



Volume 36, Number 36 Thursday, September 10, 2020



A Generous Heart

by Edmund Lawler

Allen Turner, photographed at his now 300-acre farm south of downtown Three Oaks.

Garth Taylor vividly recalls the wet spring morning in 2011 when Allen Turner and his wife, Lynn, walked across the clay to visit The School of American Music's new Arts and Education Center in Three Oaks, Mich.

The building was being rehabbed to become a teaching and performance space.

"They asked some questions about the mission of the music school, the business model, the vision for the future," says Taylor, SAM's founder and president. "And then I will never forget — Allen turned to Lynn and said: 'You know, this is a good project.'

"We provided some written documentation, and a few days later the school received a major donation, which allowed us to add a hitherto-only-dreamed-of outdoor performance space."

The donation from the Turners morphed into the construction of what became the "Spring Creek Stage" that faces Dewey Cannon Park. These days, it is used for socially distanced concerts and sing-alongs, providing a much-welcomed respite from the lockdown tedium of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When 83-year-old Allen Turner recognizes a good project, one that will benefit the cultural and civic life of Three Oaks, he puts his money where his mouth is. Over the years, Turner has donated funds from his family investment firm to help finance a variety of projects in the Harbor Country community of 1,800 people. The targets of his generosity include the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry, a new stage at The Acorn, the restoration of

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A Generous Heart

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the 19th century Spring Creek School house, the playground at Watkins Park and the town's popular summertime Music in the Park program in Dewey Cannon Park.

How many villages of Three Oaks' size can boast of an arthouse theater like the Vickers, a performing-arts theater like The Acorn, a school of music like SAM, a distillery like Journeyman, as well as an eclectic mix of restaurants, galleries and boutiques?

Although you won't see Turner's name on the marquee of various cultural institutions, he has left his mark on the village he has embraced since he and Lynn became part-time residents some 30 years ago. They bought a 75-acre farm three miles south of downtown Three Oaks to serve as a rustic retreat from his pressure-packed role with the Chicago-based Pritzker Organization. As a partner, he served as chairman of everything from a lumber company in Mississippi to *McCall's*, the iconic women's magazine. He was a director of the Pritzker's most high-profile piece in its portfolio, the Hyatt Corp. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker is a member of the famous family.

Raised on Chicago's South Side, Turner set out to become a lawyer, earning a degree from the University of Chicago's prestigious law school.

"But to tell you the truth, I wasn't very good at it," he admitted during a recent phone conversation while he and Lynn were dining al fresco at a restaurant on Three Oaks' Elm Street. "I only practiced law for four or five years."

To defray law-school tuition, Turner worked as a Maytag washing machine repairman, which as the TV ad famously suggests, doesn't require much work. It was the perfect job for someone faced with a nightly stack of books on the law, he says with a laugh.

His undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin, combined with his legal training and brief experience, "made me a person who could look at those

kinds of assignments from the Pritzker Organization and make some sense of them." He was rescued from the law when the Pritzker Organization came calling in 1965.

"It was just a fluke," he said. "They sought me out, and I was there for 47 years."

An artist at heart who loves to write and perform music, Turner is the composer and lyricist for area resident and Oscar-nominated film director John Hancock's new movie "The Girls of Summer," which is streaming on Amazon Prime. Turner's song "Love



Allen Turner presents the award of young poet laureate to Julianne Prangley of Grand Beach, Mich., during the July 4th celebration in Dewey Cannon Park.



Garth Taylor, seen here practicing on Spring Creek Stage in 2019, says Allen Turner's generosity has helped make plans become reality in Three Oaks.

Got In The Way," in fact, has been submitted for consideration as best song for the 2021 Academy Awards.

Turner and Hancock also worked on "Three Oaks Against The World," an original play conceived for 2017's Three Oaks sesquicentennial celebration, as well as Hancock's previous independent film, "The Looking Glass."

Turner channeled some of his creative energies into roles as a director or chairman of a series of Chicago nonprofit organizations, starting with Victory Gardens Theater and later for the renowned Goodman Theater. He also served as the founding chairman of the National Jewish Theater.

His other nonprofit roles include chairmanship of the Museum of Contemporary Art, chairman of arts-focused Columbia College Chicago and chairman of the Visiting Committee on Visual Arts at the University of Chicago. Philanthropy is important to all those Chicago nonprofit organizations.

But, he says, a major donation can have a significantly greater impact on a community like Three Oaks than would a million-dollar donation to the University of Chicago, which has an endowment of about \$8.5 billion.

"At the big institutions, the donated money goes into general funds, but you never understand the direct consequences of your gift," he said. "The difference is that even modest amounts can make a difference in peoples' lives here. You can make it a happier place to be and make people want to come here. Three Oaks is thriving now, and it is being recognized by people everywhere."

An example of a small-scale initiative that can make a big impact is Three Oaks' Poet Laureate program. Area writers, or anyone with a poetic bent, can submit examples of their handiwork to earn the year-long honor of being the community's

Continued on Page 4

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poet laureate. The distinction comes with a \$500 honorarium and the requirement of a public reading at a major local event like the Flag Day or July 4th celebrations.



Allen Turner (center), photographed here with the cast from "Three Oaks Against the World," was a driving force behind the production.

The Poet Laureate program arose from an impromptu discussion Turner had at an event at The Art Institute of Chicago. The featured speaker was Billy Collins, poet laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003. Turner introduced himself to Collins by saying, "I'm from the town of Three Oaks, Mich., and what would you think about having a poet laureate for a small town?"

Collins' eyes widened and replied, "I think that would be great for poetry!" Enough said. Turner led the creation of a poetry board for Three Oaks.

"This year, we had our 11th poet laureate," Turner says like a proud father when speaking of Ayla Batton of Three Oaks.

The program has been expanded to honor a young poet. This year's winner is 7-year-old Julianne Prangley of Grand Beach, Mich., who recently completed first grade. Julianne had the Poetry Board "at hello." Says Turner, "Julianne explained in her application letter that she submitted her poems because 'My heart told me to.' That was just striking.



A scene from John Hancock's latest film, "The Girls of Summer." One of Allen's songs for the movie, "Love Got In The Way," has been submitted for consideration as best song for the 2021 Academy Awards.

We could not resist!" Her reading during the Fourth of July celebration during Music in the Park was equally impressive.

"She was just so enthusiastic," Turner says, noting her brother and sister joined her on stage for the reading. Perhaps they were looking for a cut of Julianne's \$100 honorarium.

It's moments like Julianne's reading that enrich the community of Three Oaks, Turner says. Although he was raised in Chicago, he has a special affection for this part of the world. His mother was from Buchanan, Mich. His fondest childhood memories are of family trips to the soaring sand dunes along the Indiana and Michigan shorelines of the Great Lake.

"We couldn't afford to stay overnight in those days, so we'd drive back home to the South Side," Turner recalls of those sun-splashed days with his mother and his father, an immigrant from Belarus. His father was sent as a young man by his family to the United States in 1910 along with an uncle to escape the anti-Semitism of that Eastern European country.



Allen and his wife, Lynn, have been married for 61 years.

"He never saw his father again," Turner says with a note of sadness. "But he brought his mother and two brothers over years later."

Lynn's mother immigrated to the United States from Iran in 1920 at age 8 along with her family.

"So, you could say Lynn and I are an immigrant story," he said.

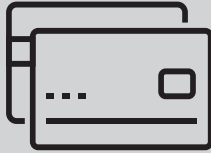
High school sweethearts in Chicago, they've been married 61 years. The couple has a son, daughter and four grandchildren.

"They all love coming here as much as we do," he said. "They are very committed to being here."

As for the next "good project" in Three Oaks, Turner says, "There's always something good to be done. More opportunities will arise."



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Anthony Rizzo Kicks Off Sinai Forum Season With Virtual Event

Chicago Cubs first-baseman Anthony Rizzo and Apple cofounder Steve Wozniak are among the speakers headlining the new Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum season.

Rizzo will open the season with a livestream discussion from noon to 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. The interviewer is Dan Plesac, a Crown Point native, 18-year Major League Baseball veteran and MLB Network analyst.

Rizzo's talk is the first of two virtual events planned this fall. The second is a livestream with Jonathan Rauch, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., discussing "On Free Speech and Cancel Culture." That event is from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11.

Both virtual events are free thanks to support from Sinai Forum's sponsors. Pre-registration is required to view either the Rizzo or Rauch livestreams. Sign up at pnw.edu/sinai-forum.

The ensuing lineup is:

- Wozniak, the Silicon Valley icon and philanthropist for more than 30 years who designed Apple Computer Inc.'s first line of products.
- Paul Nicklen, the renown nature photographer who inspires action for global issues like climate

change.

- Max Eisen, an Auschwitz survivor who teaches about the dangers of hatred and discrimination in society while promoting understanding between community groups.

More details can be found at pnw.edu/sinai-forum. Two additional speakers will be named in spring 2021.

Rizzo is a three-time National League All-Star and three-time National League Gold Glove Award winner. In 2016, he led the Cubs to its first World Series championship in 108 years. He received the 2017 Roberto Clemente Award, which goes to the player who best represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, com-

munity involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions on and off the field. Rizzo overcame Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2008 and established The Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation in 2012 to support pediatric cancer patients and their families. Rizzo is considered by many to be one of the most respected players in the MLB.

Rauch is the author of seven books and many articles on public policy, culture and government. He is a contributing writer for *The Atlantic* and recipient of the 2005 National Magazine Award, the magazine industry's equivalent of the Pulitzer. Now working on a book tentatively titled The Constitution of Knowledge, he will discuss the idea of cancel culture and the "unending battle" for free speech.



Rizzo



Rauch





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“Tenet” is Too Baffling to be Satisfying

by Andrew Tallackson



John David Washington (right) and Robert Pattinson play men trying to save humanity from “temporal” issues in Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet.”

And here I fancied myself an intellectual.

Hollywood is chomping at the bit now that Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet” is finally in theaters. Nolan, the master craftsman behind “Dunkirk,” “Inception” and “The Dark Knight” trilogy, is one of the few directors whose name, alone, has marquee value. Thus, “Tenet” has been granted “savior” status, *the* film that will lure audiences back to theaters after months of COVID closure.

Thing is, with “Tenet,” I was lost from the word go. No clue what was happening for about 80 percent of the tale. Nolan loves to toy with our conceptions of reality, “Inception” being his most playful. “Tenet,” however, does not play fair. It operates on a level beyond my comprehension. It’s like being in a room where everyone is in on the secret but you.

Fear not any “Tenet” spoilers. As of this writing — little more than 12 hours after seeing it — I remain lost. The future, it seems, is attacking the present. Not like the “Terminator” flicks, where robotic monstrosities from the future eliminate problematic individuals in the present. This is more a “who” or “what” that is creating “temporal” issues. What that means, I cannot explain, but if they persist, all of

★ ★ 1/2

“Tenet”

Running time: 150 minutes. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some suggestive references and brief strong language

humanity will be wiped out.

The hero is simply called “The Protagonist.” He’s played by “BlackKklansman” star John David Washington. His partner-in-crime is Neil (Robert Pattinson). Who or what they work for, no idea. There’s also a beautiful woman, Kat (Elizabeth Debicki), who is married to a Russian jerk, Andrei Sator (Kenneth Branagh), who may have something to do with the “temporal” issues. When the “temporal” issues come into play, people, and their actions, move in reverse.

The hype surrounding “Tenet,” whose wackadoodle plot has been shrouded in secrecy, is how Nolan, a master of big, muscular action sequences, opted for practical effects here, downplaying computerized imagery. So when a plane crashes into a building, it is an actual plane causing the damage.



Elizabeth Debicki co-stars as a woman married to a Russian who may be connected to the "temporal" issues.

But *why* is the plane creating such destruction? That is the frequent flaw of "Tenet." Nolan stages these elaborate spectacles, including the opening sequence in which the audience at a symphony concert is gassed into a stupor, but we are never sure why the characters do what they do. Even the big finish — every corner of Nolan's images is bursting with, well, something — feels more chaotic than exhilarating.

There are periodic conversations designed to release nuggets of truth — "a ha" moments for the viewers — but the actors tend to speak incredibly fast, so the information either is incomprehensible or jargon-laced gibberish.

There are many, I suppose, who will poo-poo this review, that what Nolan has achieved is groundbreaking. Ironically, 2021 will mark the 20th anniversary of Nolan's feature film debut, "Memento," a crime-thriller told in reserve that dazzled us with how carefully it toyed with how stories are told.

So the question is, does "Tenet" entertain despite itself? At 2 hours 30 minutes, it is never dull...but it is never satisfying either. I suppose it was designed for multiple viewings to digest its meaning. The kind of movie where you meet with friends afterward to discuss it.

But is it "fun"? No. To me, "Tenet" is the enemy of fun.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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This *Beachet* file photo shows attendees at the 2014 tea at Barker Mansion. This year's event will take social distancing into account to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Barker Mansion aims to provide the full experience of an afternoon tea, while still observing guidelines for social distancing, from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27.

The menu includes finger sandwiches, scones, assorted cakes and three traditional teas. Guests can relax under sunlit pergolas and learn about Victorian etiquette, society scandals and the intricacies of 19th century dining.

Each table accommodates two to four people. The table must be reserved fully to maintain social distancing. A payment of \$100 per table is required.

Masks are required when entering and exiting the event, and when using the restroom. Reservations can be made on Eventbrite or by calling (219) 873-1520. Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St.

Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for more details.

R.O.S.E. Award Nominations

The South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority will accept R.O.S.E. and R.I.S.E. nominations until Sept. 30.

The annual celebration honoring exceptional hospitality employees will be held virtually.

R.O.S.E., or Recognition of Service Excellence, honors frontline employees who have a positive impact on the visitor experience. R.I.S.E. Awards, or Recognition of Industry Success and Excellence, honors managerial employees or past R.O.S.E. winners who have risen above expectations when directly interacting with customers.

The South Shore CVA will announce the 2020 winners at 7 p.m. Oct. 7 through Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/alongthesouthshore.

This year, six R.O.S.E. winners will be chosen and no more than two R.I.S.E. winners. Each will receive a day of pampering courtesy of State of Mind Salon in Crown Point, as well as a basket filled with gift cards and other prizes.

Submit nominations at www.rose-awards.com. Supporting documents, like comment cards and photos, can be uploaded with online nominations. All nominations submitted after Sept. 30 will be eligible for the 2021 awards.

Leeds Project Heart

Door Village Lions Club is the September focus of Leeds Public House's nonprofit-focused Leeds Project Heart.

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Westville Pumpkin Festival

This year's Westville Pumpkin Festival will not include vendors or entertainment, instead offering planned events Saturday, Oct. 3, that follow CDC, state and local guidelines in light of COVID-19.

All events take social distancing into account.



Still on tap are the pumpkin baked goods sale and 5k run/walk. To ensure minimal contact, pumpkin baked goods will be presold, with curbside pickup. The 5k walk/run will be modified as well, with online registration required. The cash raffle and Port-A-Pit BBQ

also will be presold, with curbside pickup. Details are available at www.westvillepumpkinfestival.com and on Facebook. Preorders are due by Sept. 18.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from any Westville Tri Kappa member. They cost \$1, with \$400 in prizes awarded.

Engine & Tractor Show

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum will host the "Can't Stop Us COVID 19" Drive-Thru Antique Engine & Tractor Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 12.

Based on its annual show, this version will be similar to the fair food drive-thru concept where visitors stay in their vehicles, driving on a pre-determined route around museum property. Displays of farm machinery will be along the route that winds through Old Towne, by the shingle and saw mills, past the tractor pulling track, then exit along the southern road. At several pull-off areas, visitors can sit in their vehicles and watch offerings like tractor pulls.

Working displays such as plowing and blacksmithing are planned.

Typically, thousands of collectors gather at the museum for the show, but the state's executive order that prohibits large gatherings due to the virus resulted in the museum canceling its traditional four-day event.

The museum's board of directors consulted with the local health department and emergency planning office to make sure their event follows state guidelines.

The museum is located on 68th Street east of South Haven, Mich. Visit www.michiganflywheelers.org or Facebook for more details.

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LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has resumed its curbside pickup service.

Hours for locations in *The Beacher's* readership area include:

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Place holds on materials using an online account or by calling (219) 362-6156, Option 1. Then, select a pickup location. Notifications will come by email, text or phone. There is no limit on the number of requested items at this time.

Two parking spots will be labeled at each location. When arriving, a staff member will greet people outside. If no one arrives, call (219) 362-6156, Option 3, or the direct number for the branch location. A staff member will bring the reserved items to vehicles in a brown paper bag.

Returns can be placed in book drops and checked in within 24 to 72 hours. All library materials are quarantined between customers for 24 to 72 hours, per CDC and IMLS best practices. Materials are cleaned when needed. Library patrons can disinfect materials after arriving home.

Check laportelibrary.org and follow social media for updates.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Washington Park Zoo

Grandparents Day is Sunday, Sept. 13, at Washington Park Zoo, 115 Lake Shore Drive.

Grandparents are entitled to free admission with a paid child admission. In light of social-distancing guidelines, advance reservations must be made at least 24 hours before a visit by calling (219) 877-5342. The zoo opens at 10 a.m., with gates closing at 2:30 p.m. and the zoo closing at 4 p.m.

Visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com for details.

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Hoosier STAR

The 2020 Hoosier STAR to benefit LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will be livestreamed for the first time at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

The event can be viewed for free on the Hoosier STAR and LCSO facebook pages, LCSO's website and YouTube pages, and WIMS 1420's Facebook page. The event also will be broadcast via AM 1420, 95.1 FM and 106.7 FM (simulcast).

Each finalist will sing a song of his/her choice with LCSO musicians under Alastair Willis's direction. First-place adult and youth winners each receive a \$1,000 prize. Second-place adult and youth winners receive a \$500 prize.

Voting is planned during the competition at www.lcso.net. The cost is \$10 donation per vote.

More information is available at www.lcso.net or www.hoosierstar.com.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will explore seasonal changes in a hike at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 12, at Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.

The site hosts at least eight different ecosystems and is popular among birders, hikers and trail bicyclers. Those present will hike a different section of the 263-acre preserve than from previous programs.

Rated easy to moderate, the hike is expected to take about two hours and cover 1.75 miles. The preserve is located on Warren Woods Road, 1.4 miles east of Red Arrow Highway. The group will meet in the parking lot near the entrance. Those who attend should wear long pants, a hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and take water. Masks are required, and social-distancing guidelines will be observed.

Membership is encouraged, but the public is welcome. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details and directions.

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Overlooked “Truth Be Told” is One of Apple TV+’s Best Shows

Editor’s note — This is the next in an ongoing series about programming on Apple TV+, which in less than a year has emerged as one of the best streaming services available.

by Andrew Tallackson

How did this show slip beneath everyone’s radar? Maybe it’s the title. “Truth Be Told.” Has the ring of a fill-in-the-blanks crime procedural, something with Chris Meloni or Mariska Hargitay, decked out in trench coats, a dead body at their feet.

Or maybe it’s that the eight-episode Apple TV+ series arrived in the shadow of “The Morning Show,” the fledgling streaming platform’s heavily hyped selling point, one I’ll get to in a future column.

Whatever the reason, “Truth Be Told” may be the most absorbing, emotional, brilliantly acted ensemble piece of the past year, maybe more so than “The Morning Show.” You can feel the cast digging down deep, giving you more than you typically get from TV shows.

“Truth Be Told” is very much in the spirit of contemporary crime fiction in that it features a strong heroine confronted by sins of the past, where the mystery exists in layers that gradually unfold until all the puzzle pieces are firmly locked into place.

The show is based on Kathleen Barber’s 2017 debut novel “Are You Sleeping,” and it has been retooled to make a supporting character, true-crime podcaster Poppy Parnell, the main thrust of the tale. She’s played by Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer, one of my favorite actresses because, in every project, she plays women who cut through BS to get the answers she wants. It is refreshing, too, to see the actress in a contemporary role here, as Hollywood tends to pigeonhole her in period pieces.

She’s superb as Parnell, who 20 years back, as an investigative reporter, saw her coverage of a shocking case help convict a teen-age boy, Warren Cave, of murdering the father of twin girls. Now, amid the 20th anniversary of the killing, new evidence suggests one of the girls may have been coached into identifying Warren as the culprit. Plagued with guilt that her articles might have helped falsely convict Warren, Poppy uses her podcast, and her investigative reporting skills, to uncover the truth.

That is what I call the “umbrella plot,” the protective coating over all the varying story threads that guides the drama from episode to episode. But the narrative exists on parallel planes: one that involves Poppy and her personal life, the others the key players in Warren’s past and present.

Warren is played by Aaron Paul who, yes, garnered his share of acclaim for “Breaking Bad,” but these days tends to deliver strong work that goes



Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer stars in “Truth Be Told” as Poppy Parnell, a podcaster revisiting a 20-year-old crime.

unnoticed. This, to me, is his best work since playing Jesse Pinkman on “Breaking Bad.” At the onset of “Truth Be Told,” he is pure venom: consumed by rage over his conviction. His body covered with swastikas and other images of hate. But the genius of the performance is how he keeps you guessing, not so much of his innocence, but as to whether his behavior is an act to survive life in San Quentin, which has its share of white supremacist groups calling the shots among inmates. His interactions with Poppy are compelling, the back and forth between the actors like a wary dance.

And through Warren, we meet those whose lives are linked to the man he was sentenced for allegedly

killing. The twins are both played by Lizzy Caplan, who is emerging as a force to be reckoned with these days. In last season’s “Castle Rock,” she beautifully aped the soul of Kathy Bates’ Oscar-winning turn as Annie Wilkes in “Misery.” Here, she shows tremendous range, creating two diametrically opposite twins whose bond grows increasingly complex with each episode.

Caplan is complemented by Annabella Sciorra, as the twins’ mother, Erin, and Elizabeth Perkins as Melanie, Warren’s mother. These two actresses saw their careers swept under the rug, casualties of the pre #metoo movement, but here they dig deep into these women like they’ve been dying to show the



Aaron Paul (above) is ferocious as a man convicted of killing the father of twin girls, played as adults (below) by Lizzy Caplan.



world they’ve still got it. And they do.

Poppy’s side of the drama is equally compelling. Her family is fractured, trying to start over. We’re not sure why at first. We do know that Poppy left for New York years earlier to pursue her career as a reporter. Her sisters, played with a deft mix of humor and heartache by Tracie Thoms and Haneefah Wood, are willing to cut her the most slack. Her father, played by the wonderful Ron Cephas Jones (“This Is Us”), appears resentful, at times downright violent. Poppy also is remarried — her husband (Michael Beach) is loving and supportive — and her longtime friend Markus (Mekhi Phifer), a former detective, is willing to help out with the podcast investigation.

So we have these families, fueled by loss and anger, no one willing to communicate with each other. With each new episode, bits and pieces of the mystery reveal themselves, culminating in a twist I

Continued from Page 21



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Elizabeth Perkins, an actress whose career was derailed before the #metoo movement, is in top form as the mother of a man serving a life sentence in prison.

didn't see coming. But as much as "Truth Be Told" honors its crime-fiction roots, the show ultimately is about redemption. Healing. There are two emotional scenes near the end, one between Spencer and Jones, the other between Paul and Perkins, that reveal them achieving a quiet dignity and power.

For those two scenes, alone, all four of them should have received Emmy nominations. A fifth for Kaplan. For some reason, nothing. *Nada*. Zilch.

Maybe Emmy voters don't take crime fiction seriously. Or, more than likely, they simply didn't bother to catch the show. That is a shame.

"Truth Be Told" is one of the best show's I've seen in a long time. Apple TV+ already has renewed it for a second season. What awaits Poppy Parnell next, I can't wait to find out.

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Michigan City Public Library

The library is open, but with restrictions in place. Until further notice, hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

There is no public seating. The library also will follow the LaPorte County Health Department's Public Health Order Face Covering Mandate by requiring masks inside the building. Every individual must properly wear a face covering over his/her nose and mouth at indoor areas open to the public. The original order statement is available at www.mclib.org and printed out in the library. The circulation and reference desks will have masks available for \$1.

The following services have been temporarily suspended: public seating; public programs and meetings; literacy tutoring; MakerSpace/3-D printing; study rooms; homebound service; interlibrary loan; puppets; puzzles; blocks and children's AWE computers in Youth Services; Ellison die cut machine; public faxing; microfilm use; magazine/book sale; and acceptance of donations.

Scheduled virtual programming includes:

- **"Music and Movement and Mood" through Sept. 25.** Children make musical instruments and learn about colors. Craft supplies are available while supplies last in the Youth Services Department.
- **Cook Up Some Fun!** through Sept. 25. The program involves recipes to make at home. Stop by Youth Services for free measuring cups and spoons while supplies last.
- **Virtual Storytime and Crafts To Go!** at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16. A new storytime video will be posted to the website and available for two weeks at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/. New take-home crafts will be available every Wednesday to accompany the storytimes. Visit the Youth Services desk to get a take-home craft. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more information.

Writing Out Loud and the Fall Film Series on DVD are canceled.

Access is limited to the computer lab: One session (up to one hour) per person per day is allowed. Due to social-distancing guidelines, only one person at a station at a time. Children are not allowed in the computer lab with parents/guardians.

One computer is reserved for genealogy research, with time limited to one hour per person per day.

Four charging tables allow a limit of 30 minutes per use (no seating is available at these stations).

WiFi is available throughout the building and exterior/parking lot.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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Lubeznik Center Unveils Fall Schedule

Lubeznik Center for the Arts' new fall schedule of classes and workshops includes added safety measures, online and in-person classes and programming for all ages and skill levels.

"We have instituted new policies and procedures at every level for our students, instructors and classroom spaces," LCA Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman said in a press release. "We have also increased our virtual offerings for those that are not yet ready to return for face-to-face instruction."

Along with increased cleaning practices, classrooms have been reconfigured and enrollment capacities lowered to ensure social distancing. All students and instructors must wear a mask or face covering while in the building, and a temporary outdoor classroom is available for instruction. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details on COVID-19 measures.

LCA's fall session begins Monday, Sept. 21, with most classes running for six weeks. Adult offerings include in-person instruction in drawing and painting, as well as a new "Mixed Media Exploration" class taught by Michelle Wisner, where students incorporate into their works a wide variety of media, including ink, collage and watercolor. Also planned is an online embroidery class taught by Laurel Izard that will explore stitching and basic technique.

Young artists can explore online weekly classes, including "Comic Book Storytelling," "Drawing" and "Pet Portraits." A series of three online "Maker Workshops" for ages 10 and older, including adults, explores adding circuits to simple art projects, including paper and wearable circuits.

Supplies for all kids' classes and the Maker work-



shops are included with tuition, and supply kits will be available for pickup from the LCA prior to the first class or workshop.

Also scheduled is "Friday Art Discoveries," an in-person children's class Friday mornings for students who are distance learning or homeschooling.

Scholarships are available. Call (219) 874-4900 or visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for details.



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

For patrons with materials checked out before COVID-19 restrictions were in place, return them to the building drop boxes. Do not return them in bags. Do not return board games; those can be returned at a future date. Return eReaders into the Audio/Visual drop.

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.



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For more than 35 years, The Beacher has existed as a **free** newspaper, and it will **continue** to do so.

Amid the pandemic, however, small newspapers across the country are finding additional ways to financially support themselves. So, we've created a page where you can support us by becoming a Beacher patron. This week, we thank **Linda Sperling!**



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Women in Leadership

Master Certified Life Coach Leslie Plesac will discuss “Calm in Chaos: Is It Really Possible When the World Is on Fire?” during the September Women in Leadership of LaPorte County meeting.

The meeting, held through Zoom, is from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15.



Plesac

Plesac has been with Purdue University Northwest for more than 15 years. In January 2016, she was named Sinai Forum executive director. She received a master’s degree in communications from Marquette University, Milwaukee, and an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She has been an active community member for more than 22 years in the Valparaiso

area. She also is the founder of Courage Summit, a Ted-x style speakers’ event.

Session topics include:

- Distinguishing between real and fake fears.
- Approaching mindfulness through a lens of non-judgment and awareness.
- Practicing staying calm.
- Showing up for yourself without guilt or force, and allowing yourself to be vulnerable.
- Being more courageous in work and in life.

The September sponsor is Nancy Robinson, vice-president sales leader at Norwex Enviro Products.

The meeting is free. Register at www.women-in-leadership.com or on the WILL Facebook page. Zoom meeting information will be sent in the confirmation email. WILL members who attend will be mailed a Patrick’s Grille gift certificate.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher has begun
new office hours

Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

*Thank you for your patience
during the COVID-19 pandemic*

LBCC Women's Golf Leagues



18-Hole Women's Golf
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Event: Low Net
Flight A

First Place: Sue Luegers.
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 Third Place: Melanie Davis.

Flight B

First Place: Claudia Brennan.
 Second Place: Joan Carey.
 Third Place: Linda Wilson.

Flight C

First Place: Eileen Miller.
 Second Place: Barb Hall.
 Third Place: Nancy Reinert.

9 Hole Women's Golf
Aug. 27, 2020

Flight A

First Place: Donna Hennard, Carol Excell.
 Second Place: Janet Andreotti.
 Low Putts: Janet Andreotti.

Flight B

First Place: Marge Walsh.
 Second Place: Joan Carey.
 Low Putts: Marge Walsh.

Flight C

First Place: Ginny Hogan, Tina Sonderby, Carol Sullivan.
 Second Place: Kathie Mole, Nancy Thill, Mary Weithers.
 Low Putts: Kathie Mole, Mary Weithers.

LaPorte Farmer's Market

The LaPorte Farmer's Market is open Saturdays starting at 8 a.m. through October in the Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

The event is run by Angela Rose, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership downtown director, and Lindsay Jongkind, LEAP marketing and membership director.

Vendors are organized in a straight line on both sides of the area. Customers are asked to stand behind the marked line (3-foot distance) and maintain at least 6 feet between each person in line.

Market managers will be posted at the entrance and limit attendance to 50 people at a time.

All produce and goods will be prepackaged and handed out in bags. Seniors and at-risk individuals are encouraged to shop from 9 to 10 a.m.

More information is available at www.laportepartnership.com or on the Farmer's Market Facebook Page. On Thursdays before the market, a weekly list of vendors and produce is posted on the Facebook page. Call Rose and Jongkind at (219) 324-8584 for more information.

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Lubeznik Center for the Arts will host a virtual Mask-erade Ball, featuring a silent auction and mask contest, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

All proceeds benefit LCA programs and exhibits. The schedule is:

- 6 p.m. — Welcome, bid on silent auction.
- 6:10 p.m. — Short film and “Raise Your Paddle to Keep LCA Programs Free.”
- 6:30 p.m. — Mask contest.
- 6:40 p.m. — Music, get a drink.
- 6:45 p.m. — Winners of mask contest announced.
- 6:55 p.m. — Silent auction closes.
- 7 p.m. — closing.

For the mask contest, send a photo of yourself wearing a decorated mask to mask@lubeznikcenter.org for a chance to win \$250. The mask must be your own design. Send your name, where you're from and a return email with the photo.

Visit tinyurl.com/yyageu45 for details.

Box Factory Reopens to Public

The Box Factory for the Arts reopened to the public Sept. 4 with a limited schedule until further notice of noon to 4 p.m. EDT Friday through Sunday.

Masks are required, and social-distancing guidelines will be in effect. The gallery exhibits will continue at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org; however, the ArtMarket has expanded into the Williams Gallery. That means visitors can view a greater variety of artwork and buy certain items at reduced prices. During open hours, some resident artists will be in their studios or can be contacted by appointment.

The Box Factory is located at 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-3688, email board@boxfactoryforthearts.org or visit the Box Factory website or Facebook page for more details.

Arts Challenge Reaches Goal

The Berrien Community Foundation Arts Challenge has reached its goal of collectively raising \$75,000...and then some.

Inspired by arts organizations' desire to collaborate, an anonymous donor pledged to match up to \$75,000 to support them. With the potential to provide \$150,000, the campaign concluded with \$216,048.96 as of Aug. 28.

The many effects of COVID-19 resulted in the collaboration. The benefitting organizations are: The Acorn; ARS Gallery, Arts and Culture Center; The Citadel Dance and Music Center; Children's Music Workshop; The GhostLight Theatre; Krasl Art Center; Performing Arts Workshops; Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra; Twin City Players; and Water Street Glassworks.

Chesterton Art Center

Michelle Hunt-Newham is Chesterton Art Center's featured artist in September with pieces she calls "Art Whimsy."

An artist's reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13. Masks are required, and social distancing will be practiced.



Michelle Hunt-Newham is photographed with her work, "The Bashful Sunflower."

Hand sanitizer will be available, while staff will periodically sanitize surfaces.

A Valparaiso resident, Hunt-Newham painted some while raising her family, but her true art journey began 5 1/2 years ago after a job loss found her at a fork in the road. She decided then being a full-time artist was her true calling. She works mainly in pastel, watercolor and acrylic.

She refers to her style as "art whimsy" and is fascinated by portraiture work.

Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

Michigan City Farmer's Market

The Michigan City Farmer's Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through October at Eighth and Washington streets.

Everyone, including vendors, is encouraged to wear proper masks. Portable handwashing stations will be available.

Market organizers want to create a craft market on the north side of Eighth Street. Surveys are planned to determine what customers would like to see in such a market.

Contact Special Events Coordinator Johnny Stimley for more details, or if interested in becoming a vendor, at (219) 229-1567 or jstimley@emichiganity.com

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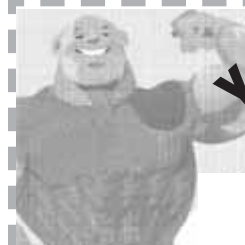
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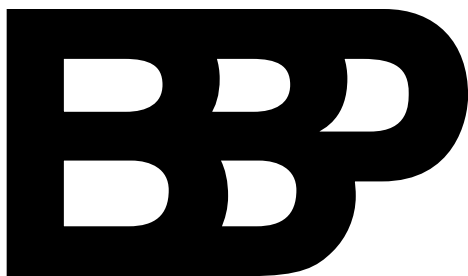
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Friendship Gardens Golf Outing

Friendship Botanic Gardens will host its annual golf outing from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 N. Indiana 39, LaPorte.

Check-in and lunch are at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$125 per golfer or \$500 for a foursome. Lunch is included. New prizes are planned. All proceeds benefit restoration of the Gardens.

Registration is available at the Welcome Cabin or at www.friendshipgardens.org/donate/

Southern Raised Concert

The Christian country/bluegrass group Southern Raised will perform at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cabin on Swede Hill, 6718 W. County Road 50 South, about one mile west of Garwood Orchard.

The group's members, originally trained in classical music, blended that style with a love of acoustic music and string instruments, including the guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, violin and dobro

Guests can take lawn chairs or blankets. Donations are appreciated. Masks are optional.

New Art Barn School of Art Hours

Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art has temporarily changed hours until further notice.

Open office and gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Staff will check email and voicemail remotely Mondays and Wednesdays.

Class and event schedules remain unchanged.

The Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

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Mural in the Works at The Box Factory



Kimberly Woods' mural design for "Birds of a Feather, Flock Together."

The façade of The Box Factory for the Arts is about to take flight through Kimberly Woods.

Her mural design, "Birds of a Feather, Flock Together," will wrap the sides and front of the St. Joseph, Mich., building in a colorful mix of flora and fauna.

"The design is meant to emulate the community and the arts in a vibrant and playful way," Woods said in a press release. "I specifically chose origami birds to mimic the history of the Box in paper products, and then evolve and take flight into something colorful and new.

Once COVID-19 guidelines are relaxed and gallery hours return to normal, the mural will be considered a way to lure in visitors.

Wood, who works in a variety of media, has been a regular participant in the local Chalk the Block events. As an international street artist, she has participated in festivals across the globe, including the Coloured Earth Festival in Halifax, England, and the Sarasota Chalk Festival in Florida. She has helped create murals in North Dakota and Minnesota. The most recent mural in Breckenridge, Minn., received the Arts Legacy City designation, one of only nine cities to receive it. She's also entered work into Box Factory exhibits. A Grand Valley State University graduate, she is a full-time commercial-design instructor at Van Buren Tech Center in Lawrence, Mich.

The mural is underwritten by a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts, which has been matched by Berrien Artist Guild members and friends. Giannola Construction Services is donating the scaffolding and lift.

Box Factory for the Arts is located at 1101 Broad St. Call (269) 983-3688, email board@boxfactoryforthearts.org or visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org for more details.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
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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.



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

- LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Donors through Sept. 30 receive a free haircut coupon from Sport Clips by email. 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 redcrossblood.org for more details. Visit rcblood.org/together for more details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

- **Singing Sands Stargaze on Wednesday, Sept. 19.**

Take a blanket to the main beach east of the pavilion for an annual event with the Calumet Astronomical Society. Several telescopes will be set up, and periodic constellation talks are planned. Call the state park for times.

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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On September 10, 1739, Irish scholar Thomas Sheridan was discussing the direction of the wind with a friend. He remarked, “Let the wind blow east, west, north, or south, the immortal soul will take its flight to the destined point.” He then leaned back in his chair and died.

On September 10, 1846, Elias Howe, Spencer, Mass., received a patent for a “chain-stitch” type sewing machine.

On September 10, 1919, following World War I, New York welcomed home Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing, along with 25,000 soldiers of the 1st Division.

On September 10, 1924, in Chicago, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb received life terms for the kidnap-murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks.

On September 10, 1955, “Gunsmoke,” the long-running television series, premiered on CBS.

On September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first secretary of the treasury.

On September 11, 1841, all except one member of President John Tyler’s Cabinet (Secretary of State Daniel Webster) resigned to protest the president’s veto of a banking bill.

On September 11, 1927, an American meat packer announced the production of a frankfurter with a zipper. The instructions were: “boil the hot dog in its zippered casing and then discard it.” There is no record as to how many, following these instructions, threw away the hot dog and kept the casing.

On September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed when terrorists hijacked four jetliners, crashing two into the 110-story twin towers of New York’s World Trade Center. The two others crashed into the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field.

On September 12, 1869, the National Prohibition Party formed in Chicago.

On September 12, 1886, the opening of the New York stage show, “The Black Crook,” marked the beginning of the era of “girlie” shows in the United States.

On September 12, 1954, “Lassie” made its TV debut on CBS.

On September 12, 1959, Russia launched the first rocket to the moon.

On September 12, 1966, “The Monkees” debuted on NBC.

On September 12, 1984, the Chicago Bulls select-

ed Michael Jordan as their No. 1 choice in the NBA draft.

On September 13, 1788, the U.S. Constitutional Convention authorized the new nation's first national election to be held on "the first Wednesday in January next."

On September 13, 1954, Edmund Muskie was elected governor of Maine, becoming the state's first Democratic governor in 20 years.

On September 13, 2001, jetliners returned to the nation's skies for the first time in two days, carrying nervous passengers who faced strict new security measures.

On September 14, 1741, George Fredrick Handel, having worked without interruption for 23 days, finished his composition of "The Messiah."

On September 14, 1814, at the bombardment of Fort McHenry (in the War of 1812), Baltimore lawyer Francis Scott Key wrote the words to "The Star Spangled Banner."

On September 14, 1886, George K. Anderson, of Memphis, Tennessee, patented the typewriter ribbon.

On September 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo of gunshot wounds inflicted eight days earlier. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

On September 14, 1972, "The Waltons" premiered on CBS.

On September 15, 1890, detective novelist Agatha Christie was born in Torquay, England.

On September 15, 1940, during World War II, the tide turned in the "Battle of Britain" as Royal Air Force planes inflicted heavy losses on the German Luftwaffe.

On September 15, 1949, "The Lone Ranger" premiered on ABC television.

On September 15, 1966, Gemini 2, after a record three-day space flight, splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean.

On September 16, 1630, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

On September 16, 1893, more than 100,000 homesteaders rushed into Oklahoma's "Cherokee Strip" to claim shares of 6-million acres of land opened up to settlers by the U.S. government.

On September 16, 1908, General Motors first filed papers of incorporation.

On September 16, 1919, the American Legion was incorporated by an act of Congress.

On September 16, 1926, airmail pilot Charles Lindbergh, short of fuel, and unable to land at Maywood Airport, parachuted to safety near Ottawa, Ill.

On September 16, 1972, "The Bob Newhart Show" premiered on CBS.

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1BR Sheridan Beach Apartments. Off-street parking. No pets/smoking. Utilities included. References and sec. dept. required.

Call (219) 879-2195 for details.

RENTALS MICHIGAN

Lovely furnished Michiana cottage with deck. 2BR, 1BA, Lvng/dining/kitchen/sunroom, 3rd semiprvt bdrm, skylights throughout. Rent 9/15/2020- 5/31/2021. \$1,250/mo., includes utilities, central heat. 2 blocks to beach stop, quiet forested area, dreamy! 1,100 square feet.

Call (415) 548-0498.

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Annual rental & pop-up spaces next to popular Dancing Feet Yoga. Great parking. 700-2,000 SF. **Call to view/rates @ (312) 259-4011.**

FOR SALE OR LEASE IN NEW BUFFALO, MICH.

1BR, all appliances. Water, sewer, trash included. Immediate possession. Very good condition. \$1,000 deposit. \$1,000 month, 1-year lease.

Call (219) 262-4693

3BR/2BA, large downtown New Buffalo house for rent. Nov.-April long-term rentals (monthly to 6-month contracts). Next to Nancy's. Close to everything. All utilities paid, pets considered. \$850/month.

Contact Mark at (219) 921-4278.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**THIS GIRL HAS ACCOUTERMENTS GALORE**

Long Beach Home for Sale: 2219 Oriole Trail, \$1.2M

4BR, 3.5BA & 5,663 sq ft. total

Gas/wood fireplace & pizza oven, VC wood stove, patio/porch/deck/balcony off each room, oak floors, terraced yard, fire pit, enclosed outside stg, 2 room MS w/WD, Chef's Kitchen, serving kitchen, laundry room and more. **Call or text (219) 707-7214.**

Fall Courses at KAC

Krasl Art Center's fall slate of offerings includes outdoor and in-person programs, take-home kits and virtual classes starting Thursday, Sept. 17.

Classes are open to members and non-members of all age ranges and skill levels. Students must register five days before class begins. Outdoor classes are on the KAC's Oval Lawn. Students will be spaced 6 feet apart in tents — when not exploring St. Joseph — and required to wear masks.

By request, KAC will offer five Krasl Kits in addition to virtual and in-person courses. They contain supplies and instructions to complete projects from home, both for youth/families and adults 13 and older. Youth and Family kits include "Tye-Dye Masks" and "Clay Dinos & Dragons." Adult kits include slab-constructed coffee mugs. Buy and schedule pickup time at the website education tab.

Home-school, virtual youth classes (ages 5-12) are available in ceramics, drawing and animation. Taught by local professional artists, students can schedule art supply and clay-piece pickups once enrolled. Classes include: "Mud-Makers," "Cartooning: From Paper to Sculpture," "Greenscreen & Stop-Motion Animation" and "Drawing & Painting with Depth." Visit the website education tab for full descriptions, pricing and registration.

Adult/teen classes (13 older) include drawing, painting and ceramics. Visit the education tab for full listings, descriptions and registration. Students in virtual classes will not have access to the studios.

Also planned are free art activities for families.

"Family Nights with the Benton Harbor Public Library" are from 5 to 6:30 p.m. EDT the second Wednesday of each month, or during second Saturdays for Family Days at 11 a.m. EDT. Pick up a free "fundle" on Mondays and Sundays the week before each event. Visit <https://krasl.org/education/free-and-fun/> for the schedule.

Registration and more information are available at www.krasl.org, call (269) 983-0271 or visit KAC, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Guest policies in light of COVID-19 can be viewed at www.krasl.org/visit/hours-admission.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Playing Nice by J.P. Delaney (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 399 pages)

Two babies. Both premies. Identity tags switched at the hospital. Taken home by the wrong parents. It's a frequent theme in books and movies. But Delaney gives us a new twist on this parental nightmare that will make you alternate between tears and murderous thoughts...

It's off to London, where Maddie Wilson and Pete Riley are having a baby and now, at 27-weeks pregnant, their son, Theo, is born premature with many physical problems. The hospital where Maddie gives birth doesn't have a neonatal department, so the baby is moved to another facility for further care. Pete goes along in the ambulance while Maddie recuperates in the hospital. Seeing your son hooked up to all those tubes, machines whooshing and buzzing in the background, would be terrifying for any parent. There even is fear of brain damage.

After some weeks, Theo makes a stunning recovery and is declared fit to go home, but Maddie doesn't feel the strong maternal urge with this baby. Postpartum depression? Could be. She tries to handle it on her own, but ends up having a nervous breakdown. Good thing circumstances make Pete the house-husband to stay home and take care of Theo. Maddie recovers and goes back to her job, and Theo grows up to enter the "terrible twos," where temper tantrums get him kicked out of day care.

One day, two men come calling...

They are Miles Lambert and a private investigator, Don Maguire, who bluntly inform Pete that Theo is Lambert's son, switched at birth at the hospital with his son, David. Say again? Pete is speechless, and, well, he should be. The Lambert's son, David, also was a premie and sent to the neonatal department at the same time as Theo. Tags identifying the babies must have been switched in the confusion of the day. That's their theory. And yes, there was a DNA test (without Pete's knowledge), and photos of Theo look like Lambert and, conversely, David looks a lot like Maddie.

Miles suggest the four parents sit down, discuss the "situation" and try to come up with a mutual agreement. No need to include the authorities? Right? Maybe warning bells should be going off... something about not trusting a smiling snake?

When the two boys are brought together, it is

clear that David would always be a child with special needs, while Theo would be the rambunctious troublemaker — exactly the kind of son Lambert would cherish.

The Lamberts show up unannounced whenever they want, Miles smooth as a clear, blue mountain lake when things go his way, quiet and vengeful when anyone disagrees with him. Maddie notes that Lucy clearly fears her husband.

But Maddie and Pete don't know the depth of his cunning until the papers arrive...the Lamberts are suing for complete custody of Theo and David. Wow. Like cold water in the face, Pete and Maddie now know what they are facing, and it isn't going to be an easy fight.

It is amazing to watch how the most innocent thing Pete or Maddie can do becomes something wrong or vile through Miles. There is no way to prove he is twisting things around, and yet there are any number of ways he could prove them to be complicit. Maddie hopefully recalls a line from a TV show: *"The innocent have nothing to fear."* Is she really that naive? Or is there a breaking point for the best of us?

As the days pass, Maddie and Pete feel they aren't doing more than treading water, while the Lamberts sail on calm seas. And the court

hearings? I read them with my jaw clenched and tears threatening to spill over onto the page.

Realizing they may soon lose either or both of the boys, Maddie finally recognizes that fighting back using the Miles Lambert school of thought may be the only solution...

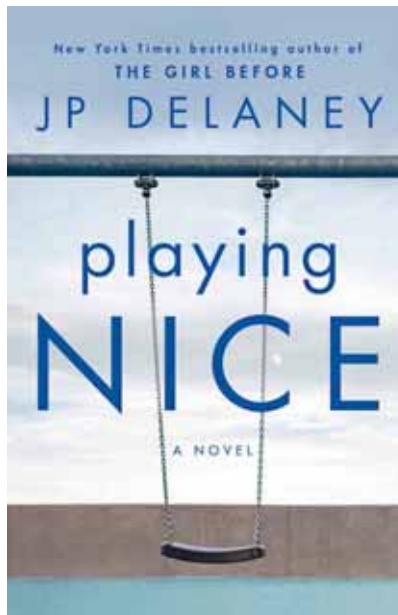
The pages fly by. Short chapters are in the voice of Pete or Maddie: short on words, but long on emotion and meaning. The more I read, the more the author drew me emotionally into the pain and fear of an untenable situation. I read with horror how a guileless man like Pete could be taken in and manipulated by Miles like a well-trained poodle.

Maddie and Pete begin to question everything they've done and said up to this point. Even their personal relationship begin to take its toll, as Maddie one day surmises: *"Losing Theo isn't the only threat to our relationship, I realize...will all the stress and suspicion leave its mark? Can we really survive this as a couple?"*

A good question, Maddie. Only time will tell.

This is a story you will long remember, and an ending you will remember even longer.

Till next time, happy reading!





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PENDING IN 4 DAYS!



4 Ballywood Dr, 46350
 4 bed, 3.5 bath | 5,350 sq ft
 Pending at \$484,000 | **Private Beach**
 Jari & Dave Troth | 219-363-9203
 Video Tour: <https://bit.ly/2CBNIQF>



1214 Lake Shore Dr, 46360
 6 bed, 3.5 bath | 4,864 sq ft
 \$1,695,000 | **BEACHFRONT HOME**
 Douglas Waters | 219-874-5209
 Video Tour: <https://bit.ly/2AGcfy1>



5907 Warnke Rd, 46360
 4 beds, 1.75 baths | 3,340 sq ft
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 Sandy Rubenstein | 219-879-7525
 More Info: <https://bit.ly/2Urf3Wu>



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104 Willow Bend Dr, 46350
 4 bed, 3 bath | 3,996 sq ft
 \$399,455 | **Lake View Home**
 Greg Komp | 219-728-6464
 Video Tour: <https://bit.ly/30111zx>



PENDING IN 4 DAYS!



8001 W 400 N, 46360
 3 bed, 2 bath | 2,004 sq ft
 \$249,900 | **Near Creek Ridge**
 Lisa Moore | 219-363-2544
 More Info: <https://bit.ly/31HVGLA>



PENDING!



117 Northbrook Dr, 46360
 3 beds, 2 baths | 3,264 sq ft
 \$319,000 | **Stop 31 Rights**
 Sandy Rubenstein
 219-879-7525
<https://bit.ly/2Urf3Wu>



SOLD!



1612 Indianapolis Ave, 46360
 Sold for: \$310,000
 Sandy Rubenstein
 219-879-7525



SOLD!



2014 Melrose Dr, Long Beach 46360
 Sold for \$310,000
 Doug Waters
 219-874-5209



1682 N Circle View Ln, 46350
 2 acres of land
 Listed at: \$27,500
 Jari & Dave Troth | 219-363-9203
 More Info: <https://bit.ly/2EWjNOS>



SOLD!



3145 Char Mar Hills, 46350
 4 bed, 2.5 bath | 3,356 sq ft
 Pending at \$278,000 | **Briar Leaf Golf**
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