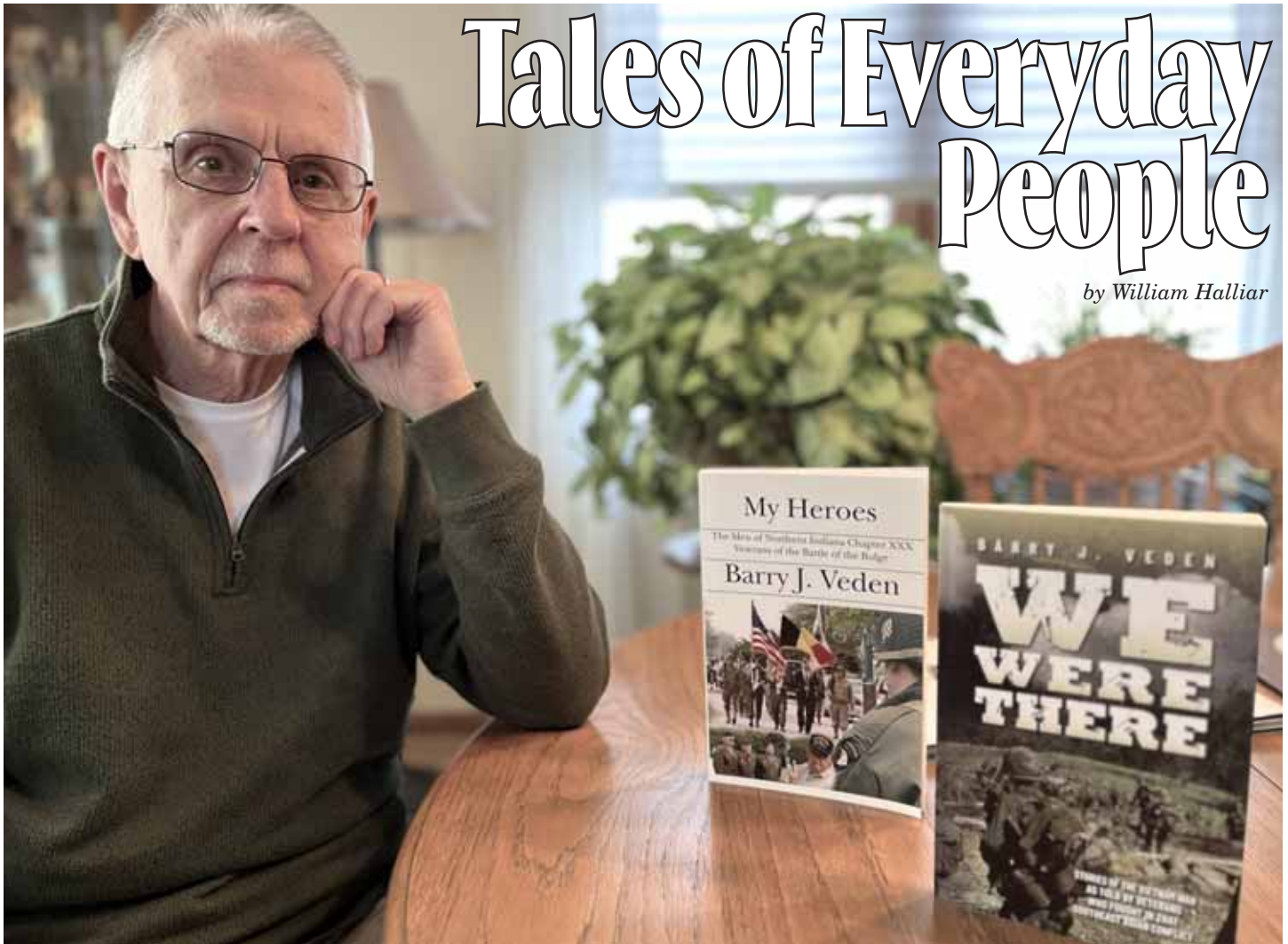




Volume 40, Number 9 Thursday, March 7, 2024



Tales of Everyday People

by William Halliar

Barry Veden is photographed with two of his books, We Were There and My Heroes, that illustrate his passion for telling stories of everyday people.
Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

Barry Veden has been writing since college. He has a passion for it. He loves meeting people, forming relationships and telling the stories he finds in the lives of everyday folk.

"They all have stories," he says.

His latest, We Were There: Stories of the Vietnam War as Told by Veterans Who Fought in That Southeast Asian Conflict, is a perfect example of giving a voice to everyday people. It is very much in keeping with the spirit of his 2004 book, My Heroes: The Men of Northern Indiana Chapter XXX Veterans of

the Battle of the Bulge.

The Shoreland Hills resident has always enjoyed reading, Hemmingway being his favorite author. He came upon the need to write quite accidentally, or as he says, he "happened to fall into writing." While in college, he took a few writing courses. He wrote several short stories, but did not take up the mantle of writer in earnest until 1993 when NIPSCO hired him to work in its Corporate Communications Department. His task was to bring people together

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It's Time To Spring Ahead

Sunday, March 10th

Tales of Everyday People

Continued from Page 1

from various departments, including management and union, to talk and share their problems, creating solutions together. He published a regular newsletter called "Jointly Speaking" to share stories of their cooperative efforts.

As a member of the Corporate Communications Department, Veden was "surrounded by writers." This was the spark that started a career.



Working for NIPSCO not only triggered Barry Veden's passion for writing, but also in his retirement saw NIPSCO recruit him to write a book on the history of the utility.

Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

Now, after a lifetime of writing, Veden sits each day at his computer, arguably having had a full career defined by his words in print, beginning the task of writing once again.

He quotes as his inspiration Toby Keith's song, "Don't Let the Old Man In," which was inspired by Clint Eastwood's answer when asked why he keeps working in old age. Veden decided to guard against that "old man" by writing. Those of us who read his words are rewarded by his dedication to stories that "need to be told."

What makes a writer take up the challenge, the arduous task of spending hours over a keyboard,

searching for just the right phrase or expression to convey the tale that needs telling?

Local writer Matt Werner, author of numerous books of local interest, says he finds there are "stories that need to be told." Another local writer, Sandy Young, author of the "Divine Vintage" series, simply "loves words and telling stories, creating worlds and characters."

Why does Veden write? First of all, he loves putting words on paper, and he enjoys meeting people and listening to their stories. He retired from NIPSCO in 2004, and because of his writing skills was asked to write a book on the history of NIPSCO, which was turning 100 in 2012.

Opportunities to tell stories continued to present themselves, and Veden found stories that needed telling wherever he looked. Barry's father, Edward Veden, enlisted in the Army during World War II. He was promoted to staff sergeant and served with the 112th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest battle fought during that most terrible of wars. The Germans launched one last-ditch offensive against Allied forces on what was known as the western front, at a heavily forested region between Belgium and Luxembourg.

The battle began Dec. 16, 1944, and lasted until Jan. 25, 1945. The weather was as much an enemy as the German tanks and guns. The midwinter battle was complicated by cold and snow, and many wounded in the fight froze to death before they could receive care. German

forces won some early successes, pushing back the Allies and creating a sort of bulge in the defensive line, which later gave the battle its name. After many days of disparate struggle, the American forces broke through the German lines and continued their final push towards Berlin.

On the morning of Dec. 16, Edward Veden was on the Siegfried Line, a German defensive wall built in the 1930s consisting of pillboxes and antitank obstacles. With his division, he met the first assault of the German Army on that day. During the course of the battle, Veden was seriously wounded and spent the war's remaining days in a hospital in England.

The Battle of the Bulge was an Allied victory, but the cost in lives was astonishing: about 19,000 soldiers died, 47,500 were wounded and 23,000 went missing.

Veden's father survived the ordeal, but like so many who fought the battle, he rarely made mention of the trauma to his family after he returned home. Soldiers returning home from World War II were anxious to put the memory of the horrible sights of war behind them. They wanted to get jobs, marry their sweethearts, have children and move forward with their lives.



Barry Veden finds himself perfectly at home in front of a laptop, writing about people with interesting stories to share.
Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

World War II and the great Battle of the Bulge were a distant memory never talked about until Veden's father discovered a group of survivors from that battle: the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Northern Indiana Chapter 30. The motto of the group is "To Honor Veterans" by preserving their history. Here, survivors of the battle hailing from Northwest Indiana opened up and shared their experiences with others who had been on the line.

Veden attended meetings with his father and enjoyed listening to the stories. Here, his talent for writing came to the fore as he became editor of the organization's quarterly newsletter "Bulge Battle News." Veden would tell the story of up to 30 veterans in each issue. The best part of the job, he says, was the relationships he formed.

He eventually became president of the organization, compiling the stories he heard into My Heroes: The Men of Northern Indiana Chapter XXX Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. His writing style complemented his vision to use plain, simple sentences, like Hemingway, and in his words, "allow the vet-

Continued on Page 4

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Tales of Everyday People

Continued from Page 3

eran to tell the epic tale himself.” My Heroes was published on Oct. 8, 2004.

After becoming president of the veterans group, Veden accepted many speaking engagements, educating audiences about the history of the battle.

What better way to preserve and honor the memory of the heroic acts of our fathers than to write them down and put the stories in a book that can be shared for generations to come?

In January 2007, Veden published Coming of Age on the Appalachian Trail, a collection of stories describing, according to reviewers, “*expeditions of courage and heart across the rugged hillsides and mountain-scape of the often unforgiving Appalachian Trail.*” Veden’s conclusion of the tale is that “life is a constant learning experience.”

His next writing venture was For the Love of Darla, a sort of ghost story based on an experience Veden had in the restoration of an old house, and the unexplainable “presence” he felt around him there. It was published in December 2009.

His latest, We Were There, features recollections from Northwest Indiana veterans who served during the conflict in Southeast Asia. Included are stories told by 11 survivors.



Just a few of the books Barry Veden has published over the years.
Photo by Andrew Tallackson

ways makes his job of storyteller that much easier. Many veterans did not want to share their stories. They remembered all too well how they were treated when they returned home, hiding with embarrassment the fact that they served their country.

In the book, veterans recalled the slaughter of fellow soldiers as their positions were overrun by hordes of the enemy. They remembered thinking their government lied to them, sending them into battle unprepared, then doused them with toxic chemicals such as Agent Orange, from which more than 300,000 Americans died, and so many suffer from its effects even today. Then, of course, upon their return, their own generation turned against them, often blaming them for their government’s failures.

Veden finally wrote 12 stories of Vietnam veterans. After each was finished, he sent the completed draft to each one to check for errors. One such story was returned with the note that all of the facts were correct, but after second thought, the old soldier

did not want his story told. He did not want his family to know the horrors he witnessed.

What did make it into We Were There is proof Veden’s passion for writing and telling stories has been bound into books that will be passed down for generations, preserving first-person accounts of those who sacrificed so much and now can declare to their grandchildren, “We Were There.”

(Veden’s books are available through online retailers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.)



Barry Veden likes to write about people who served their country, like Rich Cerajewski, who is featured in We Were There.



One individual who served his country and is featured in Barry Veden’s We Were There is Bob Strom.

Today, there are approximately 610,000 Vietnam War veterans still living. It was Veden’s intent to tell some of those stories while they are yet alive. He had two first cousins who served in the war. A good friend he grew up with and delivered the local newspaper as boys also served in Vietnam. When one of his cousins died without sharing his story, Veden decided it was time to correct that oversight.

Veden is an outgoing person who likes to meet people and engage them in conversation. This al-

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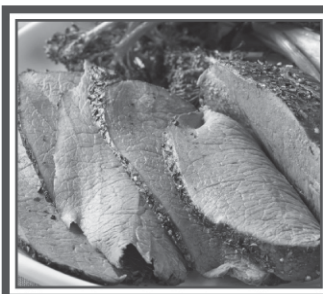


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Footlight Players to Present “A Night of Old Tyme Radio”

Footlight Players will present “A Night of Old Tyme Radio Comedy featuring Alien Invasion,” directed by Laura Meyer, on March 8-10 and 14-17 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The comedy brings 11 1940s actors into a radio station studio where they produce a show complete with on-stage sound effects, live commercial jingles and musical selections. The cast includes: Jamie Anderson, Angela Barretto, Rick Henderson, Layla Koyama, Jim Lampl, Kim Lampl, Tom LeDonne, Christine Long, Thom Nelson, Lexie Passmore and Susan Ransom.

In “Alien Invasion” (book by Ryan Neely, music by Brent Bain, lyrics by Neely), radio coverage is heard as the community is invaded by Martians.



The crew includes: Diana Hirsch, assistant director; Bobbi Ann Lauritsen, producer; Alayna Lauritsen, set dresser; Christopher West, lights; Declan Rice, sound; Sharon Kienitz, costumes; and Kathy Chase, hair and make-up.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children and Thursday shows. Make reservations at www.footlightplayers.org. Call (219) 874-4035 for

more details.

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Center for Creative Solutions Seeks Student Innovators

March 18 is the application deadline for students to submit products/projects to The Center for Creative Solutions, which it will honor during World Creativity & Innovation Week on April 15-21.

Submissions can be K-12 students working alone or in teams. The project, product or process must demonstrate a reasonable level of creativity and/or innovation, center board president Pat Lain said in a press release. It may be in any area of interest, such as technology, the arts, trades/professions, writing, science, business, cooking or designing. The project does not have to be perfected at this stage.

The one-page application may be submitted by a student, teacher or anyone from Northwest Indiana. The application covers three areas of inquiry:

- What was the inspiration for the project/product? Why did the student begin it?
- What was the creative process? How did the



nominee begin the process? What steps did the student take? Did anything surprise the student? Were there any problems to overcome? How did the nominee deal with those challenges?

- What is the end result? Winners receive public recognition and a monetary award funded through the Morgan Family Foundation.

Nomination forms are available at www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com. Nominations also may be mailed to the center at 2912 N. Regal Drive, LaPorte,

IN 46350, or emailed to creativity52@comcast.net

Co-sponsors for this year's World Creativity and Innovation Week are the Bethany Church Foundation of LaPorte, WIMS Radio, Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest and Lakeshore Public Radio's "Art on the Air" program.

Contact Cynthia Hedge, Center for Creative Solutions CEO, at (219) 326-7259 or creativity52@comcast.net for more details.

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Buying Homeowner's Insurance is Not Simple

I helped someone decide on the kind of homeowner's insurance policy he wanted a couple of weeks ago, and I was frustrated trying to understand what was being offered, even though I helped write a Homebuyer's Insurance Handbook at the National Association of Realtors.

Here are my recommendations.

1. **DO NOT BUY "Actual Cash Value" (ACV) Insurance.** That is buying a policy that pays less each year from the date the house was built. It assumes the house is worth nothing after 30 years, so the coverage is next to zero for an old house and is less every year you own the house.

Tragically, this kind of insurance is often sold to first homebuyers to keep their monthly payments down.

2. **DO NOT BUY "Replacement Value/Replacement Cost" (RVRC) Insurance.** This insurance sets the value of your house as of today and does not allow for any increases in the cost of fixing damage or replacing the house. Appreciating costs to repair and replace are almost guaranteed, so you begin to get less than full coverage right from the day you buy the insurance.

3. **TRY TO BUY "Guaranteed Replacement Cost" (GRC) Insurance.** This means your insurance company will pay to fix or replace your house at what it costs. When you need the work done, "GRC" is really hard to find. Last I checked, there was only one underwriting company offering GRC in Michigan. I have not done any research about GRC in Indiana. Ask for it. You might hit the right company.

4. **DO BUY "Extended Replacement Cost Insurance" (ERC).** This insurance creates a current house value, then allows you to collect from 10-50% more than the current estimate of value of your house.

So, if your house is insured for \$400,000 today and you buy 20% "extended coverage," the insurance company will pay up to 20% more if that is what it costs when you get the repair and replace your house. So, you could collect up to \$480,000 to replace your house if it burns down (400 X 120% equals 480).

A few more personal thoughts and recommendations:

A. The insurance salespeople have no idea what it will cost to replace or rebuild your house. They get a number off a computer. The computer is usually not up to date.

B. So, for Indiana Lakefront, I recommend you multiply the living space (space that is heated) times \$250 for a standard house, \$350 for above standard and \$500 for a high end house. That equals the minimum amount of insurance you should buy. A better idea is to ask a local contractor for the latest replacement costs.

C. That means I think a no frills, 2,000 square foot house should be insured for \$500,000, plus at least 20% "extended coverage" or \$100,000 for maximum coverage of \$600,000.

D. Recalculate your needed coverage every time you renew your insurance. I have rarely seen repair or replacement costs go down. Overall, they keep going up every year. So you likely need more coverage every time you renew your insurance.

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Harbor Country Hikers



Sugarwood Forest Preserve.

Harbor Country Hikers will learn about squirrels during a hike at Sugarwood Forest Preserve, 6855 Elm Valley Road, Three Oaks, Mich., at 1 p.m. EST Saturday, March 9.

Hike leaders Jackie Jensen and Mark Forrest, Chikaming Open Lands stewards, will tell tales of the rodents and how they survive Michigan winters. The preserve is a plateau of uplands bisected by deep ravines into old-growth beech-maple forest and mesic mid-successional forests in various stages of regrowth after a history of grazing.

Membership is preferred; however, the hike is free and open to the public. Those who attend should dress for the weather and take plenty of water.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the Hikers' Facebook page for more details.

Sweetheart Contest Benefits Shelter

The public can vote for its favorite "Sweetheart Candidate" through Sunday, March 17, through Independent Cat Society's Sweetheart Contest.

The annual event is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Valparaiso Moose Lodge 1357, 108 Indiana Ave.

ICS has hosted the contest for about 15 years, with several feline residents competing for "Sweetheart of the Year." The public can vote for its favorite by donating \$1 per vote. Volunteers create teams to come up with unique items to sell, raffle or auction to raise funds for their candidate, including partnering with businesses for donations or fundraisers. All proceeds benefit ICS cats and kittens.

One candidate is featured each week on Facebook (www.facebook.com/INCatSociety) and at the shelter on the weekend. Those interested can vote in person from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday at the shelter, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville.



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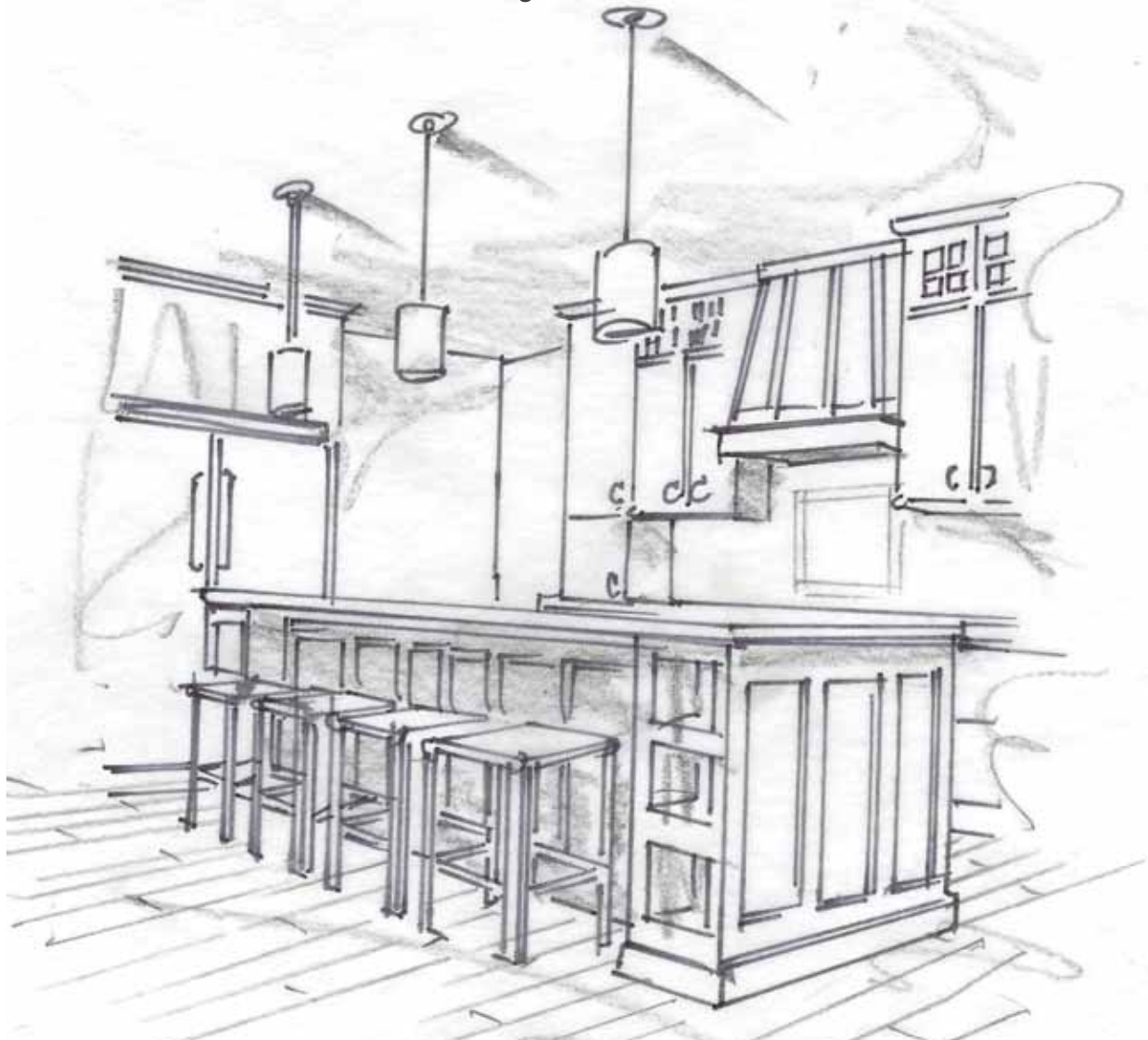
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MCAS Wall of Fame

Friday, March 29, is the deadline to submit nominations for Michigan City Area Schools' 2024 MCAS Wall of Fame.

First presented in 1976, the annual award honors former school employees who made outstanding contributions to children. Employees from every area are eligible: administrators, custodians, food-service personnel, instructional assistants, maintenance personnel, paraprofessionals, teachers, transportation staff and secretarial staff.

To qualify, the candidate must have been employed by MCAS for a minimum of 15 years. Special circumstances may be considered for those not meeting the 15-year requirement due to hardship or death. Candidates must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Because retirees occasionally are called back to service, the date of separation is considered the official retirement date, not including subsequent employment by MCAS. Employees from schools independent before school reorganization, as well as those from schools no longer in existence, are eligible. Death does not make a person ineligible.

All applications remain on file for three years. At the end of that time, candidates must be renominated. Forms and a complete list of past recipients are available at <http://EducateMC.net/WOF>

Contact Betsy Kohn at (219) 873-2000, Ext. 8365, or email bkohn@educateMC.net for details.

Call for Artists

LaPorte County artists are among those invited to apply by April 7 for the Michiana Annual Art Competition.

The local, juried, fine-art exhibit is celebrated during "MAAC in the Box," which is held at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Preference goes to entrants from: Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Barry, Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties in Michigan; and Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph and Elkhart counties in Indiana.

Entrants may submit up to two works original in concept and execution, created within the past three years and not previously exhibited at Box Factory. Reproductions are not accepted. Artists are eligible to win first- and second-place prizes in eight categories. The person winning the top prize, Best of Show, receives \$1,500. The judge is Anne Corlett, a full-time artist with a studio in Saugatuck, Mich.

Complete applicant information is available at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/maac.

The show runs May 17-July 7, with an opening reception from 2-4 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 19, at Box Factory for the Arts.

La Porte County Symphony Orchestra


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 Dr. Ingrid Stölzel
Guest Composer

The LCSO's third subscription concert of the 2023-2024 season features composer-in-residence Dr. Ingrid Stölzel's piece "City Beautiful". The program also includes LCSO principal flute Aleksandra Kemble soloing on the "Concertino for Flute" by late nineteenth century French composer Cécile Chaminade. Rounding out the concert is Brahms "Academic Overture" and Dvořák's powerful Symphony #8.

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3pm

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The Challenge of Reviewing a Movie That Leaves You Totally Confused

by Andrew Tallackson



Paul Mescal (left) and Andrew Scott star in "All of Us Strangers."

What happens when a movie draws rapturous buzz for months, the stars are everywhere promoting it, Hulu debuts it...and you have zero clue what's going on by the end.

Rubbing salt on the wound? Wikipedia's explanation leaves you even more confused.

Welcome to "All of Us Strangers."

Wikipedia classifies it as a "romantic fantasy."

Not. By. A. Long. Shot.

This is a tale of grief so crippling, the main character no longer functions in the real world.

At least, that's what it *might* be about. Having not read the source material, Taichi Yamada's Strangers (1987), I am at a loss.

In the film, we meet lonely screenwriter Adam (Andrew Scott), who is consumed with writer's block, living in a relatively vacant high rise, when he hears a knock at his door. It's Harry (Oscar-nominee Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"), a drunk neighbor out for more than light conversation. Adam politely declines the invitation to sex, shuts the door, returns to his solitude.

The next day, he pays a visit to his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell), and the dynamic between them is off, to say the least. In fact, the first time we see his dad, it's almost as if the guy is stalking him.

What is apparent: It's been some time since Adam saw his parents. They're both eager to catch up, find out how life turned out for him.

It is only after Adam takes a chance on Harry, as they open up to each other, that Adam reveals his parents died in a car crash when he was 14. Harry, too, appears disconnected from his parents.

At this point, "All of Us Strangers" appears headed in one of two directions. Either Adam has lost his mind, or his parents really are back as ghosts, eager to reconcile decades of lost time. Strangely enough, Adam's childhood home is vacant, so he can stop by whenever he likes to chat with his parents. That doesn't add up.

Clearly, though, Adam never recovered from the loss of his parents. Their deaths severed his ability to make connections with other people as an adult.

Scott, deviously funny as Moriarty in BBC's "Sherlock," takes an interesting approach to Adam. Almost childlike in scenes with Foy and Bell, craving parental love and approval. And as Adam opens up about being gay, the performance is defiant and unapologetic, particularly in the face of his mother's obvious disappointment about his sexuality.

So if that's what "All of Us Strangers" is, an LGBTQ ghost story about acceptance, then we're

along for the ride. We can see where the film is headed, that Mescal's Harry will prove that love can bring Adam back into the land of the living.

Indeed, the exchanges between Scott, Foy and Bell are heartbreaking: three wounded souls deprived of each other's presence. It isn't just a son who wants recognition, but parents who missed out on their child growing into an adult. All three performers are wonderful, their scenes together taking on an agonizing urgency since it appears their time together is coming to an end.

We get it. Writer-director Andrew Haigh wants his film to be an intimate metaphor for healing. Apparently, though, that wasn't enough. He decided to trot out one more twist.

That twist, dear reader, threw me off to where, once the end credits finally rolled, I headed to wikipedia for an explanation. If, indeed, the explanation is accurate, then the end of "All of Us Strangers" is maddening, undermining everything before it. Weird. Dark. Depressing. Raising more questions



Jamie Bell and Claire Foy are heartbreakingly good as Adam's parents.

about Adam's mental stability, and the foundation for his relationship with Harry.

I'm not giving "All of Us Strangers" a star rating because, basically, I've failed as a reviewer. Lacked the mental acuity to "get" it. Is it worth seeing? I'll leave that to you to decide.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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And the Oscar Goes to...

by Andrew Tallackson

Heading into the 96th Academy Awards this cocky could blow up in my face...but consider four of the six categories in our “Beat the Editor” contest locked and loaded to win.

The remaining two? Teetering atop the fence in similar directions.

How so?

When you track the awards circuit, specifically which films and performers have ruled the roost, a consistency emerges. Few, in fact, without fail.

This year’s wild cards? No question: Best Actor and Actress. What seemed obvious back in January has eroded into a back-and-forth free-for-all.

Then again, every prediction here could be total hooley. If anything, the Academy Awards lives to shake things up. To deliver that “whoa” shocker where an upset comes out of nowhere.

Locally, ballots from *Beacher* readers have poured in, which is exciting for us. Could be more significant interest in this year’s nominees. Or maybe it’s that our contest sponsor, Swingbelly’s, generously upped the first-place prize to a \$50 gift card. Thank you, Swingbelly’s. We couldn’t do this without you.

The Oscar ceremony airs one hour earlier this year, which means, *woohoo*, we might actually get to bed at a decent hour that night. It’s at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 10. We’ll announce our winners in the March 21 edition.

So, let’s do this. Here are my predictions in *The Beacher*’s annual “Beat the Editor” Oscar contest:

Best Picture

The nominees are: “American Fiction”; “Anatomy of a Fall”; “Barbie”; “The Holdovers”; “Killers of the Flower Moon”; “Maestro”; “Oppenheimer”; “Past Lives”; “Poor Things”; “The Zone of Interest.”

And the Oscar goes to: “Oppenheimer.” Writer-director Christopher Nolan achieved something unprecedented in our post-pandemic climate. He lured moviegoers back to theaters for a three-hour drama about *the* crucial turning point in the early 20th century. The result: a complex, fascinating portrait of a most complicated man. Was it my favorite film of 2023? One of them. My preferences: “The Holdovers,” “American Fiction” and “Barbie.” The first for investing heartfelt emotion into three lonely individuals, the second for skewering the issue of race in publishing, the last for subversively attacking the patriarchy through comedy. Will any of those three films win? No a chance. But in a perfect world....



It's pretty much a given which categories “Oppenheimer” will sweep at this year’s Academy Awards.

Best Director

The nominees are: Jonathan Glazer, “The Zone of Interest”; Yorgos Lanthimos, “Poor Things”; Christopher Nolan, “Oppenheimer”; Martin Scorsese, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Justine Triet, “Anatomy of a Fall.”

And the Oscar goes to: Nolan. In the past, his astonishing track record blinded Oscar voters from playing fair (2017’s “Dunkirk,” anyone?). The success of “Oppenheimer,” however, cannot be dismissed. After a slightly messy first hour, the remainder of the film is riveting. A three-hour film

that feels like two. Oscar will come calling.

Best Actor

The nominees are: Bradley Cooper, “Maestro”; Colman Domingo, “Rustin”; Paul Giamatti, “The Holdovers”; Cillian Murphy, “Oppenheimer”; Jeffrey Wright, “American Fiction.”

And the Oscar goes to: a two-horse race between Murphy and Giamatti, but I’m leaning toward Giamatti. The “Oppenheimer” star creates a haunting portrait of genius and emotional disconnect, but Giamatti undergoes the greatest transfor-

mation. He begins “The Holdovers” as a crotchety professor no one tolerates. By the end, life comes into focus thanks to the last two people he ever expected. Giamatti takes the character on a fuller, more expansive journey that Murphy.

Best Actress

The nominees are: Annette Bening, “Nyad”; Lily Gladstone, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Sandra Hüller, “Anatomy of a Fall”; Carey Mulligan, “Maestro”; Emma Stone, “Poor Things.”

And the Oscar goes to: ...ah, here’s where it gets *really* tough. A neck-in-neck race between Stone and Gladstone. In the past few weeks, Stone has amassed an impressive array of trophies...but so has Gladstone, and she just took the SAG award for Best Actress. So, I’m siding with Gladstone for being the beating heart of a movie that frequently lacked the right one. Of the five, though, Bening shows the most emotional and physical range, throwing everything into the performance. Her exhaustive stumble onto the beach at the end of “Nyad” shows an actress committed beyond the ordinary.

Best Supporting Actor

The nominees are: Sterling K. Brown, “American Fiction”; Robert De Niro, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Robert Downey Jr., “Oppenheimer”; Ryan Gosling, “Barbie”; Mark Ruffalo, “Poor Things.”

And the Oscar goes to: No contest, Downey Jr. And not just because he does a disappearing act here with his physical transformation for the role. Any and all traces of Tony Stark now gone, the actor, in his final scene, spews bile in the face of failure that consumes you. We’ve never seen the actor like this before. It’s like everything in his career has led to that moment.

Best Supporting Actress

The nominees are: Emily Blunt, “Oppenheimer”; Danielle Brooks, “The Color Purple”; America Ferrera, “Barbie”; Jodie Foster, “Nyad”; Da’Vine Joy Randolph, “The Holdovers.”

And the Oscar goes to: Again, no contest, Randolph. What award *hasn’t* she won? As a prep school’s grieving cook, she is the soul of the film. Mourning the loss of her son, yet somehow reinvigorated by the two oddballs with whom she spends Christmas break. She deserves to win.

□

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra

Guest composer Dr. Ingrid Stoelzel will join LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra for its next subscription concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

Born and raised in Germany, Stoelzel came to the U.S. in 1991. Also in the spotlight is LCSO's principal flautist, Aleksandra Kemble.

The concert will open with Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture," followed by "City Beautiful," composed by Stoezel. Kemble will be featured on "Concertino for Flute" by Cecelie Chaminade. Dvorak's "Symphony No. 8" brings the program to a close.

Adult general admission costs \$25, with senior general admission costing \$22. Students are free with ID.

Visit <https://lcsso.net/event/subscription3/> for reservations.



Stoelzel

Save the Dunes Selling Park Passes

The seven-day Indiana Dunes National Park Pass (\$25), annual IDNP Park Pass (\$45) and annual America the Beautiful National Park Pass (\$80) can be purchased at Barker House (the Save the Dunes headquarters), 444 Barker Road.

Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays, or purchase passes at any Save the Dunes events.

A national park pass allows access to all beaches, trailheads and parking lots. Ten percent of funds from passes purchased through Save the Dunes directly support its mission.

Email office@savedunes.org for more details.

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Michigan City Public Library

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

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Scratch Club (ages 7-17) from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, March 7.** Learn to code with Scratch — a platform to create stories, games and animations — by working through projects and sharing ideas. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 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.
- **Afternoon movie: "A Haunting in Venice" from 2-4 p.m. Friday, March 8.** The movie is Rated PG-13.
- **Any Book Book Club (adults only) from 5-6 p.m. Monday, March 11.** Participants can discuss any books they are reading. Meetings are the second Monday of the month. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues its 26th season. This month's topics are "Science Across Borders" and "U.S.-China Trade Rivalry." Reading material is available at the circulation desk. Call 873-3049 for more details.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in March.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Board Game Night for Adults from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12.** A variety of games will

be available.

- **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.
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, in the Makerspace.** Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 9-17, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.
- **Adult Dungeons & Dragons from 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13.** Supplies and characters are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Email Miss Dana at dwolf@mclib.org for details.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance aid needed.** Volunteers help at least one day a week during tax season. The IRS provides some training, and passing the VITA test through the intermediate level is required. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.
- **The 2024 Genealogy Bus Trip to Allen County is Wednesday, April 17.** The trip is sponsored by the library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. More details will be available in March.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.



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LaPorte County Public Library

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:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 8, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **A Living History Portrayal by Leslie Goddard: Julia Child — Bon Appetit! from 6-7 p.m. Friday, March 8, at the main library Meeting Room B.** Actress-scholar Goddard portrays the French chef, discussing everything from her relationship with husband Paul Child to the mishaps of cooking on television.
- **How to Apply for Jobs Online from noon-1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Coolspring branch.** At the end of class, participants write a resume using Cypress Resume.
- **Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, in the main library Meeting Room B.** The focus is Patrick deWitt's The Librarianist.

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.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **St. Patrick's Day Story Time.** The program is at 10 a.m. Monday, March 11.
- **New Buffalo Township Library Annual Tea.** The event is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

Weekly programs:

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Lego Club from 9-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- Yoga from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays.

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

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **The 47th annual Maple Sugar Time Festival is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10.** Sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes Inc., visitors can learn how Native Americans first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. While walking the maple trail, pass by the sugar shack where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellberg family did in the 1930s. Children can learn how to tap a tree at the Maple Fun Zone, and meet farm animals while enjoying a maple syrup snow cone. Tour the farmhouse to see food prepared on the wood stove, or purchase Indiana maple syrup from the Friends of Indiana Dunes. Learn how to make maple syrup at home, and how modern maple sugar farmers make syrup. Chellberg Farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in March.** Rangers and volunteers share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse/garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-

hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.



March 8 is the application deadline for IDNP's Artist-in-Residence program.

Now in its 28th year, artists can live and work in the park for a two-week residency, with accommodations provided. Artists can interact with visitors, engage with the community and share their work through public programs and events.

The application and more information are available at tinyurl.com/32nx6ct8



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 program will be offered:

- **Beginner Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshop from 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, March 9.** Learn the art of wire wrapping to make beach-glass jewelry. Space is limited. The cost is \$7, and pre-registration is required by calling (219) 926-1390.
- **Indiana's Solar Eclipse 101 at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10.** With Indiana experiencing a solar eclipse April 8, learn about what an eclipse is, safe viewing and what to expect.
- **The 24th Annual Running with the Irish 5K Race from 7-11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, to benefit St. Patrick Catholic School, Chesterton.** The course uses paved roads through IDSP. Visit tinyurl.com/yyehzt3h to register.



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.

Dig the Dunes Makers Trail

Lubeznik Center for the Arts is among the five spots included in Dig the Dunes' third Makers Trail from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

The concept is, five projects to complete at five different locations. They are:

- Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.
- Over Yonder Dunes Gift Shop, 12 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.
- Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.
- Pieces of Jayde, 1587 S. Calumet Road, Chesterton.
- Market on 12, 2704 W. Dunes Highway.

Some sites will have refreshments.

Tickets, which cost \$50, are available at tinyurl.com/26hf7s72



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6. Kim Stokes (series)

SCORE

185
164
163
158
157
157
412

SPLITS

- Tina Sonderby
Carolyn Wiggins
Mary McDonald
Holly Dres
Ellyn Lunch
Joan O'Sullivan
Mary Lou McFadden

2-7-8
4-7-10
3-6-7, 7-8
4-7-10
3-10
5-7
5-7

STRIKES

Joan O'Sullivan, 3 in a row



American Red Cross

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

- Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte, 140 E. Shore Parkway, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, March 11.

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.

Indiana Master Naturalist Program

Registration is under way for Indiana Dunes State Park's spring 2024 Indiana Master Naturalist Program, which starts from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

Through the program, natural resource specialists foster an understanding of Indiana's plants, water, soils and wildlife, and promote natural-resource volunteer service within the state. The final class date is June 9.

Seats are capped at 25, and the registration fee is \$75. Visit www.indianamasternaturalist.org for more information.



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In the Area

March 7 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

March 8 — Afternoon movie: "A Haunting in Venice," 2-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 8 — A Living History Portrayal by Leslie Goddard: Julia Child — Bon Appetit!, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 8-10, 14-17 — Footlight Players, "A Night of Old Tyme Radio Comedy featuring Alien Invasion," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children & Thursday shows. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

March 8-10 — "Ring of Fire," LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$19/adults, \$18/seniors 55+, \$15/students with ID. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

March 10 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, 3 p.m., The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Adult general admission: \$25, senior general admission: \$22, students with ID: free. Reservations: <https://lcso.net/event/subscription3/>

March 9 — Dig the Dunes' third Makers Trail, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: tinyurl.com/26hf7s72

March 11 — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 5-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 11 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 12 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Focus: Patrick deWitt's The Librarianist. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 12 — Board Game Night for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 13 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

March 13 — Adult Dungeons & Dragons, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org

Through March 31 — Work by Cheryl Kaper, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy 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: lucia@qas.org

Through April 2 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, "Endangered Heritage," LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays in March — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays in March — 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.

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

Fridays Through March 22 — Knights of Columbus Council 12951 annual Lenten Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 606 S. Woodland Ave. Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/seniors. "Season Passes": \$85/adults, \$67/seniors. Online orders: <http://qas.org/kofc>

Saturdays in LaPorte — Guided tours, 2-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

March 7 — Book signing, Agata Szczeszak-Brewer's The Hunger Book: A Memoir from Communist Poland, 6-7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 150 Silhavy Road, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 531-6551, www.barnesandnoble.com

March 8 — Despite The Smoke with Jack Cunningham, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

March 8-April 28 — Kevin Firme, "Sculpture and Drawings," Midwest Museum of Art, 429 S. Main St.,

Elkhart. *Noontime talk (Eastern)*: March 14.

March 9 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m.-noon, Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: www.dunelandweaversguild.org

March 9 — Beginner Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshop, 1:30-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: \$7. Registration: (219) 926-1390.

March 9 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, Sugarwood Forest Preserve, 6855 Elm Valley Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

March 9 — Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket at The Acorn with Chris Pureka, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

March 9-10 — The 47th annual Maple Sugar Time Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Spring Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

March 10 — Indiana's Solar Eclipse 101, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 10 — Beth Orton, 7 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

March 11 — St. Patrick's Day Story Time, 10 a.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Through March 14 — Chesterton-based plein air oil artist Christine Newton, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through March 31 — "Being There" (oils by Julie Christian Bender), Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Hours: 9 a.m.-noon EST weekdays. Info: www.mediatorharbert.com

Through May 5 — "Radiator Mascots: Art, Style & Story," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. 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, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 12 — "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.

Through May 12 — Photo exhibit of 1926 Valparaiso fire, Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 12 — "Facing the Giant: 3 De-

cades of Dissent," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Also on display: Joe Matty's "A World Apart" (through March 24), Aaron Martin's "Nébwakat Mshiké: Wise Turtle," through 2024. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

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

Saturdays-Sundays in March. — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "The Monk and the Gun." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. March 8, 3 p.m. March 9, 3 & 6 p.m. March 10. *Also*: "Just Sally," a short musical directed by Michigan native Kyle Misak. Time: 6 p.m. March 9. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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On March 7, 1854, Charles Miller, St. Louis, received a patent for a sewing machine that could stitch buttonholes.

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for a “voice-transmission device,” later known as the telephone.

On March 7, 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversation took place between New York and London.

On March 7, 1975, the Senate voted to revise its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators, rather than the previously required two-thirds of senators present, to limit debate.

On March 7, 1994, the Navy issued its first permanent orders assigning women to regular duty aboard a combat ship – in this case, the USS Eisenhower.

On March 8, 1765, the hated “Stamp Act,” designed to tax the American colonies, was passed by the British House of Lords.

On March 8, 1854, Commodore Matthew Perry made his second landing in Japan. Within a month, he had concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

On March 8, 1894, New York became the first state to require dogs to be licensed.

On March 8, 1917, the Bolshevik Revolution was under way as riots and strikes broke out in the Russian city of St. Petersburg.

On March 8, 1946, the Civil Aeronautics Administration granted *The New York Journal-American* a license for a helicopter to cover news and deliver photographs.

On March 9, 1822, New York’s Charles M. Graham received a patent for artificial teeth.

On March 9, 1933, President Roosevelt called Congress into session to begin its “100 days” of enacting New Deal legislation.

On March 9, 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy’s anti-Communism campaign on an episode of “See It Now.”

On March 9, 1959, the original Barbie doll debuted in U.S. stores.

On March 9, 1975, work began on the Alaskan oil pipeline.

On March 10, 1849, Abraham Lincoln applied for a patent, the first person to do so and become U.S. president. He would receive it in May 1849 for inventing a way of “buoying vessels over shoals.”

On March 10, 1862, during the Civil War, paper

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money was first issued by the U.S. government.

On March 10, 1876, in Boston, Alexander Graham Bell made the world's first telephone call, telling his assistant in an adjoining room, "*Mr. Watson, come here. I want you.*"

On March 10, 1880, The Salvation Army (which originated in England) began operations in the United States.

On March 10, 1946, Italian women, for the first time in history, were allowed to vote in local elections.

On March 10, 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

On March 11, 1888, an estimated 400 died as one of the worst blizzards in the nation's history struck the northeastern United States.

On March 11, 1959, in New York, "A Raisin in the Sun," starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee, opened on Broadway.

On March 11, 1976, President Richard Nixon acknowledged he ordered the CIA to try to keep Marxist Salvador Allende from becoming president of Chile in 1970

On March 11, 1988, Gary Hart, for the second time, withdrew as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

On March 12, 1831, manufacturer Clement Studebaker, who helped found the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Co. in South Bend, was born in Pinetree, Pa.

On March 12, 1849, an ice flood in the Chicago River ripped ships from their docks and pushed them (along with huge blocks of ice) downstream. The gigantic mass swept the bridges on Madison, Randolph and Wells before it.

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low, of Savannah, Ga., founded the first Girl Scout troop in the United States.

On March 12, 1912, Army Capt. Albert Berry made the first parachute jump from an airplane.

On March 12, 1930, India's Mohandas Gandhi began a 300-mile march to protest a British tax on salt.

On March 13, 1852, a drawing by Frank Bellew that appeared in *The New York Lantern* was the first cartoon that depicted Uncle Sam as the symbol of the United States.

On March 13, 1868, the Senate began impeachment proceedings against President Andrew Johnson, charging him with "high crimes and misdemeanors." He was acquitted by one vote.

On March 13, 1877, Chester Greenwood, of Farmington, Maine, received a patent for "ear muffers," which later became known as "ear muffs."

On March 13, 1884, Standard Time was adopted across the U.S.

On March 13, 1884, the Chicago Live Stock Exchange received its charter.

On March 13, 1947, Lerner and Loewe's "Brigadoon" debuted on Broadway.

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assigned campers, ensuring safety standards, instructing campers of camp
rules and regulations, maintaining discipline and guiding campers throughout
all daily activities. Must be energetic, creative, positive and have the ability to
work well with staff and campers alike. Reports to the camp director and/or
art director or assistant camp director. Be available to work June 14, 2024–
Aug. 9, 2024. Counselors work days, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
CST. Occasional nights 7-9 p.m.

Duties Responsibilities & Qualifications

Must be 16 years of age

Must have USA ID

Will get Michigan child care fingerprint/background check. Must have current
Ability to lead and oversee an assigned group of campers.

Ability to work with children of all ages, understand their interests,

and apply that to how you relate to each camper

Maintains camp discipline. Refers incidents of misbehavior, as necessary, to

the camp director.

Assists with camp activities and events as assigned by the On-Site Program
Director.

Promotes high camper morale.

Ensures camper safety

Compassion, good judgment, sense of responsibility, patience, fairness,
humor, charisma, spontaneity and a positive outlook. Will supervise
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The Mayors of New York by S.J. Rozan (*hardcover \$27.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 280 pages.*)

This is Book 15 in the Bill Smith/Lydia Chin mystery series, and I'm sorry I didn't pick up on this most entertaining pair before now.

It's modern day in New York City, and there's a new sheriff in town — Carole McCann, the city's first female mayor. As if taking care of the largest city in the country isn't enough, she also has an obnoxious ex and a pair of 15-year-old twins. She must have a therapist on speed dial...

Bill and Lydia are private investigators, but don't share a common office or apartment. That's not to say they aren't lovers, but that is not explored, at least not in this book. What is explored is their uncanny ability to understand what the other is thinking before they speak.

The mayor has a personal assistant, Aubrey Hamilton, who just happens to be Bill's ex-girlfriend. Bill is surprised when she calls him. Whenever they speak, and that's not often, conversations seem to drip with sarcasm — actually rather funny.

One day, she phones Bill about taking a case that must be kept out of the media. It seems the mayor's son, Mark, has disappeared. Why not report it to her police department? Because sensitive and soul-sucking talks are about to begin involving contract negotiations with city unions, the first being the Detectives' Endowment Association. The outcome will set the tone for negotiations for the rest of the unions.

Mark, hasn't been seen for several days, his backpack is missing and so is \$500 from his bank account. His father and sister seem to think he's just gone off "to think" since he's done this before and always comes back soon. But Mayor McCann can't abide any bad publicity right now and has asked Aubrey to get someone "discreet" to find him. It's a strange family dynamic: Mark has taken his mother's last name, McCann, while sister Madison goes by dad's name, Guilder. Madison is the drama queen of the family, while Mark is somewhat of a loner.

Lydia, meanwhile, is asked by a Chinese family to find out what really happened to their daughter, Amber Shun, whose body was found and labeled a suicide. When Bill calls Lydia about the mayor's case, she calls back to the Shuns and tells them she can't look into their daughter's death. Interesting fact: Amber was in a play at school with Mark.

Mark is an interesting case in that no one wants

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



to talk to Bill or Lydia, they can't go to the police for help and they must studiously avoid all media attention. That certainly makes the case a little harder to follow, but that's where you begin to understand the title of the book. In every borough of the city, in every neighborhood, there is a "mayor" of sorts, someone who knows all, sees all and sometimes runs the show. This can be helpful when people can do things like hack into computers or phones, or lead Bill and Lydia to the right people for needed information. Help is provided at a price, of course: improved parks, playgrounds for the kids or maybe better subway service. After all, nothing's more important than finding the mayor's son, right?

Of course, sometimes Bill can't control his mouth and his sarcasm can cause him trouble, and that's where Lydia comes in — she's the calvary come to save the day when needed. Like when Bill gets in a hysterical fracas in Time Square with a bunch of costumed super heroes. Don't ask, just read — it's a hoot!

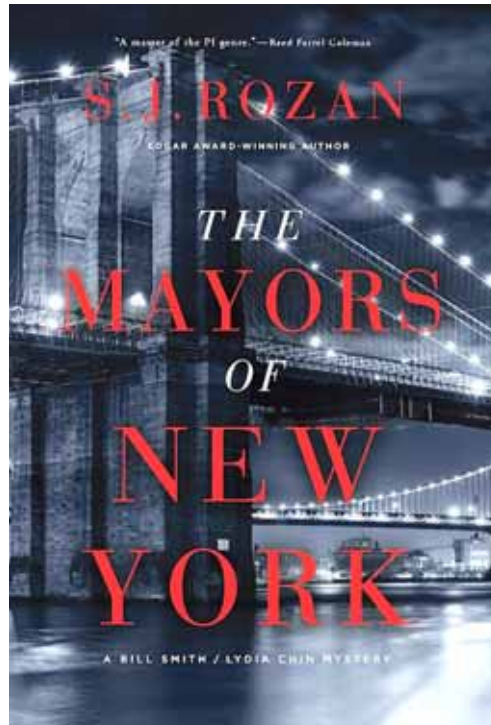
One thing leads to another, and it is obvious that someone else is looking for Mark, and it's not his

family. Then, another student, Jacob Dolo, is shot and wounded, and there might be a connection to Amber Shun's death. Then, there's the mayor's ex-husband and his buddy, über-rich lawyer Oscar Trask, the man no one says "no" to. He seems to take an interest in Madison, maybe too much of an interest. And does Daddy notice? Hardly. He's too busy living off Trask's largesse.

Rozan is New York born and bred, and it shows in this cleverly laid out story that takes the reader into the heart of various boroughs, meeting the people and especially the food of all the different cultures. Have you ever heard of fufu bread and jolly rice? Me neither. Things definitely heat up as Bill and Lydia get closer to what happened to Mark...with a gun pointed at...?

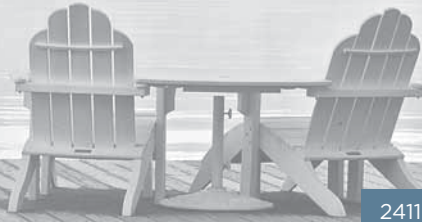
The final word: In a city of close to 10 million people, Rozan explores the many cultures and power dynamics that will make your head spin. The story is more than just another gumshoe novel. Entertainment at its best.

Till next time, happy reading!



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