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Passion and Purpose

by Kim Nowatzke

Stitch by stitch, Marlene Brown Woodfield's quilts have woven beauty and charm into the hearts of many. Now, to celebrate her first quilt from 50 years ago, an even broader audience will appreciate her work through www.quiltsbymarlene.com, an evolving collection dedicated to the nearly 90-year-old's beloved pastime.

"*While many quilters choose traditional patterns, Marlene is highly-regarded for her innovative designs*," the website states. "*Over the years, she has made many quilts and wall-hangings for her family, friends, competitions, commissions, and charity. She is particularly known for her pictorial and facial imagery quilted wall hangings which have won many awards on both the national and international levels. Today, these works of art hang in museums, churches, and the homes of her family, friends, and others who respect and admire her work*."

Marlene Woodfield stands next to one of her wall hangings, "Easter Morn," which hangs in the office at First United Methodist Church, where she and her husband, Ted, were members since 1958. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

Marlene's daughter, Deb Krause, and son-in-law, Bill, launched the site this past December.

"She is an extraordinarily gifted quilter, and using her gift for quilting has brought her joy beyond measure," Deb said. "Her gift for quilting has also brought great joy to others, including recipients of the beautiful quilts that she has made, the dear friends that she has quilted with over the years, as well as those who have never met her, but admire her work!"

Deb continued.

"There is an incredible amount of documentation of her work — the quilts themselves, pictures, magazine articles, books...," she said. "We thought that it would be a lovely legacy to curate the information and make it widely available in a single place. It has been a fun project for my husband and I to build the website. It has allowed us to take a walk down memory lane and enjoy her many quilts and their stories over the years."

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THE Beacher

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The Early Years

Born and raised in Tippecanoe County, Marlene graduated from Jefferson High School, Lafayette, where she met her late husband, Theodore "Ted" Woodfield, in band class.

"He played the clarinet. He was very quiet and shy. He never talked to me," Marlene recalled. "He was good (as a musician). I was mediocre. I played the bass clarinet."

Then, during her senior year, she broke up with her boyfriend and found herself dateless for the annual Sadie Hawkins dance.

"I had been talking with my grandmother," Marlene recalled. "She said, 'Why don't you invite that nice Teddy Woodfield?'"

Marlene was surprised by the suggestion. After all, Ted hadn't spoken to her during her four years of high school – but she decided to ask anyway. He not only accepted the invitation, but invited her to a movie a week before the dance.

Ted Woodfield and Marlene Brown are photographed at the high school Sadie Hawkins dance. Provided photo.

"I'm glad I talked to my grandmother that day," she said with a smile.

The two attended Purdue University together. She majored in home economics (equivalent today to a family and consumer-sciences degree) and he in chemical engineering. They wed on Feb. 2, 1958. The two moved to Akron, Ohio, after Ted was hired at a Goodyear plant. But, facing a possible layoff or position change due to a recession, he answered a newspaper ad for Scholl's Manufacturing Co. in Chicago. He got the job.

"We were excited because it was closer to home," Marlene said.

The two settled into Michigan City. Their family grew to add Deb and Todd two years later. When Marlene's children were in elementary school, an entrepreneurial spirit rose within her.

"Ted's sister had run a preschool," she said, "and I thought I could do that."

So, the couple built a preschool, Children's Village, at 2703 Ohio St., just a few blocks away from their home.

"It was great fun," she said. "I was in my height of glory designing that."

And the Quilting Begins...

It wasn't long before Marlene was designing more than a preschool. When she asked Deb what she wanted as a high school graduation gift, the reply, much to her surprise, was a quilt.

Marlene has used her talents to design and create matching mother-daughter outfits and memorable Halloween costumes for her kids, but this would be her first try at a quilt. Nevertheless, her can-do approach and determination kicked in, and she tackled the "Valparaiso University Campus Quilt."

It was 1976: the country's bicentennial year. She wasn't interested in creating something patriotic, but her skill with fabric, developed while she was in 4-H Club, eventually inspired the quilt.

"*The idea occurred to me, 'Hey, I'll make a map.' I had taken classes in college on drawing, so I knew that I could design a quilt like a map*," her website states. "*I drove to Valpo and took pictures of various buildings around campus. Then, I went to get fabric – a variety of different blues – and pieced them together using a sewing machine. It was fairly decent (although not compared to my later works). I was*

pleased, and it was something that I did to show my love for my daughter."

From there, she was hooked, taking classes, intrigued by realistic designs.

She fondly remembers teaching quilting to her friend, Meredith Gulstrom (who passed away in 2019), who was her assistant at Children's Village for 16 years.

"Early on, before school started, we would have show-and-tell and talk about what (quilting) we got done the night before," Marlene said with a laugh.

Those busy years at Children's Village were full of laughter, love and life.

"The kids were fun," Marlene said. "In general, we had no problems. If you're having fun, everybody is having fun. We had the most wonderful play yard with tons of things to play on and a great tricycle run."

Health problems, however, led to a diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) for Marlene. After 26 years in operation, she made the difficult decision to sell the preschool in 1991.

"At first, I was panic-stricken, of course. The doctor said I should not be around all those children," she recalled. "He said they were 'germ magnets.'"

Thankfully, she learned the slow-growing CLL — the most common type of adult leukemia — wasn't a death sentence. In fact, Marlene's doctor told her, "The good news is, you don't die from that. You'll die from something else."

After 36 or so years, through good care, Marlene has been fairly free of leukemia issues.

Quilting in Full Force

Now in retirement, Marlene found more time to devote to her new passion, one greatly appreciated by her 30-year-old granddaughter, Kayla Marie Jones, who lives in Atlanta.

"When I think of my grandmother, I think of her quilts," she said. "The two are intertwined, much like the fabrics she carefully sewed together. Her quilts have been more than a hobby. They have

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Kayla Marie Jones and her husband, Connor, are photographed with Marlene and Ted. Provided photo.

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become part of her identity, and our family has embraced it. Every birthday is celebrated with a quilted birthday placemat, holidays are marked by displaying the appropriate decorative quilt, each 'thank you' card I send out is handmade by her and features one of her quilts.

"I don't believe you could find a family member, or close friend who doesn't have one of her quilts in their home. No one has been left untouched."

One of Kayla Marie's favorites is "Kayla's Tree," based on her own childhood artwork.

"As a child, I drew the same silly oak tree every night, always with a big red circle in the middle, and I'd ask my parents to mail it from Florida to Indiana for my grandparents," she explained. "They must have received dozens of these drawings. One day, she decided to bring that simple Crayon drawing to life on a quilt. It hung proudly in their home for years before making its way to my parents' house, and eventually to mine. When I look at it, I don't just see a quilt made from my childhood artwork. I see more than that. I see her love, her talent and the way she would capture something meaningful and display it on a quilt. Her quilts are her legacy, and I am proud to be a part of carrying that legacy forward."

"Indiana Memories" is an award-winning, two-sided scenic portrait quilt in the shape of Indiana and based on two of Marlene's granddaughters at Washington Park. Provided photo.

One of Marlene's most beloved quilts is "Indiana Memories," an award-winning scenic portrait of her granddaughters, Marin Krause and Leah Krause Jordan at Washington Park beach. Created in 1994 with 459 different fabrics, it is uniquely two-sided, shaped like the state of Indiana and uses subtle print fabrics for the fleshtones. Also a favorite of Deb's, the piece hangs in her and Bill's home in Wayzata, Minn.

Marlene offers the following description of the quilt on the website: "…*Summer sunshine and rolling waves wash ashore as children play in the warm sand. My grandchildren were the models for this quilt: Leah, the one chasing the bird, and Marin in the background. The seagull posed by enticing it with a piece of bread! With a flip of the quilt, two seasons pass and the waves are frozen in this view of the lighthouse. A photo of the lighthouse in winter was supplied by Steve Peterka since I did the back portion of the quilt in the summer. The back side is dye painted to get the shadows. This is a two-sided quilt with summer on the front and winter on the back*."

Leah, who is 33 and lives in Shoreview, Minn., considers "Indiana Memories" her favorite quilt.

Leah Jordan and her husband, Michael, are joined by their children (from left): Dominic, 6; Vincent, 4; and Simon, 5 months. They are joined by Marlene. Provided photo

"I have vivid memories of the time I spent each summer in Michigan City at 'quilting camp' as a child," Leah said. "They are core memories. Picking leaves off of bushes in the woods by her home, spraying them with a concoction and waiting for the sun to work its magic in dying our fabric brilliant colors. Eating desserts made with fresh blueberries and peaches while taking a sewing break. Shucking sweet corn for dinner after a long day of crafting. The whir of the sewing machines. I was surrounded by her quilts my whole life…it took years to realize that no one else had a grandma who made quilts out of their faces and pictures."

Leah said she only recently learned her grandmother's quilting legacy didn't begin until her own mother (Deb) was bound for college.

"As a mom of young kids, still in the thick of caring for everyone else first, this inspires me," she said. "What untapped creative well could I yet discover?"

Leah also is fond of "The Birthday Girl."

"*On my granddaughter's (Leah's) third birthday, I took a sensational picture of her holding one of her gifts*," Marlene explained on the website. "*I decided to try to make it into a quilt. The face was difficult because, of course, only a photograph could reproduce that beautiful face. I felt that each time I added a quilting line, that aged her. I used a lot of her favorite color, purple and accomplished the 'essence' of Leah*."

Her grandchildren weren't the only subjects for Marlene's quilts.

"At my grandfather's funeral (held on Sept. 28, 2025), a quilt she created hung in the church (First

United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.) and our family stood together reminiscing and comparing which of us had a portrait quilt created of us," Kayla Marie said. "Mine hung in my grandmother's sewing room for years and was a constant reminder of her love for me each time I visited. Even then, her quilts served as a comforting conversation piece, bringing our family joy on a difficult day."

Several of Marlene's quilted banners can be found at First United Methodist. She and Ted were members there since 1958, and she was active in the soup kitchen, hospitality/welcoming committee and the women's group. She served as an usher and wrote a monthly article featuring homebound members in the church newsletter, "Crossbeams." Her favorite banner there is "God's House By The Water" created in 2000 with the words, "Heaven Seems A Little Closer In A House Beside The Water."

"The Birthday Girl," based on her granddaughter, Leah Jordan, at her third birthday party, is one of Marlene's many portrait quilts. Provided photo.

The inscription on the quilt reads, "*Given by Ted and Marlene Woodfield in celebration of the many hard-working volunteers from First United Methodist Church who have worked tirelessly to make our community a better place in which to live*."

Favorite Quilts

Her favorite quilts are "The Quilters" and "Charm of Impressionism," both charm quilts.

She created "Charm of Impressionism" for a local quilt challenge. Charm quilts are traditionally one pattern, such as squares, triangles or rectangles without two fabrics being repeated, but Marlene took this concept a step further.

"*I wanted something more creative and engaging*," Marlene explained on the website. "*I remembered a wonderful impressionistic painting by*

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Marlene's charm quilt, "Charm of Impressionism," inspired by the painting "Lady in a Garden," won national awards and now hangs in Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Provided photo.

*Frederick Carl Frieseke titled 'Lady in a Garden.' I recreated his painting using many different fabrics and unique shapes. Given the size of the piece, it was a challenging project. I sketched it all out full-sized to simplify the movement of the picture and set up a design for the various pieces in the quil*t."

Not only did it win "Best of Show" in the quilt show, but in 1992, it won First Place and Judges Recognition for Representational Design at the National Quilting Association show in Bowling Green, Ohio. It also was a finalist two years later in an All-American Quilt Contest, "If Quilts Could Talk," sponsored by *Coming Home* and *Good Housekeeping*. Today, "Charm of Impressionism" hangs in the permanent collection of Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

Marlene's other favorite quilt, "The Quilters," also hangs in the museum. It depicts nine women — Marlene and eight friends — enjoying their craft.

"I knew it was special because it had all my friends in it…we called ourselves The Gourmet Quilters because we liked to eat as much as we liked to quilt," Marlene said with a laugh.

The featured quilters are (from left) around the frame: Catherine England, Susan Hughes, Evelyn Carpenter, Meredith Gulstrom, Janet Woodruff and Dorothy Sparks. Working on the floor are: Katie Gielow, Earlene Cassidy and Marlene. Only two, in addition to Marlene, are alive today: Susan Hughes and Dorothy Sparks. The three remain close friends.

Marlene added an extra challenge to this charm quilt, using all different shapes, except for certain areas, such as the border or wall behind the women.

To create the masterpiece, Marlene took a photograph of each quilter — including herself, with a timer on the camera — posed as they would appear in the quilt. A total of 1,428 different fabrics were used; there are more than 100 pieces just in her image. To further personalize the quilt, she included each individual's signature somewhere on their images. For the back, she used a common Dresden Plate pattern with a fork laying across it, in addition to a repeat of each quilter's signature.

Most of the quilt pieces were handsewn together, and it was all hand-quilted. It took Marlene an average of four hours a day and 18 months to finish.

"It was real tough to do – to make those faces look real," she said, noting it remains the hardest quilt she has made.

Originally created for an American Quilters Society Contest in 1994, it won third place that year, then went on to win Best of Show – Wall Quilt at the 1994 National Quilters Association Show; it was on display at its 35th anniversary celebration. Each time the quilt was shown, some of its "cast of characters" would attend, wearing buttons that matched their images on the quilt and their name.

The Quilters, an award-winning charm quilt by Marlene, features herself and the eight friends who were members of The Gourmet Quilters. Provided photo.

"The Quilters" also was featured in several national quilting books, including "The Journal of the National Quilting Association Inc.," "AMERICAN Quilting, 1970-2000," "Great American Quilts 1996." It was on the cover of the "THE AMERICAN STORY, Volume II: Since 1865."

In addition, Marlene was recognized in "Who's Who in American Quilting," published in 1996 by the American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Ky. She was a member of Dunes Country Quilters, Michigan City, String-A-Long Quilt Guild, Valparaiso, Indiana State Quilt Guild American Quilter's Society, National Quilting Association and the International Quilt Association.

More Noteworthy Quilts

Marlene used her quilting talents to support The Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative, a collaborative nationwide effort by quilters across the country to

raise funds for Alzheimer's research. In her own unique style, she created close to 100 quilts, typically 9" x 12" between 2007-2013, raising more than $10,000 for research from her Alzheimer's Priority Quilts. Many were dedicated to those she knew diagnosed with the disease.

"*I have several people whom I love that have developed Alzheimer's, and it has both robbed them of life, as well as robbed the family members of their personality*," Marlene commented for the website. "*I feel that making quilts to raise money for research is a fun way for me to participate in making this disease a thing of the past*."

One of Marlene's significant pieces for the Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative was "Keeping Watch," which featured an attentive owl: one of her favorite birds. Included in the July 2012 auction, it raised significant funds for the Alzheimer's cause.

Hindered by macular degeneration in recent years, Marlene created her last quilt about seven years ago. "Spring Snow" depicts a bird created from stitches perched on a branch surrounded by falling snow.

The last quilt by Marlene Woodfield was "Spring Snow," which included a bird — one of her favorite subjects. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

"I loved to do birds. I used a pen where I wanted to do stitching and then ironed out the pen marks," she explained. "The hard part was using a dauber with white paint to make the snow. I was so afraid after all the work that I would screw it up."

Some quilts are memorable for other reasons.

At one show at Joy Elementary School, workers accidentally ripped the back of a red floral quilt while taking it off a wall, as the backing was fastened to another quilt.

"I felt sick," she said. "It was a new quilt, and I planned to show it in different shows."

True to her optimistic nature, however, Marlene put a positive spin on the misfortune, transforming the rip into a praying mantis.

"It looked wonderful," she said. "It fit the quilt perfectly and looked like it was meant to be that way – not by accident."

A New Chapter

Marlene recently faced a major transition in her life: moving from The Elms, 4300 Cleveland Ave., her last residence in the community where she lived for 67 years, to a new assisted living facility in Plymouth, Minn., to be near Deb and her family.

True to her positive nature, she's excited about spending time with them.

"It almost sounds crazy at times, but it's the right thing to do for me," he said. "It will help them take care of me. I don't have any family here. It will be hard missing my friends, but I have my GrandPad (a tablet especially designed for seniors) to stay in touch. I'm considering this a step in my life that I need to take now."

Looking back on her mother's five decades of quilting, Deb said, "I am in awe of her tremendous creativity. If she has a creative vision for something, nothing stands in her way, and she just makes it happen pursuing it with passion, purpose and perfection."

Whatever lies ahead for Marlene, who celebrates her 90th birthday March 29, one can rest assured she will tackle it with humor, grace and determination in her own pragmatic and positive way.

"The Bone Temple" is Smarter, Bolder Than Its Predecessor

by Andrew Tallackson

in Theatres

Ralph Fiennes stars in "28 Years Later: The Bone Temple."

Maybe they should have started with this one.

Last year's "28 Years Later" had its champions, my reaction lukewarm at best. Having freed the zombie film from mothballs with "28 Days Later" (2003), original director Danny Boyle and writer Alex Garland rebooted the series with style to spare, but it was hollow. An apocalypse where the infected are more compelling than the survivors.

"The Bone Temple," Round 2 in a planned trilogy, is more satisfying. Some of it has to do with Garland's more focused script. *A lot* of it has to do with Nia DaCosta (2021's "Candyman" reboot), who takes over as director. Her film may play it safe visually, but it's bolder, with more of a visceral punch.

"The Bone Temple" divides itself into parallel narratives, each dominated by an actor mesmerizing in his ability to command scene after scene.

The first involves young Spike (Alfie Williams), now trapped in quarantined Britain by teen thugs. Their leader, Jimmy Crystal, is played by "Sinners" heavy Jack O'Connell in a feat of controlled madness. Jimmy clearly is nuts, but not off-the-rails so. O'Connell has a gradual way of allowing the cruelty within Jimmy to reveal itself. Intensely focused, allowing his followers to rile themselves up. The script arms the actor with the right tools so his presence, alone, is unsettling.

The other story thread involves Ralph Fiennes' eccentric hermit, Dr. Ian Kelson, and it's like rediscovering the "Conclave" actor all over again. He takes so many risks here, but achieves them so effortlessly, they never *feel* like risks. Fiennes' voice flows with silky calm: a man at peace with death. He is an intellect who hasn't lost his appreciation of the finer things in life…complete with a little help from Duran Duran.

★ ★ ★1/2

"28 Years Later: The Bone Temple"

Running time: 109 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for strong bloody violence, gore, graphic nudity, language throughout and brief drug use.

Kelson's relationship with a certain well-hung zombie from the last picture is the centerpiece of "The Bone Temple." Their relationship is fascinating, even moving, with Garland's script taking a thoughtful approach to a possible "cure."

DaCosta stages her film with muscle. There is a richness, a toughness, to the colors, the gore more startling. Her camera sucks you into this world, swirling around the actors so their journey is your journey.

By the end, when the story threads converge, Fiennes almost entirely takes over the film. There is nothing inhibited about his performance, fusing the pulsing strains of Iron Maiden's "The Number of the Beast" to a possible in-joke reference to a certain Lord Voldemort. DaCosta allows Fiennes and O'Connell to confront each other as men whose words are weapons. You're pinned to your seat watching them, unsure how things will progress.

The final scene offers a crowd-pleasing segue into the next film. You're so pumped up by it, DaCosta suggests there's plenty of life left in this series.

By all means, bring it.

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SCAN ME!

WinterFest Returns Throughout LaPorte

The annual WinterFest, organized by LaPorte Park and Recreation Department, runs Friday-Sunday, Jan. 23-25, throughout the LaPorte community.

As part of the festival, families can skate free at the downtown LaPorte ice rink, Monroe and State streets. Hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday (the theme is Princess and Superhero), 1-9 p.m. Saturday and 1-7 p.m. Sunday. Enter the promo code WINTERFEST when registering at www.laporteparkandrec.com

FRIDAY, JAN. 23

- Free ice sculpting demonstrations, 4-7 p.m., Plaza 618, downtown LaPorte.

SATURDAY, JAN. 24

- Ice Fishing Derby presented by De Camp Band of Brothers. Registration begins at 5 a.m. at Cummings Lodge. The fee is $40.
- Snowball Softball Coed Tournament begins at 9 a.m. at Scharf Fields, 401 Truesdell Ave.
- Sewing 101 with Steady Stitchers, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sewing Studio, 1640 First St., LaPorte. The registration fee is $5.
- WinterFest Pond Hockey begins at 9 a.m. at Clear Lake. The cost is $50.
- Free Family Wii Bowling Alley from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Activity Center for Older Adults, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte.
- Free Frosty's Frozen Bike Ride. Registration begins at noon, the ride at 1 p.m., at the park office, 250 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte.
- WinterFest Country Line Dancing from 5-9 p.m. at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Entry and pizza are free; the bar is credit card only.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25

- Free horse drawn wagon rides from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Cummings Lodge.
- Family Jump-a-thon with Hot Rod Snow Cones from 1-5:30 p.m. at LaPorte Civic Auditorium. The cost is $5 per child.

Call (219) 326-9600 for more details.

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March 28**. Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Critter Time from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sundays through March 29 at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education**. Learn what the park's ambassador animals eat, where they live and how park staff care for them.
- **Snowshoeing in Miller Woods from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education**. Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsors the program. Snowshoeing needs at least a 6-inch snowpack for safety. A limited number of snowshoes are available for loan, or take your own. Inquire at the front desk or call (219) 395-1824 to check for appropriate conditions.
- **Artist-in-Residence Art Display at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education**. View 21 pieces, all inspired by the Indiana Dunes.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops on Saturday, Jan. 24.** Sessions are from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Learn the art of wire wrapping to make beach-glass jewelry. The cost is $10, and pre-registration is required.
- **Shelf Ice Patrol at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25.** Meet a naturalist at the east side of the beach pavilion for an exploratory walk along the beach. The emphasis is how shelf ice forms, and how it must be respected.

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

Official Market Down 2025 Compared to 2024

I looked at the "Indiana Lakefront," defined as north of U.S. 12 from the Michigan line to just west of Miller Beach, using statistics from the Northern Indiana Realtors Association MLS from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 for 2024 compared to 2025.

Here are the numbers:

Year	Units Sold	$ Vol	Med Sold price	Med $ per Sq. ft.	Med. Days on market
2024	100	$76.3M	$565k	282	14
2025	84	$57.2M	$535	289	22

In previous reports this year, the market looked better than these numbers report. I ran the reports twice to make sure I was picking up the right data. The only bright spot when you compare 2025 to 2024 is the price per square foot of living area went up 2.5%. Not much to celebrate.

The rest of the data shows 2025 lower than 2024: Units down 16%; $Volume down 25%; Median sold price down 5%. Days on market are up 57%, but still, a very short 22 days.

There may be a different answer as to why the market has gone down on the MLS records. *Compass*, which now owns @ *properties*, has created its own intra-brokerage MLS that tries to sell its listings in-house so they get both the listing and buyer brokerage fees.

My brief review of some Michigan Register of Deeds data indicates that maybe 25-30% of the market sales are not being reported on the public MLS there. I have no data for Indiana lakefront, but these numbers suggest there exists an alternative marketplace.

I still find it hard to believe that you can get a better price for your property by limiting the number of buyers who have a chance to purchase it. One of these days, we will do a study to find out if a limited marketplace is better than the open marketplace.

Comments appreciated.

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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:

- **3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22.** Meet in the children's makerspace, with no experience necessary. Children 12 and younger must attend with a parent or guardian.
- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays.** Join fellow artists to stitch needle art. A variety of crafts are included. All skill levels and ages are welcome, as is the sharing of skills.
- **Great Decisions, "U.S.-China Relations," from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues. Participants read the "Great Decisions Briefing Book," watch the videos at the library, then discuss with community members. Call (219) 873-3049 to register or for more details.
- **Mario Kart Switch Tournament (ages 10-17) from 4-5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23.** Arrive within 10 minutes of the program's start to potentially win prizes.
- **Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24**. Miltenberger can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record.
- **Adult Crafting — Handcraft and Create! from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, or 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.** Make a microwavable heating pad, simmer pot and paper flowers. Choose only one date to attend; the same crafts will be available at both sessions. Participants may create all three crafts. All supplies are provided.
- **Board Game Bonanza (families) from 4-5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26**. Available games include Sorry, Candyland, Monopoly Jr., Uno and Apples to Apples.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays**. Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Dungeons and Discussions from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.** Join "resident DM Sydney" for consultations on playing the game.
- **Cozy Puzzle Time and Coloring for Adults from 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28**. Paired with peaceful music, adults can use provided puzzles and coloring supplies.
- **January scavenger hunt**. Find all the hidden Sesame Street characters and win a prize.
- **Winter Reading Challenge for Adults through Feb. 28**. Pick up a Winter Reading bookmark at the reference desk. Fill in a circle for every 20 minutes of reading or listening to a book. Once filling all the circles, return the bookmark to the reference desk to pick a prize and receive an entry in a drawing. One reader may receive a $50 Barnes & Noble gift card. The limit is five entries per person. The last day to enter is Saturday, Feb. 28.
- **Art Exhibition Wall**. Tim Lace's solo exhibit runs through March 6. Lace ventured to New Orleans, capturing men and women who bead the suits in which they parade twice each year: Mardi Gras Day and Super Sunday. The brightly colored suits of beads and feathers celebrate the connections between African and Native American tradition.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) helpers needed**. The requested amount of time is one day a week during tax season (February-April). The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults**. Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.
- **Used Christmas card collection**. Youth Services will accept used holiday or Christmas cards for future projects.

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

John L. Leinweber

John Lloyd Leinweber, 80, a larger-than-life force, passed away Jan. 10, 2026, at Firefly Farm, LaPorte, following a courageous journey with Alzheimer's disease.

Born on Sept. 28, 1945, in Chicago, John grew up on the South Side, where he learned early the values that defined his life: hard work, independence, ambition and an unwavering belief that anything worth doing was worth doing big. Entirely self-made, John loved to dream, build, create and improve, whether in business, community or family life.

John was a proud graduate of Thornridge High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University, where his leadership and magnetism were evident. He served as president of the Interfraternity Council and was a proud member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. He later attended Kent Law School for two years and proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1968-1972.

A true entrepreneur and businessman, John's career reflected his drive and vision. He began his career at Xerox and A.B. Dick, then began his entrepreneurial journey with Apeco in New Jersey. He went on to found American Office Equipment in 1978, which he successfully sold to Danka in 1994. Never one to slow down, John never retired. He later formed Imagine Technology Group, continuing to innovate and lead well into later life. Beyond business success, John was a philanthropist, believing deeply in giving back and supporting causes that mattered.

John lived fully and passionately. An avid competitive handball player, cyclist, golfer and world traveler, he embraced adventure at every turn. He participated in multiple AIDS benefit bike rides during the 1990s, cycling across routes from Boston to New York City and San Francisco to Los Angeles, combining his love of physical challenge with his deep compassion for others. He loved horses, had a cowboy spirit and spent time at places close to his heart, including Firefly Farm and Briar Leaf Golf Club.

John was deeply committed to his community. He served on the boards of Lubeznik Center for the Arts, LaPorte Hospital Foundation and Barker Mansion. His greatest passion was Friendship Botanic Gardens, where his vision, generosity and enthusiasm helped cultivate beauty, connection and growth for all.

Above all else, family was John's greatest joy. He was married to Patricia Niemi in 1969, with whom he had three daughters. He later found enduring love with his husband, James A. Laughlin, whom he was with since 1978 and married in 2013.

John was the proud father of Triecia (Bobby) Roberts, LaPorte; Melissa (Isaac) Triska, Elmhurst, Ill.; and Jeanie (Jeff) Shuck, Niles, Mich. He was a devoted grandfather to nine grandchildren: (Haley, Jordan, Kayla, Zachary, Anna, Matthew, Johnny, Ellie and Danny); and a delighted great-grandfather of five (Kennedy, Fiona, Gemma, Lucas and Olivia), each of whom brought him immense pride and joy.

John is survived by his sister, Christine (Lawrence) Leugoud, and many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Margaret Leinweber, and sisters, Gladys and Gail.

Those who knew John will remember him as energetic, charismatic, generous, loving, passionate, deeply caring and the undeniable life of the party. He had a rare ability to make people feel seen, inspired and welcome, often all at once. Whether through laughter, leadership or loyalty, John left a lasting impression everywhere he went.

John lived in many places over the years: Chicago's South Side, South Holland, Dolton, Lemont, Long Beach, LaPorte and Naples, Fla., but wherever he landed, he built community, friendships and a life rich with purpose.

A Celebration of Life service was held Jan. 17 at Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel, 418 Washington St. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Friendship Botanic Gardens at www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org. Visit www.otthaverstock.com to sign a guest book and leave condolences.

"America A-Z" Exhibit

A new "America A-Z" exhibit runs through the year's end at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. With more than 100 artifacts, it tells stories of the nation's history with a LaPorte County twist. It honors this year being the semiquincentennial, or 250th anniversary, of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

The Holdcraft Players

Featuring a Northwest Indiana cast and crew, The Holdcraft Players will present David Mamet's "Faustus" the weekends of Jan. 23 and 30 at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

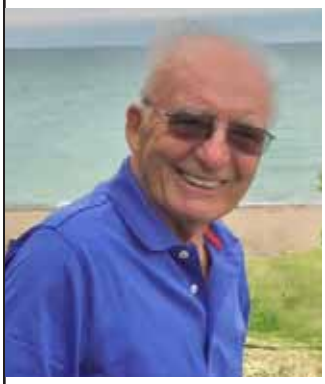
The play reimagines the legend first made famous in Christopher Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus" in 1592. According to director Joel Thompson, it puts intriguing twists on the core parable of a man who sells his soul to the devil in exchange for worldly success.

A Chicago native, Mamet's credits include writing for stage, film, TV, poetry and children's books. Titles include "Glengarry Glen Ross" (both stage and screen), a remake of "The Postman Always Rings Twice," "The Untouchables," "Wag the Dog" and "Hoffa."

Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 23-24 and 30-31, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for students. Visit www.yptcinc.com/tickets for reservations.

Rolf Karl Twer

Dec. 27, 1933-Jan. 7, 2026
Long Beach, Indiana



Rolf Karl Twer was born on Dec. 27, 1933, in Nassau, Germany, to Chiquita and Karl Twer. Being born in a war-torn country during challenging times, Rolf's early childhood was challenging and humbling. Early on, he learned that hard work, honesty and perseverance would be the virtues to aid him in the promise of a successful life.

In 1953, at age 20, Rolf left Germany, carrying only 14 pounds of luggage to begin a new life in Newfoundland, Canada, as a leather apprentice. While in Newfoundland, he met a young lady named Annemarie Buchmann. Annemarie had emigrated from the Rhine River region of Germany with her family just a few years prior to Rolf's emigration. The courtship began, and the two continued their relationship as his occupation moved him to Montreal, and Annemarie followed.

In 1959, Rolf secured a position with Weil-McLain and relocated to the United States. Recognizing that this job opportunity could be long-lasting, Rolf proposed to Annemarie, and they were married on Dec. 31, 1960. Together, they made their forever home in Michigan City, Indiana.

Rolf and Annemarie were grateful to call the United States home, studying hard to successfully complete the U.S. citizenship exam in the 1970s to officially become U.S. citizens. They were always proud of their U.S. citizenship and would frequently display U.S. flag toothpicks in the appetizers at their parties.

Rolf and Annemarie were blessed with two sons, Pierre and Michael. Among his highest measures of pride and success was his family. It was his unwavering goal to ensure that his sons would be the first Twers in America to complete their college degrees. To meet this goal, Rolf would work tirelessly, completing a full week at Weil-McLain, followed by building custom homes in Long Beach in the evenings and weekends. His work ethic, sacrifice and perseverance towards meeting his goals not only allowed his sons to graduate from Indiana University, but also represented the man he was.

Although Rolf worked long days and weekends, he always took the time to enjoy time with friends "washing the ice", i.e. gin gimlets, or enjoying a cold German beer. He was known by many to always offer a helping hand, a warm smile and welcoming hospitality.

Rolf was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Sylvia LeMaitre, his brother, Claus Twer, and his step-brother, Bernie Mueller. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Annemarie; sons, Pierre (Susan), and Michael (Paige); grandchildren, Adam Twer (Libby), Erika Hicks (Mitchell), Ashley Weaver (Blake), AnneLeigh Twer and Juliann Twer; and great-grandchildren, Maddie and Ava Twer, Blaire and Graham Hicks.

Rolf Karl Twer will continue to live in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. He will be remembered as a kind, loving husband, father and grandfather; a proud U.S. citizen and an honest, hardworking man.

A celebration of life will be conducted at a later date in Long Beach in the summer of 2026. Contributions in Rolf's memory may be made to the American Lung Association at www.action.lung.org or to the charity of your choice.

"Sentimental Value" Takes You on an Emotional Journey Through One Family

by Andrew Tallackson

The emotional turning point of "Sentimental Value" — truths shared between two sisters (Renate Reinsve, left, and Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaa).

Joachim Trier makes unusually quiet movies. His themes are universal — the adults in his world struggle with crippling personal baggage — but the stories march to a beat different from American cinema: deliberate, hushed in tone.

How that lands with you depends on your leanings. For me, "Sentimental Value," Trier's latest, is one of the year's best. For others, it may be a snooze.

I don't see how it could be, though. Trier, the Norwegian filmmaker whose "The Worst Person in the World" (2021) was another triumph, explores deeply emotional territory here. Pain and lingering hurt are everywhere, but Trier doesn't abandon you there. He sees these characters through to the end, and the result is sublimely powerful.

Trier doesn't spoon-feed you details all at once. He's careful in what revelations he shares and when. What we know going into "Sentimental Value" is the family he introduces has endured decades of generational trauma. In the present, where the film largely takes place, sisters Nora (Trier regular Renate Reinsve) and Agnes (Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas) are estranged from their father, Gustav (Stellan Skarsgård). As children, their parents fought constantly before he threw in the towel, leaving for Sweden to continue his career as a movie director.

Now, with their mother's passing, Gustav is back: present at the wake, yes, but with an ulterior motive. His career relatively inactive for the past 15 years, he's written a somewhat personal script, and he wants Nora, a stage actress, to star. He's written the script for her.

★★★★

"Sentimental Value"

Running time: 133 minutes. VOD. Rated R for some language, including a sexual reference, and brief nudity.

Early, we see Nora backstage, moments before the curtain rises on her latest show, and she's overcome with paralyzing stage fright. How the tech crew wrestles her back is, well, it's a sight to see.

Trier makes it clear that Nora is wounded by the scars of her youth. Agnes seems to have her act together — husband, adorable son — but Nora cannot reconcile the past, especially with her father back in the picture.

Trier's movies recall early 1970s cinema, before "Jaws" and "Star Wars" rewrote the box-office playbook, in that there are no big effects sequences, no flashy direction, just real people coping with real problems. With "Sentimental Value," he's painting on a big canvas. There's a lot going on in this family. Gustav is wrestling with the same existential crisis as George Clooney in "Jay Kelly." He's put career first and family second. Now, close to a comeback, he has to sift through the wreckage of his family. Skarsgård, in a career best, can be cruel, but not

overtly. His behavior is almost passive-aggressive: he can allow a compliment to land brilliantly, then retreat into his own selfishness. We see that in a telling scene when he visits an old pal he'd like to direct his next film, then backs off when he decides his colleague is simply too old and feeble.

Gustav's most direct slap in the face involves casting an American actress, Rachel (Elle Fanning), in the role he wrote for Nora. Rachel's career is hot, but she's seeking a meatier role, latching on to Gustav. I kept waiting for Rachel to come across as a dumb, vain American, but Trier allows Fanning to do her best work. Rachel is a young woman perceptive enough to realize she's caught in the middle of something greater than her.

Gustav (Stellan Skarsgård) turns to an American actress (Elle Fanning) to star in his latest film.

As siblings, Reinsve and Lilleaas create something rare on film: sisters who actually feel like sisters. They have that unspoken connection where they know precisely what the other is thinking. Agnes, in many ways, is wrestling with the same baggage, but knows when to pick her battles. Nora, on the other hand, lays it all out.

Reinsve is one of the most intensely natural talents today. You never catch her acting. Her behavior comes from somewhere raw and honest. You can see the heartbreak written all over face. Nora has a right to be angry, but seeing that anger smarts.

Trier, incredible humanist that he is, spends the last 20 minutes of "Sentimental Value" allowing his characters to finally tackle their demons. Reinsve and Lilleaas, in particular, have a beautiful scene together that reveals the powerful bond between two sisters.

Then, we have the final scene. Very little dialogue, but since Trier has made us his companion on this journey, we know what led to this moment, what the dynamic is between father and daughter. Reinsve and Skarsgård tell us everything we need to know about these people without saying a word.

We are moved. Deeply.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

Four A's Car Club Comes to an End After Decades of Shows, Charity

by William Tallackson

Four A's Car Club has come to an end after 35 years of shows, parades and charitable fundraising across Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan.

The nonprofit organization contributed more than $74,000 to community causes since its founding in 1990, holding its final auto show last September at Door Village Harvest Festival. All remaining funds were donated before operations concluded.

The decision to fold coincided with longtime members stepping away after decades of leadership, former car club secretary Donna Parquette Denton said.

"We wanted to go out very successful," Denton said. "All of the officers were turning 80, and they did not feel that they wanted the club to continue. We decided that all the officers reached the point of 80 years old, and they wanted to retire the club."

The idea for Four A's Car Club began in 1989 with Denton's husband, Jerry, and three friends who shared a love of classic cars and spent time working together on vehicles.

(Jerry was unavailable for the interview due to health complications.)

"Four guys were sitting around one Saturday working on a car in one of the guys' garage, and they said, 'We should start a car club of our own,'" Donna Denton said.

Four A's Car Club members participate in their last show in Three Oaks, Mich.

One of the basket raffles at a car show.

Above: Club members relax during one of the car shows.
Below: Charity was at the forefront of the club's mission.

That informal conversation led to the club's debut the following year and its first car show in Three Oaks, Mich. Eighty vehicles turned up, a response that surprised organizers and helped set the tone for the club's early growth, Denton said.

As interest grew, the club expanded across the region by hosting annual car shows and events, attracting vehicles from Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. The Four A's became known for structured judging, distinctive trophies, signature yellow T-shirts and an emphasis on charity.

"The first thing sponsored was a baseball team that played Springfield Township school, and the baseball team wore yellow shirts," Denton said. "So the Four A's adopted that yellow shirt as their color."

In its early years, the club supported a range of causes, including high school automotive programs, scholarships and local food assistance. Over time, members narrowed their focus to children's hospitals and eventually selected Shriners Children's Chicago as the club's primary beneficiary.

"It was really a love for the car show and a love to make the money for the kids," Denton said. "It was about the kids — giving the money to the kids."

The Dentons helped shape the club's legacy through years of hands-on leadership. Donna served as secretary, keeping the organization running through advertising and fundraising efforts, while Jerry served multiple terms as president, most recently from 2010 to 2021.

When the Dentons stepped away from their roles in 2021, longtime member and Vice President Dave Rybicki assumed the reins.

"They donated time, effort and a lot of personal money to keep the club," Rybicki said.

As longtime leaders stepped aside and members aged, the club's size gradually declined after peaking at about 35 to 40 members.

Looking back, Denton hopes the Four A's Car Club is remembered for more than its classic cars.

"As a fun-loving classic car enthusiast group, we love classic cars and try to keep them going so that everybody can enjoy them," Denton said. "It's the end of an era. It's sad that we are moving on, and we just know we did good for the community."

"Outland" Remains Prophetic Science-Fiction 45 Years Later

Sean Connery stars as a federal marshal at a mining outpost on one of Jupiter's moons in "Outland."

There is an intriguing theory — actually, a depressing one — that argues if we ever colonize another planet, say Mars, for instance, the result won't be a symbolic act of rebirth or renewal. We'll just bring all of our crap with us.

In other words, same $!@#, different location.

"For All Mankind," Apple TV's brilliant alternate-reality take on the space race, explored that notion in its fourth season. In that universe, class hierarchy reigns supreme. NASA employees on Mars treat maintenance workers like second-class citizens. Living quarters for NASA staff outclass anything for the hired hands.

Forty five years ago, "Outland" (1981) beat everyone to the punch by exploring the same premise on the Jupiter moon of Io. Dismissed as "High Noon" in space, which, well, it was, audiences likely were too jacked up from "Alien" (1979) and "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980) to allow room for a sci-fi attack on corporate culture.

Me, on the other hand? "Outland" is one of my favorite movies for three reasons. One, because it's directed by my favorite proud-as-punch B-movie helmer Peter Hyams ("Capricorn One"). Two, because it has more on its mind than action. And three, because Sean Connery, who was 51 at the time, could still enter a room and own it.

The former James Bond stars as Federal Marshal William O'Neil, who has only been at the titanium ore mining outpost on Io for two weeks when things go haywire. Mysteriously so, and things seems to be tied to the outpost's work ethic. During the first scene, in fact, we overhear a conversation between two workers who bemoan the lack of enough staff on a single shift. And it is here that a third worker starts to hallucinate. Something, he screams, is crawling all over him, so he disconnects his oxygen supply and dies within seconds.

Strange deaths pile up from there. A worker serenely walks into an elevator without his spacesuit, dying during the decompression process. A third, seen on security cameras in his room with a prostitute, goes on a psychotic rampage before police gun him down.

What's going on? That is what O'Neil wants to know. By the way, he's dealing with his own problems. His wife leaves him, taking their son with her, arguing the desolate outpost is no place to raise a child. The scenes where Connery listens to recordings of his wife are some of the actor's best work. An acknowledgement of failure as a husband and father, without ever uttering a single word.

Now on his own, O'Neil has a potential ally in

Sgt. Montone (James B. Sikking, shortly before "Hill Street Blues" scooped him up), and a foe in the outpost's general manager, Mark Sheppard (Peter Boyle, brazenly scummy), who's all about deadlines and output.

Science-fiction of the 1970s ("Logan's Run," especially) had a way of transforming the future into exotic speculation, with architecture and living spaces vastly different from our own. If the living quarters for the outpost miners in "Outland" look awfully familiar, it is because Hyams wants us to recognize this world. It could be barracks anywhere on Earth.

In this world, there are no aliens, no creepy crawlies sneaking into attack mode. No, the real monster in "Outland" is as old as time.

Greed.

Shepherd, as general manager, prides himself on pushing the colony to outperform past production records. His outpost is churning out more titanium ore than anywhere else. O'Neil will discover, unfortunately, that the company will do whatever it takes to ensure it keeps breaking records.

Frances Sternhagen steals her every scene as the outpost's cranky physician.

"Outland" really is about exploitation of the American workforce, where any deaths are simply collateral damage on the way to massive profit. The all-encompassing dollar.

That is why Connery is the right guy to play O'Neil. Two years away from returning as 007 in "Never Say Never Again," and six years before his first and only Oscar win for "The Untouchables," he was testing the waters. Seeking material that might serve his career well. "Outland" was a perfect fit. As O'Neil, the actor carried himself as a man who's seen it all. Defeated, in a way, but confident in himself to enter a room and earn instant respect from those around him. On Io, he's the last Boy Scout in a sea of corruption. The way he unapologetically stands up for himself, for what's right, we see a movie star in full command.

That Hyams cast a woman the same age as Connery, Frances Sternhagen ("Misery"), as O'Neil's ally remains a refreshing twist. Female sidekicks then typically were half the age of their male counterparts. As Dr. Marian Lazarus, the colony's physician, the actress is all snarky cynicism, and Connery cuts through it instantly. She recognizes in him an innate goodness. So, she helps him uncover what specifically is making the miners suicidal.

The technical crew behind "Outland" effectively creates a desolate setting on Io, although time admittedly draws attention to the use of miniatures for the elaborate sets. But what's chilling about the movie is how it mirrors "High Noon" before the climactic confrontation. O'Neil is armed with what he needs to make arrests, all while Shepherd orders he be killed, the assassins arriving on the next shuttle. The entire colony basically shuts down, the workers biding their time before they can safely return to work. That the workers are OK with O'Neil's pending "removal" speaks on a depraved level to a work culture that sees death as just a brief distraction. So, the sense of isolation, of O'Neil's *aloneness*, is unsettling.

I often wonder if "Outland" would have found a greater audience if its climax was written smarter. Shepherd's hired assassins are touted as the best in the business. Once they arrive, we prepare for an epic confrontation. Turns out, Shepherd's goons are the biggest boobs in the universe. Total morons. Granted, we know from the Bond movies that Connery can handle himself…but seriously, that guy in the greenhouse who shoots at the windows, allowing himself to be sucked out to his immediate death? *Come on, now*. For a movie that played it smart for so long, Hyams rushes his way toward a happy ending.

"Outland" cost an estimated $14 million — a hefty chunk of change at the time — but only grossed about $20 million at the box office. It was considered a failure, yet like so many cult films found an audience through home viewing.

Three years later, Hyams would deliver his masterpiece — the "2001: A Space Odyssey" sequel "2010" (1984), which is a triumph of effects, storytelling and world building — then happily resume cranking out agreeable B movies, like the Billy Crystal comedy "Running Scared," Jean-Claude Van Damme flicks "Timecop" and Sudden Death," the Chicago Field Museum rampaging monster flick "The Relic" and Arnold Schwarzenegger's "End of Days." Nothing great, or with any pretension of greatness, but the definition of popcorn-chomping, Saturday-afternoon fun.

"Outland," though, was prophetic, planting the seed among today's visionaries who fear we as a society are incapable of casting away our own wants and needs.

Wherever that may be, even among the stars themselves.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

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.laporte-countyparks.org for more details.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 27, and Feb. 3 and 24, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Valentine's Glow-in-the-Dark Night Hike

The family program is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at Red Mill County Park.

Find glowing hearts and valentines on the trails using the park's black lights, then head inside to play games, dance to music and sample hot cocoa and cookies.

Wandering Watercolors

The free program is from 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Luhr County Park.

Take a short walk around the park, then paint a nature journal-style watercolor art. All supplies are provided. Call (219) 325-8315 to register.

A Brush with Madness

The all-ages program is from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Luhr County Park,

Participants follow easy painting directions, with all supplies provided. No experience is necessary. The cost is $8 per person. Register in advance by calling (219) 325-8315.

Chicago Staff Band Concert

The Salvation Army of Michigan City and LaPorte will host Chicago Staff Band, one of The Salvation Army's premier musical ensembles, culminating in a Celebration Concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road.

The concert is free and open to the public.

The band also will host a free music workshop for LaPorte County middle and high school band, orchestra and choir students from 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m. that day. Participating students can perform alongside the band during the evening concert.

The weekend concludes with a united worship service featuring the band at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, at The Presbyterian Church, 307 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte.

Attendees can make a donation during the concert or worship service to support The Salvation Army's ongoing work here.

More information is available by contacting Maj. Dale Simmons at (219) 877-5184 or dale.simmons@usc.salvationarmy.org

Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will kick off the new year with a Broadway-themed program at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Program Chair Laura Meyer assembled an evening of musical-theater love songs spanning 1904-1973, celebrating Broadway's Golden Age and the transitional years that shaped it. Vocalists Candace Archer, Kathy Chase, Tom LeDonne, Karen Lyness, Steven Mast, Ed Merrion, Joe Stewart and Deb Topolski will offer solos, duets and ensembles.

The program includes Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and Lerner and Loewe, along with selections from "Camelot," "Gypsy" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Other pieces are drawn from earlier, lesser-known productions, such as "Spring Is Here" (1929) and "Revenge with Music" (1934).

Following the meeting, Topolski's hosting committee will serve refreshments. Guests are welcome. There is no admission charge; however, donations to the Monday Musicale Scholarship Fund are accepted. Contact Laura Meyer at (219) 873-6040 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for more information.

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:

- **Create a Vision Board from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at the main library Meeting Room B.** Create a visual way to reflect on the past and set sights on the future, complete with provided materials.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, at the main library.** The storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Choose Your Own Storytime from 4-4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the main library Multipurpose Room**. Structured around the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum, children help choose the books read during the program.
- **Readers Corner-Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** The focus is Richard Osman's The Thursday Murder Club.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Liz Moore from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28**. Moore will discuss her latest work, The God of the Woods. Register online.

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.

Free Family Day

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a free Family Day from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

The all-ages drop-in event allows families to create artwork inspired by the current exhibit, "LIT! Site-Specific Installations by Maria Burundarena and Luftwerk." It explores color and light in relation to architecture and nature.

A scavenger hunt through LCA's three galleries is planned as well. Free snacks are provided, and no advance registration is required.

Michigan City Community Enrichment Corp. funding supports the program. Visit www.LubeznikCenter.org or contact LCA Marketing Manager Jessie Sexton at (219) 874-4900 or jsexton@LubeznikCenter.org for more details.

American Red Cross

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

- Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich., noon-5 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 22.
- Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge 75, 416 U.S. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27.
- LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.
- St. John Lutheran Church, 111 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28.

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.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Adult Literacy Class.** Times are 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 22, 29.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran: "Life is Beautiful."** The showing is at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

Weekly programs

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays and 4 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Pajama Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors (gentle) at 10 a.m. Fridays. The intermediate program is at 11 a.m.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

Free Throw Contest

Knights of Columbus Council 14366 will host a free-throw contest from 12:30-3 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 25, at the St. Mary of the Lake school gym, 704 W. Merchant St., New Buffalo, Mich.

Email the Grand Knight at gk14366@mikofc.org for details.

Lake Shore Drive Project

Long Beach Town Council will host a special town council meeting on the Lake Shore Drive improvement project at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, in the Town Hall meeting room.

A Zoom link will be available as well.

Haas Engineering staff will discuss the evaluation of the conceptual roadway-improvements document relative to the project. The document can be accessed at https://shorturl.at/gbONa

During the meeting, council members will vote on the roadway lane width, roadway markings, lateral offset and selecting an option regarding overall roadway construction. Public comment is planned before council members vote on the variable options.

Email questions to council members at councilcomments@longbeachin.org if unable to attend the meeting.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Westville Chamber Awards

The public can make nominations for Westville Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Leader and Education Recognition awards through April 10.

The honors will be presented from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the annual dinner at Purdue University Northwest's Great Hall.

The Education Recognition Award recognizes students, educators and educational programs that made a significant impact in the Westville community over the past year. The Community Leader Award goes to businesses or an individual that make a positive difference here.

Nominations are open to the public, with a panel of judges featuring board members and community leaders making the final votes.

Nomination forms are available at www.westvillechamber.org, on the chamber Facebook page or at Westville Public Library, 153 W. Main St. Forms can be submitted by email at info@westvillechamber.org or by mail to: P.O. Box 215, Westville, IN 46391.

Red Kettle Ring Off Results

Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch claimed victory in the annual "Battle of the Mayors," raising $11,414.41 in support of The Salvation Army's Christmas Campaign.

LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody raised $5,922.

The friendly competition was held Dec. 19, as Nelson Deuitch and Dermody each rang bells and encouraged donations in their communities. Her winning total included a $5,000 donation from Phoenix Construction, along with contributions from throughout Michigan City.

Majors Dale and Becky Simmons, who oversee The Salvation Army in Michigan City and LaPorte, thanked both mayors and their communities for another successful event. Funds help provide food and toys to families during the holidays, and support year-round services, including food pantries, weekend backpack programs, diaper assistance, summer camp, spiritual care and case management.

Saint Mary's Dean's List

Eight students from *The Beacher* readership area are included in the fall 2025 semester Saint Mary's College Dean's List.

A student at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Ind., must achieve a grade-point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes and no grades lower than a C.

The Michigan City students are: Esther Barnes, Emma Lane, Maura Mack, Molly Mason, Paloma Valdes, Natalie White and Allison Wilson.

The New Buffalo, Mich., student is Jane Funk.

Save the Dunes Transfers Properties

Save the Dunes has officially transferred ownership of several conservation properties to Shirley Heinze Land Trust.

That includes Sebert Forks and Trail Creek Fen preserves in Michigan City, Stockwell Woods and adjacent land in Long Beach, and other smaller properties in Gary and Lake Station. The strategic transfer allows Save the Dunes to focus resources on supporting Indiana Dunes National Park, and advancing its advocacy and community outreach work. SHLT can use its expertise and experience to continue the stewardship and preservation of these natural areas.

It also allows SHLT staff and volunteers to aid Save the Dunes with invasive-species management, among other critical tasks for land and native-species preservation.

Credit Union College Scholarships

Members Advantage Credit Union is accepting applications through March 6 for its annual Leona Bruno and Gail Walker scholarships.

The scholarships are open to high-school seniors and students in their first or second year of college who are part of the MACU family.

The $1,000 Leona Bruno Scholarship, established in 1994 to honor MACU's first manager, goes to a graduating high-school senior who demonstrates academic achievement.

The $1,000 Gail Walker Scholarship, created in 2010 in memory of the MACU board member, goes to high-school seniors or first- and second-year college students with strong scholastic performance.

Visit https://shorturl.at/U8skK or call (219) 874-6943 for more details.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

In the Area

Jan. 22 — 3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 22 — Create a Vision Board, 4-5:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 23 — Great Decisions, "U.S.-China Relations," 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 23 — Mario Kart Switch Tournament (ages 10-17, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 23 — WINTERFEST: Free ice sculpting demonstrations, 4-7 p.m., Plaza 618, downtown LaPorte. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 23-25, Jan. 30-Feb. 1 — The Holdcraft Players, David Mamet's "Faustus," The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 23-24 & 30-31, 2 p.m. Jan. 25, Feb. 1. Tickets: $15/adults, $10/students. Reservations: www.yptcinc.com/tickets

Jan. 24 — Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 24 — WINTERFEST: Ice Fishing Derby, 5 a.m., Cummings Lodge, LaPorte. Fee: $40. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 24 — WINTERFEST: Sewing 101 with Steady Stitchers, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sewing Studio, 1640 First St., LaPorte. Fee: $5. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 24 — WINTERFEST: Free Family Wii Bowling Alley, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Activity Center for Older Adults, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 24 — WINTERFEST: Free Frosty's Frozen Bike Ride, LaPorte park office, 250 Pine Lake Ave. Registration/noon, ride/1 p.m. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 24 — Free Family Day, 1-3 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Jan. 24 — WINTERFEST: Country Line Dancing, 5-9 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 24 — Chicago Staff Band (Salvation Army-hosted concert), 7 p.m., Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road. Free; Salvation Army donations requested. Info: dale.simmons@usc.salvationarmy.org, (219) 877-518.

Jan. 25 — WINTERFEST: Free horse drawn wagon rides, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Cummings Lodge, LaPorte. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 25 — WINTERFEST: Family Jump-a-thon with Hot Rod Snow Cones, 1-5:30 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: $5 per child. Info: www.laporteparkandrec.com

Jan. 26 — Choose Your Own Storytime, 4-4:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 26 — Monday Musicale, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 873-6040, (219) 362-1421.

Jan. 26, 29 — Adult Crafting — Handcraft and Create!, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Jan. 26/5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 29, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 26 — Board Game Bonanza (families), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 27 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 28 — Cozy Puzzle Time and Coloring for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 28 — Dungeons and Discussions, 5-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through Feb. 15 — "LIT! Site-Specific Installations by Maria Burundarena and Luftwerk," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: (219) 874-4900, jsexton@LubeznikCenter.org

Through March 6 — Tim Lace solo exhibit, Art Exhibition Wall, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through March 31 — Watercolor/colored-pencil drawings by local artist Kristy Kutch**,** Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. 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: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through Dec. 31 — "America A-Z" exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Adult Children of Alcoholic and Family Dysfunction (ACA), 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: (219) 801-1296.

First Monday of the Month (February, April, June, August, October, December) — Cancer Support Group, 5-6 p.m., Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Center Community Room, 8955 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info/registration: (219) 861-5820.

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

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

Tuesdays — Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), 4:30 p.m., Simeon Square, 1207 S. Woodland Ave. Info: marsha2529@comcast.net

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 4 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. $40 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Jackpot consolation $300 guaranteed. Info: (219) 336-3099.

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

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.

Thursdays — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

In the Region

Jan. 24 — Beach Glass Wire-Wrapping Workshops, 10:30 a.m.-noon/1:30-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: $10. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 24 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, "Life is Beautiful," 1 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org, (269) 469-2933.

Jan. 25 — Shelf Ice Patrol, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Cost: $10. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Through Jan. 22 — Annual members exhibit, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Feb. 14, Feb. 28 — Duneland Chamber of Commerce Indoor European Market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Through Feb. 9 — "A Bear's Natural Habitat: The Return of Fozzie's Studebaker," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: $11/adults, $9.50/seniors 60 & older, $7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through April 26 — "From a Bailly Point of View," Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Museum hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Free admission. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 25 — "Reel Rides: Cars of TV & Film," Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: $11/adults, $9.50/seniors 60 & older, $7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 31 — "Rockne: Life & Legacy," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Saturday-Sunday through March 28 — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays through March 29 — Critter Time, 1:30-2:30 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday — Snowshoeing in Miller Woods, 1-3 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday —Artist-in-Residence Art Display, 9:30 a.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays — Free sewing classes, 5-7 p.m. EDT, Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "Duck Soup." Not Rated. Time: 6 p.m. Jan. 22. *Also*: "Father Mother Sister Brother." Rated R. Times: 3 & 6 p.m. Jan. 23-24, 1 & 4 p.m. Jan. 25. *Also*: "Mystery Train." Rated R. Time: 6 p.m. Jan. 27. All times Eastern. The theater is located at 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Upcoming Events Deadline

Thursdays at 9 a.m.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, The Power of Sympathy, was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1905, in what became known as "Bloody Sunday," Russian Army troops fired on St. Petersburg workers who revolted against the working conditions.

On January 22, 1907, the premiere of the Richard Strauss opera, "Salome," with its "Dance of the Seven Veils," inspired vaudeville performers everywhere to do their version of the "naughty" dance. Metropolitan Opera directors were so shocked by the opera, they prohibited further performances.

On January 22, 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" made its debut, in Princeton, N.J.

On January 23, 1789, Georgetown University was established at the future site of the nation's capital.

On January 23, 1845, Congress mandated that national elections should take place the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

On January 23, 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a degree in medicine. A native of Bristol, England, she earned her degree at the Medical Institution of Geneva, N.Y.

On January 23, 1950, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, proclaimed Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

On January 23, 1977, the popular television miniseries "Roots," based on Alex Haley's novel, began airing on ABC.

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered on the California property of John A. Sutter, leading to the famous "California Gold Rush," as well as to the infamous "forty-niners."

On January 24, 1908, the first public meeting of the Boy Scouts, founded by England's Robert Baden-Powell, took place in London.

On January 24, 1916, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the federal income tax was constitutional.

On January 24, 1935, canned beer went on sale (in Richmond, Va.) for the first time.

On January 24, 1941, singer Neil Diamond was born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

On January 24, 1965, former Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Britain's World War II leader, died at age 90.

On January 25, 1802, France's conquering Napoleon Bonaparte appointed himself president of the Italian Republic.

On January 25, 1890, *New York World* reporter Nellie Bly received a tumultuous welcome after her round-the-world journey in 72 days, beating the fictional 80-day trip of Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg.

On January 25, 1915, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated transcontinental phone service with a call from New York to San Francisco.

On January 25, 1959, the "jet age" opened in the United States when American airlines scheduled the first transcontinental flight (from New York to Los Angeles) of a Boeing 707.

On January 25, 1961, President John Kennedy held the first presidential news conference televised live.

On January 26, 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol, a harbinger of the present "Library of Congress."

On January 26, 1837, with President Andrew Jackson signing a statehood bill, Michigan was formally admitted as the 26th state of the Union.

On January 26, 1875, George F. Green, of Kalamazoo, Mich., received a patent for an electric dental drill.

On January 26, 1918, to conserve meat and grain, World War I food administrator Herbert Hoover asked Americans to voluntarily observe "wheatless Mondays and Wednesdays, and meatless Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays."

On January 27, 1854, the first regularly scheduled trains began rolling on the Canadian Great Western Railway.

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for an incandescent light.

On January 27, 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenan in Poland.

On January 27, 1967, at Cape Kennedy, Fla., astronauts "Gus" Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died in a flash fire during a routine test aboard their Apollo I spacecraft.

On January 28, 1807, London's Pall Mall became the world's first street illuminated with gaslight.

On January 28, 1878, in New Haven, Conn., the first telephone switchboard went into operation.

On January 28, 1878, the first daily college newspaper, *The Yale News*, began publication in New Haven.

On January 28, 1902, with a gift of $10 million, Andrew Carnegie established the Carnegie Institute.

On January 28, 1915, the Life Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service merged to form the U.S. Coast Guard.

On January 28, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Louis Brandeis to serve on the Supreme Court, becoming its first Jewish member.

On January 28, 1936, actor Alan Alda was born in New York.

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Employee status: 15 to 30 hours per week
Reports to: Site Construction Coordinator

If you're interested in this exciting opportunity contact Joel Crain at construction@laportehabitat.org

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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.

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.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING

Jan. 13, 2026

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Gutter Busters, Pin Ups	4	0
2. Dolls with Balls	3.5	.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinckman	160
1. Pat Collado	160
2. Lisa Albers	151
3. Shelley Dunleavy	150
3. Laurie (*last name not available*)	150
4. Nancy Klausner	145
5. Pat Sullivan	142

SPLITS
June Salmon — 5-7, 3-10.
Dottie Brinckman — 3-10.
Pat Collado — 7-9.
Terry Stropky — 7-9.
Carolyn Wiggins — 7-9 (2).

Off the Book Shelf

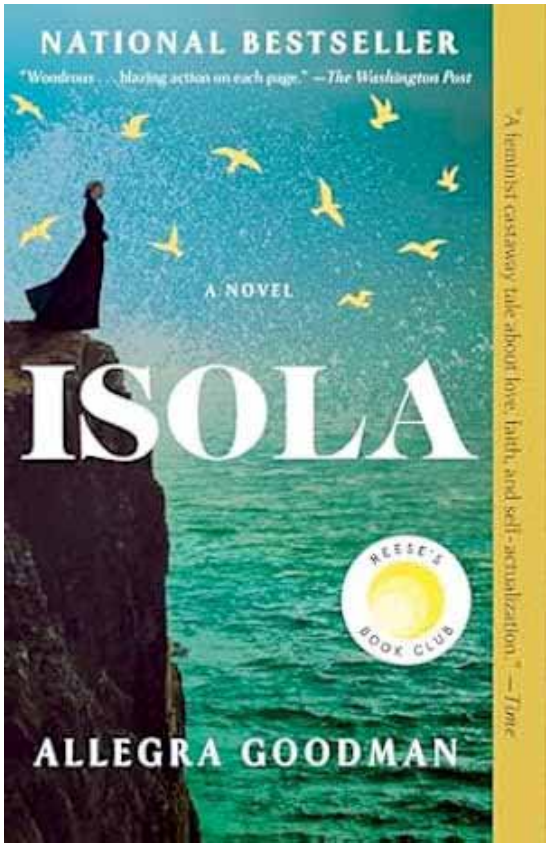
by Sally Carpenter

Isola by Allegra Goodman (*hardcover retail $28.99; paperback retail $19; also available as eBook and audiobook. 488 pages.*)

Isola is Italian for island. The island in this story is more than a patch of land in the middle of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. It not only will be the prison for three innocent persons, but it also will change a young woman, molding her into someone even she doesn't recognize.

Taking up residence in a cave gives plenty of time for soul-searching and avoiding polar bears.

Based on a real person and real events, the author provides plenty of historical notes at the end for further reading, showing how being a woman in the 16th century wasn't a walk in the park.



Goodman was inspired when she discovered a children's book about explorer Jacques Cartier that mentioned a young ward of a French nobleman, and what happened to her on a voyage to Canada.

The story begins in 1531 France where we meet Marguerite de la Rocque, 9 years old and a wealthy orphan. A male relative, Jean-Francois Roberval, is made her guardian since she needs someone to manage her estate, protect her and provide a suitable living.

"*Roberval was a voyager who sailed across the seas to defend France from English ships*."

Roberval also uses her money to finance his expeditions to the New World, some of which are money-makers and some that are not. Several ships sink in stormy weather, and he is forced to rent part of Marguerite's castle out to a rich merchant, pushing her and her nanny, Damienne, into the furthest upper rooms — out of sight, out of mind.

Marguerite grows, as all children are bound to do, and soon is a teenager. She catches the eye of Roberval's secretary, Auguste, and she reciprocates. It isn't long before Roberval gets wind of this and isn't happy. After all, he must marry her off to the highest bidder since a wedding dowry is *de rigueur* at the time. Or, maybe he entertains the idea of marrying her himself. Then he would be in complete control, no questions asked.

The story combines historical fiction with women's studies in a time when women are second-class citizens and their husbands, or other male members of the family, have control of all money and properties.

On his next journey to Canada, Roberval decides to take Marguerite and her nanny with him. Auguste will be on board, too. What does Roberval have in mind? Dumping the three of them on a deserted island in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, of course. He is incensed about the love affair between Marguerite and Auguste, but doesn't want to kill them outright; instead, make them suffer for their indiscretion.

A small island, at first seemingly without any animal life, is found, the three people are left with their belongings and a small amount of food and tools. Roberval must have thought he found the suitable place for them to die, but he underestimates Marguerite's ability to adapt.

They make the best of a found cave, Auguste teaches Marguerite how to shoot the long gun, and she soon brings in birds and small animals for dinner. They live on this island for the next two years. I won't spoil the rest of the story. What happens is nothing short of a miracle.

What I can say is that this story shows everyone — especially women — that you don't know what you are capable of until life throws you a curveball and you must react.

Marguerite spends her time on the island facing dangers she never would have considered back in France — hunger, sickness, fierce weather, wild animals that want to kill you…

Most of all, she learns God will guide her and show her the inner strength to persevere, and find a future better than the death Roberval planned for her.

The final word: If you like reading historical fiction and women's studies, this is for you. Goodman's ability to see life through the eyes of Marguerite shows us that the Renaissance may have been a time of great advances in the arts and sciences, but it didn't always do much for the everyday life of women.

Not surprisingly, the book was deemed one of the year's best by many publications, including yours truly.

Till next time, happy reading!

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