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Passion Project

by Kim Nowatzke

Three peace poles stand in our little corner of the world — symbols of community, culture and connection. Newly erected in the African-American Garden at Friendship Botanic Gardens, they are testaments of the time, talent and resources lovingly donated by caring and dedicated volunteers.

The backstory begins with 63-year-old Misha Hutchison and her husband, Larry, moving from Pennsylvania to Long Beach in October 2019 to care for his aging mother, the late Judy Ringo. Then came the pandemic, limiting their ability to explore the area.

“Judy, who was a 40-year resident of Long Beach, introduced me to Friendship Botanic Gardens, where I found peace and solace,” Misha Hutchison said. “My mother-in-law was a member. I came over with my dog, and we discovered every square inch of it.”

In the spring of 2020, Hutchison became a FBG volunteer. She and Rima Binder, Friendship Botanic Gardens’ board of directors vice president, took a tour of the gardens. Wanting to volunteer, Hutchison agreed with Binder that the African-American Garden would be a great project. Binder said the garden began in 2017 through a joint effort by then Michigan City resident Babatola Aloba and Arthur Payne

Continued on Page 2



The three new peace poles in the African-American Garden at Friendship Botanic Gardens.
Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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Passion Project

Continued from Page 1

Jr., who was chairman of the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males. The proposal was approved in 2018 and the design completed by Lauren Bolton-Kalk of Beachside Gardens, which donated a portion of its services. After a successful fundraiser later that year, installation began. Hutchison got right to work.

At about the same time, Gary resident June Laws contacted Binder to donate excess hen-and-chicken succulent plants.

“Rima told me about the African-American Garden and that they needed help. I said I would help her before I knew it,” Laws, who is 80, said with a laugh. “I’ve been going ever since. That was two years ago. It’s something to do — to spend some time. What’s to pulling a few weeds?”

The friendship between Hutchison and Laws grew as they worked side by side every week, carrying out the garden design and sharing the pure joy gardeners experience when they dig in the dirt.

“Misha was the sweetest thing I’ve ran across,” Laws said. “She is so nice.”

Laws even became attached to Hutchison’s dog, Bailey, an 8-year-old goldendoodle.

“She is also a trained Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen,” Hutchison said. “We didn’t do much with that in Indiana because of COVID-19, but she loved Friendship Botanic Gardens as much as I did.”

As the months rolled by, Hutchison and Laws kept busy installing plants, adding mulch, removing weeds and relocating boulders and bricks within FBG to the African American Garden.

While some of the additions, such as Indigo and

African lily, are indigenous to Africa, others are not. Perennials were used, including yucca, poker plant, catmint, salvia, cranesbill, coreopsis and sedum grasses, in addition to a few annuals, namely coleus and portulaca.

“Biodiversity was a key element in its design,” Hutchison noted.

As the garden progressed, Laws realized its shape resembled the letter “A,” so a small element was added to complete that design. And, Laws purchased a sign for the garden from Rodney Ward, her

lifelong friend and artist.

“By the spring of 2021, the African-American Garden was flourishing,” Hutchison said. “The only missing element in the garden was a piece of art ‘recommended to be representative of African art’ (according to the garden design) — a major dilemma for me, as I am neither artistic nor familiar with local artists.”

Then, on May 1, she happened to stop by the former Art+Science Works, 622 Franklin St., meeting artist Vida Kluko, who was working on a mosaic. Hutchison had seen peace poles in another garden and explained her idea to Kluko.

“I asked Vida if she knew anyone who might be available to help with an art installation for the garden, and she immediately offered to help,” Hutchison said.

Kluko, 62, then became a vital aspect of the project. She and her sister, Dalia Zygias, grew up in Chicago and were familiar with

Michigan City since their parents retired here about 30 years ago. After living in New Buffalo, Mich., for 30 years, Vida moved to Michiana Shores in 2016. The sisters opened Art+Science Works in May 2016 as a class/studio space designed for fused glass, glass mosaic, acrylic “dirty pour,” suminagashi and ebru marbling, along with other experimental projects.

Kluko earned her bachelor’s degree in graphic



Friendship Botanic Gardens volunteer June Laws enjoys spending time in the garden with fellow volunteer Misha Hutchison’s goldendoodle, Bailey.



Friendship Botanic Gardens volunteer Misha Hutchison and artist Vida Kluko are photographed by *The Beacher's* Kim Nowatzke.

design from the University of Illinois, obtaining a master's degree in graphic design from Miami International School of Art & Design. Her education focused on the Bauhaus method of art instruction, through which she was exposed to a wide variety of art such as photography, film, ceramics, videography, painting and interior design.

"I had to try a little bit of everything in college so I would be well-rounded," Kluko explained. "Graphic design really spoke to me. I have worked as a graphics designer since 1980. I did it before there were computers."

In more recent years, glass mosaic has become Kluko's true passion.

"I love the way the glass glows," she said. "I can cut glass in my sleep, I've done it so much. I can work on a piece for five hours and it feels like five minutes. You're in the flow. It's so therapeutic when you're working on something."

Kluko also has worked as a substitute art teacher for Michigan City Area Schools and New Buffalo Area Schools.

To begin the peace poles, Kluko reached out to Carolyn Elaine — a Chicago-area artist/educator — to help come up with authentic African designs. She is a self-taught artist focused on mosaic murals and public art installations. She is the only black female Chicagoland artist solely working in the medium.

When Elaine, who had never heard of Friendship Botanic Gardens, came across Kluko's email, she found it "very interesting." She was relieved, actually, that she was only responsible for the design and not the fabrication and installation, as she was very busy at the time.

Compared to the much larger pieces Elaine completes, she knew it was going to be very detailed because of the small four-inch-wide size of the poles,

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Continued from Page 3

an African-American artist to do the design to lend authenticity to the project," said Elaine, who donated her services.

She describes her work as "steeped in African-American culture, which shows up in the imagery and design work."

In her design of the peace poles, Elaine used Adinkra symbols from Ghana.

yet a lot of the pattern work she wanted to include was suitable for that scale.

"I found it very commendable that they felt it was important to have



Carolyn Elaine is a culturally significant artist/educator who creates mosaic and public art installations.

"These represent concepts or aphorisms and have a decorative function, but also represent objects that encapsulate evocative messages that convey traditional wisdom, aspects of life or the environment," she explained.

She used six symbols representing: the supremacy of God; democracy, unity in diversity; divinity of Mother Earth; unity, human relations; peacemaking, reconciliation; and learning from the past.

Elaine said she tried to "pull as much as she could from both North, South and Central Africa" so she had a better representation of the entire continent.

"Some of the colors and patterns of the peace

poles were inspired by mudcloth that is dyed with fermented mud and plant dyes from Northern Africa, specifically the inland country of Mali," she said.

Other aspects were inspired by decorative homes with vibrant, highly colorful exterior ornamentation of the Ndebele people in South Africa.

"It's been fun watching it all come together," said Elaine, who looks forward to someday seeing the peace poles and visiting the garden in person.

For the actual construction of the peace poles, Kluko built steel structures with bracing and attached cement board. Next, she attached the glass mosaic pieces to a fiberglass tile grid. Landscape adhesive was used to attach the grid to the cement board, then it was grouted with a concrete-like material. After the poles were installed, Kluko will next secure the grout with concrete sealant, then apply epoxy onto the glass for protection and to smooth any sharp edges.

The Hutchison family provided funding for the peace poles' materials in memory of Judy Ringo. The project even necessitated a trip by Kluko and Hutchison to Kokomo Opalescent Glass Factory on July 12 to select locally sourced mosaic glass.

The two had fun naming the peace poles for the three highest mountains in Africa. Eight-foot Kilimanjaro was installed Aug. 20, 6-foot Kenya followed Sept. 2 and 4-foot Stanley found its home in the garden Sept. 14.

"I've been dying to do something in the Gardens," Kluko explained. "This will be an eternal legacy of Mi-sha and I. What's so neat about mosaics is that they will outlive us."

Even though Art+Science Works closed last month, Kluko is keeping busy with mosaics and fused glass projects. She wants to launch classes in mobile glass — mosaic and fused. Considering mosaics her "first true love," she hopes for more mosaic commissions.

One of her latest mosaic panels for the Uptown Arts District is an "actual size mermaid" (5 feet tall



A closer view by Kim Nowatzke of the detail on the peace poles.

x 2 feet wide) that will soon appear (at press time) on the front of the building at 622 Franklin St.

And the peace poles in the African American Garden?

"It became a passion project...," Hutchison said.

"...To show some love," Kluko continued.

"You're a garden activist," Kluko finished, smiling at her friend.

Hutchinson emphasized how she now feels she was meant to come here.

"This was my peaceful haven – how I survived COVID," she said. "This is where I found peace."

Their story take a bittersweet twist.

The Hutchisons, having completed their purpose here, returned back east. They left for Maryland, where they will be closer to their grandchildren, three days after the last peace pole was erected.

"I'm thrilled that Misha's mission came true before she had to leave," Binder said. "The garden



Artist Vida Kluko, Friendship Botanic Gardens volunteer Misha Hutchison, groundskeeper Gary Kahn, head groundskeeper Brian Bentley and volunteer Steve Kahn are photographed at the installation of the last peace pole on Sept. 14. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

gave her peace and joy, and she offered it right back to the garden."

Misha adds, "Of all the things that I'm going to miss from Long Beach, Indiana, it will be Friendship Botanic Gardens and the sunsets."

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Singing Sands Trail Grand Opening

An official ribbon cutting for the Singing Sands Trail is at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

The trail is Michigan City's segment of the regional Marquette Greenway Trail, connecting Chicago-area trails to those in Southwest Michigan. The non-motorized trail is open to the public year-round and follows Americans With Disabilities Act and Recreational Trails guidelines.

The trail's west end connects to the Calumet Trail at the Porter/LaPorte County line on U.S. 12. Heading east leads to views overlooking an Indiana Dunes National Park wetland. After crossing U.S. 12 near the Mount Baldy entrance, the trail takes on an industrial feel, riding along the railroad tracks and next to the NIPSCO cooling tower. It then heads east toward City Hall in close proximity to the Uptown Arts District. Washington Park is one block north of the trail, which also offers access



The west end of the trail overlooking Indiana Dunes National Park wetlands.

to City Hall, the county courthouse, Michigan City Public Library, Lighthouse Mall-Premium Outlets, Blue Chip Casino and other businesses.

The trail turns southeast on Michigan Boulevard, affording access to Westcott Park and Trail Creek Marina. It heads east on Eighth Street to Winding Creek Cove Park, which has off-street parking, two hiking trails, a wildlife observation deck, fishing and a kayak launch.

The trail then crosses Trail Creek on the Peanut Bridge: a repurposed railroad bridge. It heads east along the north side of the creek and features two boardwalks. It ends at Liberty Trail. This segment of the trail is 3.6 miles long.

The final phase is approximately 5 miles long and will end at the city limit on Meer Road, where LaPorte County will construct the remainder of the trail, taking it to the Michigan state line.

Construction of a portion of this phase begins in October.

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“Guys & Dolls” Returns to LaPorte Little Theatre Club

Often called Broadway’s quintessential musical, “Guys & Dolls” returns to LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St., for two weekends of performances starting Friday, Oct. 1.

Intertwining stories of two gamblers, flat-broke Nathan (John Hutchinson) hopes to secure a place for a big crap game and keep his 14-year fiancé/Hot Box Club head dancer, Adelaide (Danielle Bilderback). Having no money, Nathan develops a scheme to get a fellow gambler, Sky (Andy Crane), who has money, to front the dough for the game. Meanwhile, Sky falls for the strait-laced mission director, Sarah (Erin Imer).

Directors Jim Snyder and Tony J. Thomas, along with Musical Director Charles Steck, assembled a cast that, due to the pandemic, has waited more than a year to perform it. The cast includes: AvaLee Abraham, Kristin Allison, Samantha Bean, Lindsay Burnett-Snyder, Douglas Campbell, Anthony Holt, Bruce Johnson,



The cast of “Guys & Dolls” is photographed in costume at LaPorte Little Theatre Club.

Trent Kearcher, Benjamin Keller, Madison Keller, Jim Lampl, Tom LeDonne, Scott Lenig, Kim Meyers, Max Principe, Susie Richter, Jackie Robinson, Jacob Robinson, Matt Robinson, Kim Snyder, Rich Snyder, Jill Thomas, Michael J. Thomas and Adam Wogoman.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Oct. 1-2 and 8-9, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 3 and 10. Tickets cost \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$13 for students. New for this performance is online reserved seating.

Visit www.laportelittletheatreclub.com for reservations.

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Mission Quilt Sale at LaPorte Missionary Church



The 10th Annual Mission Quilt Sale is from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 2, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. near Kesling Middle School.

More than 150 quilts are available at \$55 each. A limited number of baby quilts are available for \$45.

While most of the fabric is donated, the group holds a "Mission Quilt" sale the first Saturday in October to raise funds for quilt batting, equipment and supplies.

Nearly 2,000 quilts have been given to those in need, including: LaPorte Homeless Shelter, Worthy Women Recovery Home and People in Song in LaPorte; Stepping Stone Shelter for Abused Women and Children and Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families in Michigan City; The Community Reserve in New Carlisle; The Caring Place for Abused Women and Children in Valparaiso; the Veterans Homeless Shelter in South Bend; all fire departments in LaPorte, Michigan City, New Carlisle and throughout LaPorte County; disaster relief such as hurricanes in North Carolina, Florida, Texas and the East Coast; internationally to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Togo, West Africa and the Children's Hospital Zinga, Tanzania, East Africa.

In terms of donations, clean cotton and cotton blend fabrics, and clean cotton flat sheets for double bed, queen and king sizes are needed.

Anyone interested in helping make quilts can join the group from 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the church's lower-level fellowship hall. Women and men can participate. No sewing skills are needed. All equipment is supplied. Duties include stand-up jobs, sit-down jobs, hauling boxes, cutting, sorting, counting, matching fabrics, tying knots, ironing and sewing. Face masks are required if not having completed vaccinations, and masks are available.

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LCA First Friday Event

Lubeznik Center for the Arts will unveil two new exhibits in the NIPSCO Education Studios during its free First Friday event from 4-7 p.m. Oct. 1.

The exhibits include “Radiant,” black-and-white photography by George Kassal, and Thomas Frank’s “Evidence Based Approach” series. Continuing through Oct. 15 is the exhibit “Bramson/Indiana/Lake.”



One of the works by George Kassal.

The title of Kassal’s exhibit is a reference to the glowing or sending out of light. He uses high-key photography to emphasize the radiant properties he see in the dunes and Lake Michigan shoreline.

In “Evidence Based Approach,” Frank works in encaustics (hot wax) on panels to build up plumes of pigment that reference geographies of water, air, land and biodiversity. The artist also references bodily forms like brainstems, bone or muscle structures, lobes and tumors.

The LCA is located at 101 W. Second St. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.

Insights in History

“Insights in History” will spotlight history of the Lincoln Highway at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Oct. 6, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Jeff Blair, Indiana Lincoln Highway Association president, explores the highway’s beginning and describe its route, which began in New York City, crossed through Indiana and ended in San Francisco. A tour of Lincoln Highway photos is planned.

Admission is \$3. Reservations are needed by calling (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org



Vida Kluko, MFA, Society of American Mosaic Artists, member
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Chesterton Art Center

Hannah Hammond-Hagman, the former Lubeznik Center for the Arts education director, is the new Chesterton Art Center executive director.



Hammond-Hagman

Hammond-Hagman earned her Master of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Indiana University-Bloomington. She has worked for more than 18 years in arts and cultural non-profits as an educator and administrator. She also has extensive history with community outreach initiatives, and bridging the arts and community.

Hammond-Hagman had served as CAC's program director since June.

"I am both inspired and humbled to take on the position of executive director at CAC," Hammond-Hagman said in a press release. "The center has a beautiful in-depth history with the Duneland community, and I look forward to continuing our traditions while building a new vision for CAC that expands on all we have to offer."



Three new adult art classes are planned this fall, with instructors Diane Grams and Jane Cowley introducing drawing, watercolor and oil painting.

The multi-week classes offer foundational instruction in materials, tools and techniques.

"Fundamental Drawing" with Grams meets for six weeks from 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 13-Nov. 17. Participants learn about different kinds of drawing tools, papers and sketchbooks. Lessons include strategies like mark making, eyeballing, measuring, and using templates and shapes in one-point perspective. Students will practice drawing abstractions, still life and natural journaling. Tuition is \$150 for non-members and \$130 for members. A supply list will be provided at registration.

"Painting with Watercolor I" with Grams meets from 6-8 p.m. for five Wednesdays on Oct. 20-Nov. 17. Participants learn about different kinds of brushes, watercolor paints, papers and sketchbooks. Techniques with different brushes and marks will be taught, along with masking, using templates and working with watercolor pens and pencils. Students will practice mark-making with paint to create abstractions and paint from observation. Tuition is \$160 for non-members and \$140 for members. A supply list will be provided at registration.

"Beginning Oil Painting" with Cowley meets from 7-9 p.m. for six Mondays starting Oct. 18. Lessons include composition, color mixing, values, techniques, spatial relations and perspective. Tuition is \$150 for non-members and \$130 for members. A supply list will be provided at registration.

Visit Eventbrite or call the center to register.



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



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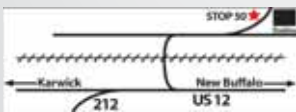
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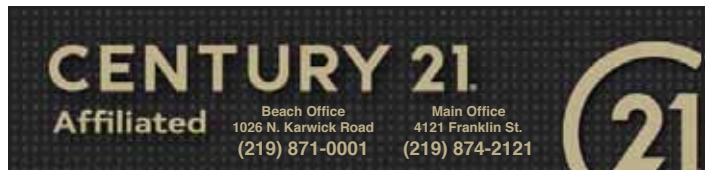
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Boys & Girls Clubs Kicks Off “Light Up La Porte County” Campaign

A local nonprofit hopes to make the community a little brighter this holiday season.

Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County recently kicked off its “Light Up LaPorte County for Great Futures” fundraising initiative. Between now and Oct. 29, all individuals and businesses making a donation of \$100 or more receive a string of blue lights to display in December.

BGCLPC provides free youth-development programming.

After 25 years in Michigan City, it recently launched a school-based club in Westville. On Oct. 25, the organization will add a fifth club at Kingsford Heights Elementary School, anticipating continued expansion in conjunction with its upcoming capital cam-



paign.

“Our ‘Light Up LaPorte County for Great Futures’ initiative will allow us to replace some of the special event revenue we have lost during the pandemic, while helping us raise awareness about our clubs throughout LaPorte County,” BGCLPC Chief Executive Officer Michelle Shirk said in a press release.

Individuals and businesses inter-

ested in participating can pick up a donation form at BGCLPC’s Charles R. Westcott Club, 321 Detroit St., or at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/lulpc>. Lights will be delivered in November. Call (219) 873-2298 for more information.

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Gabis Summer Concert Series

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest will conclude its Summer Concert Series with a blues and rock mashup Friday, Oct. 1.

Gato opens the program at 6 p.m., the Chicagoland/Northwest Indiana group covering artists such as Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead. The headliner, Johnny V’s Wildflowers, performs at 7 p.m., the singer-songwriter paying homage to Tom Petty.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$20 for non-members the week of the concert. Children 12 and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or at www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts. Food, wine and beer will be sold during the event.

Revenue from the concerts supports the arboretum’s operations and education programs.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

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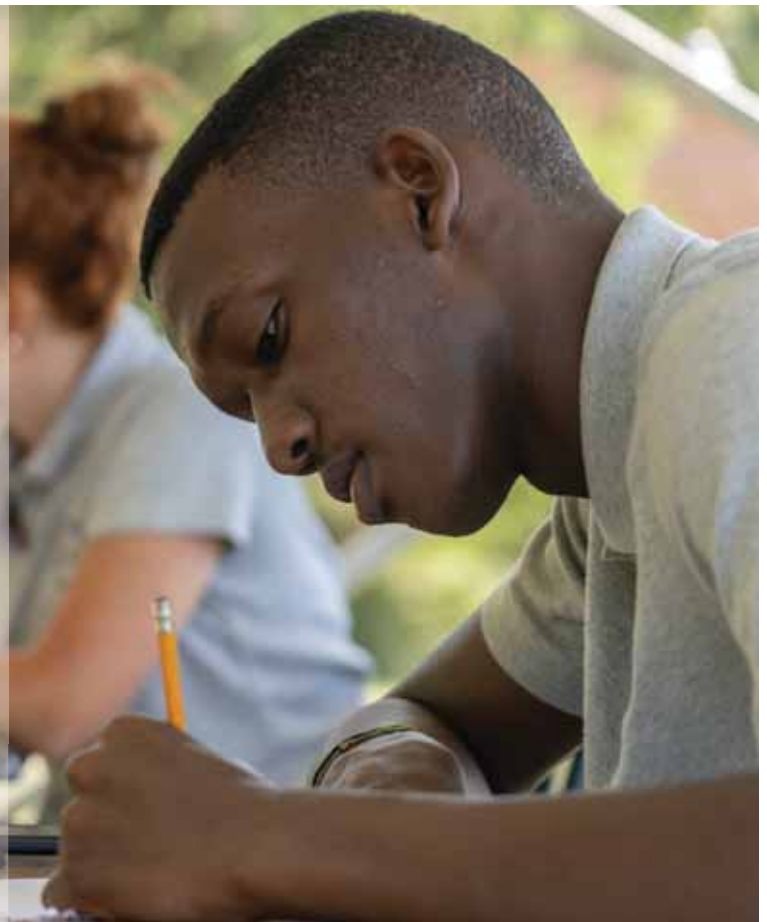
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“Cry Macho” is About as Sleepy as an Eastwood Movie Can Get

by Andrew Tallackson

At 91, Clint Eastwood is still playing the renegade cowboy. When we first see his character in “Cry Macho,” a former rodeo star long put out to pasture, we fear the same is true for him as an actor. He’s decked out in a rodeo getup, complete with a leather vest that’s seen better days, and it is like watching a facsimile. Like Clint Eastwood mustering all his energy to still be, well, Clint Eastwood.

But then the story, lifted from N. Richard Nash’s 1975 novel, kicks in, and Eastwood recovers his swagger. That gravelly voice, like someone gargling with sand. The actor, as they say, he’s still got it.

Clint Eastwood, *the director*, though, that is another story. He can invest urgency to true stories like “Sully” (2016) and the underappreciated “Richard Jewel” (2019), proving age is just a number when it comes to directing a good story.

“Cry Macho” is a good story. The main character is ideally suited for Eastwood. He loves gruff outsiders tamed by gentle forces. But Eastwood as a director loves to take things slow. *Turtle slow*. And with “Cry Macho,” the pace and tone are sleepy to the point of testing even die-hard Eastwood fans.

In the movie, now in theaters and streaming on HBO Max, Eastwood plays Mike Milo, whose career as a rodeo star ended after a back injury. It’s 1979 in Texas, and Mike now trains and breeds horses. His former boss, Howard Polk (Dwight Yoakam, perfectly cast), tracks him down for a favor: bring back his 13-year-old son, Rafo (Eduardo Minett), from Mexico. Howard fears his son is being abused.

That’s enough to persuade Mike. When he arrives in Mexico, however, he is quickly discovered and escorted to the boy’s mother. What she does for a living, we don’t know. She has power and money, and she wields it like a weapon. She is played by Chilean actress Fernanda Urrejola — the one exciting presence in the film. Leta, the mother, would never get accused of being maternal. Far from it. Brash, boozy, her heart has long been diluted by wealth.

Where her son is, she couldn’t care less. Urrejola creates a dangerously unstable presence, and we prep ourselves for the worst.

“Cry Macho” then slides into the format of a Western road movie, with Mike trying to usher Rafo to safety back across the border.

We know Mike will come to tame Rafo like the



Clint Eastwood stars as a former rodeo star recruited to bring a 13-year-old boy (Eduardo Minett) home from Mexico in “Cry Macho.”

★ ★ 1/2

“Cry Macho”

Running time: 103 minutes. In theaters, HBO Max.
Rated PG-13 for language and thematic elements.

horses he breeds. That is no surprise. What helps is how good Minett is as Rafo. There is nothing precocious nor sentimental about him. He’s beholden to Macho, a rooster that is as much his protector as it is his cockfight meal ticket. He and Eastwood have a genuine, unforced chemistry. We believe in the bond between these two.

But right when “Cry Macho” should amp up the

relationship, it takes a detour. Mike's car stalls, ending up in a desolate, one-street town. The two meet Marta (Natalia Traven), who owns the diner in town, and seems to watch over all the local children. There is a sweetness to her scenes, but the movie expects us to believe that, despite the 40-year age gap between her and Eastwood, she will fall head over heels in love with Mike. Sorry, but we don't buy it. Not one bit.

As the dramatic momentum stalls in favor of horse-training sequences with Rafo, the screenplay by frequent Eastwood collaborator Nick Schenk ("Gran Torino," "The Mule")

fails to deepen the relationship between Mike and Rafo. Whereas Eastwood's "The Mule" was equally lethargic, it came alive during the electrifying final 20 minutes. Not so here. Schenk's screenplay is as dry and dusty as the film's Mexican landscape. Mechanical, even. It rambles toward an obligatory close with no oomph to it. There's just no tension nor buildup. Even when Eastwood shows his softer



"Cry Macho" expects us to believe the love story between Clint Eastwood and Natalia Traven.

side, like in "Gran Torino," he still has an edge to him. The best thing that can be said about the end of "Cry Macho" is that it is blandly pleasant. Vaguely satisfying.

Has Eastwood, at 91, lost his touch? Likely not. This guy can surprise you when least expected. Just not with "Cry Macho."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Art washes away from the soul the dust of every-day life.” – Pablo Picasso

The dusty winds of summer are slowly segueing into the cooler days of fall, soon to spark autumnal colors and harvest celebrations. Amid these vibrant changes, the art scene continues to provide visual relief while exploring the region’s various art galleries and associations.



The works of Mayumi Lake, Phyllis Bramson and Robert Indiana remain on display in the Hyn-dman, Susan Block and Brinka/Cross galleries at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. The show opened June 14 and closes Oct. 15. If you haven’t visited yet, I urge you to go. It’s a stunning exhibit. (See the July 1 edition of *The Beacher* for additional information.)

LCA’s NIPSCO Education Studios showcase the art of Connie Kassal and Thomas Frank. Both opened Sept. 3 and close in early October.

In her artist statement, Kassal shared how each painting in the new series represented “an attempt to pursue joy while escaping from isolation and illness.” Constricting emotions can trap a soul, preventing creative work. Picasso once talked about the artist being a receptacle for emotions. This is true. In Kassal’s case, those feelings offered a release from emotional discomfort and uncomfortable physical issues. Consequently, this new body of work represents her strongest, and most personal, to date. You don’t want to miss out on this exhibit.



“Light Works,” an acrylic and carbon pencil work by Connie Kassal.

“I have rarely painted about political or social issues, or historical events,” Kassal wrote in her artist statement. “I joke that one 1967 painting of a hippie, smoking, is the only one. My art has been, more often, informed by spiritual or emotional experiences. So in 2020 I escaped bad news for a little while by remem-

falling forward into Art



“Unison – Resonance” (from left) by Mayumi Lake, “Seasonal Lovers” by Phyllis Bramson and “Liberty” by Robert Indiana.

bering some happy experience, as I drew in carbon pencil and painted with acrylics on wood panels. The images are metaphors for those happy experiences.”



Thomas Frank’s nearby “Color Swatches – Significant Power/NWI Organizers.”

Frank’s nearby “Color Swatches — Significant Power/NWI Organizers” includes small portraits (96 and counting) begun during a classroom demonstration for his students featuring prominent organizers as models. The works, themselves, are small and cleverly executed on sample paint swatches, the kind you pick up at any paint store. The portraits are wonderful, and even if you cannot identify who the person is, they are delightfully imbued with a sense of personality and humanity. I felt, after seeing this spread of faces, that I would like to meet these subjects. They look so very interesting.



“To be an artist is to believe in life.” – Henry Moore
Life, living and expressing yourself through a chosen medium is central to the creative artist’s in-



Dune Grass by George Kassal.

ternal self and self worth. Be it realistic, abstract or conceptual, the resulting product affords the viewer insight into the artist’s life and thought process.

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., now hosts the Area Artists Association exhibit “A New Beginning,” showcasing the power of individual expression and talent.

Time is running out to see the show, which opened Sept. 11 and closes Sept. 30. Participating members include: ANKO (Anneke Dekker), Larry Brechner, Stephanie Carnell, Laurie Schirmer Carpenter, Kei J Constantinov, Jane Cowley, Carol Estes, Kevin Firme, Dorothy Graden, Diane Grams, Kuhn Hong, Laurel Izard, Connie Kassal, George Kassal, Timothy Lace, Sara Scherberg, Ginny Scott, Joan Spohrer and Susy Vance.

A juried art organization established in 1979 within the LCA, members are featured in shows across the area and the U.S. The new exhibit showcases a range of artworks executed in multiple me-



“Octopus 9 Square” by Laurel Izard.

dias. Interestingly, four current AAA members appeared in the highly competitive ARTPRIZE, which opened Sept. 16 at Atwater Brewery, 201 Michigan St. NW, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Constantinov, Cowley, Graden and Izard. With \$200,000 in awards, the event attracts artists from across the globe. It is spread throughout the downtown in parks, buildings, sidewalks and bridges, taking more than a day to cover. The festival ends Sunday, Oct. 3.



Meanwhile, the Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores, features an unusual and interesting exhibit highlighting images of the building know as The Depot, an iconic passenger station for the Chicago and South Shore line (NICTD).



“CSS & SB – Car #103” by David Tutwiler.

The show opened Sept. 10 and runs through Oct. 31.

The station, itself, is the central subject for each piece. There are multiple examples spanning several years. Among them is a drawing by the late artist Joyce Keane, who was well-known regionally for her pen and ink architectural renderings. Da-

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vid Tutwiler's painted work offers a wintry scene incorporating an earlier version of the South Shore train.

Take a stroll down memory lane with these works, then walk over to The Depot itself and check out the building in comparison to the art. It's fascinating.



Jane Cowley's oil piece, "Discordance."

SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St., presents art by AAA member Cowley, featuring numerous portraits and still lifes. An experienced painter working primarily in oils and pastels, she has exhibited extensively. You don't want to miss this show. I especially liked her work "Discordance." Even without the title, the way the figures are placed (especially the figure facing forward with hand upheld as if to caution or prevent intrusion into her space), the angle and direction of the carpeting, the clothing and low-key color establish a specific mood, reminding me a bit of the great American artist Edward Hopper.

Make a point to visit these fine galleries and art centers. Show your support. Wash away all that dusty accumulation of the mundane and let your imagination be your guide.

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Residency Certificate Awards

Susan Flischel and Arlene Hudgens are the latest recipients of First Families of LaPorte County, the awards presented at the Sept. 14 LaPorte County Indiana Genealogical Society meeting.

In 1987, the Society approved the late Fern Eddy Schultz's request to establish the award. In 2005, three new categories were added: Pioneer Families, Settler Families and Civil War Ancestor Families. Almost 300 certificates have been awarded during 35 ceremonies.

Flischel was recognized for her ancestor, John Laskowski. She was not able to attend. Hudgens was recognized for her ancestor, Jacob Lewendowski, an early settler in Otis. She shared some of his early history, and that of the town's Catholic church.

The Society's next meeting is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at LaPorte County Public Library. Dorothy Palmer and Gloria Arndt will discuss their book, Michigan City, Indiana, Businesses & the People That Made Them Prosper, 1832-1890.

Visit www.sites.rootsweb.com/~inlcigs/ for additional details.

NRC Approves New Nature Preserve

The Natural Resources Commission has approved the designation of Sebert Woods Nature Preserve in LaPorte County.

The preserve protects 39.15 acres of the Northwestern Morainal Natural Region, Chicago Lake Plain and Valparaiso Moraine sections. It contains boreal flatwoods, mesic forest and shrub swamp, as well as their associated plant communities. It is located directly south of Wintergreen Woods Nature Preserve.

The area is a remnant northern boreal flatwoods natural community, which is a type of forest restricted to a narrow area just south of the Lake Michigan dunes. Many of the 362 plant species found in Sebert Woods usually are located much farther north. Included are paper birch, a number of sedge species, goldthread, Canada mayflower and starflower.



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Here's One You Might Have Missed: "Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar"

by Andrew Tallackson



Kristen Wiig (left) and Annie Mumolo star as best friends who take a vacation together in "Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar."

"Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar" is a one-joke comedy that works for the same reason "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion" did. The heroes may be ditzes, but they're each other's biggest fans. The world may be collapsing around them, but as long as they still have each other, they manage.

When the movie earned a scant release in February, including a brief run at our own Vickers Theatre, the premise seemed thin. Two 40s(ish) women, each with big hair and "Fargo" accents, head to Florida for a little R&R. That's it.

Thus, I skipped it.

Turns out, a hasty decision. Word of mouth, not just from those who caught it through View on Demand, but also from critics, saw it return to theaters last month. A few critical notices hail it as the year's best comedy. Not quite. It runs out of steam near the big finish. But it does contain some of the year's biggest laughs, with a screenplay by "Bridesmaids" scribes Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo that has insanely funny dialogue. Lines you want to quote to friends right after the movie is over.

The movie is now streaming on Hulu. Wiig and Mumolo play Star and Barb, respectively, and they are perfect company for each other. Working at a furniture store in Nebraska, they hesitate at allowing customers to buy their favorite couch. They've had too many personal conversations on that piece of furniture...not to mention holding Thanksgiving

★ ★ ★

"Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar"

Running time: 107 minutes. Hulu. Rated PG-13 for crude sexual content, drug use and some strong language

meals in the store, when no one's looking, of course.

The two have a social group – it's a "talking" club, rather than a book club, commanded with a hilarious iron fist by "Saturday Night Live" veteran Vanessa Bayer. They hunger for more, though. A chance to recover their "shimmer," as they call it. When the uppity Mickey Revelet ("Bridesmaids" co-star Wendi McLendon-Covey), recommends a Vista Del Mar resort in Florida, calling it the best "soul douche" she's had, the two book their flights.

"*Haven't you ever wondered if the real ocean sounds like our noise machine?*," Star pleads with Barb about taking the trip).

What saves "Barb and Star" from being an extended "SNL" skit is how the screenplay, and Josh Greenbaum's light direction, invest a comic heart and soul into the title characters. Their plane flight, for example, is wildly funny: The two can't stop babbling about an imaginary woman named Trish, much to the repeated dismay of passengers.

Vista Del Mar, itself, is like a parody of a Florida resort, where people break out into song, where the



Jamie Dornan steals the show as a dim-witted hitman.

lounge pianist sings inappropriate ditties and the tourists in skimpy bathing suits have the least attractive bodies imaginable.

The movie could have succeeded just on the boundless energy of Mumolo and Wiig, but it introduces an "Austin Powers" subplot involving a con-ning albino (also played by Wiig) with plans to destroy the resort. We don't need this, but ultimately, we are thankful because it introduces the conspiracy plot's dim-bulb thug, and the film's secret comic weapon, Jamie Dornan. As Christian Gray in "50 Shades of Gray," he looked embarrassed and uncomfortable, like he wanted to fire his agent, then flee the country for starring in that crap. But here, he is reborn as a comic buffoon who falls for Star, subsequently bungling his boss' plans. There is a joy to his performance – he sings, too – that suggests there *is* life after his "50 Shades" success.

By the time Barb and Star begin sneaking off on their own, keeping secrets from each other, the comic momentum fizzles. It can't find the humor, and humanity, in the shenanigans, while a few late-in-the-game sight gags are flat-out lazy. Like the screenplay gave up trying to be creative.

But Wiig, Mumolo and Dornan bring the laughs to a rousing finish, the movie's silly heart back in the right place. And any film that uses a talking crab to honor Morgan Freeman in "The Shawshank Redemption," well, how can you say no to that?

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DVD Review: "Dream Horse"

by Andrew Tallackson

Toni Collette and Owen Teale
star in "Dream Horse."

I have a soft spot for Toni Collette. "Muriel's Wedding" did it for me, and on through "The Sixth Sense," "About a Boy," "A Long Way Down," even the grisly "Hereditary." She has a knack for playing wounded souls: women thirsting for a better life. Repeatedly denied happiness. A sense of fulfillment.

In "Dream Horse," based on a true story and now available on DVD, the actress stars as Welsh bartender Jan Vokes. In the opening scene, it's early. She is wide awake in bed, her sack-of-potatoes husband snoring like a grisly bear with a sinus infection. The alarm sounds, and she's off to the first of her two jobs, required because her spouse hasn't worked in quite some time.

Classic Toni Collette character.

What ensues may cling to formula in terms of inspirational sports movie, but Collette's performance is anything but routine. She is the emotional anchor in a story that, deep down, is less about the title horse and more about rediscovering a sense of purpose in life.

I was not familiar with Dream Alliance, a thoroughbred racehorse born in Wales in early 2001 and owned by the Alliance Partnership: a group of unconventional residents in a small Welsh village headed by Vokes. Having only bred whippets and racing pigeons, she overhears local tax adviser Howard Davies (Damian Lewis) talking about a racehorse he once owned.

That gets the ball rolling for Vokes, who per-



"Dream Horse"

Running time: 113 minutes. DVD.

Rated PG for language and thematic elements

suades a few villagers to help finance breeding a mare that could yield a potential racehorse. The locals are typical rural eccentrics, but collectively, they are the beating heart of Dream Alliance's future. We are moved by the scene in which they reverently arrive after Dream Alliance's birth, dressed in black because the mare died shortly after giving birth. And in true Welsh fashion, these folk march to a different beat. At one of Dream Alliance's races, for instance, one of the villagers proudly declares he just "took a pee next to Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber," then brags about telling the Broadway giant that "Evita" is better than "Phantom of the Opera."

Dream Alliance continues to do well at each race... until a potentially life-threatening injury. During the movie's climax at Welsh Grand National, we are reminded, of course, of "Seabiscuit," whose finale carried far more emotional weight. "Dream Horse," by comparison, is content with being agreeably light.

Collette, though, delivers something special. "Dream Horse" is less about horse racing and more about a woman, now an empty-nester, questioning her place in the world. What drives her to get out of bed each morning with purpose. A joy for living. Col-



Toni Collette is the emotional anchor of "Dream Horse."

lette is exceptionally good at allowing that yearning to sneak out without descending into cheap sentiment. Equally good is Owen Teale ("Game of Thrones") as her toothy husband, Brian. Dream Alliance gradually lifts him out of his unemployed mid-life funk. Once glued to the living room TV set, he rediscovers his wife, and a passion for living.

The relationship between Jan and Brian is the core of the movie, and even during the feel-good finish, the familiarity of the race's outcome is secondary to Collette and the impact she has on the scene. She's like a nervous mother: unable to look, fighting back tears, fearing the worst...followed by ecstatic, uninhibited joy.

We aren't necessarily overwhelmed by "Dream Horse," but it does achieve what it sets out to do: make us feel good. Like we've spent time with people who deserved the good fortune that comes their way. And by seeing the cast, during the end credits, side by side with the real people they play, the movie leaves you with a tremendous smile on your face.

That's good enough for me.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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LCSO in the Spotlight



Jaesung Lee.

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights its talented musicians.

Violinist Jaesung Lee serves as LCSO's associate concertmaster.

A native of Seoul, South Korea, he and his family moved to Burbank, Calif., during his high school years, studying with proteges of Jascha Heifetz. He then graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and came to Indiana University-South Bend at the invitation of Professor Aaron Berforsky.

Since his arrival in South Bend, Lee has performed with LCSO, South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Married to Sohyun Yoon, who also is a LCSO member, he now serves on the music faculty of St. Mary's College, Bethel University and Culver Academy.

LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- 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.).
The following programs are planned:
- **LPCPL Exchange Grand Opening from 5-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, at the exchange, 807 Indiana Ave.** The schedule is: 5:45 p.m., 3-D printers; 6:30 p.m., laser cutter; 7 p.m., woodworking lathe; and 7:30 p.m., CNC milling machine.
- **Teen Anime Club from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, at the main library.** Meet other teen anime fans through the club. Register through the website.
- **Age Well: Dealing with Stress and Staying Active from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, in the Coolspring Branch meeting room.** Brittany Beaty from First Light Home Care will discuss setting boundaries and staying healthy while caring for others.

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.

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LaPorte County Parks



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

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30).

The schedule is:

- Oct. 6 — Pulmonary health, Patti Solona, Northwest Health LaPorte.
- Nov. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the upcoming annual enrollment period, Megan Rogers, State Health Insurance Assistance Program specialist.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Oct. 6 — Who Lives Here?
- Oct. 20 — Deer Crossing.

Pumpkin Painting & Bingo

Decorate a pumpkin from 5-6:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, at Luhr County Park.

The maximum allowed is 30 people. Pumpkins and decorations will be provided. Play bingo and win prizes. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to register at (219) 325-8315.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. Oct. 18 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22 and Dec. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park. Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Plant Base Life

Marcy Daily leads the free program from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Luhr County Park.

Learn tricks and substitute ingredients for everyday recipes, from what it is to where to find green items locally. Call by one week before to register.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6.

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

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SEPT. 21, 2021

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Lady Strikers	6	2
2. Pin Pals	5	3
2. Gutter Busters	5	3

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Mary Lou McFadden	170
2. Debbie Novak	149
3. June Salmon	145

SPLITS

Carolyn Wiggins	4-5
Debbie Novak	5-6, 5-10



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

The front doors are open. Remodeling of the front lobby is almost complete. 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 Friends of the Michigan City Public Library book sale is Oct. 21-23 at the library. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Donations can include magazines, children's books and puzzles.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Angels Among Us from 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Take-Home Craft for Kids & Teens.** Free take-home craft kits are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details. Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.

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Earn and Learn Certification

Indiana Department of Workforce Development representatives visited the LaPorte County Career & Technical Education’s Construction Technology program to recognize it as a State “Earn and Learn” endeavor.



Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins (right) speaks with Construction Technology students Reyes Steppe (Westville High School) and Delaney Messer (LaPorte High School).

SEAL certification is granted to career centers, high schools and/or employers that have developed comprehensive work-based learning programs with education and industry partners. The Construction Technology program, located at the A.K. Smith Career Center, was the first in the state to integrate a “Career Connections” curriculum developed by the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund, a program of the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters. The material, which includes units on carpentry, plumbing, heating, masonry, drywall, roofing, insulation, electricity, interior decorating and finishing, also covers “soft skills” such as goal-setting and collaboration. It is aligned to Indiana’s Career and Technical Education Next Level Programs of Study.

Students completing the two-year program earn 15 college credits from Ivy Tech Community College in the construction technology pathway, along with IKORCC Carpentry Level 1 Apprentice Certification. They also are eligible for automatic entry into the carpentry apprenticeship with advanced standing, which equates to one year of the four-year apprenticeship program.

The partnership that led to the SEAL certification was facilitated by Tonn & Blank Construction, which provides job shadowing, site tours and internship opportunities for A.K. Smith construction students. During the SEAL certification event, three students from the Construction Technology program spoke about their positive experiences and future plans: Delaney Messer (LaPorte High School), Demetrius Edwards (Michigan City High School) and Reyes Steppe (Westville High School).





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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

Solo Show



LaPorte abstract expressionist artist Ginny Scott will display her paintings in a solo show through Oct. 31 at The Napleton Gallery, Merrillville. She has exhibited her work throughout the region since relocating from Chicago to Indiana in numerous solo, juried and group shows.

Blessing of the Animals

Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich., will host its annual Blessing of the Animals at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 2.

The ceremony is in the church's backyard next to the new labyrinth. People of all beliefs and pets of all types are welcome. Take lawn chairs. The service moves indoors in case of rain.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

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Indiana Dunes National Park

• The ranger-led “Hike with your Hound” through Miller Woods is from 10 a.m.-noon Fridays in October at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

All dogs must be on a lede. Make sure the pet can do the two-mile hike over a moderately difficult trail, with some sandy and uneven surfaces. Much of the trail is in the sun, adding to the difficulty on a hot day. Also, take water and waste bags.

Doing the hike qualifies a pet for a B.A.R.K. Ranger dog tag. The program promotes responsible use of the park by pet owners by ensuring they bag their pet's waste, use a leash, respect wildlife and know where pets are permitted. The tags are free thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

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

Park Bandstand Gets Big Boost

The Barker Welfare Foundation has bestowed a \$50,000 grant to the Washington Park Bandstand restoration project.

“The Barker family has a long history with the bandstand in Washington Park,” Alexander Barker Ross, Barker Welfare Foundation president, said in a press release. “My great-grandfather, John H. Barker, donated the original bandstand in the 1890s, which burnt down in 1910.”

The current structure was built in 1911, and The Barker Welfare Foundation also contributed to prior renovations in 1976 and 1991. It featured weekly summer Michigan City Municipal Band concerts for nearly 70 years until a new amphitheater was built in Washington Park in 1978.

Since Catherine Barker Hickox created the Barker Welfare Foundation in 1934, it has donated more than \$10 million to 70 community, social-service and arts nonprofits serving Michigan City and LaPorte County.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Closed: Saturday & Sunday

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will walk the 1.5-mile first loop of the Chikaming Township Mountain Bike Trails at 5 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 30.

The group will meet at Chikaming Township Park & Preserve, which is located on Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, Mich. HCH President Pat Fisher and board member Janet Schrader will share the trail's history and how it was built, and show some trail-building tools.

The 263-acre preserve is a destination for birding, hiking, biking, dog walking, fishing and gardening. It contains eight different ecosystems and extensive walking trails. Hikers are advised to wear long pants, a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent. Take water.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com for additional information.

Oktoberfest

Michiana Park Committee will present Oktoberfest, with all proceeds aiding the Michiana Park Fund, from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Michiana Village Hall, 4000 Cherokee Drive.

Deustch Meisters will provide live music. Admission, which costs \$35 for adults and \$10 for children, includes a dinner plate, one beer stein souvenir and the first beer. Additional drinks and food will be sold.

Reservations are requested by Oct. 1. Tickets at the door cost \$40. Call (708) 595-3385 or email michianapark@gmail.com for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Oct. 1 — First Friday event, 4-7 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts NIPSCO Education Studios, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Oct. 1-3, 8-10 — “Guys & Dolls,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1-2 & 8-9, 2 p.m. Oct. 3 & 10. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Oct. 2 — Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. Info: (219) 363-5677.

Oct. 2 — Scarecrow making, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Preregistration required. Take gloves. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 2 — Official ribbon cutting (Singing Sands Trail), 11 a.m., City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

Oct. 2 — Fall turtle talk, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 3 — To the Blowout & Back Hike, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 3 — Scavenger Hunt Fun, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 4 — Pumpkin Painting & Bingo, 5-6:15 p.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Registration: (219) 325-8315.

Oct. 4 — Grand opening, LaPorte County Public Library Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, 5-8 p.m. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 6 — Angels Among Us, 3-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 874-3754.

Through Sept. 30 — New exhibit, “Diversity” (Madeleine Schooley), The Legacy Center Gallery in Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Info: jessicar@qas.org

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, “Bramson/Indiana/Lake,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth and Washington streets (Uptown Arts District).

Saturdays — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe (near Mucho Mas). Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom. Info: <https://7269291.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Second Saturdays — Free sunset yoga w/ Lauralee Sikorski, Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

In the Region

Sept. 30 — Harbor Country Hikers, 5 p.m. EDT, Chikaming Township Mountain Bike Trails @ Chikaming Township Park & Preserve, Warren Woods Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

Oct. 1 — Summer Concert Series (Gato & Johnny V's Wildflowers), 6 p.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/non-members week of concert, free/12 & younger. Tickets: @ gate, www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts.

Oct. 1 — Boston singer Tommy DeCarlo & The Music of Journey w/ American Idol Singer Rudy Cardenas, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. General seating/\$50, reserved/\$75. Reservations: www.acornlive.org/events.

Oct. 2 — Journeyman: a Tribute to Eric Clapton, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. General admission/\$30, reserved seats (includes \$25 tax-deductible contribution)/\$55. Reservations: www.acornlive.org/events.

Oct. 6 — "Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission: \$3. Reservations: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

Through Sept. 30 — Area Artists Association exhibit, "A New Beginning," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Masks required inside. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through Oct. 30 — Series 5 art exhibits, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Featured: St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society, Bryce Culverhouse, Cameron Covert, Susan Sheldon, April Seybold. Artist reception: 5:30-7 p.m. EDT Oct. 16. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Fridays in October — "Hike with your Hound," 10 a.m.-noon, Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

The Region of Three Oaks Museum — 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks Mich. Free admission; donations accepted. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday through October.

Vickers Theatre — *Now showing:* "Card Counter." Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. Oct. 1-3, 6 p.m. Oct. 4. *Opens Oct. 1:* "The Eyes of Tammy Faye." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Oct. 1-3, 3 p.m. Oct. 4. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On September 30, 1787, the sailing ship *Columbia* left Boston in the first attempt by an American ship to circumnavigate the globe.

On September 30, 1791, “The Magic Flute,” an opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, premiered in Vienna.

On September 30, 1843, the Rev. William Quarter was appointed the first bishop of the newly created Roman Catholic Diocese of Chicago.

On September 30, 1927, in New York’s Yankee Stadium, Babe Ruth hit his 60th home run, setting a major league record that would stand for 34 years.

On October 1, 1847, astronomer Marie Mitchell discovered a new comet. For this discovery, the King of Denmark awarded her a gold medal, and the Republic of San Marino presented one made of copper.

On October 1, 1885, the U.S. post office inaugurated special delivery mail service.

On October 1, 1892, the University of Chicago opened.

On October 1, 1903, the first baseball World Series opened in Boston between the American League’s Boston Pilgrims and the National League’s Pittsburgh Pirates. In the best of nine series, Boston won 5-3.

On October 1, 1932, in Chicago’s Wrigley Field, Babe Ruth hit his famous World Series “called shot” home run against the Chicago Cubs.

On October 1, 1940, the Army’s first parachute troops were organized in Fort Benning, Ga.

On October 2, 1889, the first Pan American Conference was held in Washington, D.C.

On October 2, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a stroke that paralyzed the left side of his body.

On October 2, 1938, in a game against the Detroit Tigers, Cleveland Indians’ pitcher Bob Feller struck out 18 batters, a record that stood until 1974.

On October 2, 1950, “Peanuts,” a comic strip produced by Charles Schulz, was first published.

On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the first black to be so honored.

On October 3, 1789, President George Washington proclaimed the nation’s first “Day of Thanksgiving” be observed Nov. 26.

On October 3, 1876, John Hopkins University opened in Baltimore.

On October 3, 1913, upon the signing into law of the U.S. income tax, one senator (a man of true vision) stated: "If we allow this 1 percent foot in the door, at some future date it might rise to 5 percent!"

On October 3, 1951, the New York Giants' Bobby Thompson homered in the ninth inning (against the Brooklyn Dodgers) to win the National League pennant.

On October 4, 1895, the first U.S. Open golf tournament was held at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island.

On October 4, 1918, New York's Delmonico's Restaurant closed its doors. It was once the city's most famous eating place, and was favored by the world's celebrities. It carried, at the height of its popularity, more than 200 chefs and waiters.

On October 4, 1931, *The New York News* carried the first "Dick Tracy" comic strip.

On October 4, 1959, the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Chicago White Sox in the first World Series baseball game played west of St. Louis.

On October 5, 1582, the "Gregorian Calendar," the one most of the world uses today, was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII.

On October 5, 1854, in Springfield, Ohio, 127 babies were entered in the nation's first baby show.

On October 5, 1892, the infamous "Dalton Gang" simultaneously held up two banks in the Kansas town of Coffeyville. The holdup resulted in the deaths of four citizens and four of the bandits, practically wiping out the Dalton Gang.

On October 5, 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Washington 41 hours after taking off from Japan.

On October 6, 1683, Germantown (one of America's oldest settlements), now a suburb of Philadelphia, was founded by 13 families from the German town of Krefeld.

On October 6, 1857, the first major chess tournament to be held in the United States took place in New York City.

On October 6, 1889, at West Orange, N.J., Thomas Edison let audiences view his first motion picture.

On October 6, 1889, the Moulin Rouge in Paris first opened its doors to the public.

On October 6, 1927, "The Jazz Singer," starring Al Jolson — the first motion picture to use a sound track — premiered in New York City. While there were only 291 spoken words, the movie marked the beginning of a new era in filmmaking.

On October 6, 1931, the federal tax-evasion trial of mobster Al Capone opened in Chicago.

Business cards



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DAR Essay Contest

The Three Oaks Rebecca Dewey Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution invites students to submit entries into its essay contests.

The topic for fifth- through eighth-graders is "The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." Nov. 11 marks the 100th anniversary of the tomb's dedication. As a writer, imagine having a brother who died on the battlefield of France during World War I. You and your family attend the Nov. 11, 1921, dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. Describe what this meant to you and your family.

The topic for ninth through 12-graders is "Patriots of the American Revolution." Select a figure from the American Revolution (1773-1783). Discuss how he/she influenced the course of the American Revolution, who he/she was and the special contribution. The person does not have to be famous.

The essay length is 300-1,000 words, depending on grade level. Essays must be submitted to a teacher, counselor or department head no later than Friday, Oct. 22.

Contact Teri Showalter of the Rebecca Dewey Chapter at (219) 778-4147 or terishowalter1962@yahoo.com for more details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Survive the Night by Riley Sager (*hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 322 pages.*)

What is reality? Is it what we see with our eyes, or what our mind says we see? Can skewed synapses in our brain persuade us we're seeing something else? A girl named Charlie Jordan is about to find out...

Charlie is obsessed with movies ever since her parents died. They were killed in an accident, and watching movies every night with her grandma was the only way she could cope with the loss. So obsessed did she become, she could recite titles, actors, even lines word for word. That leads to her decision to get a film degree from Olyphant University in New Jersey.

It also leads to a mental condition where she can lose herself in her movies, feeling she's in the scene. What is real and what is not? Pills help some, but she doesn't like their effect, so movie moments vs. real moments blur more and more. Dreams become reality, and sleeping pills don't help, either.

Now in her junior year, it's just before Thanksgiving and she's about to leave campus, probably for good. Her roommate and best friend, Maddy, was murdered two months ago, and she blames herself for Maddy's death. She must leave and she must leave now. No waiting for the start of the holiday.

Maddy, the outgoing, beautiful girl — the opposite of quiet, shy Charlie — tries to get her friend to join her at a club one night. Of course, she leaves Charlie sitting in a corner while laughing it up with some guy. Charlie finally has enough, the two have an argument and she goes back to her room alone. Maddy's body is found later...

Maddy's death is blamed on the man the press dub "The Campus Killer" because of two previous, similar murders. Each girl was tied up, stabbed and a tooth extracted, presumably as a souvenir for the killer.

Charlie might have seen Maddy's killer before she left the bar, but she can't remember what he looked like. Truth is, Charlie isn't sure it wasn't one of her movie moments. Whatever the reason, she's convinced she caused Maddy's death.

Charlie puts up a notice on the campus bulletin board looking for someone to share a ride to Youngstown, Ohio.

Like a pop-up in a video game, suddenly there is Josh at Charlie's side. He says he is 24, works at the university and will drive as far as Akron, Ohio. Close enough for Charlie — the deal is struck.

They leave the next night — who leaves at 9 p.m.? And why doesn't Josh want her to see in the trunk as he puts away her luggage? Suddenly, Charlie is on alert. But Josh is so nice, so intelligent, not to mention handsome, maybe this is just her mind putting her in the middle of a bad movie.

Driving along, Charlie wonders just who Josh really is. Accidentally seeing his driver's license when his wallet falls on the floor, she can't help but notice the name on it is Jake Collins from Pennsylvania. Several times, she thinks she is awake, playing 20 questions with Josh, but he tells her she has been sleeping. Things get weird. Like telling her he is going to Akron, but in the car he says he is going to Toledo. He also knows about the killer taking a souvenir tooth from his victims, but Charlie knows that information was kept from the public. So riddled with guilt over Maddy's death, she wishes Josh *is* the Campus Killer, putting her out of her misery. Because nothing has eased up for her. The guilt. The grief. It's all continued every hour of every day since Maddy died. She even

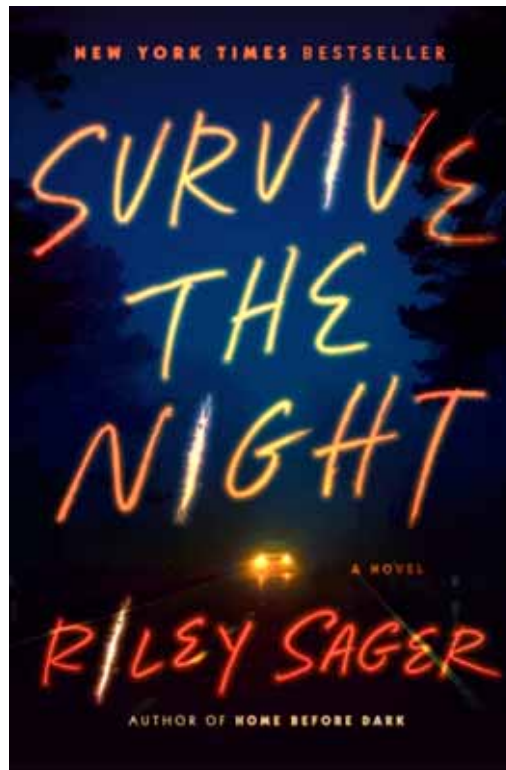
tried suicide by taking a handful of sleeping pills. Just her luck, it didn't work.

As Charlie questions her sanity, she knows there are four possibilities about Josh and the things he said she did in her altered state: 1. Nothing happened. 2. Everything happened. 3. Josh is harmless. 4. He's the Campus Killer. What's it to be?

Now, I know, the girl in a car with a stranger in the middle of the night is not a new theme. It's the way Sager presents the story from Charlie's state of mind that has you guessing what is real and what is not. Sager's strong suit is making you think you've got it all figured out, and then pulling the rug out from under you like Hitchcock. And Charlie is convinced she must pay for Maddy's death.

This book puts a capital T in thriller as the last 1/3 of the book ramps up the action, and wow!, what action. It's a long, lonely stretch through the Poconos...anything can happen. Hitchcock fans, read on!

Till next time, happy reading!



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