



Volume 40, Number 21 Thursday, May 30, 2024



Jack Olesker is photographed in his Long Beach Home by The Beacher's Andrew Tallackson. Note the holiday decorations nearby.

ack Olesker's writing space features a rather imposing, highly polished mahogany desk. Atop it are stacked, in orderly profusion, reminders of many successes, from books and videotapes to memorabilia of his trade.

His latest inspiration, though, offers a stark contrast to the seasonal humidity outside, where temperatures hover around 84 degrees, clouds only partially obscure the sun and Memorial Day weekend is but days away. You see, for Olesker, it's Christmas. Everywhere around him, it's Christmas.

The festive tree in the nearby corner adorned with tinsel and ornaments.

The widescreen TV mounted above the fireplace that streams a roaring fire.

Poinsettias, wreaths and decorations scattered about the room in his Long Beach home.

Christmas music playing, eggnog for the sipping. For Olesker, all this transports him into the prop-Continued on Page 2





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Published and Printed by THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

# The "Hallmark" of a Writer Continued from Page 1

er headspace. Indeed, his past accomplishments are many, including work developing "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" and "The Care Bears." But now, he's zeroing in on another fan favorite: the Hallmark Christmas movie.

Since Thanksgiving, he's written three scripts: "Christmas With a Broken Wing," "Mistletoe: A Christmas Fable" and "Let Christmas Eagles Soar."

Waiting to hear back from the network, he admits, is agonizing.

"At present, Hallmark Channel has 'Mistletoe: A Christmas Fable' under consideration," he said. "Hallmark Channel's Christmas movies team only considers one script at a time from writers, and as Hallmark Channel is the gold standard in Christmas movies, I'm making exclusive submissions to them."

Olesker's approach with these Hallmark films reflects a level of courage. Of perseverance, toughness and passion.

"You have to be a little off," he says while chatting with *The Beacher* on the life journey he successfully carved out for himself.

Jack is a writer. He began as a child writing scenes and making up stories, with friends who were artists and illustrated his work.

"I began to appreciate books at Harvard School for Boys, in Chicago, where I learned both the freedom and the discipline of the English language," he said.

Over the years, Olesker turned his creativity and passion into a fulfilling carrier. The road has definitely not been easy, but he is a tireless worker and self-promoter. He is not easily discouraged. The rewards of

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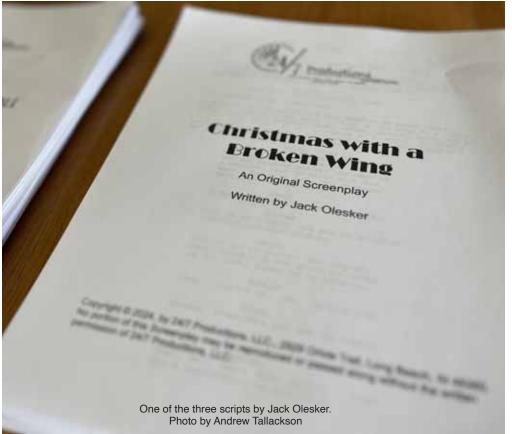
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following his creative dreams have led him to great fulfillment; thus, he sits today happily behind his great wooden desk, typing away relentlessly on his next big project.

For more than 45 years, Olesker forged a successful career as a writer, producer and director of many well-known TV series. He has published seven novels, written, produced and directed more than 1,200 TV shows and created TV shows for Fox, Disney and Warner Brothers. Of his proudest accomplishments, he sites his work in developing "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" for American TV and "The Care Bears."

Asked why he writes, and Olesker recalls one incident a few years ago when he was approached by a young lady who, after discovering his involvement with "Care Bears," exclaimed, "Thank you for saving my childhood! Do you mind if I hug you?"

He admits that "when you have such an opportunity, an opportunity to touch young minds, that is a huge responsibility.



# 

"The need to please my fans drives me to be the best that I can be," he continues, adding he is inspired to "bring the gift that I know that I have."

Olesker enjoys a life filled with exciting projects and much success. You could not guess his age because his passion and joy for life make him appear forever young. For the curious, though, he's in his 70s.

He is willing and open to share his thoughts on the creative journey, and he feels a need to inspire others who wish to begin their own personal journey into creativity.

Before any journey can begin, a person must set priorities. Olesker, with all of his successes, stresses that his "children and wife come first. If you are going to be a writer, you can't do it alone. You need mentors and family to encourage you."



Jack Olesker makes revisions to one of his Christmas scripts while seated next to one of his creative inspirations: a festive Christmas tree. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

With a wistful sigh, he says, "My wife, Kim, is my biggest fan, my cheerleader."

(Kim is a tremendous success in her own right as president and CEO of Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, located in Hammond.)

The next priority, Olesker says, is to find a way to bring glory to God's name, then "do it. Just quit thinking about it and get started."

Olesker speaks of his devotion to the craft of writing.

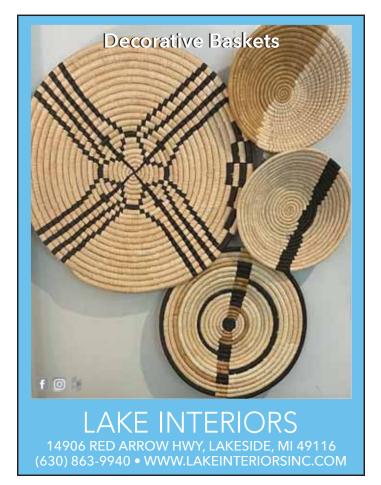
"Writing is so hard. I wouldn't wish this on anyone. It will break your heart, but it's worth it," he says with a smile. "I can't not write."

The experience of rejection, however, is familiar to anyone who strives to make a living with creativity.

"The journey does not allow negative thinking," Olesker says. "The biggest scam Hollywood has sold us is writer's block. You don't feel like writing, today? Just don't think too much; do it. We are so

Continued on Page 4







# The "Hallmark" of a Writer Continued from Page 3

blessed in America today. How dare you say, I can't write today?"

Olesker says his career has been a mix of success and rejection.

"People think that after so many successes in writing, it must be easy to get a project sold. Not so," he admits. "Every time you begin a new project, it becomes an arduous climb. You just want to get to the summit."

Olesker continued.

"I have been blessed with success," he said, "but every single project does not get accepted, and by failure we learn."

Still, experiencing rejection when you have put your heart and soul into a project is difficult. Olesker's solution is to have multiple projects going at the same time.

"As a screenwriter-producer-director, one needs to be constantly spinning the plates up on sticks, juggling, to have multiple projects in play," he said. "The tangential benefit is also when there are other projects to go to, it can soften the blow of rejection, which still occasionally happens to me."

Describing writing as hard work, it is fitting then, that his company name is 24/7 Productions. As a writer, he rarely takes a day off.

"I can't wait to sit down and write," he says. "And after you finish a project, what do you ask yourself? In the words of Norman Lear, ask yourself, 'What's next?"

The creative journey is the act of striving to make something from nothing, and for Olesker, "the jour-



Jack Olesker is photographed outside his Long Beach home, kneeling by an appropriately worded license plate on one of his vehicles.

ney is to create something from a blank page. You ask yourself, 'Can I do it, can I not do it?' Each obstacle that I overcome becomes a joy.

"Getting slammed, getting kicked, is the journey, you need to struggle to reach your goal." To get the job done, you must "put on your armor!"

Passion about your work is another factor.

"If you are not passionate, you can forget it," he says.

Olesker has a pen with a light on it next to his bed. When he gets an idea, he quickly jots it down before it escapes him. He reminds us that for a writer or anyone with a creative mind, "Ideas are everywhere."

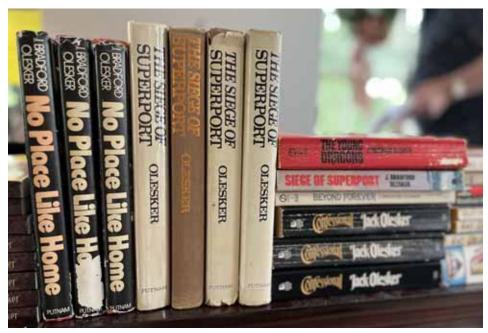
He encourages would-be writers by telling them, "You are already a writer because you have already determined in your heart that you will be a writer. This is the life that has chosen you, that you have been gifted with."

And what has the experience been like for Olesker taking a crack at Hallmark Christmas movies?"

"This is definitely my first stab writing at Christmas movies, and I'm absolutely loving it," he said. "Christmas is my favorite time of year, and my father taught me how to do whole-house, interior and exterior Christmas decorating. Sparky Griswold? Forget it! I love the positivity and spirituality of the season, and it's a joy to keep this going all year round.

Indeed, Olesker's journey as a writer is far from over. I suspect that with his last breath, hopefully many creative years from now, he will be imagining yet one more story that needs to be told, while sharing his own path and encouraging others along the way.

(Visit https://www.youtube. com/@jackolesker247/podcasts for more information on Olesker and his work.)



Jack Olesker's desk features some of his past writing accomplishments. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

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# With "Furiosa," George Miller Revisits Character...With Uneven Results

by Andrew Tallackson

It struck me, while revisiting "Mad Max: Fury Road" a week ago, that no sequel or prequel can top this. The pure adrenaline rush writer-director George Miller achieved. It's possibly the most gorgeous action movie ever. Alive with color, kinetic camera work, fearlessly choreographed stunts.

Nearly plotless, but the relentless drive matches the unexpectedly feminist agenda. These are women, in an oppressive male society, deciding they've had enough, making a desperate rush toward freedom.

Give Miller credit, with "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga," for not replicating the same formula. By exploring the hintedat backstory of Charlize



Anya Taylor-Joy stars as Furiosa.

Theron's Imperator Furiosa in "Fury Road," he applies an entirely different approach.

But that's where the problems begin.

"Furiosa" is a triumph of production design, with sets so massive, you gape in awe at them. Two road chases hold their own with "Fury Road." But this should have been, at the most, 90 minutes. Instead, it's been bloated to nearly 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, with long stretches that drag. It's brilliant one minute, sluggish the next.

The opening 30 minutes are the best, with a young Furiosa abducted by marauders from her secluded utopia amid an apocalyptic wasteland. Her mother's bold pursuit elicits an exhilarating game of cat and mouse, with Tom Holkenborg's score relying almost entirely on a beating dream, as if we're headed straight to an execution.

Then, Chris Hemsworth's Dementus enters the picture. He's the warlord of the group that abducted Furiosa. Now, I like Hemsworth as an actor. He ★ ★1/2

"Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" Running time: 148 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for sequences of strong violence, and grisly images.

finds the right balance for playing Thor: somewhere between earnest and cheeky. But here, he is more annoying than threatening, and for some reason wearing a prosthetic schnoz. There's no crazed, dangerous look in his eyes, like the best "Mad Max" villains. Do we fear Dementus? Not really. He's a tedious bore.

Anya Taylor-Joy ("The Queen's Gambit") doesn't arrive as the adult Furiosa until the one-hour mark. When she does, Miller stages his first kick-ass road chase where characters take to the air with parachutes. We haven't seen that before in this franchise. Indeed, when Miller is in the zone, you're giddy from the thrill of it. Pumped up for more.

But again, the story shifts back to Hemsworth, and we realize more and more the story's fatal flaw. In "Fury Road," Furiosa and her female companions flee the brutal world created by Immortan Joe (Lachy Hulme). He is present in "Furiosa," but the movie is more about Dementus. It's leapt *too* far into the past to lend any dramatic weight to the movie's final image, which wants to make a seamless transition into "Fury Road," much like "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" eased into "A New Hope."

Taylor-Joy is good as Furiosa. Trembling with bile and rage. When she cries out at having been robbed of a childhood, we feel it. But we miss Theron. There was something exhilarating watching her take command in a world where men call the shots. If ever an actress was made for a "Mad Max" movie, it is her.

Miller has plans for another movie, but honestly, why bother? "Fury Road" was his masterpiece. "Furiosa" is an afterthought.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com



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# Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" Opens 73rd Dunes Season

Dunes Summer Theatre kicks off its 2024 season with the Noel Coward classic "Blithe Spirit" on May 31-June 16 at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Written by Coward in 1941, "Blithe Spirit" follows a sophisticated British novelist haunted by the ghost of his seductive former wife.

The cast features Danielle Bilderback as Ruth Condomine, Mary Jayne Britton as Edith, Dean Johanson as Dr. Bradman, Sean Kelly as Charles Condomine, Danielle Kerr as Elvira, Stacy Nelson as Mrs. Bradman and Madeline Pell as Madame Arcati. The director is Michael Lasswell, who also is Dunes' resident set designer, having created sets for last season's "Boeing Boeing," "tick...tick...BOOM!" and "The Third Annual Dunes Broadway Cabaret."

"This play calls for many special effects, so we're going to have a lot of fun finding sneaky ways we can rig the set, which I think audiences will enjoy as well," Lasswell said in a press release.

Show times are 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Bar and concessions open one hour prior to curtain. Tickets, which cost \$35, or \$25 for four or more, can be purchased at www.dunesARTS. org or by calling the box office at (219) 879-7509. Season subscriptions, which cost \$150, are still available.



Sean Kelly (Charles) and Danielle Bilderback (Ruth) rehearse a scene from "Blithe Spirit." Provided photo

Preview night on Thursday, May 30, costs \$15, with an opening night reception at 9 p.m. Friday, May 31, to meet the cast, director and production team. The cost is \$20, or free for season ticketholders and donors contributing more than \$150.

# New Works Festival Open to Area Playwrights

Playwrights who are full- or part-time residents of Northwest Indiana or Southwest Michigan can submit entries into Dunes Summer Theatre's second New Works Festival, a series of readings performed Sept. 19-22.

The submission deadline is June 10. Plays can be of any length and size, including one-act plays, dramatic monologues, portions of works in progress and full-length works, including plays intended for special audiences. Musicals and non-musicals may be submitted; those works should include written scores or sheet music.

Submissions are limited to work that has not received full productions. Authors should submit no more than three entries. They should be written primarily in English, although sequences or scenes may be written in another language.



Plays must be clearly legible and prepared in standard script format. There are no limits in terms of content or subject matter.

Performances of winning scripts will be concert or staged readings with limited rehearsal.

To be considered, send an electronic submission (PDF or Microsoft Word). Include a cover letter that includes a mailing address, a list of previous readings or performances of the submitted work and contact information to ArtisticDirectorDAF@gmail. com. A printed script and cover letter also can be sent to Dunes Summer Theatre, P.O. Box 384, Michigan City, IN 46360.

Dunes staff will announce the selections by mid-July.

Contact Artistic Director Steve Scott at Artistic-DirectorDAF@gmail.com for more details.







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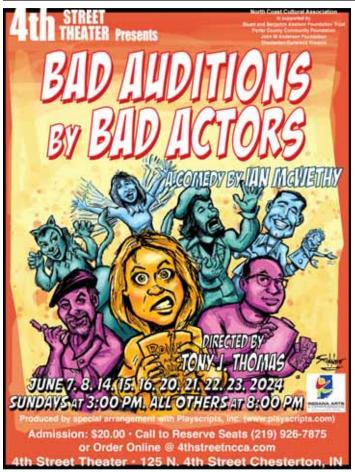


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# **NB Library Community Forum**

Author Richard Bales will discuss the unlikely romance between Simone de Beauvoir, founder of modern feminism, and streetwise Chicago author Nelson Algren during the next Friends of the New Buffalo Library forum.

The program is at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 4, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33

N. Thompson St. Algren and Beauvoir met in 1947.

Algren and Beauvoir met in 1947. They began a passionate, transatlantic love affair almost immediately and lasting until 1964. Their affair played out partly at Algren's summer cottage in nearby Miller Beach, which still exists, next to a trail named for the couple.



Bales

The relationship between Algren and Beauvoir has been chronicled in all the Algren biographies and many

of the Beauvoir biographies. It also is discussed in an annotated collection of more than 300 of Beauvoir's letters to Algren. But while Beauvoir was writing Algren, she also was maintaining a relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre, arguably the leading philosopher of the mid-20th century.

Bales' forthcoming <u>The Life, Loves and Colleagues of Nelson Algren</u> discusses the relationship between Algren and Beauvoir as seen through the letters of Beauvoir to Algren, Algren to Beauvoir and Beauvoir to Sartre.

Bales also is the author of <u>The Great Chicago Fire</u> and the Myth of Mrs. O'Leary's Cow and <u>The Short</u> <u>Writings of Nelson Algren: A Study of His Stories, Es-</u> says, Articles, Reviews, Poems and Other Literature.

# Weesaw Bucky Bingo

Weesaw Bucky Bingo, an outdoor scavenger hunt, is available through June 29 in New Troy, Mich.

Bingo cards can be picked up anytime from the box outside the main entrance at New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Road. Participants then can wander trails in Weesaw Township Park and the center's woods to search for creatures and features depicted on bingo cards. Cross off every creature or feature found. Complete a vertical, horizontal or diagonal row to win. Take the completed card into the center's Activities Room during regular hours to receive free ice cream.

A map on the back of each bingo card depicts the locations of hiking trails through center property and the park. Activities Room hours are (all times Eastern) 4-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 10 a.m.noon Friday-Saturday.

The event is sponsored and paid for by Friends of New Troy. Visit www.friendsofnewtroy.org for more details.

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# **Duneland Photography Club**

Michael Caterina will speak on "How I Do a Mobile Studio on Location Shoots" during the next Duneland Photography Club meet-

ing at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.

The program is in the Horton Family Education Center at Sunset Hill Farm County Park, 775 Meridian Road, Valparaiso.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for mentoring and individual help. Show and Tell time, the focus being spring photography, also is planned.



Caterina

Caterina is a former newspaper photojournalist in South Bend,

working as Indiana University South Bend's sole university photographer and videographer.

Email DunelandPhotographyClub@gmail.com or visit Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ dunelandphotoclub for more details.

# **Monday Musicale**

"Island Music" is the theme for the final program of Monday Musicale's 2023-2024 season at 7 p.m. Monday, June 3, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Joining program co-chairs Anthony Holt and Laura Meyer are vocalists Kathy Chase, Kathi Jones, Tom LeDonne, Joe Stewart V and multi-instrumentalist Dan Moser. Musical selections include "The Banana Boat Song," "Blue Hawaii," "Mele Kalikimaka" and songs from Rodgers & Hammerstein's "South Pacific."

Jennifer Keeley's hosting committee will serve light refreshments after the program.

Following a summer hiatus, Monday Musicale resumes Sept. 23. The group aims to increase membership. Musicians 18 and older can refine their musical skills, find a performance venue and meet other musicians. Contact membership chair Anthony Holt at (219) 928-6964 for more details.

# PechaKucka SJ/BH

PechaKucha SJ/BH will host Vol. 30 at 7 p.m. EDT, with doors opening at 6 p.m. EDT, on Thursday, May 30, at The Inn at Harbor Shores, 800 Whitwam Drive, St. Joseph, Mich.

PechaKucha, which means "chit chat" in Japanese, shows 20 images, each for 20 seconds. In other words, presenters get 400 seconds to tell their story, with visuals guiding the way.

A cash bar and refreshments are planned. Tickets cost \$5, with all proceeds supporting future PechaKucha events.

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This workshop is supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Indiana Arts Commission.



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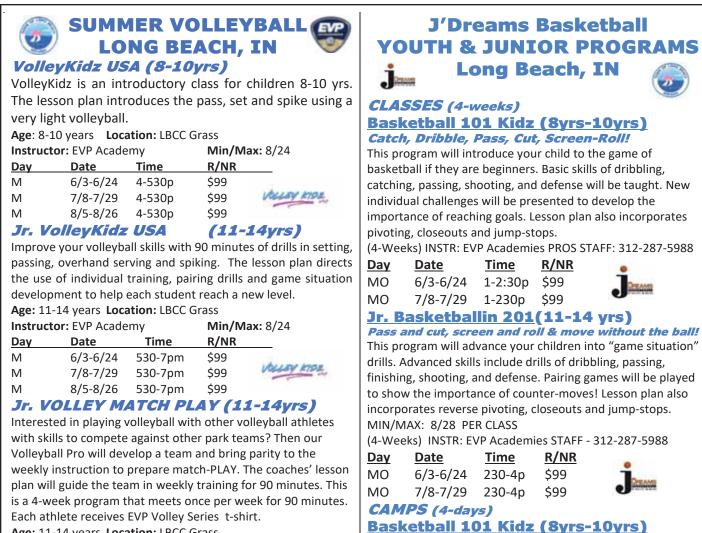
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Day	Date	Time	R/NR	
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<b>`</b>	- / -			
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Tu-Fri	6/11-6/14	230-4p	\$99	
Tu-Fri	7/9-7/12	230-4p	\$99	
Tu-Fri	7/28-8/2	230-4p	\$99	



Register at www.evpacademies.com or email rossballing@evptour.com

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Beacher

# A Teen With OCD Finds Hope in Beautiful Adaptation of "Turtles All the Way Down"

by Andrew Tallackson



Isabela Merced (left) and Cree Cicchino give two of the year's best performances in "Turtles All the Way Down."

I haven't read any John Green books...but maybe it's time to start doing so.

Having seen movie adaptations, including "The Fault in Our Stars" (2014) and "Paper Towns" (2015), there is a common thread I like. His characters mostly exist within the American middle class, grappling with instantly identifiable issues.

"Turtles All the Way Down," a Max adaptation of Green's 2017 novel, may be the best yet, and that's saying something when "The Fault in Our Stars" is considered *the* teen adaptation of the past decade. It explores a 16-year-old girl grappling with OCD, or obsessive compulsive disorder, in a way that is realistic, wrenching, but with whispers of hope.

Set in Indianapolis, "Turtles All the Way Down" introduces best friends Aza (Isabela Merced) and Daisy (Cree Cicchino), and the actresses achieve something unique: a genuine friendship not because the script says so, but because you believe the bond between them. Not once does it feel like you are watching performances, but real teens. There is such a relaxed chemistry between the two, it's like someone placed a camera in front of them, stepped away and allowed the camera to tell their story.

In fact, Cicchino creates one of those girls defiantly detached from peer pressure. She's confident "Turtles All the Way Down" Running time: 111 minutes. Max. Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving mental illness, some strong language and sexual references.

in her own skin and is unabashedly bold about it.

Aza, however, wrestles with crippling OCD. She sees a therapist (the wonderful Poorna Jagannathan, Netflix's "Never Have I Ever"), but dodges the idea of medicine, concerned that taking pills will strip her of her authentic self. The OCD, by the way, was active long before her father died. Bacteria consumes her thoughts: what it's doing inside her, how bacteria from the outside world might harm her.

Director Hannah Marks, working from a tight script by "This is Us" showrunners Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker, puts you inside Aza's mind. We hear her thoughts, the spiraling anxiety deftly achieved through rapid editing and frenzied voiceovers. This may be the first movie that makes you feel the queasy dread of someone with OCD.

A teen drama centered around two girls would not be complete with the requisite dreamy adonis. But with this being a John Green tale, the charac-

#### www.thebeacher.com

ter has far more complexity. Davis (Felix Mallard) is the son of an Indianapolis billionaire gone missing, and there's a reward for his return. That aspect to "Turtles All the Way Down" is the only element that feels calculated, that it exists to hurl Davis and Aza together. They met years back at a camp for grief-stricken teens. Daisy believes if she and Aza sneak onto the property where Davis lives, they can retrieve footage from a security camera that will reveal the father's whereabouts.

But in a striking pivot away from the predictable, from the contrived charades that dominate teen dramas, Davis tells Aza he knows what she and Daisv are plotting. So, he hand her the reward money in a Pop Tarts box. The point? Get any secrets out of the way so he and Aza can figure out if they succeed as a couple.

Felix Mallard appears as Davis, who helps Aza come out of her shell, somewhat, through empathy. How wonderful is that? A teen drama that lets its teens be real and smart.

"Turtles All the Way Down" shows uncommon sensitivity in exploring Aza's OCD, how it defines her, limits her self-worth. But by surrounding her with compassionate people her own age, she embarks on a one-step forward, two-steps back journey. The movie is never a sappy, convenient tale where mental health suddenly heals itself because of a cute boy's kiss. There is bliss one moment, followed by crushing fear the next. Daisy, too, is not a saint. She's allowed to be frustrated by Aza's inability to think beyond herself. Beyond her own claustrophobic world. Their friendship gets put to the test when that buried resentment finally explodes.

Through it all, though, Merced and Cicchino remain fiercely devoted to seeing these characters through the chaos. The final scene, which explores what *could* be, what future might await Aza, is bathed in so much hope, you are incredibly moved. Not just by the bonds of friendship, but by the courage it will take to brave a challenging life.

"Turtles All the Way Down" is one of the year's best movies.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com











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Beacher

# The Big Twist of "Sugar" Makes It the Year's Best Streaming Surprise

by Andrew Tallackson



Colin Farrell stars as the title private investigator in "Sugar."

It's been a while since Hollywood pulled off a twist as sneaky as "Sugar." Delivered one holy \$!#@ of a surprise...like, of the Bruce Willis-IS-dead-people caliber.

The new Apple TV+ series with Colin Farrell as modern-day gumshoe begins as OK neo-noir, meaning it plunks old-school Hollywood, a Sam Spadestyle investigation, into 21st century Hollywood. Then, in the last few seconds of the sixth episode, that twist arrives... and "Sugar" becomes a *whole lot* more intriguing. And by playing it smart, but not exploiting the twist with cheap effects, there is nothing else like it on streaming. This may end up being one of my favorite shows this year.

The biggest surprise, actually, is that the show hails from creator-writer Mark Protosevich. He began his career with promise, penning the agreeably weird serial killer flick "The Cell" (2000) starring Jennifer Lopez. Then, he delivered "Poseidon" (2006), Wolfgang Peterson's remake of the 1972 disaster classic that was so flimsy, so barren of logic and character development, his ensuing screenplay for Will Smith's "I Am Legend" (2007) resulted in a heavy overhaul by Oscar-winner Akiva Goldsman.

These are not admirable qualities.

"Sugar," though, this is special. This tinkers with what we know of genre storytelling and reinvents it. The title comes from the name of Farrell's private investigator, who is hired by a former Hollywood "it" director, Jonathan Siegel (Oscar-nominee James Cromwell), to find his missing granddaughter. She's had a history of drug use, of erratic behavior, but he believes her absence has nothing to do with either.

Sugar's subsequent investigation will hurl him into the murky underbelly of Hollywood, and when the industry on occasion attacks itself, the bile is everywhere. Hollywood in this series is not glitz and glamor, but a creatively barren world populated with the same sleaze as the streets of L.A., just better dressed.

Interestingly enough, Sugar loves the movies. He has a voracious appetite for them, and Farrell's voiceover narration, often complemented by clips from every noirish thriller known to man, has a brooding drive, like he's spilling his guts to the guy seated next to him at a local bar.

Whereas many detective stories revel in moral gray areas, Sugar is a rare breed. An actual, bona fide good guy. One who abides by a moral code that no longer exists. And by holding true to those qualities, the goodness inherent in Farrell makes Sugar one charismatic individual.

It helps, too, that the show surrounds him with a dynamite cast, including Amy Ryan as the mother of the missing girl, the wonderful Kirby Howell-Baptiste (Death in Netflix's "The Sandman") as Sugar's boss, Anna Gunn ("Breaking Bad") as the missing girl's stepmother, and Dennis Boutsikaris (remem-

#### www.thebeacher.com

ber him from the Michael Keaton comedy "The Dream Team"?) as the girl's Hollywood father. Ryan ("Gone, Baby Gone," TV's "The Office") is the standout, her character embroiled in one close call after another.

The mystery that links these characters together is expertly plotted, but without rocking the boat in terms of expectation.

Then, the sixth episode. That twist.

Not in a thousand years could I see it coming. In fact, once the episode's credits started rolling, I had to rewind it, make sure I'd seen what I'd seen.

By leapfrogging from one genre to another, "Sugar" forces you to re-evaluate the character entirely. His mission takes on even greater meaning. Timelier in that a deadline, unfortunate to him, means he has to move fast or the case slips away. And by embracing an altogether different genre, the show rethinks what we expect from that genre entirely.

What remains is a true original. I feared the last

two episodes might not live up to the twist, but the way the series works itself out, the door remains wide open for a second season with an equally compelling story.

Protosevich really thought this one through, caught us off guard, forced us to reinvest ourselves on a new level. That is quite the accomplishment.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com

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Kirby Howell-Baptiste is wonderful as Sugar's secretive boss.



Page 23



# LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

May 16, 2024

# A FLIGHT

Low Net First: Katy Lee. Second: Jill Craig, Carol Excell. Third: Jeannie Muldowney. Low Putts: Carol Excell.

# B FLIGHT

Low Net First: Sue Smith. Second: June Salmon. Third: Danna Andreatti, Sarah Plank, Sugan

Third: Donna Andreotti, Sarah Blank, Susan Keeley. Low Putts: Mary Weithers.

## C FLIGHT

Low Net First: Jo Dodd. Second: Carol Lyons, Jude Stahmer. Third: Marti Doherty. Low Putts: Ann Daley.

# D FLIGHT

Low Net First: Sally McCarthy. Second: Teresa Curi. Third: Jeanne Schimeck. Low Putts: Teresa Curi, Peg Doyle. Sunken Approach

Jean St. Peter: #4. Jude Stahmer: #3

# **Beacher Delivery**

Any time you do not receive your *Beacher* or have issues with delivery, please contact us immediately so we can take care of the problem.

You can reach us by phone at (219) 879-0088, or visit <u>www.thebeacher.com</u>, then click the "delivery" link on the top black bar. From there, you can let us know any issue or concerns.



# Michigan City Municipal Golf Course



North Course, "Early Birdies" May 20, 2024 Event: Points-4 (Birdie), 3 (Par), 2 (Bogey), 1 (Double Bogey)

## A Flight

Low Gross: Phyllis Roach. Low Net: Phyllis Roach. Event: Patricia Czizek, 15 pts. **B Flight** Low Gross: Evelyn Cassin, Daphne Craft. Low Net: Daphne Craft. Event: Sandy Baldwin, 12 pts, E. Cassin, 12 pts. **C Flight** Low Gross: Sandra Provan. Low Net: Charlotte Wozniak. Event: Ann Batagianis, 14 pts. **D Flight** Low Gross: Pam Betcher. Low Net: Pam Betcher. Event: Pam Betcher, 6 pts.

**Event:** Non Flighted, Cindy Wolkowitz, 21 pts. **Chip-Ins:** Carol Hullings, Charlotte Wozniak.

# South Course, Par-Tee Women's League, May 15, 2024

Event: Most Tee Shots in the Fairway Flight A

Low Gross: Pat Czizek. Low Net: Pat Czizek, Phyllis Roach, Jane Shuger. Low Putts: Pat Czizek. Event: Jane Shuger. Flight B Low Gross: Sandy Baldwin. Low Net: Sandy Baldwin. Low Putts: Daphne Craft. Event: Sandy Baldwin, Jill Mellen, Jane Spang. Flight C Low Gross: Patty Jercich. Low Net: Patty Jercich. Low Net: Patty Jercich. Low Putts: Mary Lou Marshall. Event: Mary Lou Marshall.

# Flight D

Low Gross: Carolyn Cooney. Low Net: Carolyn Cooney.

Low Putts: Carolyn Cooney.

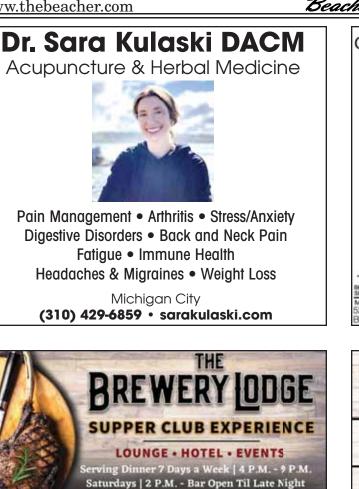
Event: Pam Jaracz.

# Pars

Baldwin, Czizek, Jaracz, Shuger on Hole #3 Cindy Wolkowitz on Hole #8

Have a story idea for The Beacher? Email atallackson@gmail.com

# Beacher



Sunday Champagne Brunch | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

# Brewery Lodge & Supper Club Menu

Soup Du Jour Bread Board

Choice of butter or herbed olive oil add Pimiento cheese

**Blistered Shishito** Shishito peppers, toasted garlic, balsamic glaze, lemon wedge

Goat Cheese Polenta & Kale Sauteed kale, polenta, goat cheese, cherry tomato, balsamic

Whipped Feta Whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, Kalamata olive Crab Cake

Lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinaigrette

**Steamed Mussels** Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette

Lodge House Salad Spring mix, cherry tomato, red onion, cucumber, creamy basil, croutons, cheese

Beet Salad Roasted beet, Gorgonzola crumble, candied walnuts, balsamic

**Oysters On the Half Shell** Choice of Raw or Steamed - House cocktail sauce, lemon wedge, Tabasco

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**Ovsters** Rockefeller Creamed spinach, prosciutto, garlic, shallots

Pan-Roasted Chicken Chicken breast, garlic, mushrooms, shallots, capers, pan sauce, roasted potatoes

The Elk Burger 1/2 lb elk patty, smoked cheddar, touse-made bacon jam, mayo, roasted pctatoes

Cavatappi Alfredo Cavatappi prosciutto, cream, imported Pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken, 6 oz flat iron steak

**Tapenade Salmon** Olive-crusted salmon, fresh springmix, red pepper aloli, goat cheese, asparages

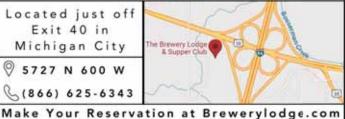
Bone-In Pork Chop Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots, maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes

\*Filet & Caesar 6 oz black Angus filet, artisan romaine, cherry tomato; cheese, house Caesar \*Filet

6 oz black Angus filet, Chef's seasonal vegetable

\*Ribeye 16 oz black Angus ribeye, asparagus, roasted potatoes

56 oz Tomahawk Steak Salad, sides, & dessert \*Order 24 Hours in Advance



Chris Cassidy Photography Show at The Depot! "Inspiration Over Time"

> Opening night June 7th, 5-7 pm Exhibit runs through June 30th





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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:

- Leonardo! Summer Reading Program Kick-Off Celebration at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 30. The program includes family-friendly music.
- Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, May 30. Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, crossstitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- Chalk the Walk from 3-4 p.m. Monday, June 3. Decorate the sidewalk with ocean animals and scenes celebrating the Summer Reading Program theme. Dress to get messy and for the weather.
- Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May and June. 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.

- Friends of the MC Library Give-Back Night from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday, June 4, at Hacienda Mexican Restaurants, 2148 N. Karwick Road. Coupons are available at the library, and cell-phone photos of the coupon are allowed.
- 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.
- Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13-17) from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Supplies and characters are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Email dwolf@mclib.org for details.
- Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens. Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- 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 or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.





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# LaPorte County Public Library

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

The following programs are planned:

- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 31, at the main library. Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- Summer Reading Kickoff: Dino Day from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 1, at the main library and Coolspring Library Branch. Sign up for the program to receive a mini, stuffed-dinosaur "reading buddy." Also planned are stories, crafts and a scavenger hunt.
- Virtual Author Talk with Matt Shindell from 1-2 p.m. Monday, June 3. Shindell, National Air and Space Museum curator, will discuss his work For the Love of Mars. Register online.
- Storytime Under the Stars from 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 3, in the main library Multipurpose Room. The family storytime includes songs and other activities. Children can take a favorite stuffed animal.
- Creative Kids: Messy Science (ages 6-11) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, in the main library multipurpose room. Activities include bubbles, slime and stories.

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

# New Buffalo Township Library

- "A Study in Contrasts: Simone de Beauvoir's Letters to Nelson Algren and Jean-Paul Sartre." The program is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.
  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.
- Spanish Story Time: 10 a.m. Fridays. All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269)

469-2933 for more details.

# Public Safety Building Open House

An open house for the new Long Beach Public Safety Building is from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5.

The building is located behind Town Hall off Oriole Trail. Resident Britt Whitfield and her Revel Global Events/Limelight Catering Co. will provide food and beverages.

# Beacher

# Long Beach Summer Camp Applications available June 1, 2024!

Dates: June 17 – August 2 Days: Monday - Friday

**Time:** 9:00 – 11:30

Location: Long Beach Community Center **Ages:** 3-11

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

# Weekly Themes

Week 1: Out of the Box Week 2: Fairy Tales Week 3: Zoom! (No Camp July 4 & 5) Week 4: Dino Mania Week 5: Decades Week Week 6: Rainforest Week 7: Summer Olympics

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

Any questions email longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.





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American Red Cross

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

- FOP Dunes Lodge 75, 416 U.S. 20, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 2.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 4.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, June 5.

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

# **FIT-Together Program**

Registration is open for Franciscan Health Michigan City's free FIT-Together program, a family-centered approach to health and wellness.

The program meets from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 4-July 18 (no programs July 2 and 4) at The Temple Total Fitness Center, 1914 E. U.S. 20. Wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes.

The target is households with children between ages 8-15. Trainer Ron Gaston emphasizes individual and family-centered physical activities and tips to maintain a healthy, active life, along with cooking, meal prep and sessions on understanding nutritional facts with Chef Nakia. Participants receive weekly meal kits for the entire family/household.

Registration is required by contacting Nila Williams, Franciscan Health Michigan City community health improvement coordinator, at Nila.Williams@ franciscanalliance.org or (219) 283-9649.

# New PoCo Muse Art Exhibit

Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse) will display "The Drama of the Dunes," works by local artists inspired by the Indiana Dunes, in the Robert Cain Gallery through Aug. 25.

The collection includes oil paintings from nearly a century ago, woodcuts and linocuts, early 20th century hand-colored photographs and recent works using digital technology.

The museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, with free admission. Through Labor Day, hours are extended until 6 p.m. on Thursdays. Free, half-hour guided tours are at 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Visit www.pocomuse.org or find @pocomuse on social media for more information. www.thebeacher.com

# <u>Beacher</u>



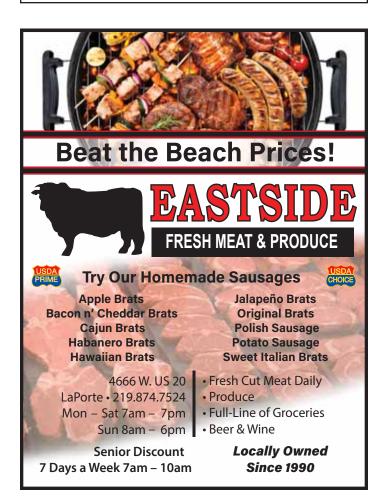


# **NOW HIRING**

The Beacher has an opening for a full-time print salesperson effective immediately. The position entails working with individuals and businesses on print needs ranging from business cards and flyers to brochures, letterheads, copies and other materials. It also involves some work securing new advertisers, and interacting with walk-in customers and their print needs. Must have a vehicle. The salaried position includes benefits.

# HOW TO CONTACT US

Stop by The Beacher, 911 Franklin St., with a resume, email atallackson@gmail.com or call us at (219) 879-0088



# **Hoosier Star Finalists**

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra has revealed its 2024 Hoosier Star finalists.

The individuals, who compete in respective age divisions, will sing a song of their choosing accompanied by LCSO. Audience members and celebrity judges decide the winner. First-place adult and youth winners receive \$1,000 prizes. Second-place adult and youth winners receive \$500 prizes.

This year's finalists are:

# Adult Division (18 and Older)

- Alyssa Atkinson, South Bend.
- Lindsey Brown, LaPorte.
- Noah Garcia, Hammond.
- Alexa Liberi, Mishawaka.
- Max Principe, LaPorte.
- Youth Division (17 and Younger)
- Selah and Olivia Branco, LaPorte.
- Sophia Grubbs, Elkhart.
- Bayleigh Miller, LaPorte.
- Charles Nwakanma, Fort Wayne.
- Chloe Virijevich, Kouts.

Ticket sales begin June 1 at www.lcso.net. The LCSO fundraiser is Saturday, Sept. 14, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

# Health Foundation of LaPorte Grants

This year's second grant cycle through Health Foundation of LaPorte, which considers proposals for health-and-wellness projects and programs, runs through July 12.

These "Healthy Children, Healthy Living and Healthy Minds" grants must demonstrate a commitment to measurable results in one or more of the community-wide indicators HFL uses to monitor and track progress. Proposals that tackle needs outside these priorities also are accepted. They must emphasize empowering LaPorte County residents to live healthy and well, with the goal of LaPorte County becoming one of Indiana's Top 10 healthiest communities by 2030.

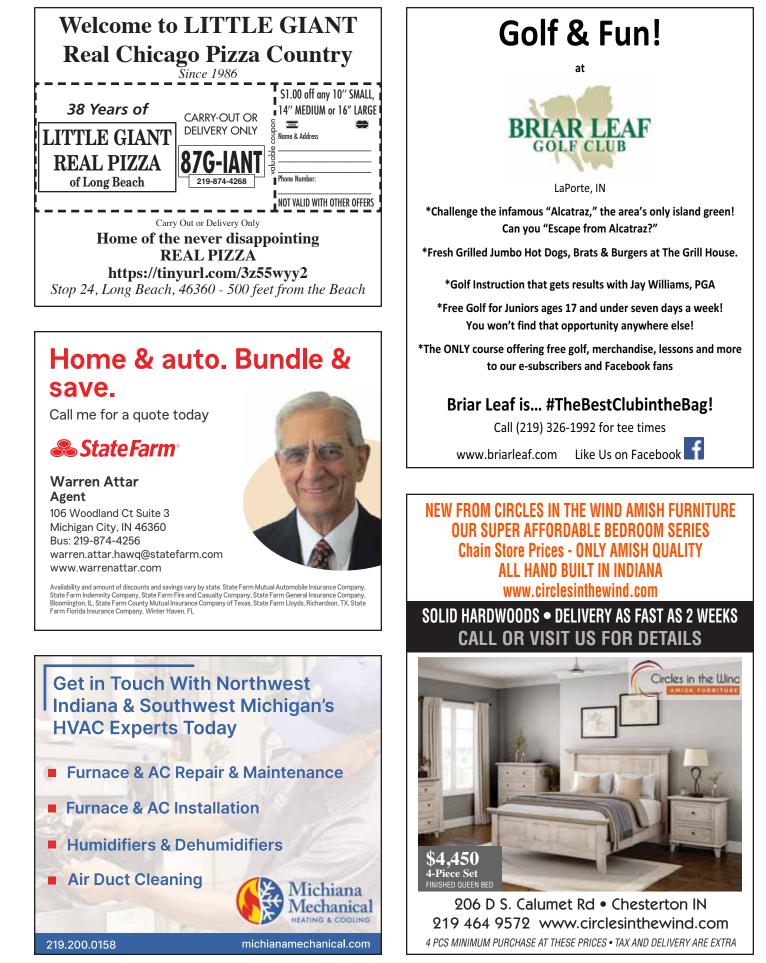
HFL now offers three grant processes:

- Grants up to \$10,000
- Grants of \$10,001 to \$25,000
- Grants more than \$25,000. Here, a Letter of Intent is the first step due by 11:59 p.m. June 7.

All applications and LOIs must be submitted through HFL's grant portal at www.hflaporte.org







#### "I didn't cause any of this." — Eilis Fiorello

This story, a sequel to Tóibín's <u>Brooklyn</u>, begins with an eye-opening, jaw-dropping event that only proves you'll never guess who the stranger knocking at your door is, or what he's going to say. Is he selling aluminum siding? No. How about a set of encyclopedias? Nope.

This man asks to speak to Eilis Fiorello, the lady of the house married to Tony, the plumber. He proceeds to tell Eilis his wife is pregnant by Tony, and he will deposit the baby on her doorstep as soon as it is born. Told you it would be a big opening.

Eilis promptly tells the man she will not answer the door when he arrives with the baby. He says he will leave it on her doorstep. An impossible situation: Neither will budge, and neither is willing to work something else out.

Eilis is from Ireland and Tony's family from Italy. In New York City neighborhoods occupied by your culture, Eilis is like the blue egg in a nest of white ones. The Fiorellos have come to like her, even respect her...to a point. Tony's father is the patriarch of the family, make no mistake about that, as Eilis learns one Sunday dinner when she disagrees with him

about the Vietnam War. Later, her mother-in-law politely tells her maybe she shouldn't come to Sunday dinner anymore. Apparently, you aren't allowed to argue with Tony Sr. Wow.

Tony Sr. and his wife, along with Tony's family and his two brothers and their families, live in a culde-sac on Long Island. A brother, Frank, is the lone bachelor: a lawyer and the one with lots of money.

The date of the story is never told, but references to Vietnam and Nixon put it in the early-to-mid 1970s. But let's go back to the whole baby on the doorstep scenario...

Eilis is shell-shocked. She can't speak and stays amazingly calm. She waits for Tony to tell her about the baby, but he tries to act as if nothing happened.

Of course, the whole story comes out and the mother-in-law tries to persuade Eilis that she will take care of the baby, but Eilis wants the child nowhere near her or her children.

# Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Where do we go from here? Eilis listens to Tony and his pleas to keep the baby, but her answer is a resounding "no." She wants no reminder of the child and what her husband has done, and that includes

having the child living with her in-laws.

Then, Son Larry to his mother: "Carlo says that you and Dad are splitting up. But then Aunt Lena found out and she told Uncle Enzo, who made me promise to forget what Carlo had said." Talk about your family grapevine.

Eilis' children, Larry and Rosella, both teenagers, take the news better than expected, but can't get their mother to tell them what she plans on doing.

Eilis is not a screaming, highly charged woman threatening to sue her husband for everything he has. No, she is a woman of her day and cultural upbringing. Pages fly by as you watch her story unfold slowly and deliberately. At times, I found it maddening not to be able to figure out what she might do, but Tóibín has other things to

consider.

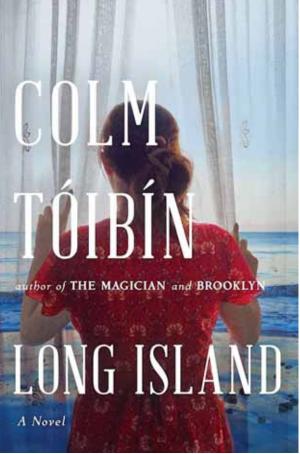
Eilis finally decides to take her children with her for a trip to Ireland to see her mother for her 80th birthday. It's been 20 years since she's been to her hometown. Sidebar: the baby will be born while she's in Ireland.

Now, you'd think Eilis' husband having another woman's baby is enough...but Tóibín has other ideas.

Before going to America, Eilis dated Jim Farrell back in Ireland, but both were too shy to admit their feelings for each other, so Eilis made the trip across the pond, met Tony and married. Of course, Eilis and Jim will cross paths again...

There is simply no guessing as to what Eilis will do next. Tóibín toys with the reader until the very end...but is it the very end? That's the real burning question here.

Till next time, happy reading!



# <u> Beacher</u>

# Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.







# LaPorte County Parks



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

#### All About Frogs

The all-ages educational program is from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

The program, aimed at elementary age children, includes a craft and a story.





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