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A zest for Life

by Kim Nowatzke

Start with a craving for creativity and an innate interest in food, mixed with a keen business sense and care for community.

Sprinkle on some quick wit and a sparkling sense of humor, topped with a passion for art.

That's Sue Spitler's recipe for success. At 85, the Long Beach resident is enjoying the fruits of her labors, along with artistic outlets, her beloved Lake Michigan, an active social life and time to whip up her favorite comfort-food recipes.

Her love for food came naturally at a young age while growing up in Fort Wayne and South Bend. Her parents, Gordon and Ruth Spitler, belonged to a gourmet supper club, while her father worked for a food wholesaler.

"If new food products or gadgets came along, he got a sample. When he received a hot dog cooker, my father thought that was the coolest thing ever," she said with a laugh. "I can't tell you how many



Sue Spitler is all smiles as she serves brats at Long Beach's July 4th celebration. Provided photo.

hot dog dinners we had...I was exposed to food my whole life."

She remembers trying simple recipes such as cookies and fudge, and putting her cotton candy machine to good use.

"I have a sweet tooth," she admits. "Desserts have always been a favorite to make."

After graduating in 1955 from Riley High School in South Bend, Spitler chose home economics as her major, thinking "it'd be the practical thing to learn to cook and sew." With her degree from Ball State University in hand, she taught high school economics for three years in Auburn, Ind., before being bit by the "business bug" and moving to Chicago. There, she first worked for Stouffer Foods' food-service division at First National Bank in Chicago. Her job as executive dietitian was to plan menus and manage a kitchen that served 3,000 lunches to bank officers and employees per day.

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After six years with Stouffer, Spitler's next position was with Armour and Co. that, along with Swift and Co., had large meat-packing companies in Chicago. She worked in the consumer-service department as a home economist, handling consumer concerns and creating recipes for Armour meat products and packaging. Helping make TV commercials was a fun part of the job, she said. Armour moved to Phoenix, when it was purchased by Greyhound.

At this time, a new food magazine, *Cuisine*, was introduced in Chicago. Spitler joined the staff as food editor.

"Planning the content of the magazine and managing the test kitchen and food photography for 12 issues a year was hectic, but exhilarating, too," Spitler recalled. "*Cuisine* was similar to what *Bon Appetite* is today, but also contained articles on crafts and sewing.

After six years, *Cuisine* was purchased and moved to New York City. After seven years and after turning 40, Spitler was ready for a new venture: launching the food-consultant firm Incredible Edibles Ltd.

"Big food companies that had large kitchens were realizing that they could get recipes on a freelance basis from hiring someone like me," she explained.

Her long list of new product testing and promotion included muffins, sausage, artificial sweeteners, fat substitutes and soup bases.

She also was hired to test products such as bakeware, conventional and microwave cookware, food processors, grills, and ice cream and pasta makers.

An impressive list of new product testing and promotion clients included Kraft Foods, Monsanto (a former company that developed NutraSweet and Simplese), Eli's Cheesecake and Best's Kosher Sausage, as well as appliance and equipment manufacturers Simac, Moulinex and Ekco Housewares.

Spitler also created recipes needed by public-relations and advertising agencies that food companies used for promotions. The

long list of products for recipe development varied, from canned beans, sour cream, cheese, meats, rice, flour and artificial sweeteners to chocolate, evaporated milk, Jell-O, pasta, fat substitutes, soup bases and packaged food products.

Spitler recalled testing non-stick cookware finishes for Ekco by cooking hundreds of chickens.

"I gave hundreds of chickens to friends, women's shelters and more," she said. "Wherever I was going or whomever I met got a chicken. I was nicknamed 'Chicken Sue' for a while."

She once owned three refrigerators and two chest freezers. At one point, both freezers were full of food in Gladware containers that had been tested every two months.

Part of Spitler's experience involved developing recipes for product promotions, packaging and, of course, cookbooks.

"I put together dozens of small cookbooks that you could find at checkouts in grocery lines," she explained.

For the Southern Living Cooking School, she developed more than 1,500 recipes using products by advertisers such as Pillsbury, General Mills, Welch's, Borden and Del Monte.

She wrote several in a series of small "Skinny" themed cookbooks with titles like *Skinny Comfort Foods*, *Skinny Mexican* and *Skinny Pasta*. Her *Skinny Vegetarian* cookbook, published in 1997, was hugely popular, with vegetarianism being one of the biggest trends in the United States at the time.

Since *Skinny Vegetarian* sold well, publisher Linda Yoakam asked Spitler to create *1001 Low-fat Vegetarian Recipes*.

"After working on the book for a year, I realized I had become a vegetarian!," Spitler noted.

Wildly popular, the book still brings in royalties. And, it kick-started an entire series of 10 "1,001" recipe books (some with third and fourth editions), including *1,001 Low-Fat Soups and Stews*, *1,001 Best Slow-Cooker Recipes* and *1,001 Delicious Recipes for People with Diabetes*.



Sue Spitler holds a few of the cookbooks she has written. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

“All the 1,001 cookbooks have nutritional information, which was fairly rigid as far as requirements,” she said.

Spitler didn't completely leave her teaching roots behind. In Chicago, she taught evening cooking classes at the local YMCA and for seven years at Cooks Mart, a cookware shop. There, she invited famous chefs such as Julia Child, Diana Kennedy and Jacques Pépin as guest teachers for special classes.

Spitler invited her students to her home, where she would explain recipes and their ingredients and assist with dinner preparation, all in an hour or so. Then, they would sit down to enjoy each other's company while eating dinner.

Even after her move to Long Beach, Spitler taught adult cooking classes at the A.K. Smith Career Center, then at 817 Franklin St., for two years.

In addition, she managed national recipe contests



Sue Spitler is seen vacationing with friend Judy Pompei in her favorite vacation spot, Zihuatanejo in Mexico. Provided photo.

by screening recipe entries, testing recipes to select finalists and preparing the recipes for judges. Her many clients included The Bean Awareness Council, Crowley Fat-Free Sour Cream and Canned Food Alliance.

At 65, Spitler was “up to her eyeballs in cookbooks and a lot of food clients.” So, she decided to semi-retire, concentrating more on creating cookbooks and less on consultant work. For the next five years, she was a full-time cookbook author who only accepted consulting jobs she found interesting.

“I feel like I've had lifetimes of jobs in food,” she said. “I've done a lot of living.”

In 1988, Spitler decided it was time for her to leave Chicago and head to a place with “green grass and trees.

“My consultant business was new at this time,” she said. “Transportation to Chicago and nearby grocery stores were a must, as well as a close proximity to Lake Michigan. In my search, Long Beach, Indiana, won the sweepstakes!”

Spitler continued.

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“I fell in love with the lake at a young age,” she explained. “It was in South Bend that my family discovered Lake Michigan. We visited a beach in Benton Harbor every summer weekend. My love affair with Lake Michigan began then.”

She also fell in love with the first house she looked at: It was known in Long Beach as the Dressel house, named for a family that lived there for more than 40 years. They owned the famous Dressel’s Bakery in Chicago.

“It must have been that chocolate calling me from Chicago,” Spitler said with her contagious smile.

“I have just loved it here,” she continued. “I love this old house that is nearly 100 years old. Everyone living in this area has said it’s built like a fort.”

It didn’t take long for Spitler to generously give of her time and talents to her new community.

She was a 20-year member of Long Beach Civic Organization, helping in its concession booth at annual July 4th events.

“Because I worked in food,” she said, “I was somehow chairman of the brat-serve committee every year.”

For 10 years, she served on the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival board.

“I provided housing at my home and found homes in the vicinity for musicians,” she said. “In the early years of the festival, my home was used for rehearsals – to my great delight! Later, First Presbyterian Church became a permanent location and rehearsal space for the festival. I baked cookies for the musicians and receptions, an average of 60 dozen cookies each year!”

She’s also volunteered for years with The Girlfriend Sale, which began more than 20 years ago in Susan Vissing’s living room and now is held each

spring and fall at Long Beach Community Center.

Spitler served for 10 years on the Michiana Humane Society board, assisting with numerous fundraisers. In 2001, she initiated the shelter’s first Harvest Home Tour, which continued for many years. The highlight of her work was fostering for five years. A total of 98 mama cats and newborn kittens lived in a designated “kitty room” at her home for seven weeks at a time.

The list continues with time spent on the Family Support Committee of Habitat for Humanity of Michigan City. She would interview applicants, then help families through the paperwork process, and with support, as they moved into their new home.

For Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (now Indiana Dunes National Park), she transplanted seedlings into larger pots in its greenhouse. These would be replanted in the area to help keep the native species abundant. Through the Friends of the Indiana Dunes, she helped with the annual Native Plant Sale and volunteered at the annual Harvest Festival at Chellberg Farm.

To help out Purdue University-North Central’s (now Purdue University Northwest) Women’s Association, she knit afghans, slippers, caps and booties for area women’s shelters and local hospitals.

After another semi-retirement at 70, Spitler tapped into her passion for art and worked for two more years at the former IZWIN, a Michigan City ceramic studio owned by Laurel Izard and Edwin Shelton that created colorful, whimsical tabletop wares for galleries, boutiques and department stores nationwide.

“I wanted to do things I hadn’t had time to do – like clay,” she said. “This was fun – an excellent way to renew my acquaintance with clay and learn new tricks.”

Spitler said her first experi-



Sue Spitler is photographed with fellow artist and friend Edwin Shelton. Provided photo.



Sue Spitler stands next to sculptural vessels she created. She has “signed” them with crinoids, one of her favorite souvenirs of her beloved Lake Michigan.

Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

ence with clay was in college.

“I love working with the earth,” she said. “I never know what I’m making – it all happens as I work. I prefer handbuilding to working on the wheel.”

In handbuilding with clay coils, she explains, it can take several weeks to complete a piece in contrast to potters using a wheel who can produce many items in a few hours.

She enjoys making clay at Duneland Pottery in Chesterton, a fully-equipped clay studio where she can work independently and pay per hour.

“I construct my pieces on a lazy Susan so I can turn them as I work,” she said. “The wheel potters tease me, saying I work on the ‘slow wheel.’ I made my first coil pot in a college class and have loved making clay as a serious hobby since then.”

Being a huge Lake Michigan fan, Spitler “signs” each of her clay pieces with a crinoid. Some contain several.

“Crinoids are fossil survivors of the glaciers that were responsible for creating the lake when they came through,” she explained. “Gazillions of crinoids



Sue Spitler (center) is shown with her parents (right) — Gordan (who worked for a food wholesaler) and Ruth Spitler — and her younger sister, Nancy (left). Provided photo

from the glaciers were deposited in the lake and to this day can be found washed up on our beaches. Crinoids are up to five million years old, were living creatures — kin to the star fish and similar species. I think it’s astounding to hold a five-million-year old crinoid in your hand today! An appropriate addition to my pieces which use clay from the ancient earth.”

Spitler not only creates art. She collects it, too. In fact, all of her elective classes in college were in art.

“As the Michigan City area has lots of artists, it’s always been easy to collect art here,” she said. “Most of my collection is local or from the Midwest, with scatterings from Japan, India, Russia and Mexico.”

One favorite is a portrait of herself made by her friend, Long Beach artist Michelle Wiser.

“She (Wiser) often stamps the background of her portraits with the name of a person’s career, cook-books in my case,” she explained. “She then paints the portrait over the background. She quilts the frames. Each piece of the fabric is joined with a dif-

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ferent kind of stitch.”

The art that fills Spitler’s home reflects her outgoing, fun-loving personality.

“I love humor, which is reflected in my collection,” she said. “My collection is so varied that my home has been dubbed the ‘Willy Wonka House.’”

Her art also serves as a connection to her many friends.

“I know or have met 90 percent of the artists, which makes the collection very personal,” she said. “Every piece has a story. I am surrounded by my friends. I feel that my home is filled with friends.”

What does Spitler’s life look like now?

“One big thing I have learned about being retired is that it’s true that it now takes all day to do what I once did in two hours after work!,” she quipped.

She enjoys reading *The Smithsonian* and *National Geographic* for their “good source of armchair travel and phenomenal photography and amazing articles.” *THE SUN* magazine is another favorite.

Although she traveled extensively prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spitler has primarily focused on her favorite vacation spot, Zihuatanejo in Mexico.

“I think I’ve been there a total of 12 times, starting when it was just a small fishing village and locals traveled by burro,” she said.

Another frequented spot is The Clearing Folk School in Ellison Bay, Wis., where she has enjoyed taking art and nature classes for nearly 40 years. Found at the tip of the Door Peninsula, she said it was started in the early 1900s by landscape architect Jens Jenson.

Locally, Spitler has enjoyed taking Jo Pilecki’s popular writing classes at Lubeznik Center for the Arts for the past 10 years. Participants write to a choice of prompts and share their work if they desire. Her favorite style is prose poetry.

Today, Spitler enjoys more beach time, jigsaw puzzles and exploring foreign foods.

“I enjoy eating out,” she said. “I enjoy other cuisines – flavors I know I’m not going to cook at home and ingredients that are more difficult to find... People think I’m at home making gourmet foods, but comfort foods are my favorites – macaroni and cheese, chocolate chips cookies...”

Wherever her next adventure leads her, make no mistake, Spitler will embrace it wholeheartedly with her positive outlook, spunky personality and beautiful smile.

Spitler, in fact, made mention of her haircut that morphed into a “mohawk” during COVID, the fun, artist-made jewelry she sports and her attraction to clothing containing art.

“I like fun in my life,” she admits. “So much of what I do has to do with humor and having fun.”

A special friendship

There may be 54 years between them, but that only enriches the special friendship Sue Spitler and Sara Noë have shared over the past decade.

The two first met when Sara was in high school and Sue took a Jazzercise class taught by her mother, Kim Noë.

“I had written my first fantasy novel and wanted to venture into the world of traditional publishing, so Sue and I connected on a professional level to discuss book publishing,” Sara said. “She...had an abundance of wisdom and advice for me, and over time, our professional relationship developed into a close friendship.”

While Sara was attending Purdue University, the two corresponded regularly by email and scheduled dinner dates when Sara came into town. After Sara graduated and returned to LaPorte, Sue encouraged her to join the Sandcastle Writers class taught by Jo Pilecki at Lubeznik Center for the Arts. There, the two connected with a close community of other local writers.

Most importantly, Sue was there for Sara through an unexpected tough time.



Sue Spitler is a friend and mentor to fellow area author Sara Noë. Provided photo

“I had another mentor at the time who had promised to help me make the right connections in the publishing industry and open doors for me,” she said. “Under his guidance, I came very close to publishing my book. Unfortunately, due to broken promises, the dream of publishing fell out of reach. Sue helped to keep me afloat. She was a calm voice of reason motivating me to keep going. She was the mentor I really needed when I was at my lowest point.”

Eight years later, Sara’s dream became a reality when she published her first novel in the *Chronicles of Avilésor: War of the Realms* series.

That book contained a special acknowledgement to Sue, along with a dedication to several influential teachers who inspired her. Sue also has a special shout-out in the books: She has a road named after her. The protagonist, Cato, recognizes a street sign for Spitler Avenue and knows he’s almost home.

“She’s a very deep thinker,” Sue says about Sara. “Everything comes from the heart. It’s amazing what she’s done.”



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“The Flash” is Fun, but Sabotaged by its Star and a Terrible Third Act

by Andrew Tallackson

Andy Muschietti has talent. No question. In fact, I will go out on a limb to call his 2017 update of Stephen King’s “It” a masterpiece. This was bold filmmaking: the persuasive performances, the genuine fear and emotion, gorgeously composed images.

Now, Muschietti has joined DC to direct “The Flash,” and his affection for the material is obvious. The zippy images, the sly humor, Benjamin Wallfisch’s epic score. But the movie, itself, lands somewhere between the gold standard of Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight Trilogy” and “Snyderverse” turds like “Batman vs. Superman.” It’s entertaining, but the third act is a hot mess, compounded by the fact that Ezra Miller, regardless of his scandalous personal troubles, is the wrong guy for the role.

The movie gets off to a great start, with Miller’s Barry Allen switching into Flash mode amid a hospital collapse, babies tumbling out of the upper-floor nursery. Muschietti’s camera, his wicked wit and playful choreography of Barry’s heroics give you a lift.

Then, Barry realizes he can go back in time to prevent his mother from being killed. As expected, tinkering with the past is an epic fail, creating kinks in the multiverse. Honestly, and this is just me, but I’m over the whole multiple universe plot. Marvel has done it to death, and here, it exposes how wrong Miller is for the role. He can’t make you care about Barry. As the present-day version, he is one-note whiny. As the high school take, he’s not funny



★ ★ 1/2

“The Flash”

Running time: 144 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, some strong language and partial nudity

annoying, more *irritating* annoying. You’re always aware that he is acting, that he thinks he’s being funny. Neither performance generates any sympathy for the character.

There is a distinct pleasure, though, in seeing Michael Keaton don the batsuit again. We don’t realize how much we missed him in the role until he stares directly into the camera, scowl firmly locked in place, and mutters, “I’m Batman,” a moment that drew applause in the theater where I saw the film.

Indeed, Muschietti’s tributes to DC past and present, including one nod to a Superman actor that never was, are the most effective moments. But, good golly, that terrible last act. It drones on forever, and it’s the same loud, hectic, effects-heavy chaos we get in the overblown finishes of most “Snyderverse” pictures.

There is good stuff in “The Flash.” Enough, maybe, to catch it when landing on Max in a month or two. But to pay a hefty sum in theaters? Eh.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Canterbury Summer Theatre Gears Up for First Musical of Season

Canterbury Summer Theatre will unveil the first musical of the 2023 season, "Dames at Sea," on June 21-July 1 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

The long-running off-Broadway hit, which brought stardom to newcomer Bernadette Peters, revels in nostalgia for 1930s Hollywood musicals. The book and lyrics are by George Haimsohn and Robin Miller, with music by Jim Wise.

In the play, Ruby, from Hometown, U.S.A., comes to the big city to make her mark on Broadway. She meets a boy from her hometown, Dick, a sailor with ambitions as a songwriter. Ruby begins in the chorus, but by the end of the day, Dick saves her doomed Broadway show with a smash tune.

Canterbury Artistic Director Ray Scott Crawford is the director, with choreography by Victoria Hickman. Returning for his fourth season as Canterbury music director is John Berst, who teaches in the University of Miami musical-theater training program. The cast includes Sarah Donofrio, Jack Gordon, Reid Graham, Victoria Hickman, Lauren Landman, Jeremiah Mitchell and Tony Morell. Scenic design is by Crawford, with lighting by Alex Gray. Amber Garitt provides costume design, while Chloe Rayne Garcia is the production stage manager.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. Tickets are \$20 for reg-



Reid Graham and Sarah Donofrio star in "Dames at Sea."

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LaPorte Community Concert Association Gears Up for New Season

Fourteen performances are included in the package assembled for LaPorte Community Concert Association's 2023-2024 season.

Four of these performances are at the Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Four concerts are in Portage and six in Munster. The cost of a season ticket is: \$60 for adults, \$10 for students through high school and \$140 for a family, which includes two adults and all students. A \$5 discount covers adult subscriptions purchased before Sept. 1.

Artists booked in LaPorte are:

- **Jason Lyle Black:** Oct. 22. Black is an award-winning pianist who explores numerous musical styles, playing nearly 100 songs interwoven with comedic stories such as "Songs Not to Play at People's Weddings and Funerals." He performs music from Disney and Broadway classics, the Beatles, AC/DC and movies.
- **Chris Funk:** Feb. 3, 2024. Funk balances magic with live music. Presenting a violin concerto and a guitar loop recorded live on stage, a live-feed camera and interactive video bring the audience into the performance.
- **"Kiss Me Once: Stories from the Homefront":** March 26, 2024. Kathy Kaefer's award-winning show celebrates men and women of "The Greatest Generation" in a celebration of the songs that inspired them. She draws a personal narrative from her own interviews with veterans, and her own grandmothers.
- **Carlson Quartet:** April 28, 2024. The Carlson Quartet originated from Carrie Ann Carlson and Denise Kuehner in 1977 during their first years of teaching instrumental music in Porter County. The quartet continued to thrive over the years and was rekindled this last year, adding Lewis Stahl (violin) and Anna Anderson (cello). All are performing musicians with Masters of Music degrees from The University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University and Indiana University-



Top: Jason Lyle Black. Below: Chris Funk.




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Gems of Beverly Shores is the theme of the town's Garden and Art Walk from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 24. Guests may stroll through gardens and inside two iconic homes. Advance tickets, which are \$15 at www.absr.org or \$20 the day of the walk, include a raffle entry for an original watercolor or garden gift basket. Check in at the Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway in Beverly Shores, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a map and wristband for the free shuttle bus.

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REALTY

Michigan City Messiah New Board Members Announced

Lee Bauman, the Rev. Gregory Bim-Merle and George Karst are three new Michigan City Messiah board members.

Bauman's graphic art can be seen in logos, posters, promotional pieces and website art. She also creates watercolor, acrylic and mixed-media paintings. A published illustrator, she is designing a new children's book for a local author. In 2021, she received a Creative Aging Fellowship from the Indiana Arts Commission. She also received training from Lifetime Arts for certification to teach adults 65 and older. Her program "Art 4 Life" has qualified for more IAC funding, allowing her to continue the program this fall and spring 2024. She has assisted the Michigan City Messiah board by applying for IAC funding support for the past two years. She sings with the "Messiah" chorus and South Holland Master Chorale.

Bim-Merle began studying piano at 5 and pipe organ at 10. He joined the Michigan City Messiah Chorus at 14 and has been a chorus member for the past 17 seasons. Before entering seminary, he served as organist at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Michigan City, as well



Bauman



Bim-Merle

as at St. Anne of the Dunes Catholic Church, Beverly Shores. At college seminary, he studied organ at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He serves as an organist for Diocesan Liturgies at Holy Angels Cathedral in Gary. In addition to his classical training, he has developed an interest in folk and rock music; he also is self-taught in banjo, guitar, bass and harmonica, and is the frontman for the band Father and Sons. Ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 2017, he serves as priest administrator of St. James the Less Catholic Church in Highland.

Karst's musical training includes music theory, composition, pipe organ and conducting. He has a Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University and is the organist-choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church, Michigan City. In the past, he has served churches in Indianapolis and Northwest Indiana. He also teaches music theory, music history and piano at a regional Indiana University campus. His compositions include choral works and chamber music, as well as electroacoustic music that includes elements of sound synthesis, algorithmic parameters and retrospectives on Musique concrete.



Karst

The annual performances of Handel's "Messiah" are at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 3 p.m. Dec. 17 at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center. Visit www.mc-messiah.com for details.

Beach Garden Club

Beach Garden Club will host a community workshop with Sasha Gee Burnes at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 24, in the Long Beach Community Center courtyard garden, 2501 Oriole Trail.

Gee Burnes, the LaPorte County Solid Waste District educator, will provide information on resources for LaPorte County residents, along with the benefits of composting. Those attending should take portable seating. The first 30 people in attendance receive a kitchen composter from the solid waste district. Master gardeners will attend to answer gardening questions.

Parking is limited at the community center. Park on the grass triangle in front of the building, with all four tires off the pavement. Observe any no parking signs posted. Do not park on side streets or resident properties.

Contact Mary Beth Rebedeau Warden at (708) 641-2752 or mbrebedeau@aol.com for more details.



Do you have a passion to strengthen and give back to your community?

La Porte County Habitat for Humanity is growing and we're seeking dedicated, mission focused people to join our team. Take a look at our current job postings (see The Beacher Employment listings for Construction and Volunteer Support positions). Apply today or pass this along to great people you know.

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www.laportehabitat.org

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Woman's Club Art Show Winners Announced

Organizers of the 71st Annual Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show presented 27 awards June 8 to area artists during a reception at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Best of Show went to Mark Vander Vinne for his oil painting "Closer Together" (award patron: Luella DeWulf in memory of Roland V. Cline and Henry DeWulf). First place went to April Kruse-Mitchell for the pastel "Dunescape I" (award patron: Pines Village Retirement Communities). Second place went to Lindsay Sandbothe for the acrylic painting "Peacock" (award patron: White-Love Funeral Home). Third place went to Tom Brand for the oil piece "Composition Number III" (award patron: Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home). Fourth place went to Deborah Dyer for the mixed-media "The Quad Cities" (award patron: attorney Suzanne Philbrick).



Tom Brand is photographed with his third-place winner, "Composition Number III"

Merit awards went to:

- Christine Newton for the oil "Purple Barn in Snow" (award patron: Anton-Shepherd Insurance).
- Julia Holmaas for the watercolor "The Glen" (award patron: Blick Art Materials).
- Kerri Mommer for the acrylic "Walk Right In" (award patron: Edward Jones, Eric Isakson).
- Larry Jenson for the wood sculpture "T???" (award patron: attorney Gregory Babcock).
- Ricardo Cortez for the sculpture "Steampunk Warrior IV" (award patron: Tri Kappa Active Chapter).
- Laurel Izard for the embroidered cotton "10 of

Wands" (award patron: Karen Coombs).

- Mary Ann Pals for the pastel "Grand Finale" (award patron: 1st State Bank of Porter).
- John J. Habela for the wood sculpture "The Couple" (award patron: SFC Gallery).
- Bonnie Zimmer for the 3-D fiber "Burn Barrel Basket" (award patron: South Shore Insurance, Christine Newton).
- Louie Ortiz for the oil "Tea Cup" (award patron: Tilden & Tilden, Attorneys at Law).
- Judy Crawford for the oil "Working the Chain" (award patron: the Tri-van Family).
- Lynn Buckmaster for the acrylic "Adventure Awaits" (award patron: Serenity Spa & Salon).

Awards of Excellence went to:

- Julie Kasniunas for the acrylic painting "California Poppies" (award CWC Patrons).
- Laura Krentz for the watercolor "Into the Woods" (award CWC Patrons).

Honorable Mentions are:

- Margaret Sullivan for the oil "Aubrey's Upset" (award patron: Ann and Bruce Deckard).
- Carolyn Lelak for the print "Avery's First Day" (award patron: Art Barn School of Art).
- Larry Brechner for the digital photo "Heron Portrait" (award patron: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Petro).
- Judy Davis for the pastel "The Fancy House" (award patron: Tri Kappa Associates Chapter).
- Fred Holly for the acrylic "Tea Time" (award patron: Terry and Nancy Kolasa).
- Jason Gast for the oil "Raspberry" (award patron: White Hat Realty Group, Lisa Gaff).
- John Mullin for the sculpture "Launch" (award patron: CWC).
- Carole Stodder for the acrylic "Mixed Message" (award patron: Glenn L. Firme & Associates).

The show continues through July 1 at CAC.

Have a High Ability 4th-8th grader who wants more over summer?

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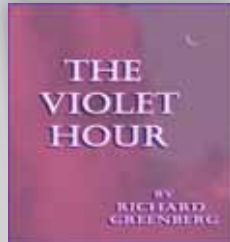
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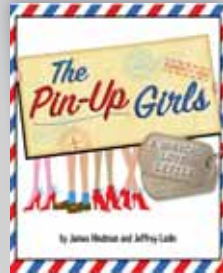
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June 14 - 17



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June 21-July 1

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Angels
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A Tribute To Santana

FRI 6/23 8 P.M. ET



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Heartache Tonight

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SAT 6/24 8 P.M. ET



PlayHouse

Midwest Made

SUN 6/25 7 P.M. ET



Art at The Acorn

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Dreamscapes and more

TUE 6/27 7 P.M. ET



Find more events at

acornlive.org

Adult Education Graduates Celebrate New Beginning

Administrators, staff, school board members, families and friends cheered adult graduates May 31 who earned High School Equivalency diplomas during the 2022-2023 school year.

Forty-five of the 78 graduates participated in the ceremony at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center. Julie Fregien, the LaPorte County Adult Education director, introduced the four student speakers, as well as the keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent. The student speakers included Michael Lehman, Kempty McKay, Jackson White and Michelle Skelton. Each shared their own experiences and the journey to complete their education.

Eason-Watkins commended students regarding their perseverance, determination, hard work and accomplishments.

“We are all very proud of you and the courageous manner in which you continued your pursuit of your education despite challenges you may have faced,”



Student speakers at graduation include (from left) Michelle Skeleton, Jackson White, Kempty McKay and Michael Lehman.

she said in a press release.

Eason-Watkins acknowledged the adult education instructors, parents, spouses, relatives and friends of the graduates, applauding them for their support and encouragement.

“Because these caring individuals were there every step of the way,” she said, “you

were able to succeed.”

MCAS administers the LaPorte County Adult Education program. Eason-Watkins and Associate Superintendent Wendel McCollum conferred the diplomas, along with school board Vice President Tom Dombkowski and board members Deb Chubb, Michael Gresham and Phyllis Stark.

Forty of the Adult Education graduates earned “College and Career Ready” recognition from the state due to high scores on subject-area High School Equivalency exams. The designation enables them to apply for admission to any postsecondary institution in Indiana without remediation.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Movie & a Craft: "Up" at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 22.** The movie is Rated PG. Children 17 and younger who arrive by 10:15 a.m. have a chance to win a copy of the movie. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Film Showing: "Women Talking" at 2 p.m. Friday, June 23.** The Oscar-winning movie is Rated PG-13.
- **Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Friday, June 23.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in June.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in June.** Children ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Maker-space. Supplies are limited.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Among Us Scavenger Hunt in June.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters hiding there and win a prize.
- **Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! through July 22.** For every 10 hours a person reads, reads to someone else or listens to someone read, they have a chance to win a raffle item. Record reading hours and select the desired raffle prize for a chance to win.



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



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Long Beach Summer Camp

Applications available June 1, 2023!

Dates: June 19 – August 4

Days: Monday – Friday

Time: 9:00 – 11:30

Location: Long Beach Community Center

Ages: 3-11

Fee: Resident Full Camp: \$160.00
Non-Resident Full Camp: \$220.00
Resident Weekly: \$60.00
Non-Resident Weekly: \$80.00

Weekly Themes

Week 1: Outer Space

Week 2: Wild Weather

Week 3: Geographic Genius

(No Camp July 3 & 4)

Week 4: Inventors Workshop

Week 5: Splish Splash

Week 6: Safari

Week 7: International Sports

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center, and online at longbeachin.org.

Any questions email

longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.



American Red Cross

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

- St. John Lutheran Church, 111 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte, 2-6 p.m. Thursday, June 22.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, June 27.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more details.



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SUMMER VOLLEYBALL CLASSES – YOUTH & JUNIORS

Long Beach Parks

VOLLEYKIDZ USA GRASS VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

It's time to take your volleyball GAME OUTSIDE. A camp hosted by the EVP Academies of LaPorte, features all the latest drills and training techniques that build your skills for the next level. Lots of contests and games too, with fun and active instructors! The camp will concentrate on the fundamentals of passing, setting, serving and spiking. You will learn to overhand serve and play organized games. The lesson plan directs individual training that helps each student reach a new level. This four-day camp is for girls & boys ages 8-14yrs. Canceled classes are made up on Friday.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **4 Day-camp**

Ages 8-10

6/19	6/22	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
6/26	6/29	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/10	7/13	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/24	7/27	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84



Ages 11-14

6/19	6/22	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
6/26	6/29	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/10	7/13	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/24	7/27	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99

VolleyKidz USA (8-10yrs)

Volleykidz is an introductory class for children 7yrs to 10yrs. The lesson plan introduces the pass, set and spike using a very light volleyball. Volleykidz will improve each child's hand/eye coordination and left/right coordination through the use of fun drills and games. Lesson plan also incorporates short educational drills including spelling, math & science.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99

Jr. VolleyKidz USA (11-13yrs)

Improve your volleyball skills with 90 minutes of drills in setting, passing, overhand serving and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of individual training, pairing drills and game situation development that help each student reach a new level. Instructors organize short games at the end of each class. The lesson plan also incorporates leadership and educational components.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84

NEW! Youth Volleyball Summer League

This summer indoor volleyball league is perfect to keep your volleyball skills fresh for the upcoming grade school season. In this co-ed league you can request to play with a group of friends. Games are scheduled on Thursdays. The YOUTH league will have two levels; Blazers and Top Flight. You will overhand serve and play organized games. EVP Certified coaches. Game formats are based on skill-level of athletes and may include 6-person and 4-person teams. Two matches per week.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 18/72 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

DATE (s)	DAY	PROGRAM #	TIME	Ages	COST
June	4-25 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
July	9-30 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
Aug.	6-27 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59

REGISTER AT WWW.EVPACADEMIES.COM

LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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



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



The following programs are planned:

- **Coolspring Storytime from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Coolspring Branch.** Each session, which includes stories and songs, is part of a themed six-week program, with a four-week break between sessions.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, June 23, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Getting to Know Your Apple Device (adults 19+) from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at the main library Meeting Room A.** Take devices to the program.
- **Traveling Lantern Theater Performance from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at the main library Meeting Room B.** The show is “Rhonda Appleseed and the Tree that Learned How to Speak.”
- **Readers Corner — Kids Edition (ages 6-10) from 5-6 p.m. Monday, June 26, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Refreshments will not be served.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, June 26, in the main library multi-purpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Readers Corner — Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Refreshments will not be served, but participants may take coffee or tea.
- **Storytime at Bluhm County Park from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, June 28, at Bluhm Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.** The program also includes a hike and craft.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Tananarive Due (adults 19+) from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 28.** Register at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/27417>

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



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W 6/28 Gary



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Frank Ruvoli



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Kyla Web of "Skirt"



TU June 27 • 5-7p
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“Flamin’ Hot” Takes a Lively Look at Spicy Snack’s Birth

by Andrew Tallackson



Richard Montañez (Jessie Garcia) struggles with work at a Frito-Lay plant in “Flamin’ Hot.”

Here is a sweet little movie that aims to make you feel good, and it succeeds, largely by exploring the American dream through the Mexican-American perspective.

When you dig deeper into the story behind Richard Montañez, the Frito-Lay janitor credited with introducing Flamin’ Hot Cheetos into the culinary landscape, it’s trickier than this Hulu movie would have you believe. Montañez’s claim to being the snack’s inventor has been the subject of debate for decades. At one point, Frito-Lay, and subsequent news reports, debunked it as urban legend.

The truth, I suspect, rests somewhere between Montañez’s admitted flare for exaggeration and toxic workplace racism, depicted in the film, that stripped black and Latino Frito-Lay employees of their proper due.

What cannot be disputed is that Montañez *did* rise from janitor to marketing executive, involved heavily with multicultural sales and promotions. And as played with endless good cheer by Jessie Garcia, Montañez’s story hints at a larger truth, that corporate America for too long turned a deaf ear to the buying power of the Latino community.

The movie, which marks the lively directorial debut of “Desperate Housewives” star Eva Longoria,



“Flamin’ Hot”

Running time: 99 minutes. Hulu/Disney+. Rated PG-13
for some strong language and brief drug material

is based on two books by Montañez with undeniably great titles: [A Boy, a Burrito, and a Cookie](#) and [Flamin’ Hot: The Incredible True Story of One Man’s Rise from Janitor to Top Executive](#).

We meet Montañez in the mid-1960s as a child making a tidy profit selling his grandmother’s burritos at school. But run-ins with the law over the years — some of them nowhere near his fault — and a reliance on selling drugs to survive derail his life. It takes the pregnancy of his longtime girlfriend, Judy (Annie Gonzalez, delightful), to snap his priorities into place. And, it is through a friend that Frito-Lay hires him as a janitor.

The movie explores the casual, and no-so-casual, racism at Frito-Lay that prevents employees of color from excelling. The mindset among the plant’s white executives is that every minority there is defined by, and reduced to, cultural stereotypes. Garcia, who plays Montañez as always thinking, always absorbing his surroundings, creates a man fighting a

constant uphill battle. To white executives, the color of his skin means he's janitorial material only. That ignorance translates elsewhere in the plant. We see it with Dennis Haysbert's Clarence Baker, likely the smartest man at the plant, but reduced to low-level engineer because he's black.

It's a sad commentary, one that, unfortunately, has not lost its sting over time. But Garcia invests Montañez with the type of can-do American brava-do that remains irresistible to watch, especially in the actor's scenes with Gonzalez. Judy is constantly bolstering her husband's spirits, always reminding him not to view himself as his bosses do.

When Reagan administration cuts start affecting the Frito-Lay plant, Montañez makes a bold move, calling CEO Roger Enrico (Tony Shalhoub, that marvelous "Mrs. Maisel" scene-stealer) with his idea to spice up Cheetos sales, transforming them through "street corn" flavor. The screenplay by Lewis Colick and Linda Yvette Chávez is savvy enough to show how when the company's lack of marketing nearly sinks the new product, it takes a grassroots approach by the Latino community to make Frito-Lay take notice.

Longoria is so intent on achieving a well-earned payoff, we sense we're getting the Disney version of the truth. But, honestly, you don't mind. Longoria bounces the story along with the same invigorating



The movie explores the toxic workplace racism not only experienced by Richard, but also Clarence Baker (Dennis Haysbert, right), a black employee reduced to low-level engineer.

spirit as her characters. She's a born storyteller, her camera zipping through the characters like she cannot wait for you to see what's next.

You leave "Flamin' Hot" with a smile on your face, greatly admiring Montañez. Part of you wants to head out to the nearest store and buy some Flamin' Hot Cheetos. A small one, though. And having taken a Pepcid first. Only the bold chow down on those things unscathed.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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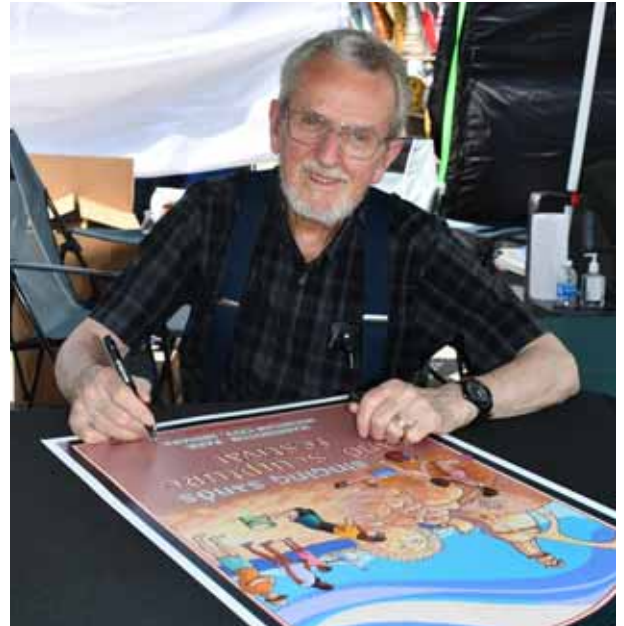
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“Based on a True Story” Takes a Wicked Stab at Podcasts

by Andrew Tallackson



Ava (Kaley Cuoco) and Nathan Bartlett (Chris Messina) propose starting a true-crime podcast with an actual serial killer in “Based on a True Story.”

As a podcast satire, “Based on a True Story” is like the dark, twisted cousin to “Only Murders in the Building.” That Hulu hit is pure cozy mystery: sweet and hilarious, even in the face of death.

“Based on a True Story” is edgy to the point of nearly, and dangerously, tipping *over* the edge. It’s not for all tastes. What reins it back in are Chris Messina (“The Mindy Project”) and Kaley Cuoco (“The Flight Attendant”). These two are so good together, playing “frantic” like it’s nobody’s business. Ditto the supporting players. Add stinging social satire of California lifestyles, and this Peacock show — eight short episodes — is like that proverbial bag of chips. You can’t stop after the first bite.

“Only Murders” devotes an entire season to its lovable misfits piecing all the clues together. The twist with “Based on a True Story,” created by Craig Rosenberg, is that we learn the killer’s identity in the first episode. One might think anyone who figures it out would head straight to the police. Instead, aging tennis pro Nathan Bartlett (Messina) and his pregnant wife, Ava (Cuoco), stall for time. These two are desperate for money, their marriage, and careers, having flatlined years ago. They’re willing to strike a bargain with the killer. If he’ll agree not to off them, they’ll join forces with him by telling his story through a podcast. His identity concealed, of course. If the podcast strikes gold, they’ll make a quick buck.

I haven’t mentioned the actor, nor his serial-killer character. That, I’ll leave for you to discover. He’s disarmingly agreeable one minute, Ted Bundy chill-

ing the next. And like many a serial killer, a podcast is precisely what his crazed ego craves.

That a relatively normal couple would partner with a serial killer is the dangling loose thread of “Based on a True Story.” Would any sane person *really* agree to this? Of course, we wouldn’t have a show if Nathan and Ava notified the police right off the bat. That they do not threatens to make them unlikable as characters. But that’s where Messina and Cuoco rescue the premise. They create an otherwise relatable couple: middle-age, nowhere near as successful as their wealthier friends. They envy that world, even as Ava admits, they’re more the “coupon kind of couple.” The pending birth of their first child isn’t a unifying thread. More, it picks at the scabs of their marriage. For her, it’s that he gave up on life after an injury. For him, it’s that she craves a life he cannot provide.

The irony, then, is that the podcast invigorates them. Watch Cuoco’s face when things hit the fan. Her eyes swell like saucers to hilarious effect. And Messina can sweat out tension better than anyone.

Friends of Ava and Nathan, by the way, exist to mock free-thinking California lifestyles. A world where wives freely admit to having affairs *and* invite their dalliances to parties. The most outrageous, and outrageously funny, is Priscilla Quintana as filthy-rich pal Ruby. Quintana plays her as someone who knows she’s hot...and uses that to her benefit. Breezing through scenes wearing bathing suits the size of dental floss. Unknowingly belittling the killer while seated in front of him. Quintana,

she's a comic firecracker.

Rosenberg, as the writer and show creator, has fun toying with reality, particularly by springing fantasy deaths. And just when you think the show can't get more outrageous, the characters arrive at a Comic Con equivalent for podcasters, and the world it achieves — conspiracy theories, podcast hosts entering rooms like demigods — is blazingly hilarious, the satire cutting like a knife.

"Based on a True Story" ends with a cliffhanger. Nothing resolved, Nathan and Ava flirting with being caught. The show puts these two through the ringer, and Messina and Cuoco are up to the challenge. It's too soon to know if Peacock has renewed the show, but I suspect these two actors can maintain the same crazed pitch for another season. Anything beyond that, though, may be stretching it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



The scene-stealer of "Based on a True Story": Priscilla Quintana as filthy-rich pal Ruby.



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BEATRIX

Keeping Track

My late mother, Hannah McKelvy, took me on my first train ride in the early 1950s: an Illinois Central electric from the South Shore neighborhood to Randolph Street.

Appropriately, I took Amtrak's Capitol Limited from Chicago to Pittsburgh in September 2014 to say a final farewell to Mom at Homewood Cemetery. The train was hours late due to "freight interference," but no matter, because the graveside memorial service for Mom was set for the next day. And there was a distinct advantage to the tardiness: I got a scenic ride down the Allegheny River. Well, alongside the stretch of river in Pittsburgh, but the point being, my roomette was on the right side of the train. I saw sights not normally seen when the eastbound train arrives on time in Pittsburgh in the wee, waking hours. So, my late mother's burial the next day, and a late-running Amtrak overnight train, afforded me a view of Pittsburgh's remaining industrial sites I might never have seen.

I owe my lifelong love of train travel to my mother, who got me started on those magical Illinois Central electrics that hummed to Chicago's Loop under those catenary lines.

(Just like the South Shore, right?)

The heavyweight cars were of a dark olive-green, the seats of tightly woven rattan. You could slide open the windows when it was warm. Many of those introductory train rides were centered around a visit to the dentist.

Not fun, right?

To put my mind aright after the visit, Mom would take me to good-old Marshall Field's on State Street — that great street — and buy me a realistic African mammal in the magnificent, and to my mind, vast toy department.

The plastic-cast zebra and giraffe were my particular favorites. I remember holding them out the window on our train rides back. I know those toy animals enjoyed the fresh air as much as I did, with Mom cautioning me not to lean too far. I didn't.

When we moved to Beverly, on Chicago's far south-

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



I took my first train ride on cars just like this. Photo courtesy of the Illinois Railway Museum.

west side, in time for my sixth birthday on May 7, 1956, I was delighted to discover that "mighty fine line" they called the Rock Island. I happily went from electric motors to diesel, falling in love with those rattling old trains that collected us at 107th Street and rumbled all the way north to LaSalle Street Station. A classy station, by the way, that appeared as itself in Hitchcock's classic spy thriller, "North by Northwest."

Mom took us downtown on the "Rock" that first Christmas Eve in Beverly. We had breakfast under the towering tree in the Walnut Room on the seventh floor of Marshall Field's. We continued that custom for years, typically concluding our day with a stop at Dad's office at 208 S. LaSalle St. Dad worked as a salesman for General Refractories Co. He sold "fire bricks" to the steel mills that lined the

southern rim of Lake Michigan. We played with the office equipment and enjoyed snacks in the boss' office, then headed for home on the Rock Island, that "mighty fine line."

At LaSalle Street Station, we would see such crack intercity trains as the Rock's Golden State to California. I mused how cool it would be to book a bedroom on the sleeper and ride the Rock all the way to the Golden State, where the California girls are the most.



Amtrak's late-running Capitol Limited arrives in broad daylight in Pittsburgh in September 2014.

Alas, that never happened, but, in the fall of 1974, I happily rode Rock Island Train No. 5 from Blue Island to the railroad's namesake city, Rock Island, Ill. Rock Island, you see, did not join Amtrak in 1971; thus, it was obliged to continue operating its Chicago-Peoria and Chicago-Rock Island trains.

That worked to my advantage in the fall of 1974 when my Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity brother at Illinois State University, Bill "Rosebush" Frye, invited me for a visit to his native Quad Cities, and a job search. I had just completed my six-months active duty commitment to the U.S. Navy Reserve and was casting about for work. So, Rosebush, or simply "Rosie," got me on the blower and said, "Why don't you hop on the Rock, and you can apply for a job at John Deere and move here?"

Sounded good, so I did, indeed, ho on that west-bound Rock and rolled in the dark across the width

of the long and narrow state we know as Illinois.

Lo and behold, the Rock lashed a dome car to the tail end of that night train.

I enjoyed the entire journey seated up there. I reveled in that deliciously dark passage across my native Prairie State. I rocked and rolled along the Rock's route to Rock Island, delighting in the lights of Joliet, Ottawa, Bureau, Sheffield and all points west to Rock Island itself, right there on the Illinois side of the mighty Mississippi.

The ever-smiling Rosie was there to greet me at the station with one of his signature bear hugs. And off we went to his home in nearby East Moline for a grand visit. Rosie and his mom, the delightful April Frye, saw to it that I applied for a job in public relations at John Deere headquarters. A corporate official did give me 30 seconds of her time to tell me, in no uncertain terms, that they were NOT hiring.

I asked if I should try again at a later date. She didn't think that would be a good idea. So much for my brilliant career flakking combines for John Deere. But hey, it was 1974, and the economy was in a mess. And half of the Baby Boom was looking for work.

Oh well.

All I know is, I had a rollicking good visit with Rosie and his parents, Archie and April Frye.

I cherished those memories, and April Frye's yummy home-cooking, as I rode Train No. 6 back to Blue Island, a few days

later. I enjoyed an old-fashioned breakfast in the diner, served by white-jacketed waiters. (I have found nothing like it in Amtrak, VIA in Canada, even the crack TGV in France.)

The trip was over all too soon and, alas, so was my fraternity brother, Bill "Rosie" Frye.

Rest in peace, Rosie and Rock Island Line—mighty fine, the two of you.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-11 a.m. Thursdays in June 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 June.** 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 June 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 June.** 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, June 24, at Dune Park Train Station, 1068 W. U.S. 12, Chesterton.** 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.
- **Pollinator Trail Grand Opening from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Ranger guided hikes are from 11-11:45 a.m. and 1:30-2:15 p.m. A Save the Dunes representative will present a native plant talk from 11-11:45 a.m., with a ribbon cutting at 1 p.m.
- **West Beach Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24.** Join a ranger for the hike and learn how the dunes grows its forests. The trail goes up 270 stairs and from the top showcases a view of the dune and Lake Michigan. Park at 376 N. County Line Road.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 3-5 p.m. Saturdays in June.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in June.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in June.** 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.
- **Critter Talk from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 25, 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
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in June at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Introduction to Macro Photography from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Photographer Mark Chantell will highlight closeup photography. Visitors will need a point-and-shoot or interchangeable lens camera, and a tripod if having one.
- **Midsummer Celebration from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** The focus is traditions of Chellberg Farm's Swedish immigrants. Also planned are music and dancing. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Pitcher's Thistle Program from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays in June 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. Monday, June 26, 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 June 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 June 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.dune-friends.org for more details.
- **Mount Baldy Solstice Hike from 8-9 p.m. Wednesdays in June.** Experience sunset views of Lake Michigan and Chicago during the ranger-led tour. Passes are required. Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in June at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4:30 p.m. daily in June.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Turtle Time at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 22.** Meet at the nature center to learn about turtles.
- **Who Goes Where? at 10 a.m. Friday, June 23.** Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium to learn how physical/behavioral adaptations help animals survive diverse Indiana Dunes habitats.
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt from 1-3 p.m. Friday, June 23.** Stop by the Nature Center's front desk to pick up directions. Hunts change weekly with different themes and styles. Friends of Indiana Dunes provides the prize.
- **Props to Pollinators at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 24.** Celebrate National Pollinator Week while learning the adaptations and importance of pollinators in diverse habitats. The program is in partnership with Chautauqua in the Dunes.
- **Reptile Rendezvous at 2 p.m. June 24.** Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to see live turtles and snakes, the emphasis being how they survive the cold winter months.
- **Prickly Pear Promenade at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 25.** Join a naturalist at the beach pavilion for a 1.5-mile trek on Trail 3 to search for Indiana's only native cacti: the prickly pear.
- **Critter Dinner at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 25.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.
- **Dunes Lion Safari at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 28.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a hike to the park's tallest dune to find unique "lions" that live in the area.
- **Bird Window Bingo at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 28.** Prizes will be awarded during a bird-theme version of the game.

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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JROTC Conducts Leadership Camp



Cadets low crawl through the mud pit as part of the mud run.

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted a leadership camp June 5-9 at St. John's Military Academy, Delafield, Wis.

The objective was to improve leadership skills, developed during the academic year, in a field environment. MCHS planned, organized and conducted the camp also attended by cadets from Indianapolis Ben Davis, Romeoville, Ill., and Portage high schools. Among the activities were rappelling, negotiating high-wire obstacles, archery, land navigation, water survival, improvised raft building and paintball. The camp was conducted at no cost to the students nor MCHS; instead, the Marine Corps funded the camp.

The four schools have different demographics; however, cadets had one thing in common, says Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor.

"All of these kids really want to be successful in life," he said in a press release. "They know that, regardless of what career they pursue, they want to be a leader in that field."

Cadets will continue to support Michigan City events over the summer, including the Kiddie Parade on June 24, the Patriotic Parade on July 1 and the Michigan City Citywide Back to School Rally on July 29. They also will work on military drill skills in preparation for next year's military drill meets. The goal is to qualify for the national championship in Washington, D.C., in April. Like the leadership camp, that trip is funded by the Marine Corps.

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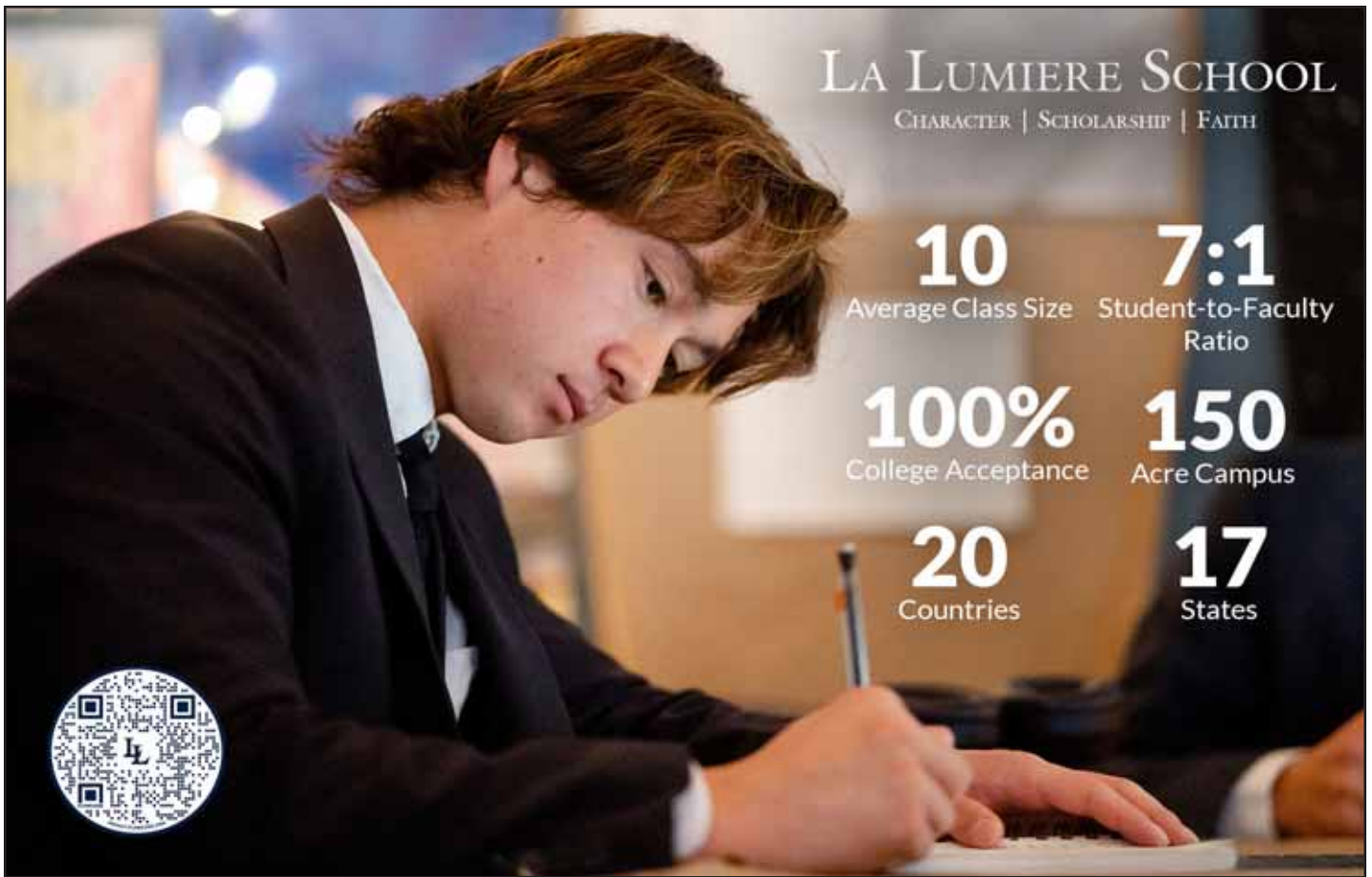
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Information: (219) 608-4719 or (219) 809-2929. Christ Church Sunday Worship (10 a.m.)

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 22nd season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 28, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

The program is by John Gouwens, who served



Gouwens

for 39 years as organist and carillonneur at Culver Academies, where he presented annual organ and carillon recitals. Since retiring in 2019, he has served as organist and choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and as organist, choirmaster and carillonneur at

The Presbyterian Church, both in LaPorte. His playing has been heard nationally through American Public Media's "Pipedreams" program. Later this summer, he will make his eighth carillon recital tour of Europe. He holds degrees from The University of Michigan and The University of Kansas.

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

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Behind-the-Scenes Tour

South Bend's The History Museum will host its "Gaslights & Granite Boulders" tour at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, June 24.

Conducted by Curator of Copshaholm Skylar Stasney, the behind-the-scenes tour demonstrates the evolution of the house's technology. Visits to the lower levels of the mansion and Carriage House reveal how light, heat and water made the mansion a comfortable place to live.

Tickets are limited. Admission is \$25, or \$20 for members. Reservations are required by calling (574) 235-9664 or at www.historymuseumSB.org

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.



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Scale Model Tucker Raffle



To celebrate the Tucker's 75th anniversary, visitors to LaPorte County Historical Society Museum can enter the free 1/18 Scale Model Tucker Raffle through July 22. The winner will be announced at the 15th Annual Old Car Show. The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

Garden and Art Walk

"Gems of Beverly Shores" is the theme of the Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

Guests can visit gardens and inside two homes. Advance tickets, which are \$15 at www.absr.org or \$20 the day of the walk, include a raffle entry for an original watercolor or garden gift basket.

Check-in is at the Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a map and wristband for the free shuttle bus.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

June 8, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

A Flight

First — Vicki Hill.
Second — Nancy Trainor.
Third — Mary O'Neil.
Low Putts — Carol Excell.
Sunken Approach — Pat Kelley, Hole 6.

B Flight

First — Pat Bailey.
Second — Barb Hall, Marci Meyer.
Third — Diane Rubey.
Low Putts — Babs Ward.

C Flight

First — Carol Sullivan.
Second — Joanne Dodd, Kathleen Hanley.
Third — Tina Sonderby, Jude Stahmer.
Low Putts — Ann Daley.
Birdie — Joanne Dodd, Hole 16.

D Flight

First — Jeanne St. Peter.
Second — Marge White.
Third — Toni Hyland.
Low Putts — Jeanne St. Peter.
Sunken Approach — Jeanne St. Peter, Hole 6.

18-Hole League

June 13, 2023

A Flight

First — Jill Craig.
Second — Claudia Brennan, Vicki Hill.
Sunken Approach — Roxanne Warble, #3.

B Flight

First — Nancy Trainor.
Second — Nancy Thill.
Third — June Salmon.

C Flight

First — Gloria McMahon.
Second — Meg Caplice.
Third — Alison Kolb.

June 6, 2023

Event: Member-Member Day

A Flight: Cindy Levy, Kathy Kenefick.

B Flight: Barb Hall, Diane Rubey.

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Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



North Course, "Early Birdies,"
 June 12, 2023
 Event: Low Putts & 50/50

A Flight

Low Gross: Mary Beres.
 Low Net: Mary Beres.
 Low Putts: LuAnn Uremovich.
 Event: Sandy Baldwin, Pat Czizek.

B Flight

Low Gross: Mary Knaup.
 Low Net: Mary Knaup.
 Low Putts: Mary Knaup.
 Event: Carol Tylisz.

C Flight

Low Gross: Sheila Brackin.
 Low Net: Sheila Brackin.
 Low Putts: Carol Hullings.
 Event: Mary Schlunz.

D Flight

Low Gross: Cindee Schroll.
 Low Net: Cindee Schroll.
 Low Putts: Cindee Schroll.
 Event: Cindee Schroll.
 Unflighted Event: Nancy Wilhelm
 Chip-Ins: Sandy Baldwin, #8; Tina Kintzele, #5.
 50/50: Sheila Brackin.

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

Event: Subtract Worst Two Holes from Gross
 June 7, 2023

A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.
 Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.
 Low Putts: Tina St. Germain.
 Event: Barb Rumbuc.

B Flight

Low Gross: Hull Mellen.
 Low Net: Hull Mellen.
 Low Putts: Sandy Baldwin.
 Event: Jill Mellen.

C Flight

Low Gross: Mary Knaup.
 Low Net: Mary Knaup.
 Low Putts: Florence Stokfisz.
 Event: Mary Knaup.

D Flight

Low Gross: Sandra Provan.
 Low Net: Sandra Provan.
 Low Putts: Sheila Bracken, Jane Wall.
 Event: Sandra Provan, Jane Wall.
 Chip-Ins: Mary Lou Marshall, #5, F. Stokfisz, #4.
 Birdies: Jane Spang, #5.

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In the Area

June 21-July 1 — Canterbury Summer Theatre, “Dames at Sea,” 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

June 22 — Movie & a Craft: “Up,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 22 — Metamorphis Traveling Theatre, “Margaret & Pickles Re-Do Broadway,” 2 p.m., Trail Creek Place, 1300 E. Coolspring Ave. Info: (219) 872-4813.

June 22 — Coolspring Storytime, 1:30-2 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 22 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *June 22* — John Mellencamp tribute band, Small Town. *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

June 23 — Film Showing: “Women Talking,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 23 — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 874-3754.

June 23 — Moonlight Movie Night: “Frozen,” 8:15 p.m., LaPorte’s Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater, Fox Park.

June 24 — Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Check-in: Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway (10 a.m.-1 p.m.). Advance tickets: \$15 at www.absr.org, \$20/day of walk.

June 24 — Beach Garden Club community workshop with Sasha Gee Burns, 1 p.m., Long Beach Community Center courtyard garden, 2501 Oriole Trail. Info: mbrebedeau@aol.com, (708) 641-2752.

June 24 — Traveling Lantern Theater Performance, 1-2 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 26 — Readers Corner-Kids Edition (ages 6-10), 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 26 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 27 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 28 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, John Gouwens, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

June 28 — LaPorte County Public Library Storytime, 10-11 a.m., Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 28 — Virtual Author Talk with Tananarive Due (adults 19+), 7-8 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/27417>

Through June 29 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, “Indiana Through the Mapmaker’s Eye!,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Also: Old Lighthouse Museum’s 50th season pop-up exhibit through July 7. Info: (219) 324-6767

Through June 30 — Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz, Dr. John Wilhelm, 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 July 1 — “Intertwine: Stitches of the Soul,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

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 dance lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver dance 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 June — Creative Tech Activities, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays in June — 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 in June — Pinhook Bog Open House, 3-5 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

June 22 — Turtle Time, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 22 — PettyBreakers: A Tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 23 — Who Goes Where?, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 23 — Nature Scavenger Hunt, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 23 — Rico! A Tribute To Santana, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 24 — Pollinator Trail Grand Opening, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 24 — Props to Pollinators, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 24 — West Beach Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 24 — Reptile Rendezvous, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 24 — “Gaslights & Granite Boulders” tour, 4 p.m. EDT, South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$25, \$20/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

June 24 — Heartache Tonight: A Tribute to The Eagles, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 24 — Sons of the Never Wrong, 7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts stage, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. General admission: \$12, \$15/door. Reservations: <https://ticketstripe.com/sonsofthenewwrong>

June 25 — Prickly Pear Promenade, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 25 — Critter Dinner, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 25 — Critter Talk, 10-11:30 a.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. Info:

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

June 25 — Introduction to Macro Photography, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 25 — Midsummer Celebration, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 /20 in Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 25 — Midwest Made-PlayHouse, 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

June 26 — Dunes Kankakee Hike, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 26 — Teen Movie Night, 5:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 27 — New Buffalo Township Library Book Club, 10:30 a.m. EDT, library, 33 N. Thompson St. Focus: Catherine Raven’s Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 27 — Art at The Acorn: Artist Reception for “Frank Kurland: Dreamscapes and More,” 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: www.acornlive.org

June 28 — Dunes Lion Safari, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 28 — Bird Window Bingo, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Through June 29 — Photography exhibit, “Water Dancing,” Valparaiso’s Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East. Info: (219) 462-9009, info@artbarnschool.org

Through June — Acrylic painter Connie Kasal/photographer Carol Estes, The Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. Info: galleries@courtyardfineart.com, (800) 291-9287.

Through July 6 — Works by Kuhn Hong, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through July 15 — “Trailblazers: Legacies of Excellence,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through July 16 — “America the Beautiful: The Photographs of Clyde Butcher,” “Ansel Adams: Selected Photographs from the Portfolios,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/8-12, \$8/13-18,

Continued from Page 47

\$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660.

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays in June — Sunset Paddle at Mar-

quette Lagoons, 5-6 p.m. & 7-8 p.m., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays in June — Mount Baldy Solstice Hike, 8-9 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Wednesdays in June — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 8-9 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: “The Flash.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3:30 p.m. June 23, 12:30 & 7 p.m. June 24, 3:30 p.m. June 25. *Also*: “Asteroid City.” Rated PG-13. Times: 12:30 & 7 p.m. June 23, 4 p.m. June 24, 12:30 & 7 p.m. June 25. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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All the Sinners Bleed by S.A. Cosby (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 338 pages.)

“Titus touched the badge again. Sometimes that star felt like a shield over your heart, sometimes it felt like an anchor dragging you down, and other times, well, other times it felt like a cheap-ass piece of tin.”

Titus Crown is the sheriff of Charon County, Va. He also is black. Charon is located in the southeast part of the state, on the Chesapeake Bay. Black and white citizens get along for the most part, but sometimes, the past and especially the remaining shadows of the Civil War rear their ugly heads. Some land in jail, some in the hospital...and some in the cemetery. Titus walks a fine line between the black and white communities, vowing to be fair and show no preference to either.

A native son, Titus went away to college and afterward joined the FBI. He left under undisclosed circumstances, an “incident” with the FBI is alluded to and not explained until much later, the final explanation saying a lot about Titus and the ghosts that haunt his dreams.

He returns to Charon to care for his father and maybe keep an eye on Marquis, the wayward brother he hasn’t seen in a long time. At least that’s what he says. He is surprised to learn there will be an election to fill the job of the recently deceased sheriff. To his surprise, he runs and wins.

His deputies are black and white, mostly devoted to their jobs and respectful of Titus. A good thing, because soon he needs all the help he can get...

A call comes in one morning exactly one year after his election: a shooter was in the high school. Instead of a mass shooting, Titus finds a beloved teacher, Mr. Spearman, shot dead at his desk. Soon, a local man, Latrell Macdonald, comes tearing down the stairs brandishing a gun, crying out *“I have become death.”* Two deputies open fire and shoot him. Latrell is black, Spearman is white.

Why kill the most respected and friendly teacher in the school system? That’s question No. 1. He was a geography teacher, debate team coach, Drama Club sponsor — he can’t be a bad guy!

Titus begins normal police procedure and collects Spearman’s phone and computer to see if any messages passed between the two. What he finds — after going to the lab to get the dead man’s finger to open the phone — is the stuff of horror...

Pictures of young black boys and girls tortured and killed. There also are three men in the pictures — Spearman is one of them, along with Latrell and

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



another man wearing a wolf mask — he is unidentifiable.

No one in town wants to believe ill of Spearman, but Titus must track clues where they take him, questioning a lot of people who don’t want to talk to him. Especially white folk who want to believe Titus just wants to protect Latrell, one of his own, right? Wrong.

One photo Titus finds shows a painting on a wall of a very unusual tree — a tree he’s seen before. Searching the woods he knows well, he finds the tree and buried underneath, the subjects of the other photos — the bodies of seven black boys and girls.

The black community is incensed, the white community thinks it’s some kind of setup...where do you go from here, Titus? He knows now the third killer is hiding in plain sight, flaunting it with more killings.

Adding to his misery, Titus must face the upcoming Fall Festival: a fun family time — usually — except this year, the Sons of the Confederacy received a permit for a parade that day. A Confederate statue has been the subject of many arguments in Charon. Add

that to the killings, and the whole town could erupt uncontrollably.

Cosby’s strong suit is not only to show a conflicted man in Titus Crown, but also to flesh him out, let us get into his thoughts and fears. The background of Charon County, the small-town living with feelings that go back many generations, is presented not in bias, but in fact and reality.

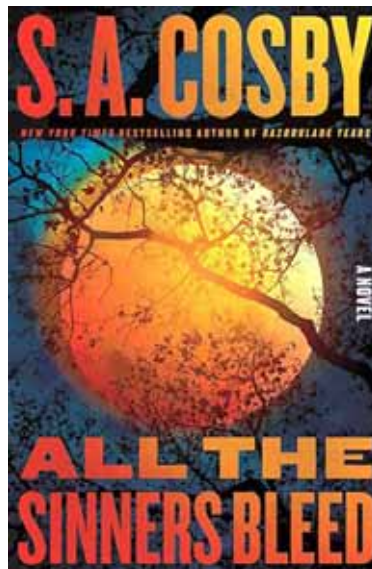
Cosby has created an outstanding police procedural, a racially charged murder-mystery and one man’s daily fight to maintain his sanity while those around him seem to be losing theirs.

This is a page-turner with a climax that comes at you with the speed of lightning and ends with Titus’ final tribute to the Confederate statue known as Ol’ Rebel Joe.

This book and three previous novels — Blacktop Wasteland, Razorblade Tears and My Darkest Prayer — all show Cosby’s ability to serve up love and hate in equal measures.

The final word: Be advised — This is not a pretty story. The language is in-your-face crude, as are the horrors of the killings of innocent children. And yet, Titus is a character you want to get to know.

Till next time, happy reading!



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On June 22, 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, along with his son and several others, was set adrift by mutineers in what is now Hudson Bay.

On June 22, 1870, Congress established the Department of Justice.

On June 22, 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

On June 22, 1933, one day after the first vessel arrived from New Orleans, Chicago celebrated the completion of a waterway from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

On June 22, 1937, in a fight held in Chicago, Joe Louis scored a knockout over Jim Braddock to become the heavyweight champion of the world.

On June 23, 1763, Christopher Latham Sholes, a Wisconsin journalist and state senator, received a patent for the Type Writer.

On June 23, 1836, a \$28 million surplus in the U.S. Treasury was divided among the 26 states.

On June 23, 1892, the Democratic convention in Chicago nominated former President Grover Cleveland on the first ballot.

On June 23, 1969, Warren Burger succeeded Earl Warren as chief justice of the Supreme Court.

On June 23, 1992, mob boss John Gotti, convicted of racketeering charges, was sentenced in New York to life in prison.

On June 24, 1497, the first recorded sighting of the North American mainland took place when John Cabot, on a voyage for England, sighted what is probably present-day Canada.

On June 24, 1647, Margaret Brent, a niece of Lord Baltimore, was ejected from the Maryland Assembly after demanding a place and vote in that governing body.

On June 24, 1947, in what may be the first report of "flying saucers," Kenneth Arnold, of Boise, Idaho, said he saw nine "shining saucer-like objects" over Washington's Mount Rainier.

On June 24, 1983, Sally Ride, America's first female astronaut in space, and the crew of the Challenger made a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

On June 24, 1987, actor-comedian Jackie Gleason died at the age of 71.

On June 25, 1798, Congress passed a law requiring immigrants to live in the United States for 14 years before becoming eligible for citizenship.

On June 25, 1876, during Montana's "Battle of the Little Big Horn," Lt. Col. George Custer, along

with his entire Seventh Cavalry, was wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians.

On June 25, 1906, noted architect Stanford White was shot to death by Harry Thaw, the husband of Evelyn Nesbit (White's mistress at the time).

On June 25, 1946, 61 people died in a fire that destroyed Chicago's La Salle Hotel.

On June 25, 1951, the first commercial color telecast took place as CBS transmitted a one-hour special from New York to four other cities.

On June 25, 1967, the Beatles performed a new song, "All You Need Is Love," during a live international telecast.

On June 26, 1870, in Atlantic City, N.J., the first section of the famous Boardwalk opened to the public.

On June 26, 1894, the American Railway Union called a general strike in sympathy with striking Pullman workers.

On June 26, 1900, a medical commission that included Dr. Walter Reed began the fight against the deadly scourge of yellow fever.

On June 26, 1919, the first issue of *The Illustrated Daily News* was published in New York by Robert R. McCormick and Joseph Medill Patterson. It now goes under the name of *The New York Daily News*.

On June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, 50 countries affixed their signatures to the United Nations charter. The text of the charter was in five languages: Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

On June 27, 1847, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

On June 27, 1893, prices collapsed on the New York Stock Exchange, setting off a world-wide depression.

On June 27, 1944, American forces completed their capture of the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans during World War II.

On June 27, 1963, President John Kennedy spent his first full day in Ireland, the home of his ancestors.

On June 28, 1778, at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth, N.J., aid given the colonials by Mary Ludwig Hays, who became known as Molly Pitcher, made her a heroine in American history.

On June 28, 1894, Congress designated the first Monday in September as Labor Day. It was originally a holiday only for federal employees and the District of Columbia.

On June 28, 1904, blind-deaf student Helen Keller graduated with honors from Radcliffe College.

On June 28, 1939, Pan American World Airways began regular trans-Atlantic air service as the Dixie Clipper left Port Washington, N.Y., for Portugal.

On June 28, 1948, 5,138 were killed when an earthquake, followed by fires, destroyed most of the Japanese city of Fukui.

On June 28, 1996, The Citadel voted to admit women, ending a 153-year old men-only policy at the South Carolina military school.

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Yogi says, "Drive for show, putt for dough." An age-old adage that is a basic golf truism. Pogo says, "If you wish to shoot respectable golf scores, learn to wedge, pitch and putt." Olive says, "We have just received a huge addition of top-name wedges and putters." Titleist, Vokey, Cleveland Tour black or chrome finish, TaylorMade, Callaway, King Cobra, Wilson Staff and many others. **Call Lefty at (219) 873-0858** for buy-low-sell reasonable sale prices and appointments. Tell Lefty you read it in *The Beacher*, the Holy Grail of weeklies, and receive a special free golf gift. Pogo also says to all the carnival barkers, grandstanders and snake oil salesmen already on the campaign trail and Big Money drive from special interest groups, don't mess with Gretchen Whitmer. She doesn't look for trouble, but if you go after her, she will punch you in the mouth. Ask any of the people who tried to kidnap and murder her. Lefty says, be gentle with the earth, don't let weeds grow around your dreams, never ignore evil. Namaste, Lefty.

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*Indiana MLS, LLC, based on listing data, 6/9/2023-6/12/2023.
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Jari Lynn takes great pride in looking out for her clients very best interest! She is a motivated and hard working real estate agent that puts her heart into each and every one of her transactions.

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