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# The Rise of the Misunderstood Artist

by Edmund Lawler



Matt Raney has worked nearly six months on the eye-catching mural at the new Burn 'Em Brewing. Photo by Bryan Lawler.

Artist Matt Raney's mashup of zany characters he's painting on an industrial-scale mural in Burn 'Em Brewing's edgy new building brilliantly captures the brewpub's eclectic, trippy vibe.

Patrons are greeted by the likes of "Black Beer'd the Pirate," a bushy, exuberant lumberjack, and the skeletal Tea Lady as they enter Burn 'Em's swag section and head into the taproom and restaurant at 1215 E. Second St.

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## The Rise of the Misunderstood Artist

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Although not as expansive as Michaelangelo's murals gracing the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, Raney's ambitious mural featuring some of Burn 'Em's most colorful, comical brand characters covers a lot of ground. From the entrance, the 10-foot-high mural extends nearly 30 feet into the taproom and restaurant. It then takes a hard right as the mural wall stretches another 15 feet to the kitchen door. There's even a narrow strip of the mural just below the ceiling that traverses the width of the restaurant while competing with the overhead HVAC tubes.

The phantasmagoric mural, a work in progress, remains unnamed.

Raney declines to speculate on how many hours he's devoted to his oversized masterpiece.

"I purposely don't want to calculate the hours," he says. "It's a number that's going to be staggering. But it will be worth it."

Steve Murray, Burn 'Em's head brewer and manager of operations, is certain it will.

"It's the centerpiece of the place," Murray says. "It's what you see the moment you walk in. And it's a representation of many of our labels, all in one."

Raney introduced himself to Murray and some of Burn 'Em's founding partners in 2017, back when the brewpub was operating out of a two-story brown-brick house at 718 Freyer Road.

"Hey, are you guys cool with me putting up any artwork up?" Raney recalls of his pitch to Murray and friends. "They were very receptive. I put some art in the tap room. Steve asked if I did murals? I said, 'I don't, but I will.'"

And he did.

The vibrant mural, painted on three specially treated plywood panels, faced Freyer Road, alerting passersby to a unique, somewhat weird venue inside. After all, the brewpub's renegade motto is: "Comforting the Disturbed, Disturbing the Comfortable."

Raney explains he's accustomed to painting on large canvases, so the mural wasn't too much of a stretch.

The bizarre-looking figures on Raney's murals – at the old and new locations – are based on characters developed by Max Clarke, an illustrator, graphic artist and musician based in Brooklyn, N.Y. His characters illustrate Burn 'Em's cans and helped establish the brewpub's wild and whimsical brand.

Clarke was living and working in Chicago at the time he submitted samples of his work, which instantly won over the Burn 'Em partners, according to Murray.

"Our original plan was to do a different artist for every label. We had a couple of other candidates, but Max's work came back the most professional and formed the brand right away. We fell in love with his style," Murray says. "We started brewing in 2014, but we did not start packaging until late 2015."



Matt Raney's mural reaches the ceiling at Burn 'Em Brewing.  
Photo by Bryan Lawler



The 44-year-old Raney was raised in the Mississippi River town of Moline, Ill. He's a rare combination of artistry and athleticism. In high school, he was the Moline Maroons' agile, mobile and hostile tight end whose job was to overrun linebackers and cornerbacks.

But, he says he was always more of a geek than a jock.

"When I was 6, I remember trying to draw Batman with all of Gotham City in the background. I drew Batman very small and kept drawing building after building, and I thought, 'This is not how I wanted it.' But I was only 6," Raney said as he took a break from painting his mural on a day when the brewpub was closed.



Matt Raney in the studio of his Michigan City home. Behind him is a portrait of John Lennon he painted. Photo courtesy of Matt Raney.

"I remember drawing Batman on a sunny summer day. My friends were playing and asking, 'What are you doing? Why are you sitting at this picnic table drawing comics?'"

Welcome to the world of the misunderstood artist.

Later, he found his people and began his artistic journey at The University of Iowa's School of Art and Art History, where he majored in art education. His deep appreciation of art from comics of the late '80s-early '90s evolved into his love of the Impressionist masters like Cezanne and Monet.

After graduation, Raney taught art at a school in rural Western Illinois for four years before taking a similar position for three years at a school in Crete, Ill., a far southern Chicago suburb. It's where he met his future wife, Andrea, who was a reading aide at the school.

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An avid paddler, Raney was looking for a body of water not too far from his home in Crete to practice his sport. He and Andrea soon became regular visitors to Washington Park beach – about an hour away – which became one of their favorite places.

He was accustomed to paddling the smaller rivers and even the mighty Mississippi back home.

“Once I got up here, I said, ‘Oh my God, this is fantastic!’” he recalled. “One of the first things I did was launch from the marina and paddle as far away from shore as I could.

“I paddled out to where I could just barely see the lighthouse, and then I got really spooked,” he says of his experience of nearly losing sight of the horizon. “I rarely felt so small in the universe. I paddled back and got much more safety gear at Bass Pro Shop that I should have gotten in the first place.”

Washington Park beach also is where the couple ceremoniously mourned the sudden loss of their jobs at their school in Crete.

“The district canceled the art and PE programs, and Andrea’s job, too,” he said. “We both got rified the same day. We drove up to Michigan City and burned our RIF (reduction in force) papers on the beach and buried them in the sand.”

Fortunately, new teaching opportunities awaited out west. Leaving Lake Michigan and the Midwest behind, the couple moved to Lake Tahoe, Nev., then to a suburb of Phoenix. Now married, they decided to have children, but they wanted to raise them back in the Midwest, closer to family and friends.

“I applied for teaching jobs from Moline to Milwaukee,” he says. And New Buffalo, Mich., too.

To his delight, the district offered him an art teacher position beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

“Andrea was seven months pregnant with our first child. We were throwing up a Hail Mary and decided we were going to make it work,” he said. “I was very happy, but I soon realized we couldn’t afford to live in New Buffalo.”

Even in 2013, New Buffalo real estate was prohibitively expensive.

(Adam Bowen, New Buffalo Area Schools superintendent, is leading an initiative to create affordable housing in the community in an effort to recruit and retain teachers – and any other home buyers not earning six-figure incomes.)



Burn ‘Em’s Steve Murray (left) and Raney stand before the brewpub’s mural.  
Photo by Bryan Lawler.

The Raney family bought a house in Michigan City, only a few miles from the beach where they burned their walking papers three years earlier. It’s now been their and their two children’s home for 10 years. Son Jude is 10 and daughter Hero is about to turn 8.

Better yet, their home is practically in the back yard of Raney’s current school, Edgewood Elementary, where he teaches art to all students – from kindergarten through sixth grade.

“I am very proud to be an art teacher,” he said. “I love what I do, and I love sharing what I love with young

people.”

In 2019, Raney switched districts.

“I am thrilled to be teaching in Michigan City, and actually one of the big reasons I left New Buffalo was a sense that I could make a bigger impact here in Michigan City,” he says.

Raney is certainly making a big impact at Burn ‘Em with his larger-than-life wall painting.

“The mural was a real casual thing,” Raney explains. “Steve told me about the new location and said they would probably need some mural art. But he didn’t know where. As the project evolved on their end, we just worked together.”

Raney launched his end of the project in November 2023 by crafting in his home studio a sort of architectural scale-model of the mural. Actually, it was a detailed paper sketch that he glued to a miniature cardboard version of the wall.

Continued on Page 6



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Continued from Page 4

He wanted Murray and his partners to get a clear sense of what he had in mind. Their thumbs went up.

“I came in here and took measurements,” Raney explains. “I drew it out and meticulously went over everything. I was hoping to get in here right after Thanksgiving. But it was actually more like mid-December.”

Amid the chaos of construction in what was still the shell of a former warehouse, he got to work.

“I had messed around with the sketch for so long that once I stepped up to this one,” he explains, “it just flowed.”

With artist-grade acrylic paint, he was ready to animate the Burn ‘Em’s brand characters – and a few embellishments of his own, such as his robotic characters. He paints at Burn ‘Em after school and on weekends.

But, he encountered some unanticipated obstacles before his first brushstroke. The gray walls he considered to be a perfect backdrop for his handiwork got painted black, matching the building’s dramatic exterior color. The crew graciously repainted the walls in the original gray.

Then, there was a square cutout that appeared one day in the wall that now serves as the entrance to the washrooms...and a floor-to-ceiling glass panel that runs perpendicular to the wall that would serve as his massive canvas.

A second mural wall leads back to the kitchen, where he was concerned the door could swing into the mural. But Raney – no prima donna – simply rolled with it. It will all be good, he assures.

His goal is to have his mural complete before the Economic Development Corporation Michigan City celebrates the brewpub’s stunning restoration of the old warehouse on May 2.

The EDCMC, which approved brewpub’s concept and vision for the site, will present Burn ‘Em with



Matt Raney sketched a model of the mural before painting. Photo courtesy of Matt Raney

the Phoenix Award at its annual Business Appreciation Banquet at Blue Chip. The award honors the reinvention of old spaces that have risen from the ashes.

As for Raney, he can finally step back and appreciate his labor of love that promises to become the Sistine Chapel of craft beer.

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## Market Interesting Over Three Years

The data is from a map I drew from the north end of Michigan City between U.S. 12 and the lake to the Michigan Line. The data for Price, Living Area, Square are all “medians.” Median is the midpoint in a list of data. The time frame for each year is 10/1 through 4/23 of the following year.

Yr	Un	Tot \$ V Mil	Price Sold K	Liv Area	Sq ft	DOM	% list
21-22	82	53M	515	2029	260	18	98
22-23	48	35M	455	2024	255	18	97
23-24	58	37M	575	2092	252	18	98

Here is the active (for sale stats) market numbers for 4/23/24.

Year	Units	Total \$ Volume	Price Listed	Living Area	Square Ft pr
23-24	25	\$23.9	\$589	2092	319

2021-22 was the best year in everything except price sold. That was COVID time when everyone was escaping the city and suburbs.

The last six months have been better than the same period for 2022-2023.

What is interesting to me is that the size of the houses sold, the market time it took to sell them and the list to sold price are all very similar for three years.

What is strikingly different are the number of sales and the total \$ Volume for 2021-2022 versus the other two years.

With just 25 listings on the market as of April 23, 2024, and 58 sales in the past six months, the market is tight, so the individual house price also has gone up significantly from the past two years...but not the square foot price.

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## Friendship Botanic Gardens Opens for Season, Gears Up for Fundraiser

by Andrew Tallackson

You can tell spring is rolling toward summer just by all the activity at Friendship Botanic Gardens.

Not only does the local attraction officially open for the season Saturday, May 4, but a gardening workshop is scheduled the same day, followed by its premier fundraiser, "Giddy Up for the Gardens," on May 11.

Why support the sprawling 105 acres of formal gardens and forested natural trails at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12? The answer, according to Gardens Board President John Leinweber, is simple. People can have an amazing experience there with family without breaking the bank.

"I have so many people come up to me when I'm there," he said, "some of these people who know me, and they say, 'John, why is everyone smiling here?' I say, 'You know why? Because you can go through the Gardens for two hours. You can meditate, you can pray, you can walk, you can enjoy the environment. Whatever you want to do.'"

Regular season hours starting May 4 are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Also May 4 from 9-11 a.m. is the informative, and creatively titled, workshop: "Gardening Mistakes I've Made and Survived and Which Plants Are Deer-Resistant."

Presented by Master Gardeners Janice Casper, Donna Pouzar and Rima Binder, who's also board

vice president, deer-resistant plants will sold. The workshop cost, payable upon arrival, is \$10 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Register by email at [info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org)

Then comes "Giddy Up for the Gardens," which is from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Firefly Farm, which is located at county roads 50 South and 700 West, one mile west of Garwood Orchard in LaPorte.

Western attire is encouraged, but Leinweber says people can wear whatever they like. The evening features music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live and silent auctions and a paddle raise. Tickets are \$140 per person, while a corporate underwriter table for eight costs \$2,500. A social table of eight for individuals only is \$1,500.

With all the improvements made over the past 10 years to the Gardens, money raised by "Giddy Up for the Gardens" helps cover operational expenses. Leinweber estimates that annual figure at roughly \$500,000.

Those who attend the event, Leinweber stresses, will be part of a celebration of the Gardens, and where it's headed in the future.

□

Visit [www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org](http://www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org) or contact [info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org](mailto:info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org) for additional information.



John Leinweber is board president at Friendship Botanic Gardens. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

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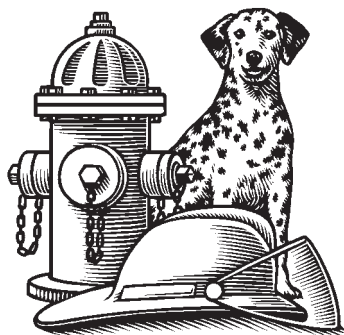
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## Fictional Take on “Peter Pan” Up Next at Footlight Theatre

“The Lost Boy,” a fictional exploration of James M. Barrie and the creation of his beloved work, “Peter Pan,” runs May 3-12 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

In the play written by Ronald Gabriel Paolillo, Barrie (Noel Carlson) returns home from London to Kuiremere, Scotland, where he still struggles to connect with his mother (Ericka Kilbourne), befriends his childhood bully, Sean O’Rourke (Mike Kilbourne), and his wife, Maureen (Nora Ryszka). Barrie, by the way, was just 6 when his older brother, Davey, died in an ice-skating incident for which his mother blames him.

“As soon as I read the script, I knew I wanted to share this story on the Footlight stage,” Director Lara West said in a press release. “This team has worked incredibly hard to seamlessly shift between fantasy and reality on our 24-foot stage. We’re doing it without walls or pulling the curtain. It’s been quite a challenge, but so much fun. We think people are going to like the result.”

The cast is very much a family affair. It includes: Ryszka’s children, Eleanor and Anna; two of the Kilbournes’ children, Annabelle and Daisy; J. Swindell and his son, Jayce; Melissa Minix; Lexi Hazen; Katelyn West; Dagny Basta; and Zakaree Remson.

West is mentored and assisted by Larry Piotrows-



Mike Kilbourne (left) and Noel Carlson appear in “The Lost Boy.”

ki. Chris West produces and designs lights, with Alayana Lauritsen designing sound. The scenic artist is Beckie Remson. Hazen stage manages, while Ashley Williams designs costumes.

Saturday and Sunday shows are at 2 p.m., with Thursday and Friday shows at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for 12 and younger. Tickets may be purchased at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org) or by calling (219) 874-4035.

Alayna Lauritsen will hold auditions for “110 Stories” at 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

### KAC Business After Hours

Krasl Art Center and Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber will host a Business After Hours, complete with a 2024 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff preview, from 5-7 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 9, at KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

A reveal of the fair’s commemorative design by Iowa artist Chris Abigt is at 6 p.m. EDT. The annual event, itself, is July 13-14.

Visit [www.krasl.org/art-fair/event-information](http://www.krasl.org/art-fair/event-information) for more details.

### NB Library Community Forum

Berrien County Naturalist Katy Swanson will deliver a program on the Great Lakes at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 7, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The free program, sponsored by Friends of the New Buffalo Library, will span how the Great Lakes continue to change due to geological and human activities.



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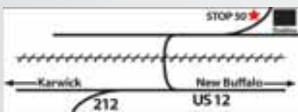
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### Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers are photographed on the Warren Woods trails during a 2023 hike.

Harbor Country Hikers will walk Warren Woods State Park trails in search of wildflowers at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 4.

The park, notable for early spring flowers, is located on Elm Valley Road in Three Oaks, Mich. It offers some 311 acres of old-growth climax forest dominated by American beech, sugar maple and tulip poplars. Some trees are more than 100 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter, and among the oldest in Southwest Michigan.

The hike also offers views of Galien River and its wildflower-covered flood plains and bluffs.

Hikers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat and insect repellent. Take plenty of water. Membership is preferred; however, the public is invited.

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or the group's Facebook page for more details.

### Spring Job Fair

May 10 is the registration deadline to participate in the 2024 spring job fair from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, May 16, in the Westville High School library, 207 E. Valparaiso St.

The free event, open to the public, is presented by Westville Middle/High School and Westville Area Chamber of Commerce. Employers with part-time, full-time and seasonal job openings can register at [bit.ly/WestvilleCTEJobFair](http://bit.ly/WestvilleCTEJobFair). Email [info@westvillechamber.org](mailto:info@westvillechamber.org) for more details.

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### MCAS Award Recipients

Michigan City Area Schools has announced recipients of its 2024 Teacher and Employee of the Year awards.

The program, which is in its pilot year, recognizes five staff members who have gone above and beyond to serve students. They are:

- Susan Shell (Elementary Teacher of the Year), a Marsh Elementary School kindergarten teacher. She has been a kindergarten teacher for 17 years, 16 of them for MCAS.
- Jenny Jones (Secondary Teacher of the Year), a computer science and technology teacher at Krueger Middle School. She has 25 years experience as an educator, serving Krueger for the past 23 years
- Missy Burklow (Support Staff Employee of the Year), a paraprofessional at Knapp Elementary School. A 35-year veteran of MCAS, she supports students in grades 1-5 who have mild disabilities and autism, and in math and reading.
- Diana Walpole (Food Service Employee of the Year), a Food Service Tech 3 at Edgewood Elementary School. She began working for MCAS Food Service in 2017.
- Maryanne Garon (Transportation Employee of the Year). She has been an MCAS school bus driver since 2012, driving routes for students with special needs for most of her career.

The winners were surprised April 12 by a "prize patrol" that included MCAS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Associate Superintendent Dr. Wendel McCollum and representatives of Comcast and the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, the program sponsors. Each individual received \$500, an engraved award and a bag of gift items.

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## Cacophony

When it comes to booking travel these days, there is so much to consider. Beyond the knowable, which includes cost, there are indeterminable factors like weather and transportation delays. Another variable — one that can't be overlooked in the post-pandemic era — is exposure to disease. Having just returned from a 30-day adventure to Australia and New Zealand, I have a valuable experience to relate.

At the welcome reception hosted by the tour company (Tauck) in a Melbourne hotel, our tour director, Lisa, invited the 38 of us to introduce ourselves. Everyone except Lisa hailed from the U.S., and most were retired or in the throes of contemplating that stage in life. The room buzzed as each of us expressed our anticipation over the rigorous, action-packed itinerary for which we had paid dearly.

As each of us took our turn, the common refrain was, "Australia and New Zealand have been on my bucket list for a long time."

During the two-hour cocktail party, our group mixed and mingled, thrilling over the discovery of any synchronicities that linked us. Beyond geography, threads like education, careers and hobbies, bound us. The first people I met were a pair of 60-something women from the East Coast, former teachers who were traveling together. Single like me (my sister joined me on the trip), Dawn and Marta were also bleary-eyed and fatigued from too many hours spent in airports, on planes and navigating jet lag.

The following day, as our group boarded the coach for a city tour of Melbourne, Lisa greeted us with an announcement.

"Look for your names, everybody," she beamed. "I've placed sticky notes above your seats. I'll be switching these around every day."

At first, Lisa's efforts to encourage group camaraderie and fairness in seating seemed delightful and well-meaning. But my fellow travelers and I would soon wonder what role the "musical chairs" played in our group's ultimate health and well-being.

When I sat next to Marta at lunch at a local winery, she complained about itchy eyes, stuffy nose

## That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



and scratchy throat.

Smiling pleasantly, she added, "I feel fine, though. I think it's just allergies."

I nodded. "It's fall here in Australia. A troublesome time for me, too. I started my allergy meds as soon as I got here."

By the time we left Melbourne for the outback two days later, Marta had developed a hacking cough and Dawn had come down with Marta's initial symptoms. The two huddled in their row on the bus, heads down, tissues handy, nodding off during Lisa's commentary about Ayers Rock. Later, when Dawn joined Marta in her chorus of coughs, the whispering among us started.

"Those two are really sick. Why don't they mask up?" said a guy behind me.

"Yeah, this is my vacation. I didn't pay to come here just to get sick," another responded.

After several full days of similar grumbling, and folks choosing not to sit near Dawn and Marta at mealtime, one fellow in the back of the bus raised the question we'd all been mulling over.

"Lisa, shouldn't there be a policy about masking up on the bus to prevent the healthy among us from getting sick?" he bellowed.

His words were met with deafening silence. Glances darted between my sister and me, and I noticed much head nodding across aisles between strangers who had quickly become friends.

At the front of the bus, Lisa's face reddened as she took the microphone and explained the company's policy. "We cannot require masks. It's strictly voluntary."

By the time we flew from the outback to Port Douglas, where snorkeling and scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef were scheduled, two more comrades were running fevers, sniffing and coughing. Those suffering souls bowed out of the seaside patio dinner to rest up for the much-anticipated excursion.

When we reached Sydney, people found drug stores, purchased masks and donned them while on the bus or at meals. If Dawn and Marta noticed the masking up, they chose to ignore it. Instead, the two coughed into their cupped hands or tissues. The guy who challenged Lisa about the mask policy began referring to the ladies as "the infectors." As nicknames often do, this one stuck.

When additional group members came down with

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the virus, they boarded the bus wearing a mask. Masking up had become a badge of honor, a sign to the rest of us that the sickie had our best interests in mind. Another curious thing happened. Even if folks were symptom-free, if they were seated near “the infectors,” they put on a mask.

I will spare you the play by play. Suffice it to say that in three-day intervals, more and more of our group became sick. Despite all this, Lisa continued to rotate us in the seats, places that hours before had been occupied by folks suffering from the virus. And as Week One of our experience-rich tour folded into Week Two, it became Lisa’s turn. On the mic, her voice was noticeably hoarse and congested as she detailed the day’s itinerary to a sheep farm and winery.

After our lunch stop, she waved a package of blue surgical masks in the air. “These are up in front for your use, should you desire one.”

Of course, the grumblers among us muttered about why these hadn’t been offered or required in the first place.

By the time we reached the last days of our trip of a lifetime, three people, including Dawn, missed the jet boat and helicopter tours of the Queenstown area to visit Urgent Care. Steroids, inhalers, antibiotics were scripted, and the good news spread that “our virus” was not COVID-19.

On the last day, 10 out of the 38 missed the informative Maori tribe’s presentation in the Auckland history museum. That evening, at our farewell dinner, four people were absent due to continuing poor health. And as we gathered as a group in a private room, raising our champagne flutes to toast new friendships and cheer about the incredible journey we’d shared, the room echoed with coughs.

In his cheery toast to Lisa and the group, one of my fellow travelers referred to the obvious coughing background noise as our tour’s personal brand of “ca-cough-any,” a clever play on the word, cacophony. In all the comments, the sentiment was unanimous. Despite the masks and the virus, the trip had met or exceeded our expectations.

Could the virus have been avoided if “the infectors” had masked from the moment they exhibited symptoms? Maybe. If they had, perhaps fewer folks would have not missed events they’d greatly anticipated. Without question, if Dawn and Marta had worn masks, there would have been less blaming and anger. So too, if Tauck had set a firm policy about masking — and if Lisa had put a stop to her bus seat-switching idea — perhaps we would have stood a stronger chance of remaining illness-free.

Human behavior is what it is. We blame when others get in the way of our fun or jeopardize our well-being. But in the end, choice and free will as they pertain to things like masking are just as controversial as they were during the COVID-19 pandemic. An important variable for all of us to consider when booking future travel.

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## Compelling “Manhunt” Breathes New Life into Historical Dramas

by Andrew Tallackson



Tobias Menzies (right) is a reservoir of moral fortitude as Edwin Stanton in “Manhunt.”

“Manhunt” restores your faith in historical dramas, that in the right hands, and with exceptional talent, the past is a relevant window into how we behave in the present.

The seven-episode miniseries also is proof Apple TV+ isn’t home solely to “Ted Lasso.” It is a premier streaming service: smarter, bolder, a constant risk taker.

Anyone who paid attention in history class, or has an affection for historical accounts, knows the story of Lincoln’s assassination: where it went down, the perpetrators. However, this limited series, based on James L. Swanson’s 2007 *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killer*, treats the subject like a modern-day police procedural, with dialogue sprinkled here and there that draws political parallels to the past 10 years. So, instead of coming across as an Emmy bait wax museum, the show is propulsive and engrossing, with Tobias Menzies and Anthony Boyle giving arguably two of the year’s best performances.

High school history books tend to make post-Civil War Reconstruction read like some compact entity that went off without a hitch. Truth is, as “Manhunt” reveals, the days leading up to Lincoln’s assassination at Ford’s Theatre were fraught with uncertainty. A lot of real people and particulars to

sort through in the series, but showrunner Monica Beletsky (“The Leftovers,” “Friday Night Lights”) makes it look effortless.

With peerless production values, and with veteran directors of great crime thrillers, Carl Franklin (“One False Move”) and John Dahl (“The Last Seduction”), at the helm, the show immerses you in this world. When John Wilkes Booth (Boyle) fires into Lincoln’s head as he watches “My American Cousin,” the terrible spectacle of it is conveyed with breathless skill. The killing feels rehearsed and terribly sloppy: a furious race to complete an indefensible task. Later, the removal of Lincoln’s body, with whites and blacks, side by side, reaching out to touch the casket is deeply moving.

Hot on Booth’s trail is Edwin Stanton (Menzies), Lincoln’s secretary of war who initiates the manhunt, rarely stopping to rest despite crippling asthma. The show also delves into the conspirators involved in Lincoln’s death. Depicted with refreshing depth as well is the story behind reprehensible physician-conspirator Samuel Mudd (Matt Walsh) — the inspiration behind the still-used-today phrase “His Name is Mudd” — whose former slave, Mary Simms (Lovie Simone), helps educate freed slaves. That Simms was a former slave asked to testify against a white man gives these scenes a stark



immediacy. Simone delivers a performance of tremendous smarts and courage.

And amid all the key players, locations, tips, gossip and political inefficiency — impeachable 17th president Andrew Johnson (Glenn Morshower) is especially repugnant — “Manhunt” ultimately belongs to Menzies as Stanton and Boyle as Booth.

What a year for Boyle. The Irish actor first caught my attention in another superb Apple TV+ historical drama this year, “Masters of the Air,” but this is career-making work. The performance is electrifying. It’s not that you sympathize with Booth. Not at all. It is the trainwreck quality of the man himself. Boyle plays him with an elevated sense of worth and talent. A poisonous snake rendered harmless by injury at Ford’s Theatre, he unravels physically and mentally. There is a dangerous quality to Boyle in the early episodes, one sufficiently emasculated in the days leading up to his death.

For Menzies, this is the performance that launches his leading-man status. I didn’t think much of his work as a middle-age Prince Phillip on Netflix’s “The Crown,” but the show, itself, doomed him to failure. Matt Smith, in the first two seasons, succinctly introduced him as a shallow worm. The template was forged by the time Menzies stepped in, so there was little the show, nor Menzies, could do to invest any sympathy in him.

Here, Menzies is a reservoir of drive and determination. Stanton isn’t depicted as a saint — we see him, at one point, tearing out pages from Booth’s recovered diary — but for the most part, we get a rare, uncynical portrait of moral fortitude. An unceasing



Anthony Boyle as John Wilkes Booth delivers a career-making performance.

quest to arrive at justice.

For all of the big, dramatic scenes, though, it is the quiet moments that are the most potent. A grieving Mary Todd (Lili Taylor), moments before joining her late husband’s funeral train, imploring Edwin to find the man responsible. Later, having Booth’s body in possession, Edwin refuses to erect a headstone: no monument to this man’s legacy. And the most affecting: Mary Simms, surrounded by other educated black women at Howard University, a smile on her face.

I was moved, thrilled and informed by “Manhunt.” I guarantee, you will be too.



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# BRITISH INVASION



LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's fourth and final concert of the 2023-2024 season revealed in "Beatlemania!" on April 20 at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. The concert celebrated the 60th anniversary of the "Fab Four" coming to America. All photos by Bob Wellinski



## Revisiting “The Phantom Menace” on Its 25th Anniversary



Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor are dynamite, while Natalie Portman and Jake Lloyd struggle in “Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace.”

The letter from the studio arrived one week beforehand, the clandestine tone befitting a John le Carré spy novel.

At 5 p.m. the day of the screening, call the number listed to learn the specific theater. Tell no one.

Arrive no later than 15 minutes before the screening begins.

At said screening, sign a waiver indicating, as a member of the press, you will not speak to TV crews likely outside the theater afterward.

Run your review **BEFORE** the movie’s release date...and all critic’s privileges through 20th Century Fox are revoked.

This, dear reader, simply to gain entry into the first advance Chicago screening of “Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace.”

All that was missing, I quipped to Dale Knouse, my Plus-1 at the screening, was a blood oath, or the sacrifice of a firstborn child.

Then again, you had to give 20th Century Fox credit. It had been 16 years since “Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi.” An entire generation of fans were craving more stories from George Lucas.

As the 20th Century Fox logo flashed across the screen, followed by the Lucasfilm logo, everyone in the packed theater lost it. Screams, shouts, arms raised in jubilation. Then that iconic introduction: “A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...” and John Williams’ thunderous score.

This was it.

Moment of truth.

past  
present

Andrew Tallackson



Flash forward 2 hours 16 minutes later.

Typically, when a “Star Wars” movie ends, there is applause. Lots of it.

This time...crickets.

“The Phantom Menace” looked like a “Star Wars” movie. It sounded like a “Star Wars” movie. But it did not entertain like a “Star Wars” movie.

People began collecting their things, a steady grumble circulating through the theater. One disgruntled chap in front of me turned to his wife and said, “What the !\$#% was that?”

What happened? “The Phantom Menace,” over time, would gross more than \$1 billion worldwide, but people loathed it...and still do today. Moviegoers felt betrayed. How could George Lucas do this? Great special effects, yes, but stilted plotting, wooden performances, laughable dialogue. Did Lucas forget how to make these movies?

□

This month marks the 25th anniversary of “The Phantom Menace.” May 4 also is “Star Wars Day,” chosen as such because that was when Lucas re-

leased Episode IV, “A New Hope,” back in 1977. Back when it all began.

Having not seen “The Phantom Menace” in nearly 10 years, it seemed an appropriate time for a re-watch. The surprise was, I didn’t hate it. That initial displeasure had softened. What’s wrong about it remains wrong...but there is plenty to admire.

Part of the problem, at the time, was the very nature of hype itself. Hype is a dangerous beast. The minute expectations don’t deliver, the effect is deadly. The original “Star Wars” trilogy was so revered, so entrenched in pop culture, no film could please everyone.

The idea behind the planned prequel trilogy was tantalizing. Just how did things go so terribly wrong for Anakin Skywalker that he became Darth Vader? How did all the elements come into play so that, by the time Princess Leia had those stolen Death Star plans, the backstory was complete?

I suppose concentrating on politics was wise, specifically to depict one regime’s collapse and another’s villainous birth. But when that opening crawl began and Lucas started using words and phrases like “taxation” and “trade routes,” the first red flag emerged that something was off. The last thing you want in a “Star Wars” movie is characters standing around debating politics.

You also can’t fault the actors for coming across as stiff. With his clumsy screenplay and awkward dialogue, complete with the ridiculous notion that Anakin Skywalker is an immaculate conception, Lucas failed to give his cast the tools to create characters of flesh and blood. Even future Oscar-winner Natalie Portman, as Queen Amidala, feels stranded in scenes where her dialogue contains nothing of interest. Worse was poor Jake Lloyd as young Anakin. On some level, it’s not fair to attack a child for giving a terrible performance...except two months later, the slightly older Haley Joel Osment gave what I consider one of the greatest performances ever committed to film in “The Sixth Sense.”

Bad casting call on Lucas’ behalf.

You also have to wonder about the film’s racial politics: hotly contested then, uncomfortably icky today. Every shady creature speaks in distinctly ethnic dialects. That the film’s abysmal comic relief, the universally reviled Jar Jar Binks, comes across as a contemporary Stepin Fetchit makes you wonder, what *was* going on in Lucas’ mind?

But watching the film away from the colossal hype, Lucas had not entirely lost his mojo. Some aspects of the film age remarkably well.

Like Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor as Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan Kenobi, respectively. They get what a “Star Wars” movie is about: a spirit of heroism, bravery and sacrifice. They invest our notions of Jedi Knights with a splendid mix of stoicism and self-deprecating humor.

The movie’s centerpiece, the pod race, well, it’s like someone smacked Lucas during production and said, “Get your \$#!@ together.” The cutting edge visuals and sound effects, and the sly humor — love



The climactic lightsaber duel is a franchise highlight.

those sand people firing away at racers — are everything you want from a “Star Wars” movie. The climactic lightsaber duel, with Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan facing off against Darth Maul (a deliciously creepy Ray Park) is virtuoso filmmaking. That Lucas choreographed the scenes with a martial arts feel — Park is a breathtaking cyclone of movement — to this day makes it a franchise standout.

The world building Lucas achieves in “The Phantom Menace” is so much richer than the lean, spare universe of J.J. Abrams’ uneven sequel trilogy. Many times in “Phantom,” you find yourself noticing movement off to the sides and in the background. Characters only glimpsed for a second or two, or the lavish, ornate architecture of Naboo’s palatial settings. There is beauty in Lucas’ world lacking in the sequel trilogy.

So what are we to make of “The Phantom Menace” 25 years later? It is not the total failure we remember it to be, but it lacks the resounding pleasures, the dark risks, of what Lucas achieved between 1977 and 1983,

What might have been the solution?

There was talk, after “The Phantom Menace,” that Lucas might continue writing the prequel trilogy, but allow longtime pal Steven Spielberg to take over directing duties. In hindsight, he should have collaborated with him from the start. Spielberg, a master of popcorn movie thrills, could have guided his friend better through the process. Shaped the storytelling better, refined the dialogue.

As it stands, “The Phantom Menace” is a frustrating see-saw experience. The highest of highs one minute, the lowest of lows the next. But indefensible garbage? Not at all.

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



## Michigan City's USCG Auxiliary Members Ramping Up for Boating Season

*Editor's Note — The following article was submitted by Dan La Jeunesse as a preview to National Safe Boating Week (May 18-24).*

Situated in the eastern third of Indiana's 45-mile Lake Michigan shoreline, Station Michigan City, Indiana's sole Lake Michigan unit, is home to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 33-02.

Congress established the volunteer civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard on June 23, 1939. Station is a small boat unit with responsibilities for Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Recreational Boating Safety, Homeland Security and Marine Environmental Protection. As with many Marine units, Station is a favored billet for training new seamen after graduation from boot camp. Training is regular and ongoing, seasoned hands passing on skills to lesser-experienced shipmates.

Flotilla 33-02 is quite fortunate to play a key role in daily operations of Station Michigan City, especially during active boating season. We have Communications Watch-standers that typically free up 20 active duty man hours per week, adding to Command's pool of resources for other priority duties. This is great face-to-face time between our Flotilla and the Station crew.

We also have auxiliary facilities that head out regularly on Tuesday and Thursday with the Station motor boats for training in towing and Search and Rescue activities. We exchange roles in these drills as either the "vessel in distress" or the rescue vessel. These joint exercises are used for standard training, as well as qualification check rides for both teams.

We've also had the opportunity to work with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources teams and local first responders in their Homeland Security training evolutions: We're usually the bad guys trying to escape detection.

Then, there is the annual Great Lakes Grand Prix

during the first week of August. This extravaganza brings our auxiliary facilities together with Station boats, local police and DNR boats and personal watercraft, plus Porter's fireboat. It's crazy time out on the water herding turtles and keeping the spectator boats separated from the race boats: organized waterborne chaos and noise at its finest. Meanwhile on land, other Flotilla members man a safety booth among the crowds watching from shore.

Within the last few years, Flotilla 33-02 has developed an auxiliary aviation team, including a pilot, his airplane and a number of airborne Search and Rescue, and Marine Safety observers. This is a newer mission that connects our air-and-water activities into a broad operations capability. Aviation-minded members head over to Gary/Chicago International Airport in mid-August for a week of hosting duties during the Chicago Air and Water Show. It's a great time to be up close and personal with the military crews and their machines that use Gary to stage their show activities.

Land-based activities include safety booths and vessel safety checks. We have three sizable marinas that are always happy to see our vessel examiners arrive: New Buffalo, Portage and Michigan City. One particular group most happy to see our Vessel Examiners are those taking advantage of Station Michigan City's Fix-a-Ticket program. Two years ago, Station Command asked the Flotilla if we would partner with them to offer a resolution process to boaters who received citation for safety issues during USCG boarding activities, avoiding a costly citation. For less urgent issues such as expired flares, missing navigation lights, vessel numbering and missing Personal Flotation Devices, the offender can remedy the deficiency and schedule a timely vessel exam with our Flotilla. Once the boater passes our boater (vessel) safety checks, we will contact the Station OPS officer, and the citation will be closed out prior to processing. We've seen about 25 of these activities each year. It's a positive for the boater, USCG law enforcement officers and our Vessel Examiner team.

Flotilla 33-02 is privileged to have Station Michigan City as home base. The opportunities for joint activities and shared relationships with active, reserve and auxiliary members is exceptional. We are reminded regularly that we are family. Supporting Station Michigan City is Flotilla 33-02's first priority, and this has served us well. Respect, honor and devotion to duty are pathways to great experiences and a lot of enjoyment.

Citizens interested in learning more about the local USCG Auxiliary are encouraged to join our monthly business meetings at 9 a.m. the third Saturday of the month at USCG Station Michigan City.

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## Water Tower Park Project

### PLAYGROUND CONCEPT



Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department has revealed plans for Water Tower Park renovations, 301 Broadway St.

The park department received a \$775,000 Community Development Block Grant for the project, as well as a federally funded Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for an additional \$250,000

The project will include: the installation of new inclusive play equipment; a steel slide for those with cochlear implants; a wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round; ground-level tactile play panels; a new picnic shelter; an Americans With Disabilities

Act accessible drinking fountain; a new basketball court; and an off-street parking lot with 12 parking spaces, three of which will be ADA-accessible.

Also, an ADA-accessible route will be constructed connecting the parking lot to the drinking fountain, picnic shelter and all play areas.

Repairs include fencing on the east ball diamond and removing fencing and the back stop on the west diamond, which will serve as the new parking lot.

Construction begins the first week of May and should be completed by Labor Day. Call (219) 873-1506 or visit [www.emichigancity.com](http://www.emichigancity.com) for details.

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## Dunes Summer Theatre

Dunes Summer Theatre will host a Spring Soiree, complete with a preview of "Blithe Spirit," from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the home of Alexander deHilster and Michael Jefvert.

In addition to the performances, the event includes cocktails and appetizers.

Season ticketholders and any 2023 donors who contributed more than \$150 attend for free. The reservation deadline is May 15 to Elise Kermani at [contact@dunesArts.org](mailto:contact@dunesArts.org). More information, including ticket costs, is available at [www.dunesArts.org](http://www.dunesArts.org) or (219) 879-7509.

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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, May 3, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Intro to Cross Stitch from 10 a.m.-noon Friday, May 3, at the Coolspring Library Branch.** The focus is basic supplies and techniques before stitching a small design.
- **Puzzle Day from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the main library Multipurpose Room.** Guests either can complete a puzzle, join one in progress or compete in a speed-round game.
- **Un-BEE-Lievable Science from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Coolspring Branch.** Learn facts about bees, and hear the story *Kaia and the Bees* by Maribeth Boelts.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Nina Simon from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.** Register through the website.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit [www.lapor-telibrary.org](http://www.lapor-telibrary.org) for more details, including program-ming through the Exchange building.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Star Wars Day.** The program is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 4.
- **Mother's Day Story Time.** The program is at 10 a.m. Monday, May 6.
- **"The Creation of the Great Lakes."** The program is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.

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.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Li-brary is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 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:*

- **May the Fourth Party at 4 p.m. Friday, May 3.** Celebrate "Star Wars Day" with games, crafts and goodie bags. All supplies are first-come, first-served.
- **Monday Musicale at 6 p.m. Monday, May 6.** The performance celebrates National Music Week (May 5-11) with the theme "Music: Yours, Mine and Ours."
- **Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Adult Dungeons & Dragons at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.** The in-person D&D campaign is for adults 18 and older and all experience levels.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** 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.
- **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.
- **"Star Wars" Scavenger Hunt in May.** Find the characters hidden in Youth Services for a prize. Locations change each week.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- **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.

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

## Leadership LC Golf Outing

Leadership LaPorte County will host its 2024 golf outing, a benefit for the agency, from 1-6:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course, 4000 E. Michigan Blvd.

Visit [tinyurl.com/ynd6mk29](http://tinyurl.com/ynd6mk29) to register.



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### Humanitarian of the Year

Friday, May 17, is the deadline to submit nominations for Michigan City Human Rights Commission's 2024 Humanitarian of the Year.

The commission first presented the award in 1981 to Charles Westcott. The most recent award recognized Nila Williams in 2019; however, it has not been presented since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nomination forms are available at www.emichgiancity.com, while paper copies are available at City Hall. Forms must be returned to: City Hall, Michigan City Human Rights Commission, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360.

The award goes to someone who has significantly impacted the community through volunteerism, leadership and philanthropy, and advocates for social justice.

The reception is Thursday, June 13, at Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the program is at 5:30 p.m. Heavy appetizers will be served. Tickets are \$25 and available at City Hall, or by contacting a member of the Human Rights Commission: Albertine Allen, Sojourner Atwater, Derald Borton, the Rev. Dennis Carroll, Police Chief Marty Corley, Bunny Dimke, Diana Gore, Jaime Llorens, Jessica O'Brien, Mary Ellen Quinn or Tyra Robinson-Walker.

During the event, the commission also will present the Unsung Hero Award and two scholarship awards.

### Earth Month Extravaganza

The third annual free Earth Month Extravaganza is from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail.

The event is presented by Michigan City Sustainability Commission and the city park department and tree board.

Twenty environmental organizations will attend. Activities include guided hikes, a fossils hunt, games, crafts and a free tree give away.

Contact Andie Jahnz-Davis at Andie.goinggreen@gmail.com for more details.

### Free Tree Give Away

The Michigan City Tree Board will have a limited number of free bare root sapling trees available Saturday, May 4.

The first location is from 8 a.m.-noon at Michigan City Farmer's Market, Eighth and Washington streets. The second is from 1-4 p.m. at Krueger Memorial Hall in Krueger Park.

The project is supported by Michigan City Sustainability Commission.

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### Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center will host two new exhibits through May 29: "Birds of the Hudson: Block Prints by the late Stephen Rengstorf" and "Prairies Big and Small: Photographs by Susan Kirt."



Stephen Rengstorf's "Hudson Hunter" (2007).

A reception is from 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 17, as part of Chesterton's Third Fridays and includes a cash bar and light refreshments.

"Birds of the Hudson," organized by the Estate of Stephen Rengstorf, features woodcut and linoleum block prints created by Rengstorf that celebrate his love of raptors and the outdoors.

"Prairies Big and Small" highlights the rare, endangered Tall-grass Prairie ecosystem in the Chicago region's grasslands. A

satellite exhibit runs through July 31 at Das Gallery in Country Inn & Suites, 2020 LaPorte Ave., Valparaiso. A reception is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20.

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

### Children's Art Scholarships

A \$2,000 Rotary Club of Michigan City donation to Michigan City Public Art Committee will help fund children's art scholarships.

The committee, established by the Michigan City Common Council in 2011, has a scholarship fund to assist children here in taking art instruction. Visual art classes or individual instruction for qualified children between ages 5-18 are funded. The maximum grant request per individual is \$200.

Funds are available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts, such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination taught by a legitimate instructor. The committee will not fund music, writing, dance or drama instruction.

Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider in city limits. The application deadline is at least 30 days before instruction begins.

All applications can be picked up and returned to: Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., or downloaded at [tinyurl.com/38u4zeec](http://tinyurl.com/38u4zeec)



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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Indiana Landmarks and the National Park Service will present the Logs to Lustrons Tour on Saturday, May 4.** The focus is a century of architecture, including restored residences not normally open to the public and vacant landmarks. That includes everything from rustic landmarks to Mid-Century Modern. Tour shuttles depart every 30 minutes from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center starting at 8:30 a.m., with the last tour departing at 5 p.m. The tour lasts approximately three hours. Reservations are required. General admission is \$30, or \$25 for Indiana Landmarks members. Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search Logs to Lustrons for reservations, or call (317) 639-4534.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in May.** 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.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in May at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trek-**

**kers) 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](http://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.

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

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **Dunes Calumet Audubon Society Bird Walk at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 4.** Any level of birder can join Dan Barriball, Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society leader and naturalist, at the Wilson Shelter parking lot for the two- to-three hour walk. Register at [www.dunescalaudubon.org](http://www.dunescalaudubon.org)
- **Walk and Talk with the Timberdoodles from 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday, May 4.** Join a naturalist on the beach pavilion's west side to search for shorebirds often called woodcocks, bogsuckers or timberdoodles. The moderate hike is just more than one-mile long.
- **The Lives & Times of Amphibians at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5.** Spencer Cortwright, Indiana University Northwest biology professor, will give an illustrated presentation on ideal habitats for amphibians, mating procedures, egg laying, tadpole/larval dangers, rigors of metamorphosis and challenges.

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

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# American Red Cross

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

- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, May 3.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, May 6.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 7.
- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

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

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April 23, 2024

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1. Pin Pals	35	17
2. Gutter Busters	34	18
3. Gutter Gals	30	22

## HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Tammy Vouri	174
2. Pat Collado	171
3. Mary Lou McFadden	162
4. Deb Frederick	160
5. Nancy Kubath	159
6. Dottie Brinckman	157
7. Kim Stokes (series)	411
8. Debbie Novak (series)	409

## SPLITS

Nancy Kubath	6-7-10, 3-10
June Salmon	3-10

## THREE STRIKES

Pat Collado

## New Double Track Train Schedule

South Shore Line's new train schedule is effective Tuesday, May 14, the result of capital improvements from the Double Track NWI project.

The new schedule provides 53 trains to and from Chicago, with express and local improvements. The new service will offer the following travel times to Chicago:

- Michigan City – 67 minutes.
- Dune Park – 57 minutes.
- Portage/Ogden Dunes – 51 minutes.
- Gary (Miller) – 46 minutes.
- South Bend – 109 minutes.

"The final completion of Double Track allows for the addition of 14 weekday trains, revised times, reduced travel times and new, limited-stop express service," South Shore Line President Michael Noland said in a press release. "In addition to new weekday trains, portions of weekend train times have also been modified to reflect improved travel times."

Highlights of the new service include:

- Increased origination service out of the new Miller Station and new 11th Street (Michigan City) Station.
- Increased morning and afternoon rush hour train time options.
- New limited-stop express train service.
- High-level platform ADA access at 11th Street, Portage/Ogden Dunes and Miller train stations.
- Expanded Bikes on Trains to include all trains, all year long, at existing bike stations. The following stations also are now bike stations: 11th Street, Portage/Ogden Dunes and Miller.

Visit [tinyurl.com/2t6v7ktz](http://tinyurl.com/2t6v7ktz) for more details.

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### MCHS Student Earns Contest Bronze



Michigan City High School Senior Jess Buetow has earned a bronze medal for his high score in the “Le Grand Concours,” a national competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Buetow’s score placed him between the 75th and 84th percentile among the 45,000 students who took the test in March. Students were evaluated for their written, oral and listening comprehension skills in French. Buetow is pictured with MCHS French teacher Cathy LaFrance.

### Raised Bed Soil Party

Volunteers are invited to a Raised Bed Soil Party at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Grace Learning Center, 1007 W. Eighth St.

Take gloves, and be prepared to lift heavy soil bags. Snacks will be provided.

Contact Jamie Miller at [jmiller@ufc.net](mailto:jmiller@ufc.net) or (219) 363-9618 for more details.

### Polish Bikers’ Pilgrimage, Blessing

The 15th Annual Polish Bikers’ Pilgrimage and Blessing of Motorcycles (Solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Poland & Polish Constitution Day) is Sunday, May 5, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Holy Mass (in Polish) will be celebrated at noon, followed by the Blessing of Motorcycles and a picnic on the shrine grounds. Menu items and prices vary; food also will be sold in Millennium Hall.

The event is hosted rain or shine by Katyn Riders Society. Motorcyclists who will not attend Mass, but would like bikes blessed should arrive before 1 p.m. and park on the shrine grounds where space is available.

### Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will celebrate National Music Week with a free program by club members and friends at 6 p.m. Monday, May 6, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The program includes vocal and instrumental performances by Michelle Alexander, Candace Archer, Ange Benz, Noel Carlson, Anthony Holt, Betsy Kohn and several student musicians. Also, a string trio comprised of Lewis Stahl (violin), Judith Sawyier (cello) and Carol Hazen (piano) will perform.

Donations to The Salvation Army and Monday Musicale Scholarship Fund will be accepted. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 for more details.

### United Way Pickleball Tournament

United Way of LaPorte County will host its first pickleball tournament, with all proceeds benefitting the agency, on Saturday, May 18, at Kesling Park, 2150 A St., LaPorte.

The tournament is leveled mixed doubles (3.0, 3.5, 4.0). Registration starts at 8 a.m., with the tournament at 9 a.m. The silent auction, raffles and awards presentation are at 5 p.m.

The team cost is \$50, while individuals cost \$25. Individuals are assigned a teammate based on player level. Winning teams receive medals.

Chips, water and soft drinks cost \$1 each, while Chick-fil-A sandwiches cost \$5 each.

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### In Memoriam

Donna Jean McClay, Venice, Fla., formerly of Long Beach, passed away April 8, 2024.

She was born May 12, 1949, to George and Estelle Harkey McClay in Youngstown, Ohio. In 1975, she moved to Long Beach, where she raised her kids and worked for LaPorte County EMS.

She is survived by her daughters, Shannon Coyle, Holly (Chip) Ganschow and Katie McGarry; her grandchildren, Brendan and Aidan Coyle, Brittney (Jordan) Callahan, Megan (Bryce) Ganschow, Emily Ganschow and Kevin (Karli) McGarry-Schoof; five great-grandchildren; her sister, Alice (David) Felden; two nieces and one nephew; and best friends Jean (Frank) Murphy and Gregg Lambrechts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, George, and two sisters, Barbara and Eileen.

She was one of the five original women to serve with the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department. She also was the first female reserve officer with Long Beach police. The family says she was the first female paramedic in Michigan City.

A memorial was held April 21 at Mirabella Circle in Venice, Fla. A memorial in LaPorte County will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, make a donation to Little Wish Foundation [www.littlewishfoundation.org](http://www.littlewishfoundation.org) or a local hospice center.



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### In the Area

**May 2** — A Brush with Madness, 6-8 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Cost: \$8. Info: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**May 3** — Riverwatch Skills Review, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Red Mill Environmental Education Center, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

**May 3** — Intro to Cross Stitch, 10 a.m.-noon, Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 3** — May the Fourth Party, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 3-5** — Shine the Light Project, "The Sound of Music," Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Times: 7 p.m. May 3, 2 & 7 p.m. May 4, 2 p.m. May 5. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: [tinyurl.com/ywar5ddd](http://tinyurl.com/ywar5ddd)

**May 3-12** — "The Lost Boy," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Saturday-Sunday shows: 2 p.m. Thursday-Friday shows: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

**May 4** — Free bare root sapling trees available. *Location 1:* 8 a.m.-noon, Michigan City Farmer's Market, Eighth & Washington streets. *Second location:* 1-4 p.m., Krueger Memorial Hall, Krueger Park.

**May 4** — Free Earth Month Extravaganza, 1-4 p.m., Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail. Info: [Andie.goinggreen@gmail.com](mailto:Andie.goinggreen@gmail.com)

**May 4** — Puzzle Day, 9-11 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 4** — Celestial Night Hike, 7-9:30 p.m., Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Info: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**May 6** — Monday Musicale, 6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 7** — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 874-3754.

**May 7** — Un-BEE-Lievable Science, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 8** — Adult Dungeons & Dragons, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 874-3754.

**May 8** — Virtual Author Talk with Nina Simon, 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Through May 6** — Works by Jane Cowley, Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

**Through June** — Work by Julie Kasniunas, 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. *Reception:* after 10:30 a.m. Mass on May 5. Info: [lucia@qas.org](mailto:lucia@qas.org)

**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 May** — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

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

**Saturdays through Oct. 26 in Michigan City** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Franklin streets. Info: [tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr](http://tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr)

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

**Second Tuesday of the Month** — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at [kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org)

### In the Region

**May 2** — Jim Messina, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$65 + \$8.50 convenience fee, \$100 + \$8.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**May 3** — Portrait Artists “Face Off,” 6-9 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$5 at door, free/children 12 & younger.

**May 3** — Earthwork Music Collective, 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

**May 4** — Star Wars Day, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**May 4** — Dunes Calumet Audubon Society Bird Walk, 8 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**May 4** — Logs to Lustrons Tour, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tours depart every 30 minutes from Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu for details.

**May 4** — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EDT, Warren Woods State Park, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

**May 4** — Marrakesh Express: Crosby, Stills, & Nash — Their Debut Album, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

**May 4** — Walk and Talk with the Timberdoodles, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**May 5** — The Lives & Times of Amphibians, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**May 6** — Mother’s Day Story Time, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**May 7** — “The Creation of the Great Lakes,” 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Through May 2** — Peter Wise exhibit (paintings/mixed media/montages), Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**Through May 5** — Community Student Art Exhibition, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours: noon-4 p.m. EDT Thur.-Sun. Info: https://boxfactoryforthearts.org

**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 Decades of Dissent,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. *Also on display:* Aaron Martin’s “Nébwakat Mshiké: Wise Turtle,” through 2024. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

**Through May 29** — “Birds of the Hudson: Block Prints by the late Stephen Rengstorf,” “Prairies Big and Small: Photographs by Susan Kirt,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Reception:* 4-7 p.m. May 17. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

**Through May 31** — “Birds, Butterflies & the Beauty That Surrounds Them” (Pamela Kirkham’s original acrylic paintings), Fernwood Botanical Garden Clark Gallery, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.pamkirkham.com

**Through July 28** — “Family Haulers: The American Station Wagon,” 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

**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 Chesterton** — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw

**Saturdays-Sundays in May** — 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/

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

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing:* “The Fall Guy.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3:30 & 7 p.m. May 3, 3:30 p.m. May 4, 3:30 & 7 p.m. May 5. *Also:* “The Empire Strikes Back.” Rated PG. Time: 7 p.m. May 4. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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**On May 5, 1847**, a group of doctors, meeting in Philadelphia, formed the American Medical Association.

**On May 5, 1891**, the opening night in New York's Carnegie Hall featured a concert conducted by Peter Tchaikovsky and Walter Damrosch.

**On May 5, 1893**, panic hit the New York Stock Exchange; by year's end, the country was in the throes of a severe depression.

**On May 5, 1904**, pitcher Cy Young hurled the American League's first perfect game as the Boston Red Sox defeated the Philadelphia Athletics 3-0.

**On May 6, 1840**, the world's first postage stamp, "The Penny Black," was introduced in England.

**On May 6, 1851**, Dr. John Gorris, of Apalachicola, Fla., patented a "mechanical refrigeration machine" that produced a very cold temperature by compressing air in a cylinder immersed in a chamber of cooling water.

**On May 6, 1889**, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

**On May 6, 1915**, Herman "Babe" Ruth, pitching for the Boston Red Sox, hit his first major league home run.

**On May 7, 1789**, the first presidential inaugural ball, honoring President George Washington, was held in New York City.

**On May 7, 1896**, Chicago's Herman Mudgett was hanged after it was discovered his "castle," located at 63rd and Wallace streets, was a "chamber of horrors" where as many as 100 people had been killed.

**On May 7, 1915**, nearly 1,200 lives were lost when the British liner Lusitania, after being hit by a German torpedo, sank off the Irish coast.

**On May 7, 1945**, during World War II, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at General Eisenhower's French headquarters.

**On May 7, 1963**, the first Telstar2 Communication Satellite was launched.

**On May 8, 1879**, George Selden, of Rochester, N.Y., filed for the first automobile patent.

**On May 8, 1886**, an Atlanta pharmacist, John Styth Pemberton, invented a syrup for a beverage that was to become known as Coca-Cola.

**On May 8, 1944**, the first eye bank was established in New York City.

**On May 8, 1984**, the Soviet Union announced it would not participate in the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

**On May 8, 1987**, front-runner Gary Hart, unable to satisfactorily explain his relationship with model Donna Rice, withdrew from the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**On May 8, 1991**, Gertrude Ziesing Kemper, former chairman of Chicago's Kemper Educational and Charitable Foundation, died at age 101.

**On May 8, 1999**, The Citadel, South Carolina's formerly all-male military school, graduated its first female cadet, Nancy Ruth Mace.

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**FOR SALE**

**Greenwood Cemetery plots for sale.** Northwest corner, Section C, block 15, plots 1-6. Upon entrance to cemetery, turn left at circle, first left, plots are in the section on the right. \$2,000 per plot. **If interested, call (708) 269-9717.**

**GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.**

**Mother's Day gifts, fabulous faux florals & wreaths.**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 4 • 2303 Foxdale Trail, Long Beach

**The Spring Girlfriend Sale, our fabulous woman's resale clothing event, is Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., for the very best section and Sunday, May 5, Noon-4 p.m., 1/2 price sale day.**

We have it all! There are 2 huge rooms filled with clothing, accessories, handbags, shoes and jewelry, all new or gently used luxury fashion up to 70% off. Don't miss our miscellaneous household and gift items, 2 men's clothing racks plus shoes, and a youth rack, too.

Reminders: Cash is king! Stop off at the ATM before you come and take advantage of our speedy cash-only checkout lane. Parking is limited at the Community Center. You may park in the grass triangle in front of the building with all 4 tires off the pavement. Please leave room for others, regard the posted no parking signs and do not park on resident property or you will be ticketed.

**The Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail**

The shopping and fun continues Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with our Second Chance 1/2 price sale day.

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**Duneland Beach 2BR MONTHLY summer rental.** Stop 33. Less than 1 block from beach. June available. Inquire at (219) 210-1608 or [kendrabstop21@gmail.com](mailto:kendrabstop21@gmail.com)

**L-Shaped Sofa For Sale (98x124)**

Custom sectional, with two motorized recliners, 8 mo. old, excellent condition. Buyer must pick up: cash only. Original price \$4,400, asking \$2,800. Call Bob: (219) 210-0440





**Snapper** by Brian Kimberling (*hardcover and paperback at Amazon, B&N, Thrift Books, www.Alibris.com and www.booksamillion.com at various prices. 210 pages.*)

Time for a fun read that also is nostalgic, reflective, a trip around southern Indiana, lots of birds and a coming-of-age tale I believe is semi-autobiographical. It was published in 2013 and named one of NPR's Best Books of 2013. I found it sitting on a bottom bookshelf with my "will read these books soon." All bibliophiles likely have one of those. Anyway, glad I picked this one. It's a book that lowers the blood pressure with each turned page.

Brian Kimberling was raised in southern Indiana, which we who live in Northwest Indiana know is another country from us in many ways.

Don't let the cover of Audubon bird paintings fool you as to the book's content. While birds play a big part of the story, there also are a lot of shenanigans going on. Here's a peek...

Nathan Lochmueller is a grad student with a degree in philosophy from University of Evansville. Don't know what kind of career he thought he was headed for, but fate steps in when his friend/girlfriend, Lola, introduces him to Gerald.

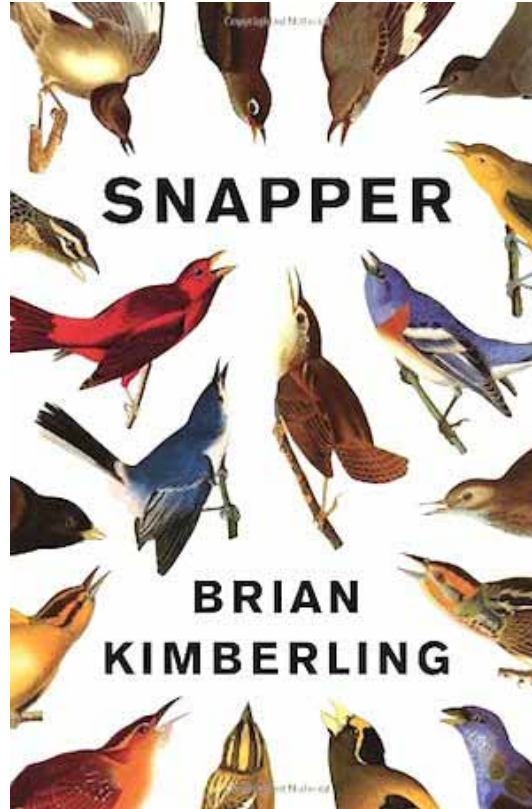
*"Back then he was a PhD candidate surveying the effects of habitat fragmentation on neotropical migrant songbirds in south central Indiana."* Got that?

Gerald has an accident that leaves him in a neck brace and needing someone to help with research for Indiana University. All he wants from Nathan is to know he can read a topographical map and identify common trees. Of course he can. *"I was lucky he didn't test me on other things I would need to know."*

Gerald also gives him a cassette of bird calls, asking he memorize them. Nathan is to work six days a week starting at 5 a.m. finding bird nests, marking them, then measuring the distances between nests and the area the birds keep to daily.

Nathan comes to enjoy his job, even giving names to birds in the one square-mile area to which he is assigned. Walking around, alone, in the woods all day gives you lots of time for reflection and remembering while catching and banding birds, and drawing blood samples (taken from a vein beneath the wing).

Don't wait for a plot. There is just Nathan gather-



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ing his bird info in the deep woods while remembering past experiences — high and low — that defined his growing years.

There's the time he and two other friends caught a snapping turtle, and the unhappy reptile bit off one of the boys' fingers; luckily, the digit was re-attached. There was the night a friend decided to attack parking meters, resulting in Nathan being put in jail along with his friend, although he was completely innocent of the destruction.

One of the funniest stories is about Nathan dog-sitting for a friend. He takes the dog daily to a quiet cemetery for exercise. One day, the dog comes bounding back with a large bone in his mouth. A human bone. No one seems to be interested in taking charge of the bone — neither the cemetery office nor the police want anything to do with it. Nathan, ever the philosopher, starts thinking about the moral aspect of this situation, how the bone belonged to someone... well, he just finally keeps the darn thing.

His on-again, off-again romance with Lola makes it clear he is more in love with her than she is with him. But, can they remain fast friends over the ensuing years?

Kimberling loves to make fun of Hoosier contradictions. For example, if you talk about visiting the UK, they immediately think you mean the University of Kentucky. But there is a soft side to the Hoosier, too, as he visits Santa Claus, Ind., where anyone can stop by the cafe, pick up letters sent to Santa Claus and answer them while enjoying a cup of coffee or lunch. Town residents, passing tourists and truck drivers all participate in the project.

And then there's Indiana itself. For all its faults, Nathan finds himself in love with the flora and fauna of the place. He loves autumn the most, waxing poetic about the changing color of the forests.

*"...Indiana seemed hopeless...And yet. Those leaves."*

You would be hard-pressed to find another book such as this one. It's irreverent, funny, soulful and lovely. In southern Indiana speak, this read is a hoot and a holler. Gotta love it.

Till next time, happy reading!

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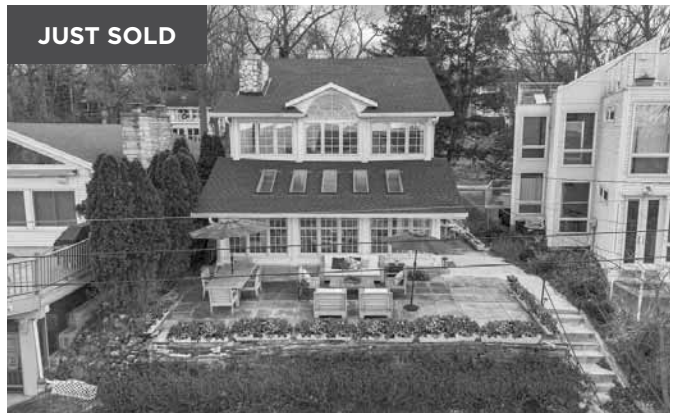
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### **1607 S Willowbend Dr. La Porte**

This newly remodeled 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home presents a rare opportunity to live in a serene setting with captivating pond views. The heart of this home is the living area with a brick fireplace and large windows that not only flood the interior with natural light, but also frame the stunning views of the tranquil pond

\$580,000

Listed by ~ Robin Willoughby

### **1897 Lakeshore Dr. Fish Lake**

Experience the epitome of tranquility with this charming 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom lakeside home, designed for those who cherish the great outdoors and waterside living. With its private boat dock, you're invited to indulge in endless sunbathing, stargazing, and fishing adventures right at your doorstep. \$299,900

Listed by ~ Jenn Bauer



### **2804 Oriole Trail, Long Beach**

Enjoy the large backyard and the cozy screened-in porch, ideal for summer nights. Inside, discover four bedrooms and two bathrooms providing plenty of space. The living room features a delightful wood-burning fireplace, while the back of the house boasts a den with high wood ceilings, perfect for movie nights post-beach.

\$539,000

Listed by ~ Meghan Maddox



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