dalliance with psychiatrist-physician Jean Tatlock (Florence Pugh). His interest in the Communist Party. His wife Katherine (Emily Blunt). And here’s the kicker, two hearings: Oppenheimer’s 1954 security clearance hearing and the 1959 Senate confirmation hearing of Lewis Strauss (Robert Downey Jr.).

Nolan, himself, seems anxious to get to Los Alamos, so he has the actors speak in a hurried, breathless manner, even when discussions on nuclear physics come into play. The result is dizzying, sometimes to delirious effect, others to where I wasn’t sure what to make of Oppenheimer, himself.

But when the movie settles firmly into Los Alamos, Nolan surprises you. Long a master of muscular action and effects, I braced for his disaster movie rendition of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And while the actual “trinity test” is staged with quiet, horrific beauty, we never see the bombs dropped on those cities. Instead, the emotional weight of the movie comes into play: whether Oppenheimer can live with the fruits of his labor. We see it in Murphy’s face, the way Oppenheimer flinches, looking away



Cillian Murphy as Oppenheimer.



### “Oppenheimer”

Running time: 180 minutes. In theaters.  
Rated R for some sexuality, nudity and language.

as if slapped, when images surface of the aftermath of the bombings. And in Oppenheimer’s discussions with Albert Einstein (a beautifully cast Tom Conti), Nolan is at his most devastating. The burden these men have of knowing what they know. That this is not the end of war, but the start of another one for future generations.

That may be Nolan’s greatest insight into Oppenheimer, himself. The initial ego that came into play. In many ways, Oppenheimer is the embodiment of Jeff Goldblum’s warning in “Jurassic Park” to John Hammond when he says, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.” By the time we see Oppenheimer late in life, Murphy resembles a hollowed out soul, and we have our answer to that dilemma.

By this point, too, we finally appreciate the thunderous score by Oscar-winner Ludwig Göransson (“Black Panther”), which at first feels bombastic. Now, we get it. The heavy score is the symbolic bomb ticking not just in Oppenheimer’s mind, but also the queasy horror surrounding him.

Everyone in Nolan’s cast is at the top of their game, but the most surprising is Downey Jr. The actor reinvents himself. There is not one trace of Tony Stark left. Instead, we get a nuanced turn that, by the end, removes the mask of respectability to reveal a thirst for power. For a film that will score oodles of Oscar nominations, Downey Jr., above all, deserves an actual win.

I admire “Oppenheimer.” Greatly. Willing to concede its flaws are not enough to distract from the fact that Nolan, more so than “Dunkirk,” has created his masterpiece.



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## Pro Darts Champ Joins Cast and Crew of “Bulls” to Celebrate Upcoming Film

by Andrew Tallackson



Dan Meyer (left), the writer-director of “Bulls,” is photographed with Jules Van Dongen at Zorn Brew Works.

What does it say about a movie that one of the top darts players in the country stops by to support it?

With cameras aiming to roll in September on Dan Meyer’s “Bulls” — Michigan City being *the* setting for the offbeat sports comedy — the writer-director, his cast and crew, and the community packed Zorn Brew Works on July 16 for a celebratory social event.

Among the guests at the Michigan City micro-brewery — a key location in the film — was Jules Van Dongen who, in just a short amount of time, has earned the moniker “The Dutch Dragon.” Born in The Netherlands and now living with his family in Missouri, he competes, and triumphs, in Professional Darts Corporation events.

Meyer’s film centers on best friends-roommates Hank and Austin, with Hank summoning the courage to enter big-league competition. That darts is emphasized in “Bulls,” Van Dongen told *The Beacher*, excites him.

“I think it will be something special,” he said. “I think it’s a unique opportunity, something that

hasn’t been done. I don’t know why, but I think it’s going to be a success when it takes off.

“I watch ‘Ted Lasso,’ and everyone talks about the scene of darts where he hits the bull’s-eye finish. Everyone knows darts. Everyone has played darts, but they are not very familiar with professional darts, especially in the States. It’s very foreign to people, so it (“Bulls”) will hopefully open some doors...”

Professional darts, like soccer, has a bigger following overseas. That’s certainly what Van Dongen experienced growing up in The Netherlands.

“Over there, darts is such a big thing,” he said. “It’s on public TV, so everyone watches the world championship around Christmas every year. It’s kinda like a tradition.”

So how did Van Dongen earn the nickname “The Dutch Dragon”? He laughs when asked.

“One of my first tournaments, when I was just coming along, I played in the final and the commentator called me ‘The Dutch Dragon,’” he said. “When I heard him call me that, I didn’t have a nickname. I thought, well, that has a good sound to it, so I kind

of ran with it and ever since it's been my name."

A love for the sport, and excitement for "Bulls," was a common thread among the crowd at Zorn that night.

Among them was one of the movie's producers, Travis Keyes. He's also responsible for marketing the movie, generating buzz for it, especially through social media.

Meyer's comedy initially was to commence filming in the spring, but was delayed due to North End construction along Franklin Street.

Keyes, however, does not view that as a negative.

"What's incredible is, a lot of things are out of your control and suddenly you realize, wait, maybe the stars are aligning, and that's sort of what's happening here," he said. "Franklin Street delayed the start date, but then we went, wait, this is good, and then suddenly, the writers strike, then the SAG strike. We're a small independent film. We can get SAG waivers. This window opens up, and the stars are aligning again.

"We're going to make a great product when everyone is shut down, when people are like, wait, we need good cinema, we need good content. We're going to have it."

Keyes, who is from New York, adores Michigan City.

"It's another character in the movie, and you fall in love with it," he said. "I've been out here four times. This community is so welcoming, so warming, and I've found great food, great people. I'm falling in love with the place.

"What Dan wanted to do was, he wanted people to see this movie and go, oh my God, that's Michigan City, I want to go here. And you know what? I've been here, and I did do that. It's beautiful."

Another Michigan City fan? Meir Steinberg. The Chicago native has lived here for the past few years and has one of the film's lead roles. He has his fiancée, Ava Peterson, to thank for alerting him to the role. With some acting and music experience under his belt, along with improv classes at The Second City, he's thrilled to be part of "Bulls."

"It's super exciting," he said. "The chance to part of the movie, it's phenomenal."

As Meyer moved through the crowds that night, chatting with people about the film, one of the many supporters there was his mother, Sandy. She admits to being moved by the support for her son.

"It warms my heart," she said. "It's overwhelming, really. I don't have the right words. I really don't."

And Dan, himself? No question, he was feeling the love.

"It's great to see everyone here," he said. "It's a great turnout, and people seem to be super excited and interested about the movie."

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



Producer Travis Keyes (left) and actor Meir Steinberg talk about movies during the Zorn Brew Works event.



Jules Van Dongen (left) chats with Gary Hanzel.



All photos by Andrew Tallackson

## Higdon Receives NASA Early Career Achievement Medal

Long Beach native Dr. Kyle Higdon has received the Early Career Achievement Medal from NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Higdon accepted the award during the recent Agency Honor Awards, NASA's first in-person awards event since 2019. Medals go to individuals and groups who made outstanding contributions to the agency's mission, specifically during the first 10 years of an individual's career.

Higdon was recognized for contributing to the Gateway Program through developing flexible and achievable plume impingement heating requirements for visiting vehicles to the space station.

To receive the honor, individuals must demonstrate "unusual initiative or creative achievement that clearly demonstrates a significant contribution in the



Dr. Kyle Higdon displays his Early Career Achievement Medal.

individual's discipline area that directly contributes to NASA's mission and goals," according to a press release.

Achievements must meet three criteria. They must:

- Yield high-quality results and/or substantial improvements to the discipline.
- Have significant importance relative to the discipline area.
- Be perceived by peers and/or the impacted target group as outstanding or significant.

Higdon, the son of Kevin and Camille Higdon, grew up in Long Beach. He attended St. Stanislaus School and graduated from Michigan City High School in 2007. He earned his bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from The University of Notre Dame. He completed his master's degree and doctorate in aerospace

engineering at The University of Texas.

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### Art in the Park



The third Annual Long Beach “Art in the Park” is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at the Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

The Long Beach Parks and Recreation Board is collaborating with Beach Garden Club, summer camp directors and the community center board to showcase local artists and the community center building. It features 16 artists displaying work in a variety of media, including paintings, photography, faux flower arrangements, recycled knitwear items and handcrafted jewelry.

Children can participate in the Curious Kids Discovery Trail featuring face painting and hands-on science, nature and art activities. The Community

Center Open House features a historical reference room with artifacts from the creators of Jiffy Pop, Lincoln Logs, architect John Lloyd Wright, scrapbooks and publications documenting town history. Attendees also can explore the many local business tenants, including the YMCA branch.

Food vendors include Pepe’s Taco Truck, Do-Rite Donuts and Beatrix Sweet Treats from Farina’s Belly Flop, and ice cream scoops from Valpo Velvet.

Admission is free. Proceeds and donations support the community center, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Email [longbeachparkboard@gmail.com](mailto:longbeachparkboard@gmail.com) for more details.



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### Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 22nd season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

The program features baritone Stuart Thompson and Kent Jager on the Roosevelt organ. Featured works include selections from Aaron Copland's "Old American Songs," works based on choral tunes by Johann Pachelbel, J.S. Bach and Johannes Brahms, and voice and organ works by Gene Scheer and Leon Hoffmeister.



Thompson

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

### Third Annual LakeFest

The '90s alt-rock band Everclear headlines the third annual LakeFest on Saturday-Sunday, July 28-30, on LaPorte's Pine, Stone and Clear lakes.

The main event, P1 AquaX Jet Ski Races, is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday on Stone Lake.

Everclear's free show begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at the Fox Park Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. James Neary and Midwest Hype are the opening acts. Everclear arrives on stage at 9 p.m.

Also planned is a dedicated Kids Fun Zone, and a Collective Artisan Market from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. A 5K Run/Walk, presented by Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, is at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 29, at Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater.

A Sand Volleyball Tournament, presented by Dunes Volleyball Club, is at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Friday, July 28, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29, and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, July 30. The Justin Roberts Family Concert, with opening act Matt Kalita Magic, is at 6 p.m. Friday, July 28, at the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. A Venetian Boat Parade, presented by LaPorte Area Lakes Association/LaPorte Yacht Club, is at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at Pine Lake/LaPorte Yacht Club.

A full list of events is available at <https://laportelakefest.com/events/>

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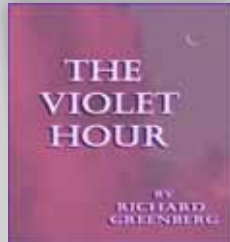
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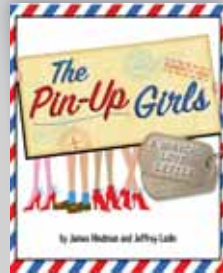
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**Brett Dennen**  
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**Tim Stop**  
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Find more events at

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## Back Together



Past Notre Dame School teachers recently got together, including Joanne McDonald, Mary McDonald, Lynn Delehanty and Ellie Parkerson. Joanne taught fifth grade, Mary first grade, Lynn fourth grade and writing, and Ellie third grade. Lynn came from The Villages, Fla., as part of the reunion.

## Potawatomi Audubon Society

Potawatomi Audubon Society will host a nature walk at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 26, at Shirley Heinze Land Trust's Cressmoor Prairie Nature Preserve, North Lake Park Avenue, Hobart.

The land is part of the Hobart Marsh Conservation Area in northeastern Lake County. Meet in the parking lot off West 40th Place.

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## “Dead Reckoning” Reinvigorates the “Mission: Impossible” Series

by Andrew Tallackson



in  
Theatres

Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell star in “Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One.”

You could say the “Mission: Impossible” series has a lot in common with the “Fast and the Furious” franchise.

Both are long past their prime.

Sequels embrace the bigger-louder tactic.

The stars can now do these roles in their sleep.

The difference is that the “Mission: Impossible” films aren’t content with same old, same old.

“Dead Reckoning Part One” may be my favorite in the series. Seriously. By introducing a largely unseen enemy, and with women ferociously driving the action, the series feels alive in ways it only sorta kinda was before. The movie all but forces Tom Cruise’s Ethan Hunt to stay frosty.

The threat this time, conceived by returning director/co-writer Christopher McQuarrie, is artificial intelligence: an experimental creation known as “The Entity.” With the ability to control global powers, those in alliance with it could do what any wacko megalomaniac craves: rule the world.

(A.I. as a movie villain, by the way, has been around for ages, starting with super-computer HAL-9000 in “2001: A Space Odyssey” and especially in the “Terminator” series. They make for great threats because they represent the dark dangers of technology. And with real technology making scary advances, expect A.I. to replace multiverses as the latest craze. Next up is “The Creator” in September

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One”

*Running time: 163 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13  
for intense sequences of violence and action,  
some language and suggestive material.*

by “Rogue One” director Gareth Edwards.)

In the opening sequence, we see how “the entity” plays tricks on the crew of a Russian sub creeping through Arctic waters. There’s also two pieces to one cruciform key that, if found, could stop “the entity” from going berserk.

Plenty of shady sorts are out to find the key, including Ethan’s former ally turned terrorist Gabriel (Esai Morales), whose assassin Paris (“Guardians of the Galaxy” regular Pam Klementieff) makes mincemeat of her attackers.

Paris is one of four dynamite roles for women in “Dead Reckoning.” We also have Rebecca Ferguson (the Apple TV+ hit “Silo”) back as Ilsa, the MI6 agent who joined forces with Ethan, as well as “The Crown” star Vanessa Kirby as black market arms dealer Alanna, the actress flashing eyes rife with enough danger to make anyone quake in their boots.

The new face is Marvel veteran Hayley Atwell



(Agent Carter) as Grace, a burglar and Ethan’s iffy ally. She is the movie’s secret weapon. Marvel did Agent Carter wrong by casting her aside, but here, the actress is a corker, consistently outthinking Ethan so he’s one step behind. Finally, someone who can make Cruise’s Ethan squirm: blindsided when she pulls a fast one on him, rebooting as he tries to match pace with her.

The movie, essentially, is one extended chase. All the elements — including Ethan Hunt’s crew of Simon Pegg (the comic relief) and Ving Rhames (stone-faced wisdom) — converge to hunt down the cruciform key. At nearly 2 hours 45 minutes, the movie is never dull. Never slows down to catch its breath. And while the “Fast and Furious” pictures are content these days just to smash things up, “Dead Reckoning” finds humor within the chase itself. A prime example is a car chase where Ethan and Grace are handcuffed to each other, trying to make their car work. That infuses moments of levity where Ethan and Grace come hilariously close to getting plowed over by all the approaching vehicles.

McQuarrie saves his most spectacular sequence for last. First, he lets Cruise strut his stuff: his own stunt work as he rides his motorcycle off a cliff and parachutes onto none other than the Orient Express. That, alone, would be enough. But then, terrorists blow up a bridge, forcing everyone to evacuate the train before it tumbles into oblivion. The scene recalls an old ’70s disaster flick, “The Cassandra Crossing,” where, car by car, the train meets its terrible fate. But here, the images are a triumph of visual effects, stunts and particularly sound.



Tom Cruise, seen here with co-star Esai Morales, again jumps at the chance to perform his own stunts.

The clang and metallic crunch of each car snapping loose, objects within the train cars slamming downward, Ethan and Grace barely dodging the debris.

This is why you go to the movies.

Unlike “Fast X,” “Dead Reckoning” does not end with a cliffhanger, but with enough of a resolution to tide viewers over until Part Two. If that film can match what came before it, well, then, we’re in for one heck of a ride.



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Ever watch a plane flying far above and wonder where it was going? Ever stop to consider how planes evolved into what we know now?

I did.

I was always interested in airplanes.

As a young girl, we lived in an unincorporated area due west of Chicago, where there was a small private airport a few miles away. Occasionally, I would see small planes flying overhead, suspecting that's where they were taking off from or returning to. Sometimes, as crops began to grow in the nearby field, I'd watch an old biplane swoop down, crop-dusting, assuming it took off from the same place. For me, that was spectacular!

To top it off, we lived not far from O'Hare International Airport. Sometimes, dad would park alongside a county road to watch planes taking off and landing. If he'd given me a choice, I would have opted to do that at least once a week.

That interest in planes and the history of flying never disappeared over time. Recently, we took our teen grandson to visit the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. I was excited and curious, not knowing what to expect. Recalling those old biplanes crop-dusting in my youth, I wondered if I would see anything similar.



The Apollo 15 module.

What I got was something so beyond my imagination, I wondered why it took me so long to do this, especially since my husband talked me into going. Huge, interesting and scarily realistic, this museum brought forth a stronger appreciation for the men and women who serve, along with the seriousness of their mission.

# The Sky's the Limit

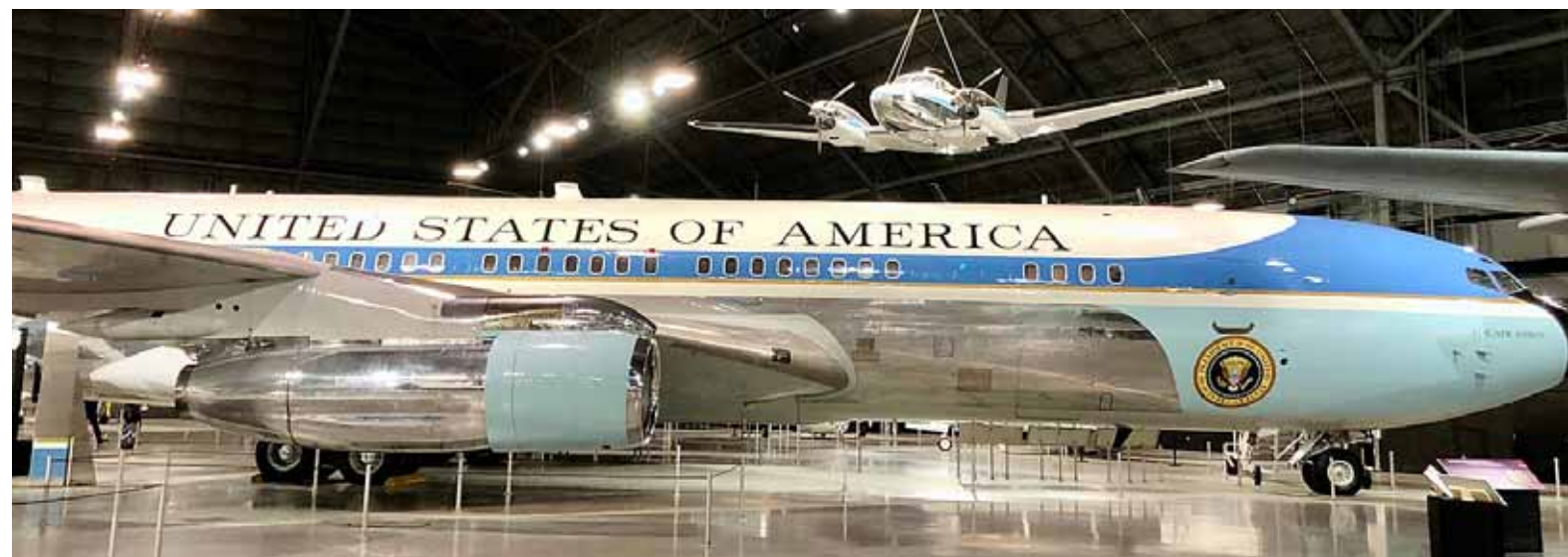
by Linda Weigel



The entrance to National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

The museum is the oldest, largest military aviation museum in the world. Located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base northeast of Dayton, it is open seven days a week, with free admission and parking. Housed in more than 19 acres of indoor exhibition space, visitors can view more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles, as well as military uniforms, flight jackets, a Holocaust exhibit and much more.

The opportunity exists to experience a flight simulator, land a space shuttle, experience the vastness of huge transport planes and walk through two presidential Air Force Ones (Eisenhower and Kennedy). The tribute to the Tuskegee pilots and airmen of World War II, as well as recognition for the role of women in that war, such as the Women Airforce Service Pilots, is acknowledged as well.



Air Force One (a Boeing VC-137C) as used by President John F. Kennedy.



A Curtiss P-40E Warhawk

Exhibit areas are broken down into galleries, starting with the Early Years Gallery and continuing through both world wars, the Korean War, Southeast Asia War, Cold War, a Missile Gallery and so on.

Two emotionally charged stations in particular caught my attention. The first included information on what happened after the attack on Pearl Harbor and consequent actions in the Philippines. My dad was U.S. Navy at the time, and his unit followed ashore after Gen. Douglas MacArthur landed at Palo, Leyte, on Oct. 20, 1944.

The second, more emotionally impactful section covered the Vietnam era. Here, I could clearly recall the numerous nighttime TV news reports, as well as newspapers filled with photos and recordings of flights, helicopters and daily death notices of the fallen. Seeing the actual planes and helicopters used during that time was overwhelming and somewhat nerve-racking.

We made our way to the Presidential Gallery.

Continued on Page 30



A poster within the display honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

# The Sky's the Limit

Continued on Page 29

There, we found the first purposely built airplane for a U.S. president: the Douglas VC-54C. Officially nicknamed the “Sacred Cow,” the plane transported President Roosevelt to the famous Yalta Conference in 1945. President Truman used it as well. According to information posted at the site: *“Roosevelt’s successor, Harry S. Truman, used the aircraft extensively during the first 27 months of his administration. On July 26, 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 on board the Sacred Cow. This act, which became effective on Sept. 18, 1947, established the U.S. Air Force as an independent service, making the Sacred Cow the ‘birthplace’ of the U.S. Air Force.”*

Walking through planes used by presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy was an eye-opening experience. The planes are not very wide, and seating appears close, something like economy on smaller planes today. Nothing like I would have imagined. Still, the history associated with each plane is sobering.

Along with U.S.-manufactured planes, visitors can discover World War II German and Japanese examples. Helicopters, support vehicles, uniforms and all the identifying information make for a fascinating, educational experience.

When it came to the Space Gallery, my excitement grew since I never expected to see an actual space shuttle. My introduction to this gallery began with the Apollo 15 command module for Endeavor, part of the fourth successful moon-landing mission.

A display in this area stated: *“The command module is named after the ship that carried Capt. James Cook on his famous 18th century scientific voyage.”*

Also featured in this gallery are space suits beginning with the Mercury version from 1963, all the way to the Space Shuttle Advanced Crew Escape Suite from 1994-2011 — a bright orange affair with multiple advantages over previous suits, including lighter weight, higher visibility, emergency oxygen and special communications.

We weren’t sure if our grandson was going to enjoy the visit because, like many teens his age, he’s practically bonded to his online games. To our relief, he was entranced, taking so many pictures, the battery in his device ran out. Long after we both collapsed to nearby seating, he kept going, not wanting to leave. He took the opportunity to explore every plane he could, sitting in several demonstration cockpits. When it came to using a joy stick to stimulate landing a space shuttle, he did great, beating out both grandparents by a mile.

We probably should have taken two days at the museum. Halfway through the experience, we were getting exhausted. I would definitely return to redo that second half. Take my time, in the amount of time, to do this remarkable place justice.

## If You Go

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is located at 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Google Maps helped us get there. I highly recommend visiting the website: [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil)

Driving from LaPorte County, it took us about 4 hours 45 minutes. With summer road construction, allow for more travel time. The museum has a good cafeteria, with a smaller snack area, restrooms, wheelchair access and, of course, a good gift shop.



The Boeing B-17 F Memphis Belle.

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## Long Beach Resident Celebrates 10th Anniversary as Boutique Owner

by Edmund Lawler

A former art gallery with a soaring ceiling and large windows admitting rivers of brilliant sunlight felt right for Marie Price's women's clothing boutique where upscale fashions and accessories are sold on consignment.

"I walked in the front door with the owner of the inn next door," Price said on a day when a painting crew was applying a fresh coat to her boutique's exterior. "I said, oh yes! This is where I want my clothes to be because it was so artistic, and I find clothes so artistic."

Price bought Posh Boutique from Rudy Carlson-Connor in 2013, then located in a small shop on U.S. 12 across from Oink's Dutch Treat in New Buffalo, Mich. Only a year into her new venture, she learned a unique space nearby was becoming available.

The Long Beach resident was feeling confident enough about Posh's early success to make the move. She would be taking over the former gallery of impressionist Chicago painter Stephen Rubinkam, who died in 2012. His studio was in the adjoining building.

Price's business quickly flourished in the gallery at 109 N. Barton St. Her wares — clothing brands range from Armani to Yves Saint Laurent, and accessories such as Kate Spade handbags and Jimmy Choo pumps — bask in the natural light beneath the boutique's high-vaulted ceiling.

Every item is scrutinized for damage and only accepted in pristine condition, whether it's J. Crew or Burberry. The boutique recently began stocking a small selection of men's clothing and accessories.

Art still plays an important role in the boutique. Oversized portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Johnny

Depp by Long Beach artist Tim Perry rest on a high ledge just below the ceiling's vault. Reproductions of paintings by Matisse and Joan Miro from Price's personal collection grace other walls, and a pair of

Mies van der Rohe Barcelona chairs invites guests to sit by the fireplace. Price crafted a comfortable space.

Then, COVID came to town in 2020, and Price had to close the doors for three months. In some ways, Price says, the pause was fortunate, as it allowed her to reorganize and refresh the boutique. Customers were readmitted June 1, 2020, observing all pandemic protocols.

While customers could not enter the store, Posh tried its hand at e-commerce. But it's a business model that doesn't lend itself well to a consignment shop that sells only one item at a time, unlike a regular store that sells an entire line of clothing or accessories in a variety of sizes, colors and price points.

Allison Price, Marie's 31-year-old daughter, coordinates the boutique's consignment activities. Posh now has more than 1,000 consigners, primarily from the Chicago area and Harbor Country, but also from other parts of the country.

A clothing item or accessory accepted by the boutique is displayed for sale during a three-month window. If the item sells within three months, the consigner gets a cut of the sale. If not,

the consigner can reclaim the item or allow the boutique to donate it to charity.

Allison estimates that 70 to 80 percent of the consigned items sell within three months. Price tags are 1/3 to 1/10 the cost of the same item at retail. Items on sale are apropos for the season. You won't find a fur coat there in July.

Allison, who has an art degree from Indiana Uni-



Marie (left) and Allison Price are celebrating the 10th anniversary of Posh Boutique. Photo by Priscilla Lawler.

versity, also manages the boutique’s vibrant Instagram and Facebook pages – growing sources of visibility and revenue for the store.

Allison is handling important assignments at Posh – and that’s by design, explains her mother, who plans to turn over the reins to her in the future.

“Allison has been a big factor in promotion for us,” Marie says. “She’s got a great eye for color and for design. She’s got a great eye for what we need and knows to arrange things so people can find them.”

Marie, Allison and the boutique’s four sales representatives, as well as the eclectic mix of clothing and accessories in a gallery setting, blend to “create a good vibe,” Marie says. “We are very welcoming and appreciate anyone who walks through the door.”

As the boutique celebrates its 10th anniversary, it may be hard for Marie to pass the business on to her daughter, considering how much fun she has running the boutique. It has become a tourist destination in its own right. In fact, the popular online travel site TripAdvisor cites Posh as one of the top things to do in New Buffalo.

“When I opened last week, the first three gals that came in were all about 14,” Marie says. “That was so nice to see because kids usually don’t come in on their own, thinking this is just for older people. Each of them found cute items and walked out of here very happy with their new purchases.”

At the other end of the spectrum are customers in their 70s or 80s.

“We had an 82-year-old woman in last week who spent over \$500 — and that was only two months after she spent \$700 here,” he said. “Last week, she was shopping for clothes to wear with a certain outfit for an upcoming trip.

“She told me, ‘I’m going to look so hot!’ She just left Posh so happy. And that’s what makes it all so worthwhile.”

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## “Training” for College

In the same summer of 1972 that the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad disappeared as a corporate entity, I became a “trained” graduate of Illinois State University in Normal, Ill.

Trained?

Well, ISU gave me a sheepskin proclaiming me a Bachelor of Science in English-Journalism, to be precise. Friends and family would readily say a “BS” was more fitting for me than a “BA,” but I admit I was shy of the language requirement for a Bachelor of Arts. So a BS was better because I particularly excelled in field studies of the aforementioned Gulf, Mobile & Ohio, or GM&O, in its closing act as one of mid-America’s great passenger lines.

The GM&O was created in 1917 as the reorganized New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago Railroad. It was headquartered from 1952-1972 in Mobile, Ala., operating such celebrated trains as the Gulf Coast Rebel and Abraham Lincoln. For the purposes of our discussion, we’ll concentrate on the latter.

I was introduced to the GM&O’s stately, dark-red trains not long after I began my studies at Illinois State, in September 1968. “Downstate” Illinois was foreign territory for this homesick South-Sider who had never ventured south of Joliet.

For the record, Normal is not actually all that deep down into the Prairie State. In fact, some of my fraternity brothers from the St. Louis area considered it something of a Chicago suburb. But for this Chicago kid, it was way, way down yonder in the cornfields of Booneville.

And the only way to get there, at least at first, was by car, on good-old Route 66. That’s right, I got my kicks on Route 66 when I started out at ISU. I fondly remember driving down to Normal with my dad, the late James S. McKelvy, and enjoying the funkiness of a fading highway that ran from Chicago to L.A. by way of Normal.

Now, Normal never did make it into the song, as did Amarillo and Barstow and such dots on the map, but it was a ways from home. As there was no way I could afford to have a car in college, I was told in

### Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



I painted this watercolor of a Gulf, Mobile & Ohio diesel from an online image.

no uncertain terms I would have to figure out a reliable means of public transportation for trips home for the holidays and summer vacation.

At first, I tried riding “the dog.” You know, the Greyhound bus. Greyhound served Normal’s sister city, Bloomington. (Not an identical twin to be sure, because Normal was a “dry town” then, and Bloomington was as wet as you wanted it to be on its side of Division Street.) But I didn’t take to the dog, even when riding on the top level of its highly touted scenic-cruisers. Too cramped for my taste, plus, I had been weaned on the Illinois Central, Rock Island and Pennsylvania railroads as a kid. They didn’t call me Choo-Choo Charley for nothin’.

So I asked around, and friends in the dorm and various classes pointed at those red trains that occasionally rolled by the campus and said that the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio was my best choice, even if it didn’t stop in Normal. (Now, Amtrak does, but it didn’t do that until long after I was gone. Go figure.)

Yeah, the GM&O hit the brakes in a hard-to-reach section of Bloomington, one definitely not served by

the city's bus line. But there were ways of bumming rides and even sharing cabs to and from the station, so I became a frequent rail-rider.

I enjoyed riding those old rattlers. What I most remember is, they would notch out the throttle heading through Pontiac, Ill. Maybe because there was a prison there then, or maybe because they wanted to make up time.

Who knows. All I know is, I never could get enough of the GM&O between Chicago Union Station and Bloomington.

I rode the Abraham Lincoln, and the Ann Rutledge, and the Alton Limited in all kinds of weather, in the dead of night and at first light.

They lashed an observation/lounge car on the tail end of one southbound train, and I actually smoked a cigar and sipped an adult beverage as we zipped through the flat expanse of central Illinois. I felt like some kind of railroad tycoon, and all that on a ticket a college kid could afford.

Once, when my brother and I were returning to ISU from Christmas break, we got a little too comfortable in the club car. One of our newfound friends looked out the window and said, "Hey, aren't you guys from ISU? I think we just passed it."

We were ready to party on until St. Louis, but we both had classes the next morning, so we reluctantly scrambled to get off in Bloomington. Bummer.

Think of the adventure we could have had.

But a fraternity brother was waiting to give us a lift, so we sadly parted company with our party pals.

There even was romance on the rails when I rode the GM&O. But I'm not the kind of guy who likes to kiss and tell, so let's leave it at this: She left me standing at Union Station as she sailed south on the GM&O.

You'd think there was a blues song about something like that.

Apparently there was: Sonny Boy Williams' "GM&O Blues" that he recorded in 1945.

I'm going to give it a listen as I wrap this up. By the way, I did ride the GM&O all the way to St. Louis, just for the fun of it. But that was after Amtrak took over. And, rail fans, Amtrak just didn't have the old-school pizzazz the old Gulf, Mobile & Ohio did.

I am grateful to have been a regular rider of one of America's "fallen flags." Which is to say, I seem to have been the kiss of death for all the railroads I rode as a kid and young adult: The Illinois Central, Rock Island, Pennsylvania, or "Pennsy," and the late, great Gulf, Mobile & Ohio.

So, if old Saint Pete greets me at the Pearly Gates and asks, "Do you have any special requests before you settle into your heavenly mansion?," I'll say, "Yeah, how about a ride around the stars on the GM&O."



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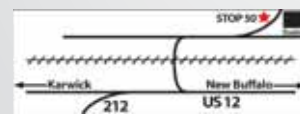
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### NB Library Community Forum



A musical group at the Israelite House of David's headquarters in Benton Harbor, Mich.

New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St., will host a program about music at the Israelite House of David at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Aug. 1.

The speaker is Dr. Brian Carroll, historian and archivist for the Israelite House of David.

In the early 20th century, musicians of the Benton Harbor, Mich., religious commune entertained the American public and, along with its exhibition baseball team, helped publicize the group with music. In addition to being a mode of religious expression, the music was a serious commercial enterprise. All but forgotten today, the colony was once synonymous with music, and for more than 50 years its well-known professional bands (orchestras, marching bands, choral groups, string bands, jazz ensembles and swing-era big bands) entertained visitors at its amusement park in Michigan, and played to audiences in concert halls and vaudeville theaters across North America.

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library sponsors the Community Forum.

### Patrick's Grille Upgrades

Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St., will temporarily close Tuesday, Aug. 1, for modifications and upgrades to the restaurant interior and kitchen.

During this time, management staff also will review menus, operating hours and catering services. Reopening is scheduled shortly after Labor Day.

The local eatery will continue off and on-site catering during this time. Events already booked will take place as scheduled.

The restaurant celebrates its eighth anniversary in August.

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### Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will walk the trails of Valparaiso's Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 29.

The Shirley Heinze Land Trust preserve includes woods, wetlands, streams and pockets of prairies, as well as streams that meander through deep ravines. It serves as a good habitat for wildlife, including migrating birds and bats, and is a popular birding spot. A long-term reforestation project is under way to return former agricultural fields to the moraine forest that once existed there.



Meadowbrook Preserve is notable for its abundance of spring wildflowers.

A Shirley Heinze naturalist will lead the hike, explaining how naturalists manage their habitats, and teaching hikers how they can establish "home stewardship programs." Hikers can remain afterward for a picnic (take a lunch) in one of the preserve's pavilions.

The two-mile hike, rated moderate in physical difficulty, will take about two hours. Attendees should wear long pants, preferably tucked in, and sturdy shoes or boots. The group strongly suggests hikers take plenty of water and use insect repellent.

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

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or the Facebook page, Harbor Country Hikers, for more details.

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Christ Church Sunday Worship (10 a.m.)

### Special Thanks

June 3, was the 11th Annual St. Stanislaus/Trail Creek 5K Run/Walk, held in cooperation with The Town of Trail Creek, at Nelson Park.

Chad Lawless, Kouts, won the race with a time of 18:00. The female winner was Laura Nietert, Valparaiso, who placed 11th overall with a time of 23:26.

We want to thank The Town of Trail Creek, President Jennifer Heath, council members and Treasurer Joshleen Denham for their support and cooperation, and Town Marshal Stephen Dick, Rob from the Trail Creek Street Department and LaPorte County EMS.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, the race participants and many volunteers. This fundraiser was for the Parish Capitol Campaign for needed church repairs.

Special thanks to our sponsors: St. Andrews Products; Robert Tylicz Appliance for Robert's donation of the beautiful plaque awards he handcrafted and other additional support; Members Advantage Credit Union; Kim and Mike Marks; Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel; General Insurance Services/GIS; Castle Ford/Lincoln; Snyder & Associates; Tonn & Blank Construction; Front Door Real Estate Team; D&M Excavating; St. Joseph Young Men's Society; and PG Electric.

We also want to thank the many volunteers, including photographers Paul Kemiell and Jill Wozniak. We could not have held this event without all of their help. We also want to thank St. Luke United Lutheran Church for allowing us to use its lot for parking, *The Beacher* and *LaPorte County Herald-Dispatch*.

**Kristen Wozniak**  
St. Stan's 5K Race Director  
**Brother Shaun Gray**  
Committee Member  
**Patrick Kroehler**

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### American Music Festival

The School of American Music will host the fourth annual American Music Festival from 2-9 p.m. EDT Sunday, July 30, in Three Oaks, Mich.

The free event is on SAM's Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., behind the Arts & Education Center in Dewey Cannon Park. It explores the roots of American music spanning blues, bluegrass, jazz, swing and big band. All times are Eastern. Events begin at 2 p.m. with blues duo Dino Jackson and Ron Spears. Andy Miller & the 145's, a bluegrass quartet, is up next around 3 p.m. Jazz trio Patti Shaffer & Friends follows at about 4 p.m., then Lake Effect Big Band at about 5 p.m., followed by Planet D Nonet, a New Orleans-style jazz and swing band out of Detroit. After the first act, all times are approximate.

Take lawn chairs or blankets. Shade pavilions will be provided, as well as supplemental seating for drop-ins.

Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com for more details, or visit SAM on Facebook or <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com/>. The event is supported by The Pokagon Fund, McCollum Architects, Journeyman Distillery, P. & E. Bottle Shop and School of American Music.

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## 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.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, July 15, at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.** 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 29, 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 30, 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.
- **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 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 Por-**



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tage 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:

- **Wild Edibles Hike from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, July 29.** Meet at the Nature Center for a walk exploring dune delicacies.
- **Moth Mysteries from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 29.** 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.
- **Critter Dinner at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 30.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.

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

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### Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



#### North Course, "Early Birdies,"

July 17, 2023

Event: Most Bogeys  
(1 over par) + 50/50

#### A Flight

Low Gross: Patricia Czizek.  
Low Net: Jane Shuger.  
Low Putts: Jane Shuger, Paula Hutchinson.  
Event: Barb Rumbuc.

#### B Flight

Low Gross: Daphne Craft.  
Low Net: Daphne Craft.  
Low Putts: Daphne Craft, Sheila Brackin.  
Event: Daphne Craft, Mary Lou Marshall.

#### C Flight

Low Gross: Bev Szybala.  
Low Net: Bev Szybala.  
Low Putts: Carol Hullings.  
Event: Bev Szybala, Carol Hullings.

#### D Flight

Low Gross: Jan Smith.  
Low Net: Jan Smith.  
Low Putts: Cindee Schroll.  
Event: Tina Kintzele.

50/50: Barb Rumbuc.

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

July 12, 2023

Event: Bingo, Bango

#### Flight A

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.  
Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.  
Low Putts: Barb Rumbuc, Pat Czizek.  
Event: Pat Czizek.

#### Flight B

Low Gross: Paula Hutchinson, Carol Tylisz.  
Low Net: Paula Hutchinson, Carol Tylisz.  
Low Putts: Sandy Baldwin.  
Event: Landy Baldwin.

#### Flight C

Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall.  
Event: Mary Lou Marshall.

#### Flight D

Low Gross: Sheila Brackin.  
Low Net: Sheila Brackin.  
Event: Sheila Brackin.

Pars: Czizek, Uremovich, Rumbuc, Tylisz.

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

July 19, 2023

Event: A&B Flt Most 5's; C&D Flts Most 6's

#### Flight A

Low Gross: Pat Czizek.  
Low Net: Pat Czizek.  
Low Putts: Linda Hirsch, Phyllis Roach.  
Event: Jill Mellen, Barb Rumbuc.

#### Flight B

Low Gross: Patty Jercich, Jane Shuger.  
Low Net: Patty Jercich.  
Low Putts: Paula Hutchinson, Patty Jercich, Wendy Shaver, Jane Shuger.  
Event: Paula Hutchinson.

#### Flight C

Low Gross: Daphne Craft.  
Low Net: Daphne Craft.  
Low Putts: Alice Wozniak.  
Event: Linda Gorman, Mags MacEntee.

#### Flight D

Low Gross: Bev Szybala.  
Low Net: Bev Szybala.  
Low Putts: Bev Szybala.  
Event: Sandra Provan, Jane Wall.

Birdies: Paula Hutchinson, Hole #3.

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# LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

July 13, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

### A Flight

- First — Donna Hennard, Mary O'Neil.
- Second — Donna Andreotti.
- Third — Nancy Trainor.
- Low Putts – Peg King.
- Birdie – Donna Hennard (#5), Mary O'Neil (#17).
- Sunken Approach – Donna Hennard (#5).

### B Flight

- First — Barb Hall.
- Second — Gloria McMahon.
- Third — Sarah Blank.
- Low Putts – Barb Hall.
- Sunken Approach – Barb Hall (#8).

### C Flight

- First — Jude Stahmer.
- Second — Sally McCarthy, Carol Sullivan.
- Third — Catherine Kelly, Tina Sonderby.
- Low Putts – Jude Stahmer.
- S. Approaches – Barb Beardslee (#11), Stahmer (#5).

### D Flight

- First — Katie Flores.
- Second — Marge White.
- Third — Jackie Purcell, Linda Sperling.
- Low Putts – Katie Flores.
- Sunken Approach – Jackie Purcell (#16).

## 18-Hole League

July 11, 2023

Event: LBCC-Pottawattomie Exchange

The following Pottawattomie players were recognized:

- Low Gross: Molly Mershon, who also took home the traveling trophy.
- Low Net: Pam Fiebig.
- Closest to the Pin, 10th hole: Monique Rub.
- Closest to the Pin, 16th hole: Tiffany Mitchell.

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## New Buffalo Township Library

- **“The Melodious Faithful: Music at the House of David.”** The program is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Aug. 1.
- **Operation Kindness: Captain Friendship Play.** The program is from 3-4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 2.
- **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 through Aug. 14 at New Buffalo Township Park.
- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

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

## Insights in History

“Insights in History” will feature Roger Parent at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 2, at South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

As chronicled in his book Getting Things Done, Parent shares stories of leadership, from his time as South Bend mayor to the South Bend Community School Board and Peace Corps. He will sign copies of the book, which is sold in the museum’s gift shop. A guided tour of artifacts from his time as South Bend mayor will be offered.

Admission is \$3. Reservations are required by July 31. Visit [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or call (574) 235-9664 for reservations or more details.



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### Spring Creek Fundraiser



A scene from "Wild Horse, Wild Ride."

The Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation will hold a fundraising reception and special screening of "Wild Horse, Wild Ride" at noon EDT Saturday, July 29, at Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich.

During the reception, international touring artists Diane Van Deurzen and Lisa Otey will perform, and guests can learn more about the foundation's work from board members and volunteers. A brief video highlighting that work will be shown, followed by the film "Wild Horse, Wild Ride," a documentary about the bonds between horses and people.

Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that brings the experience of horses to under-resourced children, adults and families.

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### In the Area

**July 26-29** — “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

**July 27** — Camp Half-Blood Myths and Legends Day (ages 10-18), 3-4 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

**July 27** — Snack and Read Book Club (ages 8-12), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

**July 27** — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *July 27* — Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute band). *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

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

**July 28** — Film Showing: “Jerry & Marge Go Large,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**July 28-30** — “Schoolhouse Rock Live,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: adults/\$17, seniors 55+: \$16, students with ID/\$13. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

**July 28-30** — Third annual LakeFest, LaPorte’s Pine, Stone & Clear lakes. Full schedule: https://laportelakefest.com/events/

**July 29** — Art in the Park, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info:

longbeachparkboard@gmail.com

**July 31** — Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

**Aug. 2** — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Kent Jager & baritone Stuart Thompson, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

**Aug. 2** — Cooking Kids, 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: 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

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

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

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

**First and Third Mondays** — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

**Mondays in Michigan City** — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

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

**Tuesdays** — 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

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



Monroe & Lincolnway.

### **In the Region**

**July 29** — Wild Edibles Hike, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 29** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Valparaiso's Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North. Free; membership preferred. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com), Facebook page, Harbor Country Hikers.

**July 29** — Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation fundraising reception, noon EDT, Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [tinyurl.com/2rzjh79c](http://tinyurl.com/2rzjh79c)

**July 29** — 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 29** — Michiana Humane Society "Cocktails at the Grand Cottage," 5-9 p.m. EDT, 11551 Marquette Drive, New Buffalo, Mich. Cost: \$125. Info: [tinyurl.com/4tymcmef](http://tinyurl.com/4tymcmef)

**July 29** — Ragtime concert pianist Peter Bergin, 7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$12 (<https://Ticketstripe.com/peterbergin>), \$15/door, free/children 12 & younger.

**July 29** — Moth Mysteries, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 29** — The Acorn Tree House presents Little Miss Ann, noon EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10 (adults) + \$3 convenience fee, \$5 (children) + \$3 convenience fee. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 29** — Will Hoge, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**July 30** — Critter Dinner, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**July 30** — The School of American Music fourth annual American Music Festival, 2-9 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: [schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com), (269) 409-1191.

**July 30** — Midwest Made: The Water Street Wranglers, 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)

**Aug. 1** — New Buffalo Library Community Forum, "The Melodious Faithful: Music at the House of David," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Aug. 2** — Operation Kindness: Captain Friendship Play, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Aug. 2** — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT,

South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$3. Reservations: (574) 235-9664, [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org)

**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/yekh57jx](http://tinyurl.com/yekh57jx)

**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 & 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).

**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.

Continued on Page 50





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Continued From Page 49

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., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. 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. 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*: "Lawrence of Arabia." Rated PG. Time: 6 p.m. EDT July 27. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

The weekly deadline to submit listings  
for Upcoming Events is noon Thursday

## Unity Foundation Awards Scholarships for 2023-2024 Academic Year

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has awarded \$310,000 in scholarships to 171 students for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The recipients are attending 50 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. Since 1992, Unity has awarded more than \$3.5 million from 60 scholarship funds.

A virtual scholarship presentation recognizing the recipients, and the donors who make the awards possible, is available on the Unity website, [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net), YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Students may apply for scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year beginning in January. High school seniors, non-traditional or returning students, as well as those pursuing certificates or undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degrees, are encouraged to visit [www.uflc.net](http://www.uflc.net)

Students receiving scholarships include:

Samantha Ake, Layana Aoun, Zachary Archambault, Kaleb Bacztub, Elizabeth Bahena, Laura Bahena, Jory Bales, Brennan Balka, Rachel Bellah, Francisco Bibian, Jayana Blakely, Riese Bornell, Justin Bunce, Lillian Burke, Moriah Carmel, Alexis Catron, Travis Chalik, Trenten Chalik, Jenna Cicero, Angelina Clayton, James Collins, Paige Conklin, Evan Conrad, Caiya Cooper, Bryn Cothran, Olivia Cramer-Stevens, Lanie Criswell, Ryan Cuma, Olivia Davis, Kaitlyn Day, Brenda Del Real, Breanna Dove, Renee Eaton, Sean Egan, Carley Ellenberger, Jacob Ellis, Jamie Ellis, Mandy Fischbacher, Jordan Forney, Jade Foster, Aviana Garner, Allison Grabarczyk, Emily Grieger, Nicholas Gushrowski, Emma Hannon, Dejah Hawkins-Garner, Emma Heffron, Mirabellah Hernandez, Lauren Hertges, Thomas Hertges, Erica Hesters, Nicole Hesters.

Ryan Hesters, Taylor Higley, Sydney Hill, Halle Hood, Vanessa Horne, Jibreel Hoskins, Brooklynn

Hough, Abigail Huff, Emily Huff, Kylee Hughes, Adrian Huizar, Paige Hunter, Jessica Jara Huizar, Justin Jayasinghe, Carter Jones, Joel Kelley, Julia Kelley, Kyra Kelly, Abigail Kemiell, Stephen Klimczak, Elisabeth Korell, Kaylee Koselke, Kyra Krachinski, Anna Kubik, Anna Landing, Danielle Lilly, Nathan Lilly, Brenda Lopez, McKenzie Losinski, Michael Malloy, Rebecca Marxman, Jillian Matzke, Paige Maudlin, Summer McGee, Makena Micallef, Haleigh Miller, Kilee Miller, Hannah Misch, Abbigail Mitchell, Emma Mitschelen, Riley Moody, Sydney Moody, Kristan Morrison, Andrew Mrozinske, Arturo Munoz, Violet Murphy, Mary Neary, Payton Neely, Rebekah Novak, Spencer Noveroske, Violet Noveroske, Madeleine Nunn.

Andrew Oleksiuk, Austen Ott, Garrott Ott-Large, Grant Ott-Large, Nathaniel Painter, Tristen Poe, Kaitlyn Pollock, Kourtney Pratt, Audrey Reese, Autumn Reynolds, Emma Rice, Preston Richard, Grace Rinkel, Jonathan Rocke, Joslyn Rodriguez, Caleb Rosa, Gideon Rosa, Katelyn Rudolph, Melissa Rudolph, Natalia Ruiz, Joanie Sanchez, Diego Santos, Lexi Scheidt, Hannah Schoner, Bethany Schuster, Hannah Schuster, Christopher Seadorf, Gretchen Sexton, Alyssa Shaia, Jacob Sherrick, Rachel Sherrick, Tristan Sherwood, Brianne Simmons, Taylor Skibinski, Francheska Skonieczny, Michael Smelser, Sarah Smith, Alissa Sonnenberg, Ashlei Sonnenberg, Sophie Sorg, Matthew Steele, Cory Stevenson, Mia Taylor, Lillian Tolmen, Lauren Trim, Amanda Trojanowski, Tyler Troy, Alayna Tuholski, Mason Tulacz, Sela Van Buskirk, Sydney Varnak, Pooja Verma.

Riya Verma, Elizabeth Wadle, Maria Wadle, Abigail Walker, Daniel Welsh, Peyton Willoughby, Samantha Wilson, Brenna Woodruff, Natalie Yacullo, Makenzi Young, Ryley Zawada, Allison Zila, Gavin Zolvinski, Joseph Zook



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

- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, July 28.
- Conservation Club House, 100 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, July 30.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2.

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#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applica-  
tions for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Hiring Now!!! Pottawattomie Country Club

Chefs, bartenders, servers, admin. Competitive pay.

Interested, call Matt Wooldridge at (219) 872-8624

##### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT!

Duneland Home & Pro Hardware, 1018 N. Karwick Road, is hiring  
part-time hardware team members. Apply in person.

**Power Drive LLC, Michigan City, seeks quality engineers** to resolve  
quality issues of capability, tolerance and materials-related issues. 15%  
domestic travel. Send CV: [mmurarka@powerdrive.com](mailto:mmurarka@powerdrive.com)

#### FOR SALE

**Greenwood Cemetery plots for sale.** Northwest corner, Section C,  
block 15, plots 1-6. Upon entrance to cemetery, turn left at circle, first left,  
plots are in the section on the right. \$3,000 per plot.

If interested, call (708) 269-9717.

**FOR SALE:** Leather sofa, La-Z-Boy convertible chair/bed, wicker sofa  
and matching glass-top table, queen four-poster cherry headboard & foot-  
board, solid pine desk with hutch. Call (312) 952-0182.

#### GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

##### Jackpot Consignments and Estate Sales

1919 E. U.S. 12 (Liberty Trail entrance), Michigan City

Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. We buy, sell, consign and conduct in home  
estate sales. Call (312) 953-7306.

The Girlfriend Sale is hosting our last hurrah "Give Back Sale," where all  
remaining items from our Good Things Sale will be available for purchase  
at 1/2 off plus an additional 25% off purchases over \$100. The proceeds  
will benefit Michiana Humane Society and the Long Beach Community  
Center on

Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.-noon, CASH ONLY.

2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

In addition, The Long Beach Community Center Board, Beach Garden  
Club and LB Park Board are hosting an "Open House" at the community  
center. The Historical Room will have a variety of LB posters for sale,  
including a rare signed poster by hometown artist Laura Sprague featur-  
ing the 4th of July of days gone by. Many businesses will be open, includ-  
ing the YMCA with the latest class and membership information on hand.  
Brenda in Room #9 will paint on canvas in her studio and welcomes you  
in for a peek into the life of a working artist. The courtyard garden in the  
center of the building will be open to enjoy at your leisure, where you  
can also find The Long Beach Park activities table with information for  
all upcoming events and sign up. Amy's Beach Glass Barber Shop and  
Beach Fitness personal training is back in the building, so stop on by  
Room 2 and say hi. And, the most delightful 3rd annual "Art in the Park"  
showcasing local artists and vendors will be just outside on the grounds.  
For the young and young at heart, there will be a Curious Kids Discovery  
Trail and face painting, too! With Pepe's taco truck and Valpo Velvet ice  
cream, plan to make a day of it with the whole family. The Long Beach  
Police Department will assist you with parking! Thank you for your sup-  
port. Looking forward to seeing you all at this fabulous community event.

#### WANT TO BUY

**WANTED:** I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys,  
advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

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Call (219) 861-3720.

**Drowning: The Rescue of Flight 1421: A Novel** by T.J. Newman (hardcover \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 287 pages.)

*“The aircraft shook... Chunks of metal ripping off, flying by... Parts of the wing were shredded. Below the plane, crystal-clear turquoise water.*

*“Shannon looked to her dad. Why aren’t we turning back to Honolulu?”*

*“Will had been wondering the same thing...”*

*“In the cockpit, every pilot’s worst nightmare was coming true.”*

So, what’s the attraction of disaster books and movies? The simple truth is, we love to be scared to death while still imagining what we would do in a particular situation. We would never do stupid things characters do, right? We would do all the right things and resolve the situation quickly and neatly. Sure, in our dreams. And, we are mesmerized by all the action, noise and screaming — keeps the blood pumping.

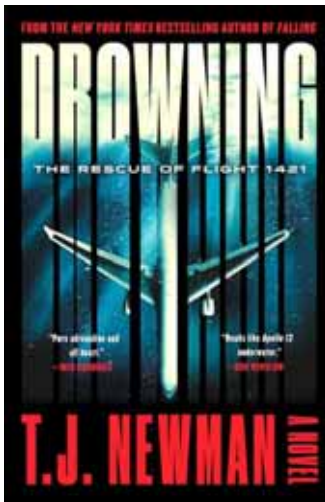
The experts tell us flying is much safer than driving. I’m still mulling that statement over, but what’s important in this novel is what happens in an airplane emergency amid a character study of all the people involved, from the passengers to the topside agencies looking for a life-saving solution.

All these elements come together in this second thrilling book by Newman, a former flight attendant. Her first book, *Falling*, was about a madman’s plan to force a pilot to choose between his family and the passengers on his plane. This book covers a much different, but no less exciting, scenario...

There are 99 people aboard Flight 1421 leaving on a beautiful, clear morning made for flying. Included are Will Kent, an engineer who designs ocean oil rigs, and his 11-year-old daughter, Shannon. The disaster happens within minutes after takeoff. The plane shudders, the flames, the pieces of metal flying off the wing, all observed with horror by the passengers and crew. The nature of the damage — I won’t go into detail here — makes it impossible to turn the plane around, and fuel is leaking out, meaning they can’t reach land on what they have left. The plane is going to hit the water.

Newman never loses the humanity in all this. And that’s what makes this the blockbuster book of the summer.

Many men and women of various agencies put their own lives on the line to save all, or as many as they can, of the passengers. Who swings into action? What emergency measures are already in place to minimize casualties?



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



There are many people involved — Coast Guard, divers, firemen, engineers...no matter whether they are the ones seeking a solution with a happy ending, or if they are the passengers fighting for their lives, it’s the whole picture that tells this story, and this one is a doozy...

Will has knowledge of what is going on structurally, but it is his soon-to-be ex-wife, Chris, who is a “civilian contracted industrial diver,” who is the expert on ocean salvage. When she realizes this is Will’s and Shannon’s flight, she contacts the U.S. Coast Guard to offer her advice and assistance. Which, of course, they ignore, at first.

With the plane still floating on the water, passengers begin to leave the plane wearing inflatable vests, anticipating a fast rescue, when Will notices something. He yells for everyone to stop and stay in the plane. He is ignored. Soon, an explosion outside kills many of the floating passengers. Will and 11 other people are left on the plane...“*They had no idea the worst was yet to come.*”

Three crew members are left — Molly and Kaholo, attendants, and the pilot, Kit; an old couple, Ira and Ruth; Ryan, the newlywed whose wife died next to him; Bernadette, a nurse; Andy, the smart-ass (every story has one); Jasmine, a passenger; and Maia, same age as Shannon. How will this group survive what is to come next? Maybe not all, maybe not any...

After the explosion, the plane nosedives into the ocean, miraculously landing some 200 feet down on the edge of a cliff that looks down into the black depths of the ocean. Knowing the precarious situation, they still hold out hope for rescue. That’s in the first 10 minutes or so. Soon, fear takes over and they begin to question everything. Everyone except for Will, that is. He knows if Chris is involved, she will find a way to save them. But will the Coast Guard listen to her? I got more of a “step back and let the men do the work, honey” attitude from them, until...

It takes a close call that she tried to warn them about before they will really listen to her.

This is a not-to-be-put-down book that will have you crying and cheering and folded up on your favorite chair from Page One.

*The final word:* Don’t miss this one. It’s thrilling with a capital T. However, you might not want to read it on your next flight.

Till next time, happy reading!

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