



170 Years and Counting

by Kim Nowatzke



St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, has celebrated its 170th anniversary throughout May. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

Alyce Knouse has been a member of St. John's United Church of Christ nearly all her life, and through good times and bad.

Back in 1989, for example, a propane gas explosion in her home left her badly burned and in the hospital.

"Rev. Chris Hayden, the associate minister at the time, came up every day for a month and prayed with me," the 90-year-old recalled. "His family even came to visit me when I was released from the hospital."

Memories of moments like that endure. Indeed, May has been a time of reflection at the church, 101 St. John Road, which on May 14 celebrated 170 years in Michigan City.

Phil Smith appreciates the knowledge he's gained

since becoming a congregation member.

"I believe the thing that stands out to me since belonging to the church has been the Bible study on Wednesday mornings," the 85-year-old said. "It means so much to me!"

These are but a few memories that members of the church — a few hundred in size now — treasure. The congregation has been celebrating its 170th anniversary in a number of ways. After the morning service on May 17, about 100 members enjoyed a special anniversary celebration luncheon that included entertainment by the South Bend-area barbershop quartet Go Figure. Church Historian Jean Squires coordinated a slide show viewed for 30

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minutes prior to Sunday worship in May. Displays from the past in the church's conference room (also referred to as its library) include wedding photos of couples married at St. John's. She and her late cousin, Mildred Miller, worked at organizing the room with custom-made cabinets to preserve the church's past.

"It's fun when you can relate to the people – more than just a history book," she explained.

Willing members have donated St. John's memorabilia, she said. In fact, she's received enough plates, created for the church centennial in 1956, for an entire place setting, she said, smiling.

Church board president Mike Dill added, "We have to be thankful that the next generation finding these items in their parents' homes have brought them to us for preservation."

It all began for St. John's when Michigan City was a new and growing community, having been incorporated in 1836.

"The German pioneers who settled here had come to make a new home in the land of opportunity,

America," according to the church's website, www.stjohnsmc.org. "These pioneers yearned for a place to worship and to educate their children in the language of their homeland. In response to this need, the Evangelical Church in Germany and the Missionary Society of Basel, Switzerland, had sent missionary pastors to this country in the early 1800s. They endured many hardships, traveling in the Mid-West, as they brought the Word of God to the German immigrants..."

This led to the formation of the German United Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation on May 14, 1856. The same year, its first building was erected at the southeast corner of Ninth and Spring streets at a \$2,500 cost.

The congregation soon outgrew this building; however, in 1867, a larger house of worship was constructed at Ninth and Franklin streets. The old church building served as a school.

"Having a balcony on three sides of the sanctuary and seating for 600 persons, with a tall steeple, it was an imposing structure and built at a cost of \$28,000," according to the website. "This building was a landmark in the community, and its tall steeple was topped by a gold leafed cross which was a dominant feature of the city."

Fifteen years later, a parsonage and schoolhouse debuted to match the church. Later, when the school closed in 1919, that building became a parish hall.

Sermons were exclusively in German, until the first English service was held June 29, 1919.

Margaret Caddo, 85, remembers services when she was a child.

"I was one of 11 children, third from the youngest," she said. "I remember going to Sunday school in the parish hall and then attending church with my grandmother, Nette Loetz, where Pastor Irion gave the service in German."

The Rev. Paul Irion was the longest-serving minister from 1907-1940. During his tenure, the church merged with the



The first location of St. John's United Church of Christ, built in 1856 on the southeast corner of Ninth and Spring streets. Provided.



An artist's rendition of St. John's United Church of Christ at Ninth and Franklin streets in the 1950s. Provided

Evangelical Synod in 1925, then the Reformed Synod in 1934. Other church pastors with long tenures include Paul H. Frankenfeld for 29 years and Bill Fine for 30.

As the church celebrated its centennial anniversary in 1956, the congregation voted to purchase 9.5 acres on Franklin Street, where the city's South side was growing. The South Acres, as it began to be called, was purchased for \$18,000.

The United Church of Christ formed in 1957 when the Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church merged. Five years later, a vote passed to relocate on the south Franklin Street property. In December 1966, groundbreaking ceremonies took place, and on May 19, 1968, the building was dedicated.

Some items from the church's previous location were carried over to the small chapel in the new Franklin Street building. These included the communion table, podium, baptismal font, chairs and long-handled offering plates. Two wall hangings announce hymnal pages in German with "Alt" (translated to "Old") and "Neu" (translated to "New.") Stained-glass windows and the pulpit were saved from being auctioned off.

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This hymn board, with “*Neu*” translating from German to “New” in English, is one of several items in the chapel brought from the previous location at Ninth and Franklin streets. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

St. John’s carries out its mission to “*foster spiritual growth through engaging worship, Bible-based teaching, and acts of service, that positively impact our church and greater community,*” the website states.

For example, the church provides local space to house the annual veterans dinner, a tradition held for the past 15 years by Geisen-Carlisle Funeral Home in November. In addition, each year more than 600 Thanksgiving meals and more than 30

Christmas meals are cooked at the church and delivered by Michigan City Police Department. And, for more than 48 years, the church has served as an American Red Cross bloodmobile site on the first Tuesday of the month. St. John’s Preschool has been in operation for the same amount of time. A vacation Bible school held at the church last summer saw an attendance of 162; in the past, the church has teamed with up to 10 area churches to pool resources for the event. And, St. John’s sponsors the charter organization of Cub Scouts Pack 518 and Girls Scouts Troop 00486, both still active.

The church is considered a “Designated Disaster Center” (also known as a Disaster Recovery Center) that, as a temporary in-person office, provides recovery assistance after a major disaster. This includes enough sleeping cots for 100, help with insurance claims, disaster loan applications and housing referrals to impacted individuals, households and business owners.

Church members have been La Porte County Meals on Wheels volunteers for more than 43 years.

Currently, the church prepares blessing bags with items such as toothpaste, soap and socks for Nest Community Shelter and Salvation Army of La Porte County to distribute.

The Women’s Guild holds a popular annual peanut brittle sale during the holidays. The proceeds of more than 320 pounds of candy sold in 2025 have benefitted The Salvation Army of La Porte County, La Porte County Meals on Wheels, St. John’s Pre-

school, Michiana Humane Society and Roof Sit of La Porte County, in addition to a \$570 donation to the church itself.

During the winter season, the Women’s Guild also shops for hats, gloves and other outerwear for at least 30 children in the community.

Once a month, the guild ladies enjoy a time of fellowship with activities such as an annual bingo game, shows by Footlight Players and Canterbury Summer Theatre, and crafts, including crocheting scarves for the area’s less fortunate.

In addition to Dill, board members include Vice President Les Ast and Treasurer Paul Applegate. Trustees are: Dave Allison, Ast and Gary Wagenblast. Elders are Jerry Montgomery and Melinda Jackson. Deacons are Tish Levendoski and Tom Cofer, while Mike Paholski serves as a board member. **Joyce P.** is the secretary and Nicole Orzech the office manager/bookkeeper.

Squires is especially thankful for church fellowship. She shared memories of when she was a child, before the St. John Road location was built.

“I remember the church picnics because this property here was all woods,” she recalled. “Orig-



Church board president Mike Dill and church historian Jean Squires pose with historical items in the church conference room. Dill holds a church membership book and Squires a ceramic plate created for the church’s centennial celebration in 1976. In front of them is a Christmas tree stand used many times for stately, live-cut trees in the past.

Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

nally, they were at Krueger Memorial Park. The picnics were here when I was a little kid. We had pony rides, which was so fascinating to me because I didn't have that available to me. It was impressive to me. The woods were so mysterious. That impressed me. That was probably the first time I was exposed to a pony."

Christmas memories date back 53 years for Dill.

"In the early days, we used real Christmas trees donated by a family," he shared. "About a dozen guys would work at getting it through the door and set up. We had to use a come-along to pull the tree through the doors."

Saved at the church in the conference room is the large wooden base used for the large Christmas trees.

"It was a fellowship as we decorated the tree," Squires said. "The whole membership participated, including the children, who made homemade ornaments."

Squires also recalled the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service tradition.

"For a whole week, we would be taking wax off of the pews," she said. "Someone would always turn over their candle, and we'd find wax on the cushion."

Easter also holds special memories for her, as church members purchased Eas-

ter lilies in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary.

"You could come in on Easter Sunday and smell the Easter lilies," she shared.

Indeed, the blessings at St. John's are many.

"The church can intrigue people, depending on what they want," Squires said. "We have a variety of things to take care of the people."

(Visit www.stjohnsmc.org, call 219-872-9121 or visit the Facebook page, "St. John's United Church of Christ, Michigan City, IN," for more details.)



The sanctuary at St. John's United Church of Christ. Photo by Kim Nowatzke.



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Dunes Arts Summer Theatre Kicks Off 75th Season With “Deathtrap”

Dunes Arts Summer Theatre launches its 2026 season with the comic-thriller “Deathtrap” on May 29-June 14 at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Written by Ira Levin (“Rosemary’s Baby,” “The Stepford Wives”), and directed by Michael Lasswell, the Dunes production reunites Kevin Lee Geise and Janet Davies, who starred in Dunes’s 2025 production of “Misery.” Set inside a secluded country home lined with antique murder weapons, it follows Sidney Bruhl (Geise), a once-successful playwright desperate for a comeback after a string of flops. When an irresistible script arrives from former student Clifford Anderson (Michael Bond), Sidney recognizes a guaranteed Broadway hit...with one problem. He didn’t write it.

Sidney and his wife, Myra (Jann Iaco), devise a scheme to persuade Clifford they should collaborate on the play. But when Clifford refuses to share credit, the evening spirals into a dangerous game of manipulation, betrayal and murder. Complicating matters is eccentric Dutch psychic Helga ten Dorp (Davies). The production also features Steve Kozelka as the family attorney.

Tickets cost \$35 for adults and \$30 for seniors. Show times are at 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Visit www.dunesarts.org for details.



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“Four Old Broads” Sequel Coming to Footlight Theatre

Leslie Kimbell’s “The Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant,” which brings back characters from the “Four Old Broads” series, runs June 4-7 and 11-14 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Previous plays in the series include “Four Old Broads” and “Four Old Broads on the High Seas.” This time, the characters are back at Magnolia Senior Living Center amid the annual beauty pageant. Martha Parcell is certain it is her year to win, but the other women have different plans. Adding to the chaos: a tambourine-playing squirrel, dueling Elvises and an unfortunate spray-tanning incident.

Directed by Leslie Evans, Anthony Holt is the assistant director and Kathy Chase the producer. The cast includes: Laura Meyer; Beatris Shelton; Susie Richter; Imogene Fletcher; Diana Hirsch; Maude Jenkins; Tom LaDonne; Sam Smith; Cindi Reyes; Lurleen Dupree; Noel Carlson; Clovis Crown; Christine Long; Martha Parcell; Kim Lampl; and Hazel Dillard.



Kathy Chase (from left), Laura Meyer, Diana Hirsch and Susie Richter star in “The Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant.”

Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Tickets \$17 for adults, and \$12 for children 12 and younger and Thursday shows. Visit www.footlightplayers.org or call (219) 874-4035 for details.

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Sheila Carlson

March 27, 1942 – April 1, 2026

Sheila Carlson, 84, passed away April 1, 2026, after a long, hard-fought effort to maintain her independence.

She was born on March 27, 1942, in Chicago, growing up in Hammond, the daughter of Helen and George Carlson, and sister to Phil and Doug Carlson. She attended Morton High School in Hammond. She later studied at The Art Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University, experiences that shaped her eye for design — skills that later defined her career.



Sheila was a force to be reckoned with: powerful, commanding, strong-willed and impossible to overlook, unwavering in everything she did as a mother and real-estate professional. For more than 34 years, she owned and operated Selling Homes Inc. in Michiana Shores, serving as its sole agent, and specializing in classic beach cottages and the second-home market. She was known for her intelligence, deep knowledge and strong network across all areas of real estate. She had a sharp eye for detail, and brought a personal design touch to photographing and presenting homes that highlighted their character. In a tight-knit lake community, she built strong personal relationships, and maintained repeat clients who valued her honesty, experience and no-nonsense approach.

She was a fiercely loving mother to Jorie Hardy (Bob), Kristen Phillips (Trent), Terry Laskowski (Christy), Rich Laskowski (Nicole) and Mike Laskowski (Traci). She took great pride in the lives they built and the individuals they became, often speaking about their uniqueness and the distinct paths each followed.

She also is survived by her grandchildren: Aubrey Mora, Jonathan Hardy, Charlotte Laskowski, Sarah Hardy, Maria Laskowski, Owen Laskowski, Evan Laskowski, Noelle Laskowski, Lucy Laskowski, Addison Laskowski, Thomas Laskowski and Ava Laskowski; and her great-grandchild, Liborio Haro.

She will be remembered for her strength, her commanding presence and her lasting imprint on her family and the Michiana Shores community she called home and took great pride in, where she lived for more than 30 years.

Elkhart Cremation Services handled the arrangements. A small gathering to remember her life is from noon-2 p.m. CDT Saturday, July 25, at the Village of Michiana, 4000 Cherokee Drive, Michiana, Mich.

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Hall of Heroes Comic Com

Long Beach writer-producer-director Jack Olesker will appear Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31, at Hall of Heroes Comic Con 2026 at Northern Indiana Event Center, 21565 Executive Parkway, Elkhart.



Olesker

Also scheduled to attend are Erik Estrada (“CHiPs”) and Tara Reid (“American Pie,” “Josie and the Pussycats”), as well as more than 150 vendors, artists and cosplayers.

With a career spanning more than 40 years, Olesker played a key role in developing “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.” He has written, directed and produced more than 1,200 episodes of television, along with 18 movies and six novels. His resume includes “The New Adventures of He-Man,” “Care Bears,” “M.A.S.K.,” “The Super Mario Bros. Super Show,” “Heathcliff and the Catillac Cats” and “Hello Kitty’s Furry Tale Theater.”

Show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. EDT Saturday-Sunday. VIP ticketholders enter at 9:30 a.m. Visit <https://hohcomiccon.org/tickets/> for tickets or more details.

Save the Dunes Dunes Dash

Save the Dunes will host Dunes Dash, a 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run, from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 30, at Indiana Dunes National Park’s West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road.

All funds raised support Save the Dunes’ work to advance goals in land preservation, habitat restoration and public access.

The cost is \$30 for the 5K Run/Walk and \$15 for the Kids Run. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Tyzvx>. An IDNP pass is required to enter the parking lot. One can be purchased at the gate or in advance on the registration page.

This year’s sponsors are Castle Subaru, Urschel Giving, Michigan City Sustainability Commission, Northwest Indiana Green Drinks, Indiana Dunes Tourism, Cleveland-Cliffs, Blue Chip Casino, WIMS Radio, Michiana Mechanical and National Parks Conservation Association.

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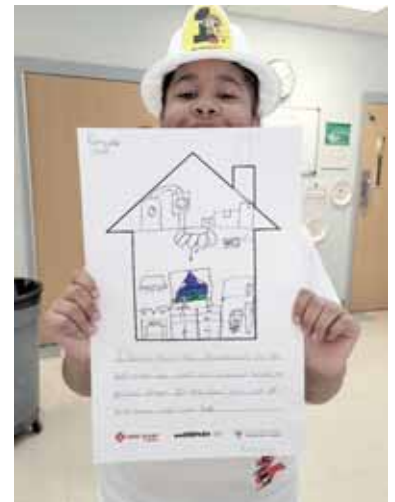
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Safe Home Art Project

Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation have partnered to host youth service partner organizations in La Porte County to begin the Safe Home Art Project.

Intended as an annual effort, the project will educate area youth about carbon monoxide and poisoning prevention. Participants will learn what CO is, how to detect it and what to do if a CO alarm sounds. The free events are, in part, supported by First Alert, and participants receive a free CO detector while supplies last.



“The incorporation of an art project, giving youth the opportunity to draw their homes and place the alarms in the drawings, is an accessible way to educate young students on the subject,” Kesling said in a press release.

LCA Executive Director Janet Bloch said the posters will be displayed at LCA on June 5-July 10.

Dot Kesling founded the LOK Wishing Tree Foundation in memory of her daughter, Lindsey, whose young life was taken from accidental CO poisoning. Kesling’s efforts helped lead to statewide adoption of an updated model residential building code, which requires CO alarms in newly built one- and two-family homes and townhomes.

Contact Bloch at jbloch@lubeznikcenter.org or (219) 874-4900 for more details.



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Jack Ryan is Back in Agreeable, But Safe “Ghost War”

by Andrew Tallackson



Sienna Miller (center) is the welcome addition to the “Jack Ryan” cast that includes (from left) John Krasinski, Wendell Pierce and Michael Kelly.

Fans of Prime’s “Jack Ryan” series won’t be bored by “Ghost War.”

They won’t be salivating over it either.

In hindsight, John Krasinski was wise to revisit the Tom Clancy character he embodied for four seasons, but this time as a movie. Now, he can get to the “good stuff” — and there is “good stuff” here — much faster.

But Krasinski (“A Quiet Place”), who cowrote the script, does not give you a reason to be excited by Ryan’s return. “Ghost War” is one big, shiny, well-paced cliché. The gang’s all here, right as sins of the past rear their ugly heads. The whole project simply isn’t ambitious enough to warrant the fuss.

Krasinski’s former CIA field operative now is retired, but as we know in any spy flick, civilians don’t stay civilians for long. Ryan’s former boss, Deputy Director James Greer (Wendell Pierce), needs his help. The vague assignment: briefly head to Dubai to retrieve a package from a shadowy figure. Should be easy, Greer says.

Ryan’s contact is killed when they meet, his throat slit. Would we expect anything else?

However, that violent act introduces the franchise’s best new addition: Sienna Miller’s MI6 agent Emma Marlow. Miller storms into the movie with furious, restless anger, like someone stiffed her for 50 bucks and she’s hellbent on recouping the loss.

★ ★ 1/2

“Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan: Ghost War”

Running time: 105 minutes. Prime.

Rated R for violence and language.

She has zero patience for BS, swiftly demanding answers and retribution.

Miller is so lively, she keeps Krasinski, and returning cast member Michael Kelly as private security contractor Mike November, frosty. From there, veteran TV director Andrew Bernstein pulls off some solid foot chases, and to his credit, the shocking assassination of a key character from the series.

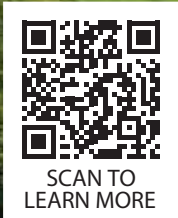
Beyond that, “Ghost War” does not offer much in the way of surprises. There are a lot of corny, overwritten speeches about freedom and integrity, and a snooze villain who does not register, in any way, shape or form, as a memorable threat.

Of course, it’s good to see these characters together again. They clearly enjoy each other’s presence. And the climax, set in a striking Dubai skyscraper, contains a spectacular payoff reminiscent of James Cameron’s “True Lies.”

Beyond that, “Ghost War” is just, well, meh.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

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“The Christophers” is One of the Year’s Best

by Andrew Tallackson



Julian (Ian McKellen) and Lori (Michaela Coel) conspire to disappoint, and irritate, his children in “The Christophers.”

“The Christophers” makes you laugh, sometimes out loud, but to call it a comedy doesn’t feel right. The characters have heavy baggage, but they’re also too smart for their own good, their conversations so direct, the bluntness cuts through the crap.

Imagine my surprise that this London-set film, with Ian McKellen delivering a career high, was directed by Steven Soderbergh, who redefined American independent film with 1989’s “Sex, Lies and Videotape.” Later, he courted mainstream success with “Erin Brockovich,” “Traffic,” the “Oceans” trilogy and “Magic Mike.”

“The Christophers” boasts the first truly great screenplay of 2026, and get this. It’s by Ed Solomon, who began his career writing the slacker “Bill & Ted” comedies. Who knew he had it in him to pen something this sophisticated?

The movie opens with siblings — vulgar not in words, but unapologetic greed — proposing a brazen act of forgery. Seems Barnaby (James Corden) and Sallie (Jessica Gunning) Sklar know their once-famous father, Julian (McKellen), will leave them nothing in his will. Dying from a rare illness, Julian crafted two-thirds of a series of paintings called “The Christophers,” all inspired by a former male lover.



“The Christophers”

Running time: 99 minutes. View on Demand.

Rated R for language.

The last portion, he never finished. Today, he lives in seclusion. Barnaby and Sallie ask her art-school acquaintance, Lori (Michaela Coel), to pose as Julian’s assistant, hunt down the unfinished works, then recreate them in secret. Then, when Julian dies, Barnaby and Sallie can publicly authenticate them as his, selling them for a hefty sum.

Lori reluctantly agrees, and we believe we have “The Christophers” figured out. Lori will befriend Julian, her presence clouded by a ruse, the two ultimately learning a thing or two about life itself. And because Lori is black, you fear the movie will rely on a tired racial stereotype, that streetwise people of color are healing salve for rich white people.

How satisfying to report that trajectory never arrives. Julian’s health may be failing, but as played by the 86-year-old McKellen, his vigor, his acid tongue, are blisteringly toxic. Julian is no dummy. He has a strong suspicion as to why Lori has ar-

rived. The colorful adjectives he uses to describe, and belittle, Barnaby and Sallie are so on point, you erupt with laughter. Comforted by the realization that Soderbergh and Solomon are out for blood.

Coel, as Lori, is a striking presence, with piercing cheekbones that could probably slice through glass. The actress crafts Lori as a woman amused and perplexed by Julian. There's also an undercurrent of resentment, and at first, we are not sure why.

The deception that lands her in Julian's flat does not last long. In one of the year's best written and acted scenes, Lori comes clean about her distaste for Julian. Coel's unwavering persistence, her steely gaze, define Lori as the smartest person in the room...and Julian just takes it. The look on McKellen's face says it all. A man called out for his own inadequacies.

The beauty of McKellen's performance is, we get it right from the start. His bombastic ego is a shield of armor. Protection against his own failures. When Lori refuses to work with Julian while he's in partial undress, he replies, "See, Weinstein ruined robes for all of us." The quip brilliantly cuts like a knife, but we see how McKellen uses the retort for Julian to regain the upper hand.

When the truth behind Lori's disdain for Julian reveals itself, it chips away at them both: her confidence as an artist, him mistaking snark for wit.

How Lori and Julian try to turn the tables on



Jessica Gunning and James Corden costar as Julian's greedy children.

Barnaby and Sallie is the core of the last act, but the resolution also allows Lori and Julian to come to terms with themselves, with Julian finally admitting, "I'm a broken man, Lori. I believe I always have been." McKellen, though, does not sentimentalize Julian from there. He can't entirely cleanse himself, at one point declaring about his final works, "This will hang with the worst paintings of all time, along with dogs playing poker, velvet Elvis and most of Warhol."

We are moved by Julian and Lori. They are not so much transformed, but at peace with where life heads next.

I absolutely, positively love this movie.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

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Pets & Pours

Story and Photos by Will Tallackson

Michiana Humane Society raised more than \$26,000 to support daily animal care and veterinary services during its fifth annual Pets & Pours fundraiser May 17 at Friendship Botanic Gardens.

That's according to Michiana Humane Society Development Director Heidi Tuthill, who said the event also welcomed more than 150 people and their dogs. Funding from the benefit, which featured live music, raffles, vendors and activities, supports services like vaccinations, microchipping, illness treatment and spay-and-neuter procedures.

The afternoon also featured the fourth annual Pet of the Year competition, where dogs competed in fundraising campaigns to earn the annual title. Seymour Kibbles, an 18-year-old Maltipoo owned by Alexander deHilster and Mike Jefvert (pictured below), won after raising \$2,381 for the shelter, Tuthill said.

Guests also enjoyed a pet parade emceed by Joey DiMaggio and live music from Help Hounds, a Northwest Indiana folk band. Tuthill said the event continues to showcase the community's support for the organization and the animals it serves.

"It's very inspiring to see how many people care," she said. "Seeing especially alumni come to this event, and seeing them with their families when we knew them as a homeless pet looking for a family, that is extremely rewarding."



Miles Doornbos relaxes with his 16-month-old pit bull, Meatloaf, who won the 2025 Pet of the Year competition.



Marvelous Music



Violinist Nic Orbovich and pianist Alyssa Arrigo helped present an informal benefit concert for Michigan City Chamber Music Festival on May 17 at Milton and Sylvia Bankoff's Edgewood home. This year's festival celebrates its 25th year, with performances Aug. 8-16. Photos by Rylie Thornton.



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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:

- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.
- **Electric Haiku with David Hoppe & Andy Fry from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, May 28.** Professional musician Andy Fry will perform along with a reading from David Hoppe's *Snapshot Lightning*.
- **Diamond Painting from 4-5 p.m. Friday, May 29.** Youth ages 10-17 can learn how to diamond paint. Registration through the website is required due to limited supplies.
- **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.

- **Flip Flops and Canvas at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 2.** Adults learn how to paint two sets of flip flops on a beachy background. Paintings might be shown in the new artist spotlight display in July. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required because supplies are limited. Call Sydney at (219) 873-3044 or Jennifer at (219) 873-3042, or email events@mclib.org for more details.
 - **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.
 - **May and June scavenger hunts.** In May, find the hidden Sith, Rebels and droids for a prize. In June, the theme is "Toy Story 5."
 - **Through June 30: "Rebus Puzzles for Adults."** Stop by the reference desk to pick up a sheet of rebus (or word picture) puzzles. Those who solve them can pick a prize from the treasure chest.
 - **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.
 - **Hoopla.** The digital library app for eMaterials is available to cardholders. Along with eBooks and eAudiobooks, it offers comics, streaming films, TV shows and binge passes for popular collections, apps and channels.
 - **Art Exhibition Wall.** On display is photography by Jesse Bragg, a Michigan City-based music producer and creative artist with formal study in photography and graphic design at Ivy Tech Community College.
- Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.*

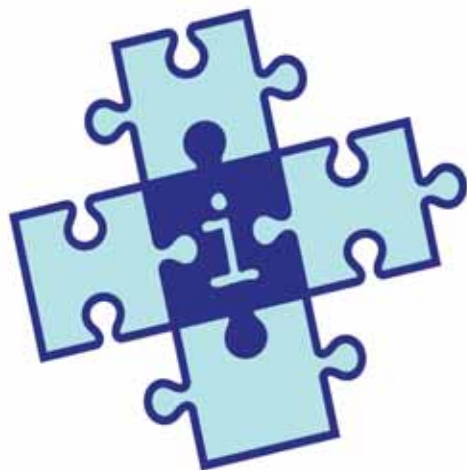
Reception to Honor Rima Binder

The community is invited to a cocktail reception honoring the late Dr. Rima Binder from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave.

In keeping with causes she supported, proceeds from the event will benefit La Porte County Symphony Orchestra and Friendship Botanic Gardens.

"This evening is about celebrating a life well-lived and a spirit of generosity that continues to inspire," longtime friend Melanie Davis said in a press release.

The cost is \$60 per person. Additional details are available at www.Friendshipbotanicgardens.org.



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Renoir Piano Trio



Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present Renoir Piano Trio at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St.

The trio features: violinist Michelle Wynton, who has played with Chicago's top musical ensembles; cellist Bill Cernota, a Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago member; and pianist Mio Nakamura. Their program includes music by Beethoven and Ravel.

Visit www.mccmf.org, or the group on Facebook and YouTube, for more details.

Potawatomi Audubon Society

Jim Starin will speak on "Monarch Conservation, the Critical Role of Milkweed, and How You Can Help" at the next Potawatomi Audubon Society meeting Tuesday, June 2, at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.

The talk is at 5:30 p.m., preceded by a business meeting at 5 p.m. Starin is a professional marketer and business entrepreneur, a CoAction executive committee member and Save the Dunes board member. Those attending will be invited to become "Citizen Scientists for the Monarch."

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- Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich., noon-5 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 28.
- La Porte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St., 1-6 p.m. Monday, June 1.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, June 2.

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New Buffalo Township Library

- **Nick Bogert, "The Warrens: A Shore Thing."**
 The program is at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 28.

Weekly programs

- Teen Maker Space from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Adult Literacy Class from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays.
- 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.
- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Memory Café on the first Tuesday of the month.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Teacher in the Library. The program is from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.

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.

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North Course, "Early Birdies"
May 18, 2026
Event: Most 2 Putts

A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.
Low Net: Jane Shuger.
Low Putts: Barb Rumbuc, Jane Shuger.
Event: Mary Beres, Patricia Czizek, Shannon. Filipiak, Cheryl Kalinowski, Mary Lou Marshall.

B Flight

Low Gross: Carol Tylisz.
Low Net: Carol Tylisz.
Low Putts: Kathy Nelson.
Event: Paula Hutchinson, Kathy Nelson.

C Flight

Low Gross: Sandra Provan.
Low Net: Sandra Provan.
Low Putts: Kathy Grott.
Event: Jan Smith.

D Flight

Low Gross: Evelyn Cassin.
Low Net: Kathy Pagnano.
Low Putts: Charlotte Wozniak.
Event: Vicki King, Kathy Pagnano, Nancy Wilhelm.

Chip-Ins: Charlotte Wozniak.
Birdies: Shannon Wojcik.

Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers will present "Songs by the Fire: A Community Campfire Sing-Along" at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 31, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Guests should meet at the outdoor campfire circle for the free family event produced by Pat Putnam. HCS, a local choir and School of American Music outreach program, will feature songs like "This Land Is Your Land" and "Oh Shenandoah."

Songbooks are provided, and seating is available on campfire logs. Guests can take chairs or blankets. The event move indoors if the weather is poor.

Guests are encouraged to take a nonperishable food donation for the local nonprofit Neighbor by Neighbor. Needed items include pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti or other ready-to-eat foods. Visit <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com> or contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 for more details.

Community Bicycle Ride

A free Rides and 45's Community Bicycle Ride is at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at Graveyard Cycle, 709 E. Barker Ave.

The 10-mile, slow, paced ride includes a break halfway through at Central Beach, ending at The Cellar Door, 1901 Franklin St.



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In the Area

May 28 — Eat the Weeds, 5-6:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

May 28 — Cocktail reception honoring the late Dr. Rima Binder, 5-7 p.m., Pottawattomie Country Club, 1900 Springland Ave. Cost: \$60. Info: www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

May 28 — Electric Haiku with David Hoppe & Andy Fry, 6-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 28 — Nick Bogert, “The Warrens: A Shore Thing,” 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933, www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

May 29 — Diamond Painting, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 29-June 14 — “Deathtrap,” Dunes Arts Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Tickets: \$35/adults, \$30/seniors. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Info: www.dunesarts.org

May 30 — 1966 Hiking Challenge: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-10 a.m., Pinhook Bog Trailhead Parking Lot, 946 N. Wozniak Road, La Porte. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 30 — Dunes Dash, 8-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes National Park’s West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road. Cost: \$30/5K Run/Walk, \$15/Kids Run. Registration: <https://shorturl.at/Tyzvx>

May 30 — Beach Mysteries Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 30 — Patton Cemetery tour, noon, 2, 4 p.m., cemetery, 1401 Rumely St., La Porte. Cost: \$5. Reservations: <https://laportecountyhistory.org/>

May 30 — America @ 250: La Porte County Symphony Orchestra, 1-2 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 30 — Arts, Film and History Intersect at the Dunes, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 30 — Full Moon Hike, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 31 — Morning Beach Stroll, 9:30 a.m.,

Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 31 — Dunes Lion Safari, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 31 — Harbor Country Singers, “Songs by the Fire: A Community Campfire Sing-Along,” 2 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Free; Neighbor by Neighbor food donations accepted. Info: <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com>, (269) 409-1191.

May 31 — Renoir Piano Trio (Michigan City Chamber Music Festival), 3 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: www.mccmf.org

May 31 — Rides and 45’s Community Bicycle Ride, 4:30 p.m., Graveyard Cycle, 709 E. Barker Ave. Free.

June 1 — Millennial Girlhood: An American Girl Night, 6-7 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 2 — Tween Book Club (ages 10-13), 4:30-5:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 2 — Potawatomi Audubon Society meeting, 5:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 871-9896.

June 2 — Flip Flops and Canvas, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3044, (219) 873-3042, events@mclib.org

June 3 — Virtual Author Talk with Mary Savig, 1-2 p.m., through La Porte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

June 3 — Creative Kids — Salt Dough Fossils, 4-5 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 3 — All Things True Crime Book Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through May 30 — 74th Annual Chesterton Woman’s Club Art Show, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

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

Through June 7 — “5x5 Show and Sale,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: <https://bsdepot.org/>

Through June 14 — “Cosmic Connections,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. *Family Day*: 1-3 p.m. May 30. Info: (219) 874-4900, jsexton@LubeznikCenter.org

Through June 14 — Exhibit, “Mind, Body and Soul,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Non-resident admission: \$15, \$10/12 & younger, free/children 3 & younger. Info: www.midwestmuseum.org

Through June — Artist Betty Thomas, 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 July 15 — Painter Emily Blossom, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: thevillagegallery@pinesvillage.org

Through Oct. 25 — “Our Heart of Hearts: The Porter County Fair,” Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through October — Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Info: www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

Through October — The Region of Three Oaks Museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Hours: noon-5 p.m. EDT Fri.-Sun.

Through October — New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Info: (269) 820-1504, (202) 669-4423, ask@new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org

Through Dec. 31 — “America A-Z” exhibit, La Porte 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 La Porte — 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.

Wednesdays in May — “Pilates in the Park,” 8:30 a.m., La Porte’s Unity Park off Pine Lake. Cost: \$20. Registration/info: (219) 326-9600, www.laporteparkandrec.com

First Wednesday of Each Month — Alzheimer’s & Dementia Caregiver Support Group, 2-3 p.m., Bella Largo Senior Living, 1800 West Hi-Point Drive, La Porte. Reservations: (219) 878-1141.

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

Saturdays through October — Farmed & Forged Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets, Michigan City.

Saturdays in Chesterton through October — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: <https://shorturl.at/tDC44>

Saturday-Sunday through May 30 — 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 — 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*: “The Maltese Falcon.” Not Rated. Times: 7 p.m. May 28. *Also*: “Pressure.” Rated PG-13. Times: 4 & 7 p.m. May 29-30, 1 & 4 p.m. May 31, 7 p.m. June 2. All times Eastern. The theater is located at 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

May 14, 2026

A Flight

Low Net

First — Cindy Levy, Cindy Patterson.

Second — Jill Craig.

Third — Kathy Lee.

Low Putts: Cindy Patterson.

Birdie: Cindy Levy, No. 1.

B Flight

Low Net

First — Janet Andreotti.

Second — MaryAnn Fumo.

Third — Beanie Altier.

Low Putts: Jean Guerin.

C Flight

Low Net

First — Toni Hyland.

Second — Mary Weithers.

Third — Lisabeth Hayes, Cindy Blum.

Low Putts: Ann Daley, Mary Weithers.

D Flight

Low Net

First — Ginny Hogan.

Second — Loretta Olive.

Third — Regina Bradley.

Low Putts: Loretta Olive.



LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League

May 19, 2026

A Flight

First — Colleen Healy.

Second — Amanda Torie.

Third — Beth White.

B Flight

First — Kathy Kenefick.

Second — Janet Andreotti.

Third — Barb Hall.

C Flight

First — Beanie Altier.

Second — Patti Rossetto.

Third — Diane Rubey, Lisbeth Hayes.

Birdies

Barb Hall, #16.

Mary Kral, #16.

Vicky Krop, #10.

Renee Botelho, #5.

Janet Andreotti, #3.

Sunken Approach

Janet Andreotti, #3.

Joanne Dodd, #11.

Colleen Healy, #17.



May 5

Birdies: Ellen Magrini, #2, Beth White, #10

S. Approaches: Ellen Magrini, #7, Julie Burns, #9.

May 12

Birdies: Peg King, #5.

S. Approaches: Melanie Davis, #14, Peg King, #5.



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on the hippie trail by Rick Steves (hardcover \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 248 pages).

If you're a world traveler, or just traveling via your favorite recliner, this is one book you don't want to miss. And, if you're a fan of PBS, you must have watched an episode or two of "Rick Steves' Europe." It's been the most-watched, longest-running travel show — first aired in 2000 — on television.

Printed on heavy glossy paper, the book is full of photos and remembrances by two young men who decided to travel 3,000 miles of countries the young named "the hippie trail." It begins in modern Frankfurt, Germany, and takes you down roads, pathways and railways through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and ending up in Kathmandu, Nepal, following the Silk Road of old.

The book covers the journal Rick kept that summer of 1978 when he and friend Gene Openshaw decide this is the year to forgo Europe for the more fascinating Middle East. They would spend 56 days, July 13-Sept. 8, 1978, exploring the region.

Interest in the area amped up in the 1960s with the Beatles and their visits to the Maharishi, their fascination with the sitar and Indian music. Backpacking by college grads suddenly became popular. That year also would be the final one the trail would be open to the public due to the Iranian revolution and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It simply became too dangerous.

Rick and Gene, at 23, were ready for a new adventure. They weren't sure what to expect, but they had a map and an itching to experience something different. Whether by plane, train, bus, rickshaw or even horse and elephant, they were in for another awakening. It wasn't just the countryside and way of life, it was a different way of looking at life and people. A professor they met in Kabul, Afghanistan, said it best: "A third of the people on this planet eat with spoons and forks like you, a third of the people eat with chopsticks, and a third of the people eat with their fingers like me...and we're all civilized just the same."

Rick realized the professor was right, that he considered people who ate with their fingers as less than him. He recognized he was wrong — ethnocentric, to be sure — and learned a valuable lesson.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



He would find there are plenty of lessons to be learned, and people and places to be studied. The photo on the book cover with the bus full of people says a lot about travel in Turkey: lots of people, not too many tourists and maybe a goat or two. Sometimes, you had to help the driver get the bus going if it stalled or got stuck.

The pair always looked for less expensive ways to travel and places to sleep at night. Rick and Gene were on a tight budget and liked seeing the people of each country in their everyday setting, and eating the same food.

Due to some brilliant design, this book is laid out in a manner that begs you to read and understand that not everyone wants to own a nuclear bomb or rule the world.

From Page 1, there is the knowledge that this is about common people who just want to live their lives. Am I being too simplistic? I hope so...because Rick and Gene found most of these people to be friendly and uncomplicated.

Rick brought along his camera and enough film to take nine photos each day. His photos offer a wonderful glimpse of the countries and their people.

There's also a two-page photo spread that opens up to reveal a map showing the hippie trail route, and the places where Rick and Gene stopped.

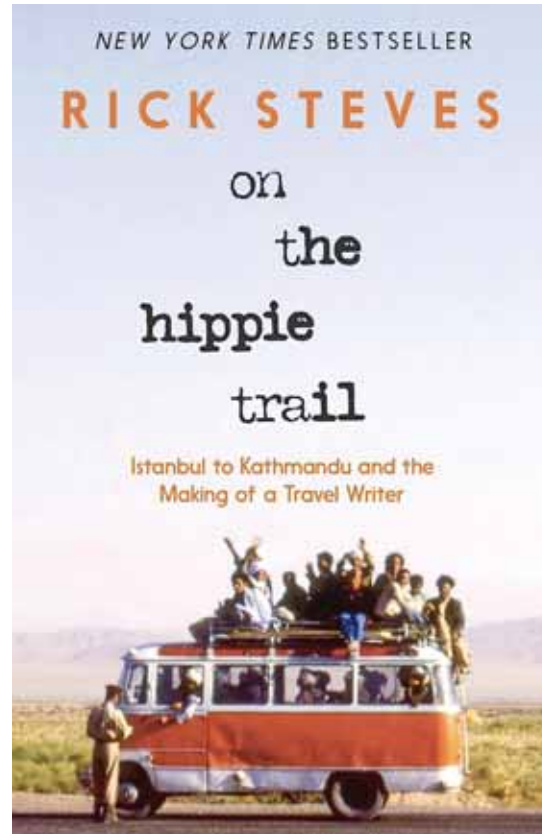
All these adventures make for a read you will return to again and again.

The year 1978 seems like a long time ago. It's safe to say that to make this same trip today could not be done without fear of being arrested or killed.

Rick thought he would be a piano teacher for the rest of his working career. Little did he know how much this trip would influence him. Having been all over Europe the past few summers before 1978, and now traveling this "hippie trail" trip, cemented his fate that the piano teacher was gone and a professional traveler born.

The final word: In his postscript, Rick reminds us that "we're all children of God — and by traveling, we get to know the family."

Till next time, happy reading!



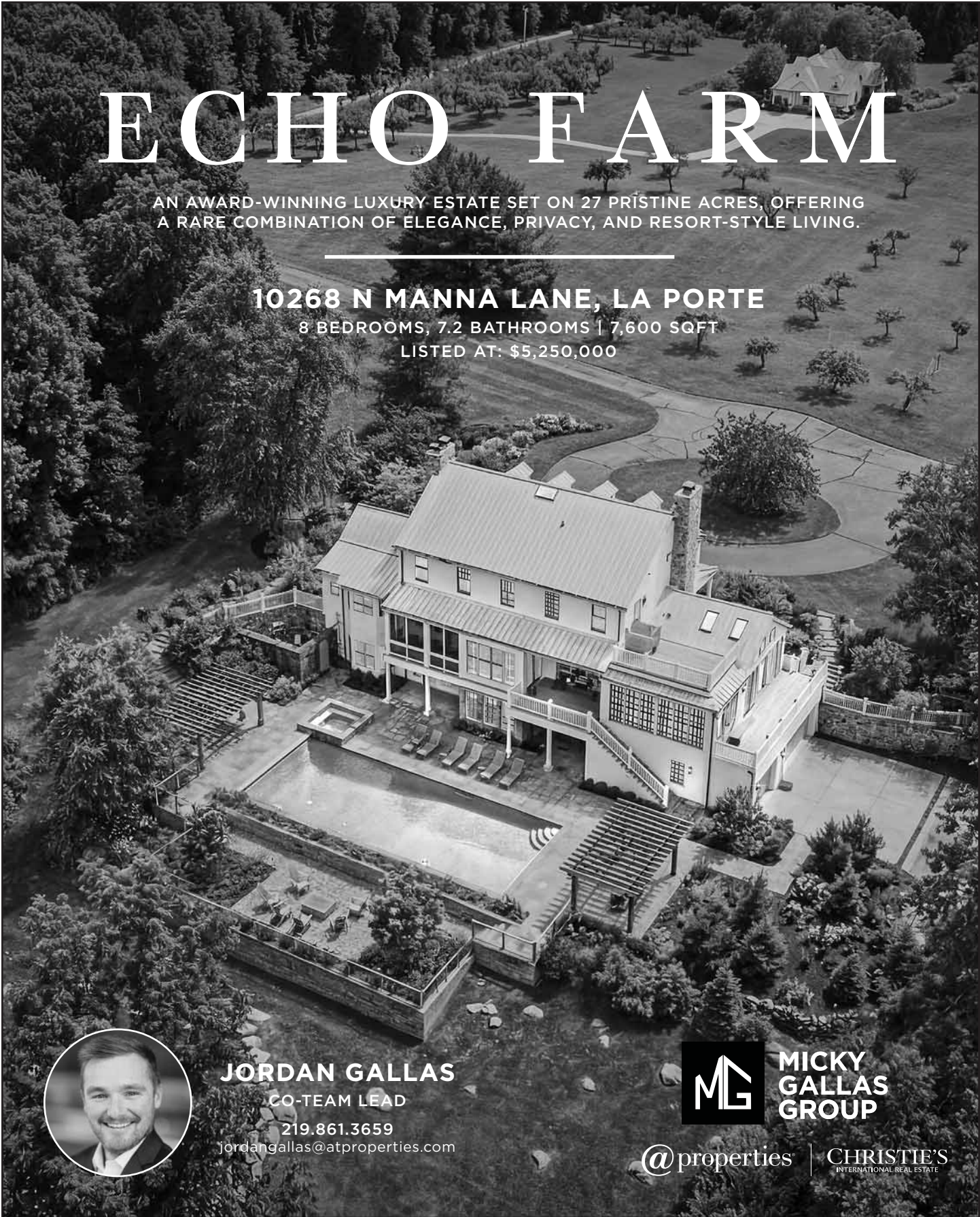
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