



Volume 39, Number 12 Thursday, March 30, 2023

The Game of Life

by Kim Nowatzke

Third-, fourth- and fifth-graders are getting a taste of “adulting” as they experience “The Game of Life” at St. Paul Lutheran School.

Third-grade teacher Cheytaya Rainey and fourth-/fifth-grade teacher Tieioko Lenoir developed the class assignment originating from a diversity activity in which Rainey participated. She found a basic outline to follow, and the two teachers expanded the concept, including adding a social-economic component.

“We tried to figure out how to make it more realis-

tic. We put a twist on it and added more places that a community would have,” Rainey said. “I couldn’t wait to do this.”

The various stations situated around the classroom include a car dealership, education department, store, bank, child-care center, salon, employment agency, housing department, department of justice, jail and restaurant. The students get paid every Monday and Friday, and the combined classes of 17 students pay their bills every Wednesday. Should they forget, there are consequences. Turning

Continued on Page 2



Third-grade Teacher Cheytaya Rainey accepts money from fifth-grader John Fanson at the bank. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

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Third-grader Lorenzo McClain (from left) as a paralegal, fourth- and fifth-grade teacher Tieioko Lenoir as a judge, fifth-grader Colby McClain as a lawyer and third-grader Kali Kelly as a housing authority receptionist, the group simulating a court hearing. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

The Game of Life

Continued from Page 1

off the classroom lights, Rainey got the attention of all the students, especially the two who forgot to pay their electric bills. Now, to get their electricity restored, they needed to pay not only their bill, but a late fee as well.

“They are getting a taste of life,” Lenoir said. “It’s teaching them so many things – math, economics, social skills. We are having fun while learning. They would rather do this than book work. A lot of my kids struggle with math, especially money, so this was a fun way to teach them about it.”

Originally, the unique assignment was set to run Feb. 13-28, but due to its popularity, the two teachers are extending it periodically to selected sessions as classroom time opens up.

Ericka Parkinson-Kilbourne, the parent of third-graders Jerry and Annabelle, was surprised when she learned about the exercise.

“When I first heard my twins talking about ‘The Game of Life’ in the car, I thought at first they were referring to the board game,” she said. “Then, I lis-

tened closely and I realized that they were participating in an experience where they were learning about real life in our society!”

The students were randomly assigned a letter — “A,” “B,” “C” or “D” — that represented their social status. An “A” held an exclusive occupation and at least a master’s degree, along with placement in the wealthy top 1 percent income bracket. A “B” was considered well off and held a bachelor’s degree, while a middle class “C” achieved a two-year degree or technical education. The “D’s” held a high-school diploma or General Equivalency Degree. Lastly, an “E” was in the lowest class, struggling with poverty.

Housing for these social categories was assigned, with the “A’s” and “B’s” starting in a house, and those in “C’s” and “D’s” living in apartments, mobile homes or public housing.

The “E’s” were considered homeless.

The exercise in reality hit home with the students. For some, harder than for others.

One tearful student “was really struggling because we were telling them things they couldn’t do based on their education,” Rainey explained.

Rainey said the most surprising aspect of the

game is how some children are born into privilege and others are not, and that the system is designed for failure.

Lenoir recalled another student saying, "This is hard – being an adult is really hard."

She continued.

"They are realizing how tough life is, and how not everyone is going to have the privilege to get what they want or be first in line. You have to work for what you want."

Third-grader Lorenzo Crawford even found himself in jail.

"I was working at the employment agency alone" he explained. "I thought all the money there was mine because I was the only one working at the time. I went to jail, had to get a lawyer and had to go to court three times. I had to get a job. I was a maid. I had to pay back \$10,000 and pay my lawyer \$1,800."

What did he learn from the experience?

"You have to ask instead of assume," he said. "I like that you are like an adult. At home, you aren't an adult. Being an adult is fun. Now, I'm a security guard/police officer/paralegal legal assistant."

Jerry Kilbourne found himself classified as "Edward," a "D" working in a fast-food restaurant.



Third-grader Jerry Kilbourne says the school project helped him learn about the complexities in life. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

"I was struggling with that at first," he admitted. "D's can't go to college, get big mansions and are sometimes treated worse than 'A's', 'B's' and 'C's.' I like that it has higher levels and lower levels – in real life, that's how it goes. It taught me that some people don't have as much power as other people. And, if you are working hard, you will move up. Another thing I learned from this game is that working is really hard."

The social-status aspect to the project surprised Ericka Kilbourne.

"The most fascinating component for me was the designated letter each student was given, and the opportunities or barriers that went with the letter. Annabelle was a 'B' and had a good-paying job right away, without even having to get a college degree. Jerry was a 'D,' and wasn't even able to pursue a college education, and had very little opportunity for employment."

Ericka talked with her children about the opportunities and barriers in society, and ways to work for more equality in the community and country.



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The Game of Life

Continued from Page 3

“Jerry observed that a lot of those in the ‘D’ and ‘E’ categories were in jail. He asked me if that was true in real life,” she said. “We discussed the desperation that comes from having to work against poverty and discrimination.”

Annabelle may have been a “B,” but life lessons weren’t lost on her either.

“I have also enjoyed talking to Annabelle about her responsibility of paying her mortgage and taking her kids to day care before she goes to work,” Ericka said. “We have gained a bit of an understanding for each other in these conversations.”

Fifth-grader Colby McClain learned some valuable lessons about money management. He was classified as a “B” with a job as a lawyer.

“It’s really fun. I know that everyone isn’t going to be rich and successful as I am. It’s actually hard paying bills,” he said. “This gives me a grasp in life so we know what it’s like. I had to borrow from a friend to help with rent because I spent \$100,000 on Pokemon cards.”

Fifth-grader Mia Jenkins-Jimenez was lucky to receive classification as an “A,” a doctor with an exclusive degree who owns a child care center.

She said she learned “that The Game of Life is really important and way harder than I thought it would be. I thought it was about playing, but it’s not. You have to pay for monthly expenses and do multiple jobs at once. I like how you get to have paychecks. I like how you get to experience real life.”

Her mother, Dalia Jimenez, says she likes everything about the project.

“It’s good to teach her what adults go through and what to expect,” she said. “It helps me out because when I go to talk to her, she will already know about what it’s like to be an adult.”

The students are graded on participation, social skills, how they support other classmates, money management skills and math skills such as counting change.

“I’m hoping that they learn about inequality in general, the importance of community, the value of money and some facts about real life,” Rainey stressed.

The Game of Life likely will live on in the memories of these elementary students long after they reach adult status themselves.

“This experience has helped my children to gain empathy and also to consider their responsibility in their community,” Ericka said.



La'Keheal Glenn visits the “salon.”
Photo by Kim Nowatzke.



Third-grader Nahyla Butler mans the classroom “store.” Photo by Kim Nowatzke.



Fifth-grader Mia Jenkins-Jimenez keeps busy in “Mia’s Child Care.” Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

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“John Wick: Chapter 4” Comes to One Heck of a Finish

by Andrew Tallackson

Truth is, the only “John Wick” flick to have a plot was the first one (2014). Since then, the series has coasted on a single premise: How many people can John Wick kill?

If that floats your boat — it does mine — then the franchise is a guilty pleasure. Indeed, Chapter 4 is the same as any other “John Wick” picture... until the last hour. Then, it is the most relentless, exhilarating, brilliantly executed race to the finish ever. And for a movie that clocks in at 2 hours, 49 minutes, to top itself by that point is unbelievable.

As “Chapter 4” begins, members of the High Table want Wick (Keanu Reeves) dead. To make their point, they attack the New York Continental — once the “Amsterdam” of refuge — then go after Wick.

The movie’s first half is what you’d expect. Repetitive, even. Hoards of goons come after Wick, frequently dispatched by close-contact bullets to the head. At one point, returning director Chad Stahelski stages yet another nightclub bloodbath so he can incorporate flashing lights and percussive dance beats. Never mind that club patrons keep dancing. To Stahelski, they look cool in slow motion.

The only thing keeping the chase lively are blind High Table assassin Caine (Donnie Yen, “Rogue One,” wickedly deadly) and The Tracker (Shamier Anderson, Apple TV+’s “Invasion”), who regret chasing Wick because they kinda like the guy.

We’ve seen this before...then, the final hour. It blows you away. Not just the combat, but by how Stahelski goes for broke. Hundreds of assassins guided by a sexy radio DJ who moderates the hunt with nonchalant coolness. The first confrontation unfolds amid traffic at The Arc de Triomphe. Cars zipping by, Wick’s attackers weaving between vehicles. Next up, inside an old building, Stahelski’s



Keanu Reeves is back as the unstoppable John Wick.

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“John Wick: Chapter 4”

Running time: 169 minutes. Rated R for pervasive strong violence and some language.

camera rises above to look down on the fighting, largely in unedited shots. Up the steps to Sacré-Cœur, the journey takes on a nightmarish quality. Through it all, Reeves’ Wick, surviving so many deadly falls and blows, you’d think his Nine Lives would have expired by now.

Most movies these days — action movies, in particular — don’t even try. Stahelski and company, by comparison, give everything they’ve got. You stumble out of the theater weary, but satisfied. There is no way the franchise can top itself from here.

It’s impossible.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival Adds Charitable Component

The return of the Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival to Washington Park will include a new amateur competition to raise funds for LaPorte County charities.

The Singing Sands Sand Sculpting Festival Community Challenge is Saturday, June 10, during the three-day event June 9-11. It will allow local businesses, professional groups, service organizations and anyone who wants to participate a chance to raise funds for the charity of their choice. The entry fee per six-person team is \$2,000, with half the cost going to local charities. The goal is to secure a minimum of 20 teams and a maximum of 30.

“By securing 20 teams, we will be able to put \$20,000 back into our community,” city Director of Special Events Terry Greetham said in a press release. “If we can reach 30 teams, \$30,000 can make

a big impact on our local charities.”

Each team that registers will name a LaPorte County charity to represent. Teams will create a unique sand sculpture, the only requirements being it must include their group name, and the name

or logo of the charity being represented. Teams will get hands-on training by professional sand sculptors, and an equal amount of sand and time to create a sculpture. The work will be judged by the professional sand sculptors and medals given to teams that finish in the top five. The payout to local charities will be based on the total number of entries, with the top five entries receiving

larger payouts, but every charity represented by a team will receive a cash payout.



Teams can register for the challenge by contacting Eric Williams at ewilliams@emichigancity.com



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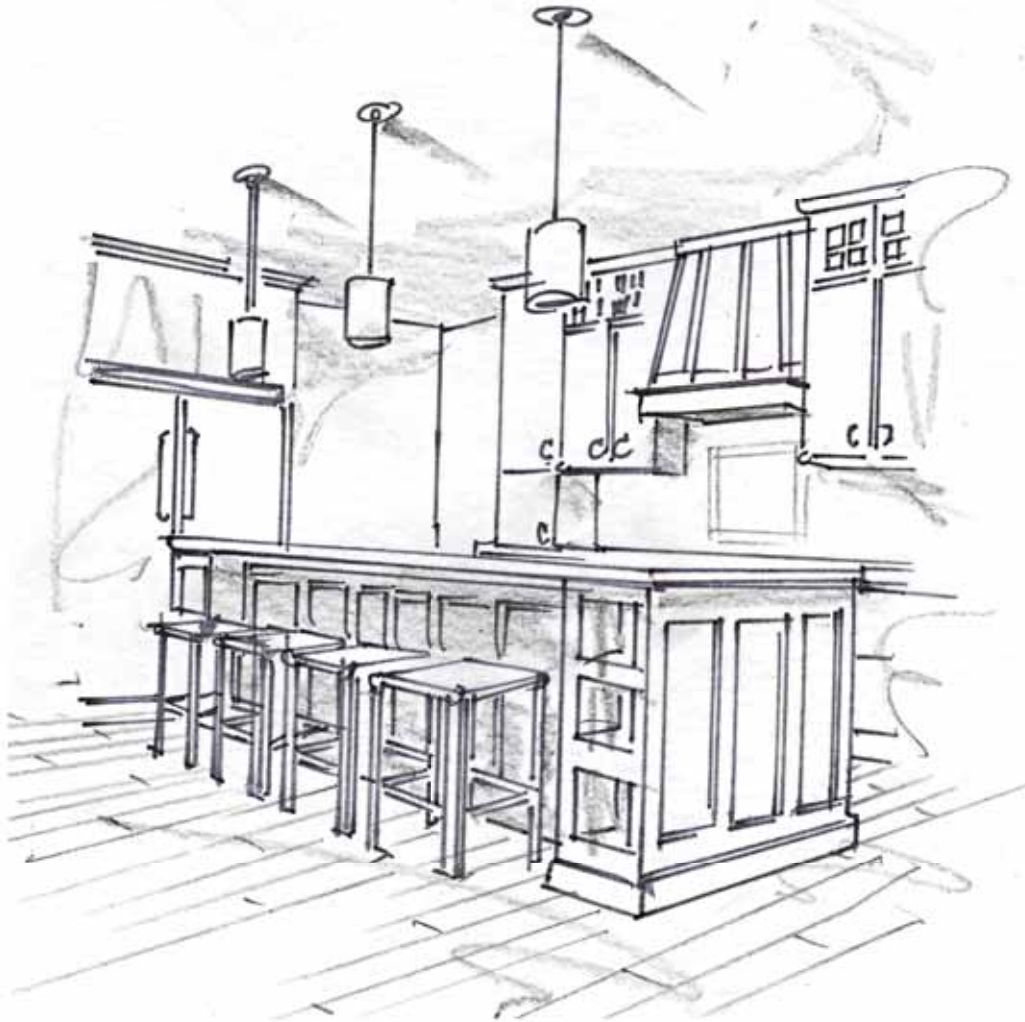
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Sprucing Up the Beach



Aiming to connect more with the community, Michigan City's Unsalted No Sharks recently kicked off its Second Saturday Beach Clean Up effort that will continue through the spring and summer. Thirty people attended, filling 35 buckets with trash from Washington Park beach.
Photo by Sam Luke Weber.

Dunes Season Announcement Party

Dunes Arts Foundation will host its 2023 Season Announcement Party, complete with its board, artistic director, cast members and production team present, from 4-6 p.m. CDT Saturday, April 22.

The event is at Hummingbird Lounge, 9 S. Barton St., New Buffalo, Mich.

Artistic Director Steve Scott will provide behind-the-scenes details about the productions. Music director Andrew Flasch (piano) and Max DeTogne (actor/singer) will present a sneak preview of the musical "Tick Tick Boom." Also planned is a champagne toast and cash bar.

Tickets cost \$25. Season ticketholders, media and donors (\$150+) are free. Visit tinyurl.com/ednts6nf for reservations.

Color Linocut Workshops

Hank Mattson will teach a four-week series of color linocut workshops from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT Saturdays, April 8-29, at the Box Factory for the Arts print shop, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Participants will learn two methods of color block printing using linoleum. The first project will be reductive printing and the second multiple blocks. Participants will have time to cut and print. All supplies are furnished. Mattson is an interdisciplinary artist living in Kalamazoo, Mich.

The non-refundable fee is \$150 for Berrien Artist Guild members and \$165 for non-members. Register at <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>

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Michigan City Public Library

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

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Film showing: "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" from 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, April 4.** Light refreshments will be served. The movie, which is Rated PG, runs 1 hour, 42 minutes.
- **Diamond Painting from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 5.** Youth ages 10-17 can learn how to diamond paint. Registration through the website is required due to limited supplies.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays in March.** 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.

- **Sesame Street Scavenger Hunt in March.** Search for Bert, Ernie, Super Grover, Cookie Monster and Oscar the Grouch in Youth Services.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in April.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace. Supplies are limited.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.

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

Volunteer genealogists can answer questions from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays (Pat Harris) and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month (Colleen Miltenberger).

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



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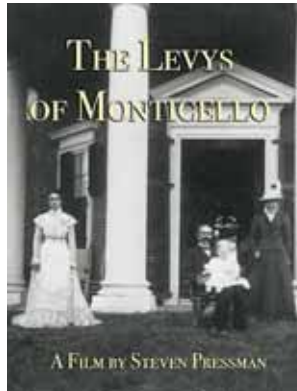
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Mini Jewish Film Festival

This year's mini Jewish Film Festival is from 1-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The movies are:

- The documentary "The Levys of Monticello." When Thomas Jefferson died in 1826, he left behind personal debt that forced his heirs to sell his Monticello home and its possessions. The 2022 documentary, Rated PG, centers on the little-known story of the Levy family that owned and preserved Monticello for nearly a century.
- The dramedy "Neighbors." A young Syrian



boy, attending school for the first time, meets a new teacher who preaches hate of the Kurds and Jews. The movie, Rated PG-13, was inspired by the director's experiences in the early 1980s.

Sponsored by the Blossom and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Series of Sinai Temple, the festival includes a break with refreshments.

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Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers, led by President Pat Fisher, will search for early spring wildflowers during a hike from 1-3 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 1, at the Three Oaks Conservation Area and Kesling Nature Preserve in Three Oaks, Mich.

The two adjacent preserves contain a diversity of plants and wildlife, and are recognized as prime fishing and birding spots. There is a mature prairie on the clayey upland, and a small tributary flows at the base of 40-foot deep ravines under a canopy of giant beeches, maples, oaks and other tree species. Overall, the properties protect more than 200 acres.

Those who attend should dress for the weather, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and take plenty of water. Depending on the weather, there may be icy or muddy areas.

Membership is preferred; however, the hike is open to the public. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or "Harbor Country Hikers" on Facebook for more details.

Basic Boating Course

The Michigan City Sail and Power Squadron will present its Basic Boating Course from 6:30-8:40 p.m. Tuesdays, April 11-May 16, at B&E Marine, 31 Lake Shore Drive.

Registration is at 6 p.m. April 11. The cost of the text and materials is \$35. Families are welcome. The program meets state-specific and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators requirements for certification. A Marine electronics course will be presented later.

Course descriptions and information are available on the Michigan City Power Squadron Facebook page. Contact Larry Fleck at ecklj@gmail.com for more details.



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Oscar-Winning Documentary Offers a Powerful Look at a Complex Man

by Andrew Tallackson



Alexei Navalny

“Navalny,” the freshly minted Oscar winner for Best Documentary Feature, is an astonishing case of watching history unfold right as it happens. It reminded me of “Citizenfour,” the 2014 Oscar-winning documentary about Edward Snowden. In both, a film crew starts out to make one movie, then radically shifts gears as it unexpectedly documents 21st century history in the making.

Now streaming through HBO Max, “Navalny” hails from CNN Films, which consistently sets the benchmark for relevant, cinematic journalism. Its pictures include the tributes “Love, Gilda” and “RBG,” and the all-consuming “Three Identical Strangers” (2018), which proved that fact can, indeed, be stranger than fiction. These films have unrestricted access to their subjects. They also ask the tough questions that need to be asked.

The focus here is Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was poisoned on an August 2020 flight, the act linked directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Director Daniel Roher allows us to get to know Navalny, and we can see why he clicks with the Russian people. Charismatic. Direct. And at 46, without a doubt a product of his generation. This is a man of the digital age who knows how to use the Internet to his advantage. Banned from the Russian press, government officials even refusing to say his name, social media becomes his weapon: Facebook, YouTube and TikTok postings, all of it garnering world-



wide attention.

His poisoning, after swift medical attention, leads to the discovery that it was caused by a chemical nerve agent that, as one source interviewed says, is “Putin’s calling card.”

From there, “Navalny” takes on the shape of an investigative mystery. Bellingcat journalist Christo Grozev takes on Navalny’s cause, and it’s here the movie is downright fascinating, and scary, in conveying how easy, and expensive, it is to track anyone’s digital footprints. Working with Navalny’s team, Grozev narrows the potential suspects in the poisoning to four individuals. People with a suspicious pattern of following key opposition to Putin.

That leads to the most astounding scene of the movie. Before Grozev’s findings go live on the web, he has Navalny call each of the four suspects. When first identifying himself as Navalny, the individuals hang up. The fourth call, when Navalny identifies himself under an alias, well, what ensues is so incredible, I sat in rapt silence, fearful making any sound would disrupt the emerging details.

The movie integrates Navalny’s family into the

narrative. His wife, Yulia, in particular, is a force to be reckoned with, no pushover, as we see, when her husband is admitted to a Russian hospital. She's filming everything, not backing down from the fight. Her children are unflappable as well. College-age daughter Dasha shares how her father missed her high school graduation because he was jailed for his beliefs. She still loves him, maybe *more* so, for standing up for what is right.

Like any good journalist, Roher, as director, asks the right questions. When Grozev says he's spent an insane amount of money over time paying for digital transcripts, he adds his wife would leave him if she found out. When Roher asks what happens if she sees this movie, he answers, a smile on his face, "She won't be seeing this." And Navalny? Roher refuses to place him on a pedestal. When it's revealed Nazi sympathizers attended one of his rallies, Roher pointedly asks Navalny why he would associate with such people. Navalny's response: anything it takes to bring Putin down, even if it means being linked to, as he puts it, "not so good people."

Navalny spent much of his time in Germany healing from the attack on him. His subsequent arrest when returning to Russia saw him hit with a 20-year prison sentence. The news footage of thousands of people shouting his name, and Yulia's name, is overwhelming.

This is the kind of movie that needs to be shown in high schools, to spur discussion on government



The most shocking moment in "Navalny": surprising information about the assassination attempt.

and free speech. The message, to never give up, to keep pushing for a free society, is heartbreaking and inspiring.

Everything about this movie rings true. Honest, and undeniably powerful.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Dark Chocolates in Dowagiac

“Next station stop: Dowagiac, Michigan. Dowagiac in five minutes.”

I heard that announcement while riding Amtrak’s eastbound Wolverine from New Buffalo to Battle Creek. One look at the gracefully aging station and storefronts visible on the port side and I was reminded of a famous visitor to Dowagiac: novelist John Updike. I was there some years ago at the old high school when he appeared on stage during an arts festival, solemnly intoning the legal pronunciation “Doe-wah-jack.” Updike was so enchanted with the name, he repeated it: “Doe-wah-jack.”

Recently, a lifelong Dowagiac resident gently, but firmly corrected us for mispronouncing her hometown as “Doe-wah-gee-ak.” She said we could have been fined for doing so in the old days. She even had a T-shirt printed with the proper “Doe-wah-jack” pronunciation as a reminder to visitors like us. John Updike obviously got the hint, right?

He did. Then, the famous author gleefully titillated his audience with some rather salacious excerpts from his “Rabbit” series. Alas, John Updike left us on Jan. 27, 2009, but he also left an indelible impression in my mind of the amazement that is Dowagiac, or “Doe-wah-jak.”

Queen City, I would argue, of Cass County, Mich.

Over time, I also got to see and hear Kurt Vonnegut, Norman Mailer, Joyce Carol Oates, William Styron and other literary luminaries share their work and thoughts in Dowagiac.

All that and more came to mind that day as the Wolverine braked ever so briefly for the stop between Niles and Kalamazoo.

I am sure passengers bound for exotic destinations such as Ann Arbor, Dearborn and Detroit wondered why anyone in his/her right mind would want to get off in Dowagiac. For even five minutes.

Well, I wasn’t wondering that at all because I had had so many wonderful times in Dowagiac, such as during the summer of 2005 when my nephew and I successfully completed the challenging “Steve’s Run” 10K run through town, a cemetery, golf course and the cross-country trails at nearby Southwestern Michigan College. We had to jump over hay bales, logs and stone fences, twist and turn and run uphill and glide downhill, just barely staying ahead of the ravenous deerflies...but we did it all. We had a blast. The best part, by far, was dunking our hot feet in Dowagiac Creek in a park just past the finish line.

I remembered the “Turkey Trots” on the college’s cross-country trails at Thanksgiving, and the master class in reed instruments at Southwestern.

And, most especially, I savored tasty memories of the dark-chocolate candies at Dowagiac’s celebrated



Caruso's Candy & Soda Shoppe in Dowagiac: How sweet it is!

Caruso’s Candy & Soda Shoppe on Front Street. Caruso’s, so you know, recently celebrated “100 years of sweetness” and continues to serve up the most amazing sweets this side of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

All of this is to say that last summer, when I trained through Dowagiac, I didn’t expect to visit the home of Philo D. Beckwith anytime soon.

Philo D. Beckwith?

He was the founder of Round Oak Stove Co. and a mayor of Dowagiac. So you know, there are Round Oak stoves on view in the chamber of commerce office within the Amtrak station. Didn’t see those passing through on the train, but now that I

have reason to regularly visit Dowagiac, I have seen them and so, so much else in this delightful city of nearly 6,000 souls.

The reason being, by the way, a ripped rotator cuff on Dec. 3, 2022, while doing one of my favorite activities, swimming. I overdid my swimming to the extent of suffering an overuse injury to my dominant right shoulder. I was referred to physical therapy, because the good nurse practitioner did not see any need for surgery. So, she asked where I wanted to do physical therapy.

No brainer, right?

“Dowagiac,” I said.

“Dowagiac?!?”

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



Next stop: Dowagiac, Mich.

Yes, that was a bit of a stretch, but I wanted to do my stretching and strengthening with the wonderful physical therapist who worked wonders with Natalie in St. Joseph, Mich. The one, the only, Dr. Hilary Mancik, DPT.

Hilary has since moved on to a post as a physical therapist at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital in Dowagiac, but she was my one and only choice. So we jumped through the various hoops needed to switch from one hospital system to another and, one fine day, I found myself walking into Mancik’s “office” in Dowagiac. I suppose I had it coming, because Hilary would often tell me, while watching her put Natalie through her paces, “Don’t sit there and look so smug, because your day is coming, buddy boy.”

Well, my day finally arrived in December 2022 and continued into early 2023 as the good doctor put me through my own paces at what I call “the shack in back.”

Hilary doesn’t mind the moniker, because her department is, indeed, a stick-built structure set behind the brick-built hospital. She doesn’t mind because she has a fully equipped therapy studio in which to work her wonders.

As of this writing, I am on the men, diligently

Continued on Page 20

Continued From Page 19

Window shopping on Front Street. So many cool shops, so little time.



doing all the exercises Hilary assigns me. In fact, she even has me swimming again, beginning with a few laps of breast stroke and a pinch of freestyle, or front crawl, thrown in for variety and purpose. I injured my shoulder while swimming freestyle, so Hilary wants me to gradually get back to my stroke of choice.

Thanks to her good, orderly direction, my swimming is coming along, and we are getting to really know and appreciate the wonders of Dowagiac on those Tuesdays and Thursdays when I work with Hilary in the shack in the back. We have come to know and love the well-stocked Dowagiac District Library; we appreciate that the mail doesn't go out

at the nearby post office until 3:45 p.m. As lovers of used and rare books, we have taken to the deep selection of old titles at Olympia Books.

But our hands-down favorite is at 130 S. Front St., where Caruso's Candy & Soda Shoppe puts out a spread of handcrafted chocolates — dark and milk — that are too tempting and way too tasty to leave to the next customer.

Who knew, right?

Sitting on that Amtrak train last year as it braked ever so briefly for Dowagiac, I wondered if I would ever get back to the town John Updike called "Doe-wah-gee-ack." And I certainly could not have imagined twice weekly visits to the "shack in the back" to rebuild my wounded shoulder.

Well, I imagine no more because it's all happening in Dowagiac, and I am still savoring those dark-chocolate almonds we bought at Caruso's for the ride home.

Greek Bake Sale

A Greek bake sale is from noon-6 p.m. EDT Friday-Saturday, April 7-8, at Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich.

A variety of Greek pastries will be available, while museum tours will be provided. Call (269) 231-9052 for more details.

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Learn more about the staff of The Beacher Weekly Newspaper

Meet Sally Carpenter

Area of Residence: Fond du Lac, Wis., since 2015.

Title: I retired in 2013 as editor, but joined the staff in November 1986. Before becoming editor, I was a delivery person and office assistant. Today, I am the book reviewer.

What I love about reviewing books: I love sharing my reading. My column only has “recommendations,” offering readers books I think would appeal to most of them. I know I drive my friends and family nuts when I start telling them about my latest find — I don’t know when to stop!

□

Favorite movies: “Sweet Lorraine,” “Gone With the Wind,” “Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan,” “Twister,” “The Mummy” (1999 with Brendan Fraser) and, lately, “Tar” and “The Banshees of Inisherin.”

Favorite books/authors: Really? There isn’t enough space, but here’s a few. **Books:** “The Goldfinch,” “The Great Alone” (made me cry), “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,” “The Firekeeper’s Daughter,” “The Mayor of Casterbridge,” ad infinitum. **Authors:** Thomas Hardy, John Grisham, Cara Black, Don Winslow, Mark Greaney, Jo Nesbo, Armistead Maupin, Ken Follet, James Michener, Mark Pryor, Angeline Boulley, to name a few!

Favorite TV shows: Gone now, but I loved “Northern Exposure,” “M*A*S*H.”

What I’m Watching Now: “Bob Hearts Abishola,” “The Neighborhood,” “Jeopardy,” “Young Sheldon,” “Yellowstone.”



Favorite Food: pizza.

Reason I loved living in this area: From birth to 2015, I lived in the Hungry Hollow neighborhood of Michigan City, then the Canada neighborhood, Michiana Shores and Shoreland Hills. Always walking distance to the lake! The proximity to the southern shore of Lake Michigan makes this a special place. Even in winter, the lake has a beauty all its own.

THE
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The People
Paper

“Shazam” Sequel Still Puts a Smile on Your Face

by Andrew Tallackson



Shazam (Zachary Levi, center) and his friends try to save motorists from a collapsing bridge in “Shazam! Fury of the Gods.”

The beauty of “Shazam” (2019) was how low-maintenance it was. The effects existed mostly for laughs, the emphasis being its misfit foster kids. The result was all heart, sort of DC’s answer to the Tom Hanks treasure “Big.”

“Shazam! Fury of the Gods” contains an insane amount of effects. The last act, in fact, is a noisy, combustible onslaught, complete with city streets in ruin and panicked civilians scrambling for cover. But here’s the thing: The soul of the franchise remains intact. Returning director David F. Sandberg may have more money to spend, but the loopy humor is still there. Enough of it, in fact, to make this a worthy sequel.

What gives these films their kick is that its heroes are awkward youngsters who can transform into butt-kicking, crime-fighting adults; mentally, however, they’re still adolescents. That is especially true of Billy Batson, who as the adult Shazam (Zachary Levi) is like a kid with ADHD deprived of his Concerta.

The movie’s first big action set piece has the scrappy heroes saving motorists from a collapsing bridge. Sandberg gives the sequence an epic scale recalling the Christopher Reeve “Superman” era, placing his camera smack in the middle of the chaos. Beams and cables snapping loose as huge cracks spread across the bridge. The heroics end with a visual punch line that is laugh-out-loud unexpected.

The “plot” then kicks in, and it’s typical comic-book nonsense about evil mythological daughters of Atlas, a glowing weapon and plans to destroy the world. We wouldn’t care about any of this if not for Helen Mirren as the ringleader, Hespera. The Oscar



“Shazam! Fury of the Gods”

Running time: 130 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of action and violence, and language

winner is the last person you’d expect in one of these movies, but she’s a howl. She does not treat the role as camp, but plays it straight. The result is deadpan perfection. Try not to laugh, for instance, when she reads an erratically composed magical letter sent by Billy and crew.

Lucy Liu is so-so as Hespera’s sister, Kalypso, but “West Side Story” breakout Rachel Zegler is so delightful as Anthea, the object of teen-crush desire for Freddy (a still likable Jack Dylan Grazer), she’s an instant hit, even as her character’s loyalties come into question.

The last 20 minutes arrive at the climactic showdown between good and evil, and I wish there weren’t so many exploding buildings, screaming civilians and CGI beasties. Again, the pleasure of the original was its lack of in-your-face effects. But the “family” in these movies — the foster kids and their adoptive parents — remains front and center. However loud the movie gets, you still care about everyone. Enough, in fact, to crave more of these movies.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



Like us on Facebook and read our reviews at “The Beacher Weekly Newspaper”

Easter Egg Hunt With Horses

The Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich., will hold its free "Annual Easter Egg Hunt with Horses" at 2:30 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 1.

Children should take a basket (no plastic bags), dress for a barn and arrive on time, since the hunt starts promptly at 3 p.m. EDT. Children also can have photos taken with the Easter Bunny and S'More, the pony. Visitors can pet horses as well.

Those who plan to attend should email Alison at algrande@yahoo.com or text her at (269) 756-3894. Let her know the number and ages of children attending so enough eggs are available for the hunt.

Visit www.springcreek-equestrian.com for more details.

Free Bunny Hop

Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, will host "The Bunny Hop," its annual free family event, from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 1.

Stroll the Bunny Hop Trail, meet, and take pictures with, the Easter Bunny and collect free candy at stations across the Gardens. Visitors can explore the Cleveland-Cliff's Children's Garden, an arena for interactive nature-based play, and visit heritage gardens along paved pathways. All main pathways are wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Dress for the weather. Donations are welcome. Email info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or visit tinyurl.com/4twwbz68 for more details.

New Extension Educator Staff

Chrissie Lai is the new extension educator of Health and Human Sciences for Purdue Extension LaPorte County.



Lai is a recent graduate of Indiana University-South Bend with a bachelor's degree in health sciences and a concentration in health promotion. She is interested in improving health education, nutrition education, prevention and community wellness.

She can be reached at the Purdue Extension LaPorte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, LaPorte, at lai241@purdue.edu and (219) 324-9407.

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American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, April 4.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 5.

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.

Master Gardener Community Grants

The LaPorte County Master Gardener Association is offering a Community Grant Program to LaPorte County individuals or groups for gardening/horticultural volunteer projects.

These efforts must support the community and further the association's mission to "Help Others Grow," educating about gardening.

Each grant is not to exceed \$300. The number of grants awarded is at the association's discretion and based on available money. All requests must be in writing using the application on the LPCMGA website, www.lpmastergardener.org, or at the Purdue Extension LaPorte County Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, LaPorte.

Only one application may be submitted per project. Two projects per organization may be submitted for consideration. Applications must be received no later than April 30.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in March at Indiana Dunes Visitor 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.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Saturdays in March.** 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 a ranger feed 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.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2-4 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in March.** Rangers and volunteers 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.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in March at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

Indiana Dunes National Park has jobs for five teens this summer through Youth Conservation Corps, a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds.

The deadline to apply is April 30. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 4-Aug. 12, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire duration. Youth jobs include working as part of a crew on manual-labor tasks, normally outdoors. Labor-type activities may include mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning restrooms, groundskeeping, weeding a historic farm garden and light trail maintenance. No experience is necessary. Participants will be selected by random draw. They must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 4, but not turn 19 before Aug. 12. The application is available through high school guidance offices, the IDNP office at (219) 395-1772 or at <http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm>

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.

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Supporting a City Gem



Michigan City High School National Honor Society students recently assisted with a spring cleanup of the grounds surrounding Michigan City's Old Lighthouse Museum. Pictured are (from left) Mia Zemrowski, museum volunteer-retired teacher Linda Williams, Lillian Adrian, Diego Romero and (in the back) Lorenzo Panozzo.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **A vernal pools presentation at 6 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 6.** Subsequent hikes are at 10:30 a.m. EDT Saturdays, April 8 and 22 and May 13 and 27. Meet in the New Buffalo Elementary School parking lot, 12291 Lubke Road.

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time all day Wednesday while supplies last.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Story Time at 4 p.m. Thursday.
- Lego Club all day Saturday.

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

Lip Sync Battle

United Way of LaPorte County, to raise funds for critical social services, will present "Lip Sync Battle 2023" from 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 14, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Contestants perform through single acts, duos or groups that can dress the part, dance and lip sync for several awards. Funds are raised through mobile votes, sponsorships and the night of the event. Costume contest prizes are: first place, \$250; second place, \$100; and third place, gift basket.

Visit www.unitedwaylpc.org/lip-syn for tickets. Email Dave Sisk at dave@unitedwaylpc.org for more details.

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Video Highlights Suffragist Project

Michigan City's "Celebrating Naomi Anderson" project is the focus of a video through Indiana's Preserving Women's Legacy Grant program and projects.

View the video at tinyurl.com/msw9w3n4

Michigan City was among the grants awarded to Main Street communities in 2020. These projects support historic preservation work, public art and other projects that commemorate Indiana women's history and promote visits to Main Street communities. Michigan City Mainstreet Association used its funding to create a series of sculptures in honor of Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson, a suffragist, civil rights activist, writer and poet.

In March 2022, the sculptures were unveiled in Charles R. Westcott Park.

Michigan City Mainstreet Association partnered with NAACP LaPorte County Branch 3061, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County and Lubeznik Center for the Arts to support the interactive artwork by Bernard Williams. Major sponsors were Tonn & Blank Construction, Horizon Bank and United Steelworkers Local 12775. Celebrating Naomi Anderson project team members included volunteers Bonnie Webster-Schaaf, Nancy Moldenhauer, Joseph Coates, Judy Jacobi, Dale Cooper, Gerry Jones, Faye Moore, Rose Tejada and Crystal Williams-French.

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Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center will offer an expanded, seven-week series of summer art camps.

The sessions highlight various art techniques and media, and include discussions on modern artists and themes that direct the projects.

Each camp is offered to two age groups: ages 5-9 in the morning and 10+ in the afternoon, with the exception of "Creating with Clay" and "Makers + Thinkers," which is ages 9-12 in the morning and age 13+ in the afternoon. Tuition ranges from \$120-\$140 per camp, and scholarships are available.

The schedule is:

- June 5-8: "Discover the Dunes," instructed by Jen Aitchison. Ages 5-9 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 10+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- June 12-15: "Animals Around Us," instructed by Aitchison. Ages 5-9 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 10+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- June 19-22: "Summer of Super Heroes," instructed by Aitchison. Ages 5-9 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 10+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- June 26-30: "Creating with Clay," instructed by Liz Cowan. Ages 9-12 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 13+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- July 10-13: "World of Mario," instructed by Aitchison. Ages 5-9 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 10+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- July 17-20: "Exploring Marine Life," instructed by Aitchison. Ages 5-9 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 10+ from 12-2:30 p.m.
- July 24-28: "Makers + Thinkers," instructed by Emily Casella. Ages 9-12 go from 8:30-11 a.m. and ages 13+ from 12-2:30 p.m.

Visit tinyurl.com/3xrb74sk or call (219) 926-4711 for more details. Scholarships are available for all ages, the application available at www.chestertonart.org/scholarships.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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



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



The following programs are planned:

- **Coaster Decorating (adults 19+) from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Personalize a ceramic coaster with paint, paper and other items. Register online.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 31, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, April 3, in the main library multi-purpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Make Your Own Tape Painting (teens 12-18) from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Participants create geometric patterns/colorful shapes. Register online.
- **Getting to Know Your Apple Device (adults 19+) from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** The focus is iPhones and iPads.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Kate Beaton (adults 19+) from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4.** Beaton is the bestselling cartoonist of "Hark! A Vagrant!" Register at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/25163>

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

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In the Area

March 30 — Migratory Bird & Scavenger Hunt, all-day, Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

March 30 — Coaster Decorating (adults 19+), 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

April 1 — “The Bunny Hop,” 1-3 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Free. Info: info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org, tinyurl.com/4twwbz68

April 1 — Mini Jewish Film Festival, 1-4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Films: “The Levys of Monticello,” “Neighbors.”

April 3 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 4 — Film showing: “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” 10 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 4 — Make Your Own Tape Painting (teens 12-18), 1-2 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

April 4 — Virtual Author Talk with Kate Beaton (adults 19+), 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/25163>

April 5 — Diamond Painting, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: www.mclib.org

Through March 31 — Artwork by Madeleine Schooley/the late Barbara Fedder, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery 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.

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.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. Starting Feb. 7: \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

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

In the Region

March 30 — Jim Messina, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: only general seating left: \$65 + \$8.50 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

March 31 — Beth Nielsen Chapman, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee/\$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 1 — Annual Easter Egg Hunt with Horses, 2:30 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Equestrian Center, 16771 Pardee Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Reservations: algrosse@yahoo.com, text (269) 756-3894.

April 1 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1-3 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks Conservation Area and Kesling Nature Preserve, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: “Harbor Country Hikers” on Facebook, www.harborcountryhikers.com

April 1 — The Furious Bongos, 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

April 2 — Duneland Weavers Guild Fiber Art '23, 1-4 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Style show: 2 p.m.

April 2 — Three Oaks Flag Day Prince and Princess Pageant, 2 p.m., The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. No cost. Info: www.acornlive.org

Through April 12 — Anneke Dekker solo show, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through April 16 — Exhibit, artist-poet-artificial intelligence researcher Sasha Stiles, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

Through April 30 — 2023 Community Student Art Exhibitions, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Reception: middle-, high-school/ 6-8 p.m. EDT April 20. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

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

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

Saturdays in March — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 2-4 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter.

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

Saturdays-Sundays in March — Chellberg Farm Open House, 2-4 p.m. Meet at parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in March — 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, visit www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* "Living." Rated PG-13. Times: 4 p.m. March 30-31, 7 p.m. April 1, 4 p.m. April 2. *Also:* "Creed III." Rated PG-13. Times: 7 p.m. March 30-31, 4 p.m. April 1, 7 p.m. April 2. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Spring Prescribed Fires

The National Park Service is planning six prescribed fires totaling more than 900 acres this spring at Indiana Dunes National Park.

In the Porter Beach area, the park will burn about 23 acres. The area surrounded by Wabash Avenue, Roskin Road and Indiana Dunes State Park's west boundary is being restored through the National Park's Resource Management program.

Just south of Porter Beach and Dune Acres, the park will complete the Howes Prairie/Lupine Lane prescribed fire begun last fall.

In Porter, on the west end of Beam Street, the park plans to burn 142 acres as part of a long-term restoration project of Mnoke Prairie.

In Gary, just west of County Line Road and south of U.S. 12, the Tolleston Dunes burn will help restore about 330 acres of rare black oak savanna. Around the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education, the park will burn 16 acres to protect the structure from future wildland fires.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



March 21, 2023

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Striking Beauties	28	12
2. Lady Strikers	23	17
3. Pin Ball Wizards	21.5	18.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Carolyn Wiggins	180
2. Mary Lou McFadden	176
3. Dottie Brinckman	165
4. Kathy Staninger	155
5. Nancy Kubath	150

SPLITS

Nancy Klausner	5-7, 5-6
Mary Lou McFadden	5-6
Diana Holt	3-5-10
Tammy Vouri	3-10

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Mary Lou McFadden

LaPorte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more details.

Migratory Bird & Scavenger Hunt

Stop by the Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte, to pick up a free, self-guided scavenger hunt anytime Thursday, March 30.

Participants can listen for songbirds and see spring flowers budding. No pre-registration is required.

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On March 30, 1675, Father Jacques Marquette, along with his party, left their cabin on the south branch of the Chicago River, having spent the winter there.

On March 30, 1842, Dr. Crawford Long, Jefferson, Ga., while performing a minor operation, first used ether as an anesthetic.

On March 30, 1853, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh was born in Zundert.

On March 30, 1858, Philadelphia's Hyman Lipman was granted a patent for a pencil equipped with an eraser.

On March 30, 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William Seward reached an agreement with Russia to purchase Alaska. Even though the entire area cost only \$7.2 million, the deal was ridiculed in the U.S. press as "Seward's Folly," or "Seward's Icebox."

On March 31, 1831, President Andrew Jackson appointed Jonathan Bailey to serve as Chicago's first postmaster.

On March 31, 1870, in Perth Amboy, N.J., Thomas Peterson Mundy cast a ballot in a municipal election, becoming the first African American to vote following ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment.

On March 31, 1880, Wabash, Ind., became the first town to be completely illuminated by electricity.

On March 31, 1889, the Eiffel Tower officially opened in Paris.

On March 31, 1918, Daylight Savings Time took effect in the United States.

On March 31, 1932, Ford Motor Co. publicly unveiled its V-8 engine.

On April 1, 1789, the U.S. House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York City and elected Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania as the first Speaker of the House.

On April 1, 1853, Cincinnati became the first U.S. city to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

On April 1, 1872, the Chicago Public Library was created.

On April 1, 1918, England (just a few months before the end of World War I) established the Royal Air Force.

On April 1, 1960, the United States launched TIROS-One, the first weather satellite.

On April 2, 1792, the U.S. Mint was authorized to produce 1-cent copper coins. There were four original designs struck: the chain cent, the wreathed cent, the flowing hair cent and the liberty cent.

On April 2, 1917, saying, "The world must be

made safe for democracy,” President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany.

On April 2, 1932, as a ransom for his infant kidnapped son, Charles Lindberg turned over \$50,000 to an unidentified man.

On April 2, 1956, the long-running soap operas “As The World Turns” and “The Edge of Night” premiered on CBS-TV.

On April 2, 1975, up to 12 inches of snow fell in the Chicago area.

On April 2, 1984, Georgetown University’s John Thompson became the first black coach to win an NCAA men’s basketball championship.

On April 3, 1848, the Chicago Board of Trade held its first official session.

On April 3, 1860, the legendary “Pony Express” began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., a distance of 1,966 miles. The service would last for only about 18 months, being replaced by the transcontinental telegraph.

On April 3, 1882, notorious American outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo. He was killed by Robert Ford, a member of James’ own gang who was seeking to claim reward money. James was 36.

On April 3, 1962, the federal government ordered New Orleans to integrate the first six grades of its public schools.

On April 3, 1968, less than 24 hours before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “mountaintop” speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.

On April 4, 1818, Congress decreed the U.S. flag should consist of 13 red-and-white stripes and 20 stars, and that a new star be added for each new state that was admitted to the Union.

On April 4, 1832, Cook County’s first financial statement showed taxes on real and personal property totaled \$148.29.

On April 4, 1864, Abraham Lincoln said, “I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.”

On April 4, 1887, Susanna Medora Salter was elected mayor of Argonia, Kan., the first woman chosen to head a U.S. town.

On April 5, 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, Mass., on its first return trip to England.

On April 5, 1792, President George Washington used his veto power for the first time, refusing to sign a bill affecting state representation.

On April 5, 1933, to stop the hoarding of gold, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered all private stores of gold be surrendered to the Federal Reserve Banks.

On April 5, 1955, Winston Churchill submitted his resignation as British prime minister.

On April 5, 1980, the world’s most precious stamp, an 1856 British Guiana 1-cent magenta, was auctioned for \$850,000.

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

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christyconaway@hotmail.com

Friendship Botanic Gardens seeking Seasonal Grounds Crew Member

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Contact info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or (219) 878-9885

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Chefs, bartenders, servers, admin. Competitive pay. Interested, call Matt Wooldridge at (219) 872-8624

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 1 Vendo 44 Coke machine (restored); collection of 20 to 25 green and blue antique glass bottles; 8 vintage tobacco tins; 1 like-new full size pool table with all equipment. Best offer for individual items or as a lot. **Call Burt at (773) 255-6150.**

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Call Lorelei at (312) 953-7306.

The Town of Long Beach is accepting sealed bids on a Black 2013 Ford Taurus/Police Interceptor with an ECO-Boost Turbo engine. **VIN # 1FAHP2MT9DG144827.** Milage: 74,825 miles. Bids will be accepted from the date of first publication until 4 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023. Bids received after this time will not be considered. All qualifying bids will be opened at the Long Beach Town Council meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Monday April 10, 2023. This vehicle is sold as is, and there is no warranty expressed, written or implied. Please note the vehicle has minor shifting concerns in the transmission at times. The Town of Long Beach reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. The vehicle can be inspected at the Long Beach Police Department, 2400 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN 46360. Bids can be dropped off, or mailed, to the Town Hall at 2400 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN 46360. Please write, "Auction Bid Ford" on the outside of all envelopes. Questions should be directed to Chief Mark Swistek at (219) 874-4243 or chief@lbpdin.org

The Town of Long Beach is accepting sealed bids on a Red 1996 Chevy Suburban. **VIN # 1GNKG26J1TJ321359.** Milage: 14,906 miles. Bids will be accepted from the date of first publication until 4 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023. Bids received after this time will not be considered. All qualifying bids will be opened at the Long Beach Town Council meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 10, 2023. This vehicle was used by the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department as the department rescue truck and has very low milage. This vehicle is sold as is, and there is no warranty expressed, written or implied. The Town of Long Beach reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. The vehicle can be inspected at the Long Beach Police Department, 2400 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN 46360. Bids can be dropped off, or mailed, to the Town Hall at 2400 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN 46360. Please write, "Auction Bid Chevy" on the outside of all envelopes. Questions should be directed to Chief Mark Swistek at (219) 874-4243 or chief@lbpdin.org

Edgewood Estate Sale: 130 Boyd Circle
Friday-Saturday, March 31-April 1 & April 7-8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
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WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. **Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.**

Looking to purchase two burial plots at Greenwood Cemetery.
Contact Jeff at (219) 861-2628.

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3BR for rent in Sheridan Beach. Short walk to the lake.
Call (312) 593-1861

BOAT SLIP FOR RENT

50' slip with lift. Marina Park South, Michigan City
May 1-Oct.15. \$3,700. **Call (708) 296-6133.**

Letters from Michiana: Reflections Along Lake Michigan's Southern Shore by David Hoppe (oversize paperback, \$16 retail on Amazon; also available as an eBook. 225 pages.)

David Hoppe is a Long Beach resident and well-known journalist, author and playwright. From spring 2019 to winter 2022, he took fingers to keyboard and wrote these insightful, entertaining, always thoughtful short essays about the Michiana area.

As we all know, Michiana is the place where Lake Michigan dips its toes into northern Indiana. It is the most unique part of a state the rest of the country thinks of only as farmland. It's an interesting and historical place, offering many good and bad points to consider: Do we save the beautiful dunes for future generations? Or, do we give in to the steel mills, continuing to pollute the lake?

Hoppe's marked-off calendar days spent in COVID isolation afforded time to contemplate natural and industrial problems faced by residents here, and provide a look at unique historical stories you may not know about.

As Hoppe so cleverly puts it, "...a place without stories is apt to become a parking lot."

No parking lot here, no indeed, just a lot of territory to cover: people, politics, manufacturing vs. tourism and the growing communities of year-round and summer homes, and how the lake impacts it all.

Hoppe covers this succinctly and realistically, with prose that flows with a purpose. He has an eye for a unique landscape that can bring a variety of problems, as well as fun and recreation. He leaves nothing unnoticed: from the DNR "public beach rights" fight to a Wiffle Ball Championship game — go New Carlisle Newts!

A hot issue in Long Beach is the ongoing fight over where the homeowners' lot line ends on the beach side of the lake. Hoppe explains the issue that has traveled from the town council to the DNR to the Indiana Supreme Court.

Politics also gives Hoppe a chance to discuss the steel mills to our west and the continuing pollution of the lake. Again, he doesn't preach. As Sgt. Friday once said, "Just the facts, ma'am," non-confrontationally given.

But it's not all fights. There's plenty of good things in the area. Art centers and galleries, lots of

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



great chamber music and good food. If you're the gambling sort, there's that big ship docked in Michigan City.

The history of the area wouldn't be complete without mention of people like Diana of the Dunes and the notoriety she and Paul Wilson brought to the early 1900s. Then, there was John Dillinger, who did time at the Big House on the city's West Side, as well as the inmate Johnson Van Dyke Grigsby, who was the longest-serving convict in America. Even Johnny Cash had to write a song, "Michigan City Howdy Doo," after hearing his story.

The list goes on and on. Hoppe sometimes waxes poetic about the changing seasons, and the simpler things of living near the lake. All in all, it makes for a comfortable read, something you can pick up and read for 10 minutes or an hour and revisit the next week.

After reading Letters from Michiana, you might want to pick up a copy of Midcentury Boy: My Suburban Childhood from Ike to the Beatles, another winner from Hoppe. Enjoy!



Here's another book you might want to consider:

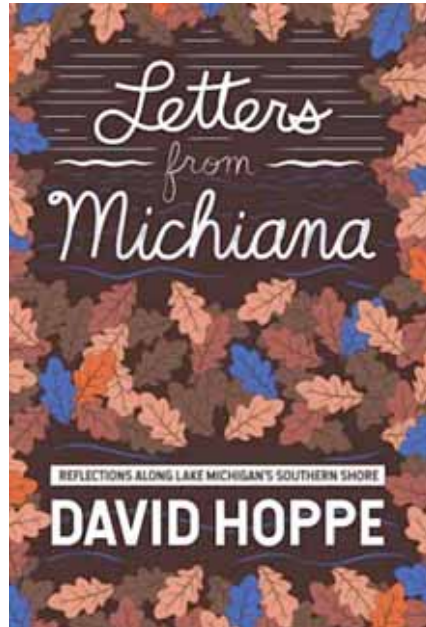
Storm Watch by C.J. Box (hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 352 pages.)

Bodies pile up as fast as the raging snowstorm in this thrilling new book about Game Warden Joe Pickett.

He's out hunting a wounded elk when he comes across the body of a Chinese man. Returning later to pick him up, he finds the body gone!

Political machinations, spies, cryptocurrency mining, homeland terrorists and a sheriff who hates the imposition of a murder investigation — that's what Joe will face in this 23rd book in the series. He's a solid character, a family man — wife and three daughters — whose best friend, Nate Romanowski, raises falcons. Sound interesting? Yes! In spades.

Till next time, happy reading!



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