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A Gem of a Gathering Place

by Kim Nowatzke



Former Michigan City Mayor Sheila (Brillson) Matias (left) and Michigan City Senior Center Director Tara Miller (right) watch as Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch ceremoniously cuts the grand reopening ribbon. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

In celebrating the grand reopening of Michigan City Senior Center, city officials managed something equally memorable by honoring the senior who started it all.

It began in 1956 when Pauline Herschman (who died in 1976) held meetings for five or six women at the home of her daughter, Diana Kohn. During a ceremony at the now Friendship Botanic Gardens, she was officially designated president of the first senior group. As the numbers grew, more space was needed, the location moving to Michigan City Family YMCA for about the next 20 years. Men also joined the group, the center a time of fun and fellowship while playing cards or other activities.

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“I remember a card table or two at my house in the early years with people playing cards,” said Herschman’s granddaughter, Harriet Kohn, who named her daughter Paulina after her great-grandmother. “I’m definitely aware of the importance of the people to her, and her involvement in the center.”

As Senior Center Director Tara Miller spoke to the large crowd gathered April 24 for the event, she offered more details of the center’s history.

“The first official location of the Michigan City Senior Center, as far as I am aware of, was in the lower level of the park office here in Washington Park,” she said. “That building has since been torn down, and North Pointe Pavilion now stands in its place. There was a fire in the building, and the park department used the insurance money to remodel the lower level and make it into the Senior Center. This was done at the direction of the mayor at that time, Joe LaRocco, in 1978.”

Miller said she chose Sheila Matias as the keynote speaker because she was mayor (as Sheila Brillson) then. In 1997, Matias was instrumental in securing funding for the current 14,000 square-foot center. It officially opened in February 1998 in Washington Park between the main parking lot and Fedder’s Alley.

“The old senior center was a drab, unwelcoming space in the old park office building,” she said. “We needed something better for our seniors! So, joined by a team of smart, dedicated people from the city council, an advisory group of seniors, our department heads and the park board, we planned, financed and built this lovely building to honor seniors on one of the most coveted pieces of our park on the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan.”

Matias shared her own family member’s appreciation of local seniors.

“My husband often tells a story about

how he fell in love with Michigan City. It was not about the lake, whatever restaurant happened to be popular or what shop was trendy. It was the stories the older citizens, our elders, would tell him about our city’s rich heritage – about dancing at the Oasis Ballroom and meeting their husbands, going to the root beer stand on a hot summer night, Elston basketball and days at the Washington Park beach,” she said. “Many of the people he would talk to back in the day were thrilled that Johnny Carson wore slacks made right here at Jaymar-Ruby.”

Matias took a minute to reminisce about the past, inspiring many nods from those present. Memories of “cool” homes with two phones – one in the kitchen, one in the bedroom — party lines and being lucky to have one television, especially a color one.



Five generations of family of Michigan City Senior Center founder Pauline Herschman attend the grand reopening: (seated) daughter Diana Kohn; (standing) great granddaughter Cyndi Jones; granddaughter, Caryl Henkes; great-great granddaughter Alyshia Fenton; and great-great-great granddaughter, Isabella Fenton. Photo by Kim Nowatzke



Former Mayor Sheila Matias, formerly Brillson, makes the keynote presentation. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

“While times have changed and the world moves at a faster pace, we still have a community who cares,” Matias continued. “The Michigan City Senior Center remains a place where we can gather with friends, have celebrations, keeps our minds active, learn new things or just hang out, so let’s enjoy the fruits of our labor!”

Matias also revealed she picked up a Senior Center application for her and her husband, adding, “I’m ready to party with the seniors here!”

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch joined Matias and Miller for the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

“A lot of places like Michigan City don’t have this,” she said, referring to the Senior Center. “Every time I come here, it’s bustling. This is a beautiful building. They are playing games, doing bingo – a lot is going on.”

Miller spoke with *The Beacher* in greater detail about the recent upgrades



Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch talks about the bustling Senior Center. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

to the building.

These include new, larger north-facing windows that showcase the beautiful Lake Michigan view, achieved by tearing down the director’s and assistant directors’ offices. They were rebuilt on the south side of the building near the main offices, complete with new office furniture.

“Our new offices include large closets for much-needed storage space that we were lacking,” she said, “and our two assistant directors (Dorothy Biller and Laura Steele) each got their own desk for the first time since this place was built. They always had to share one desk.”

The front desk was replaced. Whenever possible,



Michigan City Senior Center Director Tara Miller addresses a full crowd. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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like with the windows in the new offices, materials were used/recycled.

“The flooring was replaced throughout the main area, as well as the kitchen,” Miller continued. “We originally had tile (not ceramic) flooring and went to a vinyl ‘wood-look’ flooring that is waterproof and has padding, which is important for seniors because it provides some cushion in the event of falls. New baseboards were added, drywall was patched and repaired as needed, and the entire main area and kitchen were painted as well.”

Miller hopes to get approval from the city and park department this fall on Phase II of the project. This includes new paint in the bathrooms, changing to automatic doors to accommodate other-able members, new flooring and paint for the Billiards Room, Language Classroom and Conference Room.

Transforming the spirit, the mission of the center has been gradual, yet progressive.

“When I first began as the director here in 2002, Mayor Sheila Brillson (now Matias) interviewed me, and when I got the job, she said she felt the facility was underutilized and challenged me to add activities and fill this place up with seniors,” Miller said. “I have been on a mission ever since to continually add compelling programming and special events specifically focusing on encouraging seniors to stay active as they age. It really is critical in the quest for not only longevity, but quality of life. In 22 years, I have added probably 100 new activities and continue to search for relevant programming as the times continue to change.”

A special highlight of the event honored five generations — Herschman’s descendants — who were present: her 98-year-old daughter, Diana Kohn; her granddaughter, Caryl Henkes; her great-granddaughter, Cyndi Jones; her great-great granddaughter, Alyshia Fenton, and her great-great-great granddaughter, Isabella Fenton.

Miller was thrilled to find the family.

“It was a bit of a treasure hunt when I found the plaque honoring Pauline,” she explained. “There was an address sticker on the back for Diana Kohn. On a whim, I checked our membership database and found Diana. She was not a current member, but she was there as an archived member. When I saw her date of birth, I thought maybe I hit a dead

end, but in her information was her emergency contact, which was the name of her granddaughter and telephone number. I called her and explained why I was trying to get in touch with the family, and she asked me to contact her daughter, Caryl.

“She was very kind and said her mother was still alive and well at 98,” she said. “She thought it was such a good idea that she indicated she would do her best to have all five generations at the grand reopening.”

Henkes remembers her grandmother as a “kind, generous and loving person,” while Harriet Kohn described her as a “strong, kind, natural woman.”



Michigan City Senior Center’s new larger north-facing windows that showcase the beautiful view of Lake Michigan. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

Henkes shared a few “fun facts” about Herschman, including that she volunteered with the USO during World War I, provided child care for families in Chicago and worked as an artist with oil paints and handmade ceramics. Harriet Kohn fondly remembers her grandmother taking her grandchildren on picnics in the car, telling them they were going to exotic places. They were adventures she cherishes.

“She was a painter and taught me about painting early in my life,” Harriet Kohn said. “I continued as a fiber artist as an adult.”

They both spoke of Herschman’s baking skills.

“We would wake up in the middle of the night to the beautiful smells of homemade breads,” recalled Henkes.

Harriet Kohn added, “She was a great bread baker, and we would wake up to the beautiful aroma of bread, rolls, and *bialys* (a flat, crusty bread with onions in the middle). What a treat that was.”

Diana Kohn also recalled get-togethers amid the Senior Center’s early days.

“Mostly, they played cards, bingo. There was always a foursome playing cards,” she said. “We used to do a lot of things here (the current Michigan City Senior Center). It looks lovely.”

As a former Senior Center member, Henkes recalled playing cards and participating in craft shows with her handcrafted jewelry.

“The Senior Center provides a safe and pleasant environment for the mature population of Michigan City,” she said. “Seniors enjoy the company of their friends. It gives them a sense of purpose. There are many activities to give seniors something to look forward to. Even the location in the beauty of nature, with our magnificent Lake Michigan, gives a sense of serenity and peace.”



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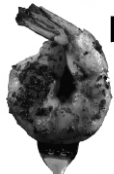


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Youth Theater Education Programs at The Dunes

Registration is under way for two sessions of youth-theater education programs this summer at Dunes Arts Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores.

The first, "Musical Theatre" (ages 8-18), is from 1-3 p.m. CDT Tuesdays-Thursdays, July 9-25. The cost is \$225, or \$200 for two or more students.

Led by DunesARTS Education Coordinator Michael Fallon and 2024 Dunes cast member Danielle Kerr, students will develop performative, creative and collaborative skills as they work on solos, dramatic scenes and group ensembles.

Fallon has been director of choral activities, musical theater director and technical theater supervisor at Alan B. Shepard High School in Palos Heights, Ill., for nearly 30 years.

Since graduating from Northwestern University, Kerr has worked as a teaching artist for Mudlark Theatre Co. and Youth Alliance Yoga. She also serves as creative coordinator for OneStopDra-



Michiana Day Camp children arrive to attend a youth performance in summer 2022 at Dunes Summer Theatre.

maShop.com, a company that makes pre-K-8 drama curriculum accessible for all educators.

The second program, "Theatre Mentorship" (ages 13-18), runs Monday and Friday afternoons, July 8-26. Exact meeting times are chosen mutually. The cost is \$50 per one hour session, or six classes for \$250 (save \$50)

The program is aimed at students with ambitions to prepare for college and beyond, working directly with DunesARTS Artistic Director Steve Scott. He has directed more than 300 productions for theaters across the United States and internationally. Before joining DunesARTS, he was producer at Chicago's Goodman Theatre, where for 30 years he oversaw more than 200

productions and earned multiple awards.

The final presentation for parents, family and friends is at 11 a.m. CDT Saturday, July 27, at the theater. Visit www.dunesARTS.org/education, email contact@dunesARTS.org or call (219) 879-7509 for more details.



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Whipped Feta Whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, Kalamata olive	Cavatappi Alfredo Cavatappi prosciutto, cream, imported Pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken, 6 oz flat iron steak
Crab Cake Lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinaigrette	Tapenade Salmon Olive-crusting salmon, fresh spring mix, red pepper aioli, goat cheese, asparagus
Steamed Mussels Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette	Bone-In Pork Chop Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots, maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes
Lodge House Salad Spring mix, cherry tomato, red onion, cucumber, creamy basil, croutons, cheese	*Filet & Caesar 6 oz black Angus filet, artisan romaine, cherry tomato, cheese, house Caesar
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Living History Demonstration

Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse) will sponsor 19th-century games and activities interpreted by living-history re-enactors from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Stagecoach Inn, 127 N. Main St., Hebron.



Beacher file photo (2019) of Ian Baker by Bob Wellinski.

The free event, presented in partnership with Hebron Parks & Recreation Department, is organized by veteran living-history interpreter Ian Baker, Michigan City.

“Our re-enactors come from all over the Midwest,” he said in a press release. “They have spent years researching their historical roles and learning to replicate skills and share them with the public.”

Visit www.pocomuse.org or find @pocomuse on social media for more details.

Three Oaks Museum

The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave., is open for the 2024 season, with hours from noon-5 p.m. EDT Friday-Sunday through October.

- New displays include:
- “Hats Through the Decades,” a wide selection of men’s and women’s fashion.
 - “Cameras & Photographers,” including a giant box camera used by the area’s first female photographer, as well as home movies as far back as the 1920s.
 - World War II: Learn about local veterans who helped liberate Nazi death camps and other stories.
 - Summer camps: Michiana became a summer camp mecca about 100 years ago thanks largely to Three Oaks industrialist E.K. Warren and his family. One of those old camps is celebrating its 100th birthday.
 - A.I. history gallery: See photos from the area from as far back as the 1870s, with A.I. used to restore and colorize them.

Exhibits on the history of Three Oaks and Featherbone boom, the area’s agricultural heritage, early German and Dutch settlers, beauty parlors and barber shops, local Girl and Boy scouts and Union Pier’s Gowdy family remain on display.

Contact Nick Bogert at trotommuseum@gmail.com or call (773) 991-6239 for more details.

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Book Launch

Local author Sandra Young will launch her third book, The Ghostly Diva, at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., where the book is set.



Young

Entrance to the party is free, while those who want to explore the museum pay \$3.

Young's passion for vintage fashion inspired her to write the "Divine Vintage" series, set in LaPorte County. In The Ghostly Diva, Assistant Museum Director Justine Saunders sifts through vintage treasures from a recently deceased actress. When a snowstorm strands her with the woman's surly son and the much-too-real ghost, she's drawn into their emotional tug-of-war.

Transportation Department Fundraiser

The Michigan City Area Schools Transportation Department Social Events Committee will host its 11th Annual Mother's Day Plant and Flower Sale.

The event is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, May 10, on the front lawn of the Service Building, 1100 S. Woodland Ave., directly behind Joy Elementary School. Cash, credit and debit will be accepted. The sale features a large selection of potted plants, flowers, flats and hanging baskets grown locally by Mark's Farm Market and Greenhouses.

Gary's Hot Dog Cart will be on site from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., serving a jumbo Vienna hot dog combo with chips and a drink for \$8, as well as homemade ice cream single-scoop cones for \$2.

The committee, which consists of school bus drivers and monitors, raises money to supply children riding their buses who are in need with gloves, hats, scarves, winter coats and other items. Proceeds also support the Transportation Department's participation in local parades and Halloween events, where employees hand out more than 2,000 pieces of candy and school supply items each year.

Gather, Garden & Grow!

Friends of New Troy will host "Gather, Garden & Grow!" its annual seed, seedling, plant and garden-equipment exchange, from 10 a.m.-noon EDT Saturday, May 11, at Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

The event is free; however, donations will be accepted. Visitors can take seeds, seedlings, plants and gently used garden equipment (pots, starter trays, tools, soil) to exchange for something new. Beverages will be available.

Anything left after the exchange is donated to the local gardening group, The River Valley Garden Club of Michigan, for its annual sale.

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Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show



Lynn Heims Buckmaster is photographed with her Chellberg Farm painting "Whispers of the Past."

Artists can register entries into Chesterton Woman's Club's 72nd Annual Art Show from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, May 31, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The show, itself, runs June 3-29 at the CAC. An awards reception is from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, June 6, with awards announced at 5 p.m.

Any artist 18 or older is eligible, with only original pieces allowed. No classwork or pieces made during workshop instruction are allowed. The complete rules are available by contacting co-chairs Deborah Stipanovich at (219) 926-3840 or Sandy Trivan at (219) 331-3271. Leave a name and phone number. Printed copies are available at CAC.

The featured artist is Lynn Heims Buckmaster, DeMotte, and her Chellberg Farm painting "Whispers of the Past." She donated it as this year's community raffle, tickets for which are available at CAC and from the club. Buckmaster maintains a studio in the historic Fairchild House, creating fine art and commissions and hosting painting parties and private lessons. She has won awards in the Chesterton Woman's Club Art Show and recently received a merit award in the Art Barn School of Art Juried Show in Valparaiso.



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LaLu Senior an Academic All-Star

La Lumiere Senior Emmy Jaracz has been named a 2024 Indiana Academic All-Star.

Now in its 38th year, the program is through the Indiana Association of School Principals. Each year, 40 high school seniors from throughout Indiana are nominated. Jaracz was selected among 39 other recipients from a field of 281 nominees from the state's private and public accredited schools.



Emmy Jaracz is photographed with her award.

The program recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom, but who also are actively involved in their schools and communities, and take on leadership roles in those activities. Selection is based on the following considerations:

- Student transcript, Dual Credit, International Baccalaureate and Advanced College Placement classes taken/grades received.
- Academic achievements and honors, academic courses and academic extracurricular activities.
- Other extracurricular activities, community service and leadership qualities.

Police Memorial Ceremony

The annual LaPorte County Police Memorial Ceremony is at 11 a.m. Friday, May 10, at Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge 75, 416 E. U.S. 20.

The free program honors LaPorte County officers killed in the line of duty, as well as retired officers who passed away in recent years. The Long Beach Police Department has three officers who will be honored.

Lunch provided by the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office is immediately after the event in the dining room.

Recycling 7 in 1 Collection

LaPorte County Solid Waste District will host a recycling 7 in 1 collection from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2851 W. Indiana 2.

Only 25 tires will be accepted. Anyone with more than 25 tires should contact the office at (219) 326-0014, Ext. 1.

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Italian American History Project

Five groups have joined forces to collect stories and memories for the Michiana Italian American History Project.

The groups are: The DeAmicis Society; DiLoreto Club; Italian American Relief Association; Italian American Heritage Society of Notre Dame/Michiana; and Italia-Michiana.

A website (www.italia-Michiana.com) has been developed for individuals to provide information. A form on the site can be downloaded and either emailed to info@italia-michiana.com or dropped off at any of the sponsoring clubs.

Information provided will be considered for an exhibit opening Aug. 3 at South Bend's The History Museum. Information must be provided by July 1. Data will continually be collected and added to the database. By submitting information, individuals agree to having it published and displayed; however, no personal details, including telephone numbers, email addresses and street addresses, will be released.

Information sought includes:

- Names of family and Italian origins.
- Occupations.
- Businesses owned.
- Immigration history (year, where settled).
- Significant events.
- Accomplishments and awards.
- Family stories and traditions.
- Memories of growing up Italian American.
- Photographs.

A second phase of collecting Italian-American history involves filming individuals and groups telling their stories. The vision is to produce a video documentary, with assistance from members of The University of Notre Dame Italian Studies Program.

Visit www.italia-michiana.com for more details.

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CAPTRUST Boosts Local Program

CAPTRUST donations totaling \$4,166 will support Franciscan Health Michigan City's Prenatal Assistance Program for vulnerable mothers with children 1 and younger.

The program, 301 Homer St., offers services that include pregnancy education, counseling, peer support and enhanced access to public-assistance programs, community services and local hospital programs. It also runs the Diaper Pantry, which provides diapers, wipes, formula, bottles and other supplies to qualifying families in need.

Since 2020, CAPTRUST's financial contributions also benefitted Franciscan Health Michigan City's Center of Hope sexual-assault survivors program and the backpack program, which gives backpacks with school supplies to local children in shelters.

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“Unsung Hero” Offers a Beautiful Tribute to Faith and Family

by Andrew Tallackson



For King & Country's Joel Smallbone (center) plays his father, David, in “Unsung Hero.”

“Unsung Hero” marks the continued rise, the evolution, of the faith-based film where it isn't solely preaching to the choir. It's about as inclusive as you can get, allowing universal themes of faith and family to speak for themselves.

And what does it say about the driving forces behind the film, For King & Country brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone, that the movie isn't specifically about them. They're present, as children, but the movie is a love letter to their mother, Helen, the glue holding their family together as their eldest sister, who would take on the stage name Rebecca St. James, explored a career in Christian music.

Then again, it isn't a total surprise how effective, how moving, “Unsung Hero” is. Back in 2016, the brothers released the faith-based “Priceless,” which tackled the issue of human trafficking with surprising bravery and maturity. Here, they sidestep the trappings of many faith-based family films where the characters are painted as saints. These are real people with real problems.

The movie begins in 1991 when their father, David (Joel Smallbone), is a top promoter for Christian acts in Australia...until audiences for some reason

★ ★ ★^{1/2}

“Unsung Hero”

Running time: 112 minutes. In Theaters.

Rated PG for thematic elements.

give his plans for an Amy Grant concert the cold shoulder. His career in ruin, he uproots the entire family, which includes Helen (Daisy Betts) and their six children, heading to Tennessee.

Films from abroad whose stories take them to the U.S. have a way of depicting life here as a harsh, cruel contrast to the warmth of home. I braced for that. But “Unsung Hero” celebrates the notion of the American church as leading by example. Embracing newcomers with a special sensitivity to those in need. With no money, and little goodwill left of David Smallbone's reputation, it's up to Helen to be the proverbial calm amid the storm. And when that fails, the church steps in, unselfishly providing the family with basic necessities to exist.

(Unfortunately, former “Full House”/“Fuller House” star Candace Cameron Bure, doing double duty as executive director, forces the Tennessee ac-

cent where at times, it's so exaggerated, she's like the cartoon equivalent of southern hospitality.)

Joel Smallbone, as his father, creates a man constantly battling wounded pride, viewing help from others as pity, not caring. That struggle sees his temper flare, not to any abusive levels, but where emotion clouds his judgment. And Betts, as Helen, is allowed to be frustrated with her husband. But the scenes where she turns things around, views each challenge as a positive, galvanize the family.

Movies featuring large families tend to lapse into sibling rivalries and petty bickering. But here, the Smallbone children rise to the occasion, thanks in large part to Helen, forming a landscaping company to make ends meet. We see a family as a single unit, on the same page, headed in the same direction,

Unfamiliar with the Smallbone's backstory, I assumed "Unsung Hero" would direct its attention to Luke and Joel, and what sparked their desire to create For King & Country as adults. Instead, it centers on older sister Rebecca (Kirrilee Berger), who has a voice worthy of a recording career, but not the stage presence. The confidence. Again, we see Helen navigating life's hurdles so the movie can arrive at its moving finale, where Luke and Joel, as backup vocals, join their sister at an audition to perform her original song, "You Make Everything Beautiful."

In a more mainstream movie, the point would be a dream realized. Instead, "Unsung Hero" is about the journey, the unwavering family support that leads to success for the right reasons. And the way children honor the parent, or parents, who were present every step of the way.



The movie ultimately is a love letter to Helen (Daisy Betts), the mother who holds the family together.

Don't let the idea that "Unsung Hero" is just a "Christian movie" turn you away. It is that, but it is so much more. Anyone who sees this will be moved by it.



Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Rising Young Talent



Monday Musicale winners from the annual Student Awards Competition presented a free concert April 28 at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Nineteen musicians in grades 4-10 participated in auditions held April 14 at the church. Judges Sue Cassler, Betsy Kohn, Steven Mast, Dan McNabb and Stan Shepard heard selections for piano, organ, violin, cello, clarinet, flute and voice. All photos by Bob Wellinski

“Fallout” is Unlike Any Other Video Game Adaptation...and It’s Better for It

by Andrew Tallackson



Ella Purnell stars as Lucy MacLean, out to rescue her father, in “Fallout.”

“Fallout” is better than “The Last of Us.”

There, I said it. Now, before fleeing the country under an assumed name, hear me out.

I admire what HBO achieved with “The Last of Us,” including it on my Top 10 List of 2023 TV shows. Most video-game adaptations are disposable junk, but “The Last of Us” took its source seriously, achieving a tricky balancing act. It packaged itself as prestige TV while honoring the video game, recreating key images down to the slightest detail. Each episode built on the momentum of the previous one. “Long, Long Time,” the Emmy-winning third episode with Nick Offerman and Murray Bartlett, was one for the ages, followed by a stroke of genius: casting sweet-faced Melanie Lynskey against type as a ruthless killer.

Right when it felt unstoppable, “The Last of Us” slipped into “Walking Dead” Redux. The Christian cult, the brush with death, humans as their own worst enemies...we’d seen that before.

Prime’s “Fallout”...I had *not* seen that before. It, too, is based on a video game. The setting is apocalyptic as well. A few nods exist to “The Walking Dead.” But the tone, the vision, are altogether unique. A satirical mashup of Apple TV+’s “Silo” and apocalyptic westerns like the “Mad Max” franchise, all of it subverting the innocence, the squeaky clean im-

age of American life projected by 1950s television.

Sound nuts? It is, but there is something hypnotic about it. The bright, cheery tone gets peeled back layer by layer so by the eighth and final episode, this world’s dark underbelly is laid bare. The last episode, in fact, not only is emotional, but it also reveals five actors, Walton Goggins, Ella Purnell, Aaron Moten, Sarita Choudhury and Kyle MacLachan, elevating the show into something extraordinary.

At face value, “Fallout” is the most basic of adventures: a quest. An innocent long shielded from reality who ventures into an uncertain world to rescue her father. That tale unfolds through stories running parallel to each other — those living below ground, those living above — while flashbacks carve out some backstory.

It is in the details, though, the world building, that differentiates “Fallout” from the others.

Those below ground live in vaults that reflect the time in which they were built. And it is here that “Fallout” creates a fascinating alternate reality. Seems the bombs dropped in 2077, but society apparently never evolved past aesthetics of the 1950s. The clothes, cars, fledgling technology seem lifted from “Leave it to Beaver” episodes, but with one intriguing variation. Whereas the 1950s saw the rise of the civil rights movement, this reality sees men

and women of all colors on equal footing.

The vaults, now 200 years later, reflect that vision and ideology. So, when you consider that the underground dwellers of “Silo” live in a bleak world of drab grays and browns, the vaults, and the past they reflect, burst with dazzling Technicolor shades. It’s the Disneyland take on retro-futuristic living. The most surreal set-piece is the grand meeting area that seems to recreate a Midwest cornfield, complete with a rich blue skyline above picnic tables covered in red-and-white checkered cloth.

Above ground, life essentially is livable.

The radiation levels pose no immediate threats. Pockets of the population sell and trade goods much like the ramshackle Bartertown of “Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome.” There are threatening beasts here and there, along with men patrolling the landscape known as the Brotherhood of Steel. They’re encased in robotic contraptions with startling power.

Into this world, having never left her vault before, is Lucy MacLean (Purnell), who aims to rescue her father, Hank (MacLachlan), her vault’s overseer. She was to be married to someone from another vault. Then, marauders emerged, taking Hank with them.

It all sounds deadly serious...but it’s not. We do have the sense, though, that the pleasant utopia forged below ground may be a cover for something a tad more sinister. With Lucy now above ground, it’s up to her brother, Norm (Moisés Arias), to investigate why everything feels off.

Purnell, as Lucy, is an instantly likable actress with big, Katy Perry eyes and a gee-whiz approach to rescuing her father that hardens episode by episode. By the time she joins up with Maximus (Moten) to locate her father, she’s emerging as a warrior. He, on the other hand, is a squire impersonating a real Brotherhood of Steel soldier. As played with babe-in-the-woods innocence by Moten, he, too, is ignorant of reality. Each episode, in fact, serves as an education for Lucy and Maximus in how to survive the crueler elements.

And that leads to the career-best work by Goggins (“Justified,” “The Shield”) that likely will go down as his signature role. We see him in two starkly contrasting variations. In the present, he’s a “ghoul.” A bounty hunter with what looks like a red skull for

a head, but one with a gaping hole for a nose. He hunts with no mercy.

But it is the flashbacks where Goggins does his best work. In 2077, he is the Ghoul in a past life. Cooper Howard, once a famous western actor, now relegated to ambassador for the vault company where his wife is a chief executive. She’s played by Frances Turner in a steely performance that’s like the Second Coming of Angela Bassett.

Cooper, however, is a shell of his former self. Goggins plays him as weary, robbed of the prime of his youth, who nonetheless maintains an air that demands respect. He’s steadfast in his love for his wife.

There is something heart-breaking about the performance: a man clinging to what he once was amid his wife’s rise up the corporate ladder.

In the very first scene of “Fallout,” in fact, Cooper is forced to perform in cowboy getup at a random birthday party. He’s with his daughter, and it is here the bombs drop on Los Angeles. That image, in fact, of Cooper and his daughter on horseback — exposed and vulnerable — as the world comes to an end is epic and horrifying, staged with muscular boldness by “Westworld” veteran Jona-

than Nolan (brother of Oscar-winner Christopher). It is the stuff of nightmares.

Speaking of nightmares, “Fallout” builds to a final episode that exposes raw all the truths that eluded Lucy. Most of the key players are present, and the crushing reality, as seen on Purnell’s deeply expressive face, is devastating. Everything she’s known, held close to her, is rattled. That moment, and the way “Fallout” leaves the door wide open to Season 2 — already greenlit by Prime — gets to you more than most straightforward dramas. The performances, the way the shocking reveals emerge through director Wayne Yip (“Doctor Who”), the aching score by “Game of Thrones” composer Ramin Djawadi, it burns into you.

Not being into gaming, I cannot speak as to what comes next in the “Fallout” series. One thing’s for sure, though. I cannot wait to find out.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



Walton Goggins delivers a career best in “Fallout.”

Paying Back Parents

Our parents do so much for us as children, it is only fitting we pay them back as adults.

And, face it, we often reverse roles when we mature and reach adulthood. That was certainly my case, both with my father, who passed in September 1985, and my mother, who left us in June 2014.

First, my father: James S. McKelvy. He was known to his friends as “Jimmy,” and to me simply as “Dad.” And it was Dad, a World War II U.S. Navy veteran, who taught me to respect and enjoy any and all bodies of water from Lake Michigan to the Atlantic Ocean. He taught me to swim in Lake Michigan at Chicago’s Rainbow Beach, and in the Atlantic Ocean on Long Beach Island in New Jersey.

Dad talked U.S. Navy night and day. He so enchanted me with salty tales of his war in the Atlantic against marauding German U-boats, I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He inspired me to seek a commission in the U.S. Navy. I tried, oh, how I tried, but the best I could do was second-class petty officer, an E-6 for those of you who keep score. But that was more than enough for Dear Old Dad. He gave me one whopper of a hug when I came home on leave from boot camp.

Dad was thrilled to attend my graduation from the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes Naval Training Center north of Chicago, but I wanted to go him one further. So, I took him for a “ship visit” at Chicago’s Navy Pier when a U.S. Navy missile

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



A Naval officer aboard a U.S. Navy ship. That was in 1978, and my dad sure enjoyed it

frigate docked there as part of a Great Lakes goodwill tour. When we boarded, I quipped to an officer that they should pipe my pop aboard because he was an honorably discharged Naval officer who helped win the war in the Atlantic during World War II.

No such honors, as the ship was on public-affairs duty, but the sailors and officers did give Dear Old Dad the honor and respect due. They thanked him for his service...as did I that day.

I smile at the memory, grinning ear-to-ear as I look at the photograph over my desk that shows my father gazing out over a freshwater sea as he grips the rail of an active-duty U.S. Navy ship. That was, if memory serves, in the fall of 1978, and not-so-old Dad and I had quite a day for ourselves. I was recovering from a nasty bout of pneumonia; that was the first day I felt good enough to get out and about.

And I was all about an outing with my dad that day, an outing that would include a solid luncheon at one of our favorite restaurants in the Loop, then that visit to the frigate. It was during that ship visit when I remembered another nautical experience I’d had with my dad.

That was in 1953 when I was all of 3. Dad took me on a drive out from our apartment in Chicago’s South Shore neighborhood to Joliet, Ill., where one could see barge traffic on the Des Plaines River. We saw it all right. My little brain was blown apart by

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the sight, the incongruous sight, of a tall tugboat shoving barges through the flat Illinois countryside. Never had I seen such a wonder; I have never stopped savoring it and thanking Dad for revealing it to me, and at the tender age of 3.

So, I was so very happy that day in 1978 to show Dad how our Navy had advanced since his time of service. He was thrilled by the ship visit, just as he delighted in watching a pair of F-14 Tomcat fighter-jets soar aloft from Naval Air Station Glenview, Ill.,



Mom knew satisfaction was guaranteed every time she attended a Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert.

where I was stationed during my active-duty stint in 1974.

(The Naval air station is long gone; I was more than a little amused during a recent train ride to Milwaukee to see that all that remained, amid a sprawling suburban housing development, was the air-control tower. Repurposed, of course.)

My postwar birth prevented me from seeing Dad and his crew land their PBY Catalina, or "Flying Boat," on the waters of the Atlantic during World War II, but I certainly heard him tell of it, many a time.

So parental payback, in a big way, that afternoon at Naval Air Station Glenview. The look of amazement on Dad's face as he watched those Tomcats shoot straight up into the bright blue sky was a reward for this former 3-year-old. I was so pleased to see my old man look so pleased.

That's what paying back parents is all about, right?

Now, it's time to give my mother, Mom, her due. You should know, I took to calling her Momska when we toured Russia together in October 2007.

(I have written volumes about that amazing trip-of-a-lifetime, so I'll just say for now that agreeing to be Momska's escort in Russia was my way of thanking her for escorting me through my tonsillectomy when I was 3.)

But, for the purposes here, I want to focus on

music. Specifically, the heavenly music Mom and I enjoyed in Row B at Symphony Center as we listened, close up and personal, to Chicago Symphony Orchestra in performance.

(Once upon a concert, Mom became restless when CSO's Italian stallion of a music director, Riccardo Muti, was a bit too long in making his appearance. As the full house waited in silent anticipation for Maestro Muti to enter stage right, my dear mother said in that full voice of hers, "Where's the big guy?!?")

But to get to the true story of how and why I repaid my mother by taking her to several seasons at CSO, let us hear-ken back to my first winter break in college, when Mom gave me a ticket to a CSO concert featuring the tone poem "Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius. A ticket, I must say, in the first row of the first balcony. I had a commanding view of one of the world's great orchestras in action.

Absolutely blown away, I resolved then and there to repay my mother, one fine day.

Those days, always Fridays, came when we moved her to Michigan in late 2010. Mom was keen on continuing her

long patronage of CSO. I assured her her new location in Bridgman, Mich., was no obstacle to her continued delight on Friday afternoons at Symphony Center.

(I still like to think of it as "Orchestra Hall.")

And it wasn't.

To wit:

Continued on Page 26

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Continued from Page 25

When Mom lived in Chicago’s Beverly neighborhood, I would drive in from Michigan on the Thursday before the concert and lodge for the night in her guest bedroom. We would share Thursday dinner and her favorite Thursday TV shows. Then, a sumptuous breakfast on Friday morning, and off we’d be a “flyin’ on the (Dan) Ryan (Expressway)” to the Loop. We then would settle our nerves by dining at Mom’s favorite restaurant, conveniently located within Symphony Center. For dessert, of course, another amazing concert by CSO and various featured soloists.

Always a treat. But the trick was getting back to Beverly in Friday rush-hour traffic. Never ever fun, regardless of the various alternate routes chosen.

But all that changed for the better after Mom’s move to Michigan. Mom thought the drive would be even more stressful, but it was more relaxing. That’s because I used the backroads driving-skills she taught me when I was 16, in her native Pennsylvania, to chart a colorful course from Michigan to Chicago. A little of Interstate 94, but a lot of the Indiana Toll Road, Chicago Skyway, Stony Island Avenue and Lake Shore Drive. We often detoured in South Shore to see the sites of our yesteryears there, before we moved to Beverly.

Then, after a cruise north on Lake Shore Drive, we popped over to Michigan Avenue and headed down the ramp for some underground parking, at Jackson Boulevard. I would brake at the front office. One of Mom’s new best friends, an alert parking official, would dash out and escort Mom to “the facilities.”

I then would park us in a handicapped spot near the elevator, unload her wheelchair and wheel her up and out onto Michigan Avenue at Jackson. We usually had time to spare, so we’d slip past the stone lions and see what the Art Institute had to offer.

(I soon discovered the exact location of every ramp and elevator therein.)

We then would head to Symphony Center for a sumptuous feast, often with my sister and her daughters. After, I would wheel Mom down to row B, stash the wheelchair in the lobby and join her for the world’s most beautiful music by the world’s greatest orchestra.

We got to know our seatmates and their stories; Mom even befriended one of the violinists. She always greeted my mother when she appeared before a concert; she was shocked and saddened to learn of Mom’s passing on June 4, 2014.

I had to tell her that Mom had gone on to that big concert hall in the sky to hear the angels perform. But before she departed this mortal coil, I managed to pay her back many times over by delivering her to delightful concerts by CSO. All the way from Michigan to Michigan Avenue.

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Mayor's Charitable Gala Raises \$113,000 for Michigan City Youth

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch surprised 13 local youth programs with \$1,000 checks at her inaugural charitable gala April 19 at the Blue Chip Casino, Hotel & Spa Stardust Event Center.

Through sponsorships and ticket sales, the mayor raised \$113,000. The funds will benefit Michigan City organizations that offer youth services and programming. Recipients included: the Fly High Youth summer program; The Salvation Army of Michigan City summer camp; Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City summer program; Diamonds and Pearls; the Drifters college-readiness program; Essence Rare scholarships; JUMP; LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch summer camp; Kidpreneurs; Lubeznik Center for the Arts pop-up youth events; Monster Bowling; Michigan City Soul Steppers; and Stepping Stone Shelter youth program.



Nelson Deutch was adamant that youth who benefit from the fundraising efforts attend the gala, not only to enjoy dressing up and joining in the festivities, but also to get a firsthand look at the community that supported them. So, several kids volunteered throughout the evening by distributing programs, escorting guests to their tables, even speaking on stage to the crowd of nearly 800 people.

Beyond the funds the mayor presented at the gala, the United Way of LaPorte County will administer grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$7,500 to Michigan City-based organizations that offer youth services or programming. Agencies may apply for these grants at tinyurl.com/3acj88ss through 5 p.m. May 23.

All questions regarding the grant application or review process may be directed to dave@unitedwaylpc.org or (574) 274-5855.

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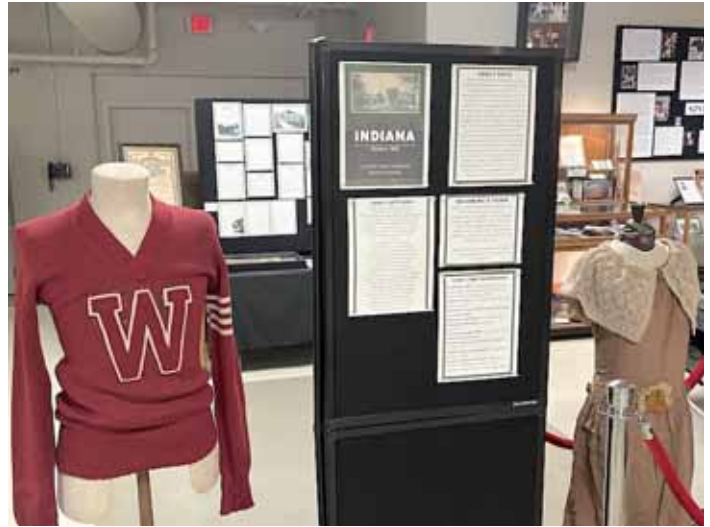
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Wanatah History Pop-Up Exhibit



A "Wanatah History Pop-Up Exhibit" runs through May 31 at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Highlights include Wanatah High School, longtime businesses and town history. In conjunction with the exhibit, free admission is offered to all Wanatah residents Saturday, May 11, with a guided tour at 2 p.m. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

Nightmare at Pop Culture

Pop Culture and Collectibles, 2010 E. U.S. 20, will host its first "Nightmare at Pop Culture," a meet and greet with actor Ken Sagoes from "A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors" on Friday-Saturday, May 17-18.

The event is from 6-9 p.m. May 17, with the movie to follow from 9-11 p.m. On May 18, the event is from noon-8 p.m. with the signing of photos and other events.

Pre-sale tickets are \$135 for May 17, including goody bags, food and meeting Sagoes. May 18 is a longer day with photos and a possible food truck. Pre-sale ticket are \$25, or \$35 at the door.

Pork Chop Dinner

Westville Lions Club will host its annual pork chop dinner from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Westville United Methodist Church, 154 W. Main St.

Dinner includes one pork chop, baked potato, roll, green beans, lemonade and/or bottled water. An additional pork chop costs \$5. Desserts are available for a donation. Guests can dine in or use the drive-up service. The club also will have a collection box for used books for two local lending libraries.

Call (219) 785-2609 for advance tickets or more details.

VFW Craft Show 2024

VFW Craft Show 2024 is from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2536, 1101 Earl Road.

The rain date is May 18.



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American Red Cross

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

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 402 E. Coolspring Ave., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 11.
- Frank and Edward Skwiat American Legion Post 451, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 11.
- Marquette Catholic High School, 306 W. 10th St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 15.

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.

Pine Lake Cemetery Tours

Advance registration is required for the Pine Lake Cemetery tours scheduled for noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Leading the tours are County Historian Bruce Johnson, Museum Director Danielle Adams and Assistant Museum Director Savannah Jackson. They will highlight the stories of 10 monuments and the people they commemorate.

Current LaPorte County Historical Society members are free. Anyone who would like to become a member can pay the new \$20 annual fee, receiving a complimentary tour tote bag, no charge for the tour and free admission to the museum and society events this year.

Otherwise, tickets are \$5 per person, while children 18 and younger are free. The tote bags cost \$10. Register in advance at director@laportecountyhistory.org

Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center will host a free Family Art Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

Visitors will explore “Birds of the Hudson: Block Prints by the Late Stephen Rengstorf” and “Prairies Big and Small: Photographs by Susan Kirt.” They also will create a series of projects inspired by their work. All ages are welcome, with registration information available on the website.

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

JROTC Supports High School

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps continued to support the school in April.

Cadets provided support for all home track meets — boys and girls — and helped set up for the career fair in the school gym. In addition to rounding out the school year, cadets are training for and running the MCJROTC physical fitness test.

In terms of community service, the cadets will support The Salvation Army food drive, LaPorte County veterans motorcycle groups' Rolling Thunder ride to Washington, D.C., and the Michigan City Memorial Day parade and ceremony in May.



Cadets help set up the career fair.

This summer, a team will prepare for Raider competition events based on the Ranger School curriculum, which requires optimal physical fitness and teamwork. Two cadets will attend the MCJROTC Senior Leadership Camp near Shanksville, Pa., which will facilitate them leading the Raider Team. The goal is to qualify for the National Raider Championship, located at the same location as the SLC.

The military drill team will prepare for the upcoming season. Two cadets will attend the National Drill Camp near San Antonio, Texas. As with the SLC, the camp will prepare them to lead the Drill Team, which hopes to qualify for the national championship near Washington, D.C.

Two cadets will attend the National Cyber Patriot camp at Randolph Macon University in Virginia. MCHS competes in Cyber Patriot, the national high school competition for cyber security.

All costs associated with the camps are funded by the Marine Corps.

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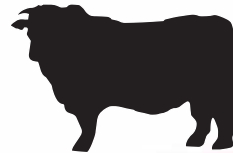


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Matterhorn by Christopher Reich (hardcover \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audio book. 333 pages.)

“The thought came to him that for the first time in far too long, he had a purpose — a mission, even. It was not the mission he wanted. Like it or not, it was his.”

This story may begin atop the Matterhorn mountain, but the mountain represents what is to follow: a rock-solid story that will chill you to the bone. A story about spies. And not the 007 types, but real spies, so good at their job, you can’t recognize them for who they really are — even if they live next door.

Mac Dekker, aka Robbie Steinhart, has lived on a quiet farm in Switzerland for about eight years. His neighbors only know him as Robbie, the nice American who retired to this beautiful mountain countryside. Oh, if they only knew his true story...

Mac was a spy for the CIA until a job turned sideways, a car he was supposedly in blew up, and that’s when Mac became Robbie.

Now, sitting in his house looking at the news, he sees a story about a man who died falling off the Matterhorn in a freaky accident. His name is Will Dekker, Mac’s son he hasn’t seen for more than eight years. Wait, what?! He thought his son worked in IT for a large corporation. Mac still has friends in the agency, and he learns that four years ago, Will joined the Agency.

Mac knows something is not right. Will would not have gone that far up a mountain by himself. It doesn’t take him long to find out that his son followed in his footsteps, becoming a CIA agent. Time for Mac to come out of hiding and find out what really happened to Will. But how much danger is involved? There are some who will not be happy he is still alive. So what? This is his son, and he needs to find out what he was doing on the mountain.

Mac sneaks into the hospital morgue where Will’s body is, finding his belongings, including his phone. He takes it, even though it looks broken. An old colleague and lover, Ava Attal, works for Mossad. If anyone can open that phone, it’s her office — that is, after she gets over the shock of his non-demise.

Mac’s first instinct is to consider his old and former friend, Ilya Ivashka. Born of Russian parents, but raised in the U.S., he is the CIA agent who defected to Russia before he framed Mac eight years ago for an assignment gone wrong. Now, Mac is sure he has something to do with Will’s death, probably even was the one who killed him.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Mac learns Will has a child with Marina Zhukova, a Russian counterspy who was on the mountain with him. What happened to her? No mention in the news report.

There are a few more characters worth noting, like Cal Thorpe, the CIA station chief in Switzerland. He knows Mac and Ilya, but there’s something off about him. Maybe his loyalties?

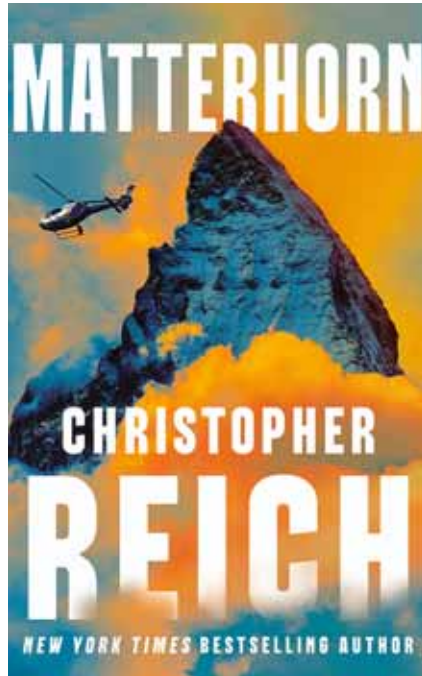
Ilya recently met with Dr. Ashok Mehta, a scientist working on a new bio-weapon, codename Hercules. The Russians know all about it and are prepared to “test” it, but do the Americans know this? It soon becomes a race all over Switzerland by Mac and Ava, trying to stay ahead of Ilya, who clearly aims to kill them. But there’s the rub — Mac has more friends than Ilya willing to help him, and Ilya’s “friends” just want him out of the way.

Reich’s writing is fast-paced, jaw-dropping, emotionally driven. He gives the reader much to think about, as one clue leads to another and the answer to “whom do you trust?” becomes “no one, of course.”

Strap down in your chair for this one. It’s a race to the top of a mountain for some hard answers.

Till next time, happy reading!

Let Me Tell You — about a recent Saturday afternoon. I was treated to a visit from bestselling author Angeline Boulley for a luncheon and talk fest. She was passing through my town, and I was thrilled to have her all to myself for a few hours. Her books, Firekeeper’s Daughter and Warrior Girl Unearthed, are two of the latest books on Native Americans, with a contemporary look at life in the 21st century. Angeline not only is a born storyteller, but the most interesting person to have a conversation with about...well, anything. Time flew. Angeline is a perceptive, compassionate and astute person, and her books reflect that. From the perils of drugs on high-schoolers in Firekeeper’s Daughter, to missing Native American women — the largest group of women whose disappearances are seldom solved — in Warrior Girl Unearthed, Angeline’s words come across crisp and clear. She is a straightforward writer and talker. She’s working on book No. 3, and I can’t wait to see what she has to offer. If you haven’t picked up either of her current books, do so. Angeline is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.



New Buffalo Township Library

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 Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.


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In the Area

May 9 — Raised Bed Soil Party, 3:30 p.m., Grace Learning Center, 1007 W. Eighth St. Info: jmiller@uflc.net, (219) 363-9618.

May 9 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

May 9 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 9 — Stroll Along the Avenues, 6-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 9-12 — “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

May 9 — Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 10 — 11th Annual Mother’s Day Plant and Flower Sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., front lawn of Michigan City Area Schools Service Building, 1100 S. Woodland Ave.

May 10 — Annual LaPorte County Police Memorial Ceremony, 11 a.m., Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge 75, 416 E. U.S. 20. Free.

May 10-June 3 — Drawings by Michele Corazzo, The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. *Opening reception:* 5-8 p.m. May 10.

May 11 — VFW Craft Show 2024, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2536, 1101 Earl Road.

May 11 — Book launch, Sandra Young’s The Ghostly Diva, 1 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Free.

May 11 — Indiana Humanities Speaker: Eunice Trotter, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 11 — Westville Lions Club annual pork chop dinner, 4-7 p.m., Westville United Methodist Church, 154 W. Main St. Info: (219) 785-2609.

May 11 — “Giddy Up at the Gardens,” 6-10 p.m., Firefly Farm, CRs 50 South/700 West. Tickets: \$140. Reservations: www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org, info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org

May 12 — **HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY.**

May 13 — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 5-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 13 — Preserving Your Family Memories, 5:30-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 13 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 14 — Page Turners Book Club, Tess Gunty’s The Rabbit Hutch, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 14 — Board Game Night for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 15 — Stretch and Refresh Yoga, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through May 31 — “Wanatah History Pop-Up Exhibit,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. *May 11:* free admission to all Wanatah residents. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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. Info: 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

Saturdays through Oct. 26 in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Franklin streets. Info: 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

In the Region

May 9 — Open Mic Night featuring The Bisceglia Brothers & Friends, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer signup: OpenMic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

May 10 — Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

May 11 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-10 a.m., Trailhead Heron Rookery East Lot, 1336 County Road 600 East. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 11 — “Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O,” 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 11 — Free Family Art Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

May 11 — Demonstration/living-history re-enactors, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Stagecoach Inn, 127 N. Main St., Hebron. Free. Info: www.pocomuse.org

May 11 — Art in the National Park, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: www.nps.gov/, (219) 395-1882.

May 11 — Dog Mom Day Hike, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road. Info: www.nps.gov/, (219) 395-1882.

May 11 — Snakes Alive!, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 11 — Spring Kick-Off for Paws for Humanity, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.acornlive.org

May 11 — Stargazing, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: www.nps.gov/, (219) 395-1882.

May 12 — Mother's Day Wildflower Hike, 9-11 a.m./1-3 p.m., Heron Rookery, County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/, (219) 395-1882.

May 12 — Beach Mysteries Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 12 — Turtle Time, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 15-19 — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, Indiana Dunes national park/state park. Info: tinyurl.com/2p83798v

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 in May — Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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 10-12. *Also:* “On the Waterfront.” Not Rated. Time: 7 p.m. May 9. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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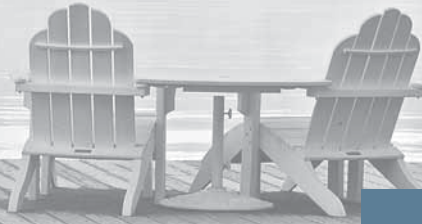
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