



Volume 40, Number 27 Thursday, July 11, 2024

Don't Get Him Started

by Edmund Lawler

Pat Tomasulo's comedic quest began on the Jersey Shore. But don't describe his path to the standup stage as a journey.

The overused metaphor annoys him. And so do destination weddings, Ugly Americans on foreign vacations, badass moms, unbearably long Italian funerals and jokes about short people (He's 5'7.)

"Don't get me started," warns the comedian in a recent phone conversation from his office in the WGN-TV studios in Chicago, where his day job is lead sports anchor of the popular morning show. He's been in that role for 19 years.

"You had to mention that — didn't you Ed!"

My bad. I didn't mean to make the quick-witted wise guy from New Jersey feel old.

But Tomasulo was only good-naturedly busting my chops — a practice that comes naturally to Jersey Shore natives.

Tomasulo is bringing a few sarcastic rants, and his madcap observational humor, to Michigan City's Uptown Social on Saturday night, July 13.

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Pat Tomasulo is bringing his standup comedy act to Uptown Social on Saturday, July 13.

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Will the audience get to hear him beef about overindulged children, his irritating relatives or why stupid people should be barred from the voting booth? He'll only say he plans to roll out some new material that evening.

And speaking of children, leave them at home. Tomasulo is from New Jersey, where the language can get a little salty. And 19 years in Chicago probably doesn't help.

But back to his journey – uh, flight path – to comedy. Growing up in New Jersey, he believes, gives an aspiring comic a leg up. With its colorful, charismatic and occasionally corrupt cast of characters, New Jersey endows its residents with a resilient sense of humor. It's a basic survival skill there.

"New Jersey has definitely informed my sense of humor," he says. "My sense of humor is very sarcastic and very in-your-face at times. It's kind of how you grow up out there."

Tomasulo denies he was a class clown as a youngster.

"I'm not the guy who's the life of the party. But I always knew I had a penchant for performing and for delivering a quick and sometimes lethal joke — and how to finish the joke off. I always had that

ability and knack for being quick that way," he says.

"I noticed that when I was younger, I could get on a roll and find an opening to tell a joke and make people laugh. But I never thought it would be a way to make a living. It was the kind of thing that seemed to be so far-fetched."

Even graduating from college seemed like a pipe dream. But Tomasulo earned a degree in communication from The College of New Jersey before plunging into his broadcast journalism career. His first stop was a small TV station in Rhinelander, Wis., then Buffalo, N.Y., then the big time at WGN-TV.

The funny stuff just erupts along the way of his flourishing television and podcasting career. WGN grants him plenty of latitude to inject his outrageous sense of humor into sports broadcasts, and hit the streets for comic relief.

He has hopped into above-ground pools – with permission — in the backyards of peoples' homes in a working-class neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. He once dropped in with his camera crew on a nudist colony in Demotte, Ind., where he played volleyball – au natural – with naked campers.

On his Instagram page, Tomasulo refuses to guarantee he'll return to Indiana on July 13 fully clothed. Again, leave the children at home.

But Tomasulo was properly dressed when he first tried his hand at standup comedy. He was in Los Angeles about 15 years ago on television business.



Pat (bottom row, far right) has been part of the WGN-TV team for 19 years.

“I told myself: I gotta try standup while I’m here. I always wanted to do it. So I wrote my five- to seven-minute set,” he says.

“I had a list of all the clubs that hosted open mics that I wanted to try. I remember going to the Laugh Factory, which was one of those clubs you had to get in line by about 4 in the afternoon for an open mic spot that night. But I came up about two people shy of getting picked.”

Nonetheless, Tomasulo was hellbent on getting his feet wet at standup that night: “I figured I had to get on somewhere that night.”

He quickly revisited his list and landed on El Cid Mexican Restaurant, where the crowd usually comes to see mariachis and folk singers during its open mic. Nevertheless, Tomasulo was certain his inaugural standup routine would set the restaurant ablaze with hysterical laughter.



WGN grants Pat plenty of latitude to inject humor into his sports broadcasts.

It did not.

“I went up on stage and bombed royally,” Tomasulo painfully recalls. “I said, ‘Well all right. That’s enough of that dream.’ I really should have known better when I went up to the guy at the door and asked him if they get a lot of comedians for their open mics.

“He kinda shrugged. When a guy answers like that, trust me, they don’t get a lot of comedians for their open mics.”

Dispirited, Tomasulo returned to his hotel that night. The next day, he realized he desperately needed a laugh.

“I went to a real comedy club with a real comedy crowd that night, but just to watch,” he says. “But I managed to finagle my way up on stage and did the exact same set I did the night before. And it crushed. So that gave me a taste for standup. I was hooked.”

Also hooked are comedy audiences throughout the Chicago area who’ve been laughing at Tomasulo

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ever since. His home turf is Zanies Comedy Night Club in the Old Town neighborhood on Chicago's North Side.

But standup comedy is not as easy as it may look, Tomasulo assures.

"People in the business say, 'Don't think you're any good until you've been doing it for at least 10 years,'" he says. "That's because you suck. You don't know who you are. You don't even have a voice yet."

Fortunately, Tomasulo's television experience provided him with a head start.

"I had been doing TV nearly 10 years before I started doing standup," he said. "By then, my voice and my point of view were established. I had been doing comedic bits on WGN and writing jokes every single day for sports."

He says a standup comedian "is not fully formed until you get your regular reps in on stage."

There's also a serious side to comedy for Tomasulo. Since 2015, he has hosted the "Laugh Your Face Off" comedy showcase in Chicago, which has raised millions to fight trigeminal neuralgia (TN), a chronic condition originating in the trigeminal nerve and characterized by relentless, intense facial pain.

The disease strikes close to home for Tomasulo, whose wife Amy has suffered from it since 2001. Soon after the couple married in 2010, they went public with Amy's condition and have worked to in-

If You Go

Pat Tomasulo takes the stage Saturday, July 13, at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Tickets start at \$40. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. The evening's special guest is Chicago comedian Maggie Hughes DePalo. Visit www.uptownsocialmc.com for tickets and more information.



Pat, seen here with his wife, Amy, co-founded and hosts the annual "Laugh Your Face Off" comedy showcase that's raised millions of dollars for medical research.

crease awareness of and find a cure. They co-founded the showcase that benefits the Facial Pain Research Foundation.

"We have raised over \$3.75 million for the foundation, and we hope to go well over \$4 million with this year's show," says Tomasulo, an executive trustee of the foundation that is launching its 10th research project on TN this year. He says 95 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to the foundation and its research.

The 10th Annual Laugh Your Face Off event is Sept. 21 at Chicago's Park West theater. Visit www.laughyourfaceoff.org for details.

Pat Tomasulo's devilish, bombastic sense of humor will be on full display that evening along with several other Chicago comedians.

And how well have his hijinks played with his mother, Lena, an occasional target of his jokes, who lives back home in Hazlet, N.J.?

Immediately sensing a self-incrimination trap, Tomasulo snapped back: "My mother? Let me tell you something. I was an angel! That woman should be getting on her knees thanking God every day for having children as well-behaved as me and my brother."

He's right. Don't get him started.



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Sinai Forum Lineup Revealed

Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum has announced its fall 2024 season.

Programs are at 4 p.m. Sunday at Blue Chip Casino or PNW's Westville campus. The lineup is:

- **Liz Cheney, “Defending Democracy: A Conversation with Liz Cheney,” on Sept. 15 at Blue Chip Casino.** Cheney served as the U.S. representative for Wyoming’s at-large congressional district from 2017-2023. She chaired the House Republican Conference from 2019-2021 and served as vice chair of the Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. She wrote the memoir Oath and Honor and co-wrote Exceptional: Why the World Needs a Powerful America with her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney.
- **Jonathan Turley, “The Indispensable Right: Free Speech in the Age of Rage,” on Oct. 6 at PNW’s Westville campus.** Turley is the Shapiro Professor of public interest law at George Washington University. He has written extensively in areas ranging from constitutional law to legal theory to tort law. He also has written numerous academic articles that have appeared in leading law journals, including Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Northwestern and University of Chicago. He is the author of The Indispensable Right: Free Speech in an Age of Rage. A legal analyst for Fox News, he also is a columnist for *USA Today*, *The Hill* and other newspapers.
- **Joel Sartore, “Building The Photo Ark: One Man’s Quest to Document the World’s Animals,” on Nov. 3 at PNW’s Westville campus.** Sartore is a *National Geographic* explorer and photographer, as well as a speaker, author, teacher and conservationist. He founded the National Geographic Photo Ark, a multiyear effort to document every species in the world’s zoos, aquariums and wildlife sanctuaries to inspire people to help protect biodiversity before it’s too late.
- **Jim Gaffigan, “Beyond Humor: An Afternoon with Jim Gaffigan,” at 4 p.m. Nov. 24 at Blue Chip Casino.** A seven-time Grammy nominated comedian and actor, Gaffigan’s humor largely revolves around his observations on life. Raised in Chesterton, he grew up in a large family, which



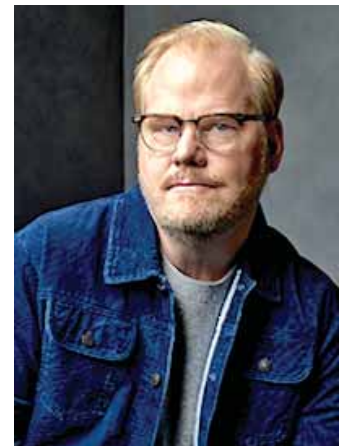
Cheney



Turley



Sartore



Gaffigan

often serves as inspiration for his jokes. He has released successful comedy specials and written several *New York Times* best-selling books.

- **Briana Scurry, “From Gold to Grit: A Champion’s Journey through Traumatic Trials and Mental Health Triumph,” at 4 p.m. Dec. 8 at PNW’s Westville campus.** Scurry was a key figure in the U.S. Women’s National Team, winning two Olympic gold medals (1996, 2004) and the 1999 FIFA Women’s World Cup. Her career also boasts being selected to the U.S. Women’s National Team’s All-Time Best XI. After suffering a career-ending concussion in 2010, she faced a challenging mental health journey, battling depression and anxiety.



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Visit www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum for more details on tickets and reservations.

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The Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff weekend kicks off with its block party, complete with beer, wine and food, from 5-9 p.m. EDT Friday, July 12, on the KAC grounds, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

From 5-6:30 p.m. EDT, expect live music from St. Joe Jack, who presents a mix of acoustic dance music and jazz-grass. The headliner is Benton Harbor-based Sankofa, which blends neo-soul, R&B, hip-hop and funk. General admission tickets for guests 13 and older are \$5. Purchase tickets at www.krasl.org, while day-of tickets can be purchased at the event entrance under Rising Crossing Tides. KAC members are free.

Then, the art fair is Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14, at Lake Bluff Park in downtown St. Joseph. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. The event will feature 172 artists from across the nation.

Tickets will not be sold for admission; however, donations are requested. Funds received from the fair support year-round access to the arts.



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Trip to Washington, D.C., is the Experience of a Lifetime for Marquette Singers

by William Tallackson

The experience of a single trip has the power to transform lives.

It can allow us to achieve our dreams, confront our greatest fears, experience new ambitions and form meaningful connections, leaving a special place in our hearts.

Marquette Catholic High School Singers had the incredible opportunity to showcase their talents in our nation's capital over Memorial Day weekend, making for an unforgettable five-day experience.

The 22-person chorus sang at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Memorial Day Choral Festival on Sunday, May 26, and performed at the National Archives Building for opening ceremonies of the National Memorial Day Parade. They sang with other choirs from across the country in the 200 Voice Memorial Day Festival Chorus that honored American veterans and fallen heroes, and commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

"I wanted my students to have this amazing opportunity," Amy Crane, Marquette theater and choral director, said. "My daughter is in the chorus, and she never was able to go to Washington in eighth grade, but now she has that experience."

Crane, now in her 25th year at Marquette, considers this rare opportunity a significant milestone. Her group has performed locally, but this was the first time her chorus experienced something like this. Music Celebrations International, based in Tempe, Ariz., selected Marquette to perform in Washington after monitoring their social media feeds and performances. When she received the confirmation, she realized this was an opportunity they couldn't afford to miss.

"When Mrs. Crane shared the news with us, I was excited," sophomore Mia Mark said. "This was an opportunity I missed in eighth grade, and actively participating in this experience was amazing."

The chorus had only three months to prepare. They practiced for hours on Mondays and Fridays after school. Crane required her students to dedicate extra time outside rehearsals to prepare. Her students helped fundraise through mattress sales, trivia nights, quilt raffles, bake sales and generous

donations.

"I am proud of my students. They did a lot of disciplined work independently," Crane said. "And I am thankful for the numerous donations that helped make this trip possible."

The group left for Washington on May 24. They traveled through Gold Shield Transportation and arrived at Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill after a 12-



Day One of the trip, the group photographed at their hotel.

hour journey. They immediately had an evening rehearsal with veteran conductor Craig Jessop.

"We were exhausted," Crane said. "However, meeting new people from across the country with their own stories was exciting. My students' preparation paid off at the first rehearsal."

After a restful night, the second day was full of non-stop activities and excitement. Morning and evening rehearsals allowed time for sightseeing in the afternoon. Crane and her students visited the

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum before taking a group picture in front of the White House. Relaxation and a good night's sleep awaited, as the third day would feature their performance at the Kennedy Center in front of 2,500 people.

"When we first walked into the Kennedy Center, it was incredible and breathtaking," sophomore Ella Crane said. "We were all in awe because the building, itself, was beautiful. We couldn't believe we would be singing with a diverse group of people in front of members of the Air Force and accompanied by a live orchestra."

For the performance, the group conquered their nerves as they poured their hearts out through their voices. The Festival Chorus sang traditional American pieces: "America the Beautiful," "Who Are the Brave?," "Danny Boy," "Salute to the Armed Forces," "The Pledge of Allegiance" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

"Our performance was amazing," sophomore Leah Bartnicki said. "We could hear all the instruments blended, and it was mind-blowing to hear the music in front of me."

After their performance, the group attended the National Memorial Day Concert at the Capitol Building, which actors Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna hosted. The following day, they performed on the National Archives Building stairs, where they sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic," culminating in another excellent performance.

"While it was hot, I felt great after our performance," senior Deia Mark said. "There were thousands of people watching us on TV, which was very surreal."

After two days of performances, the final day was full of sightseeing at historic landmarks. They visited the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. The group then retreated to the bus, and the students returned to Michigan City.

"I am so proud of these kids," Crane said. "They were very well-behaved. They knew the music. Most importantly, these students got to experience something they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Crane hopes to take her group to perform nationwide, specifically at Disney World. For now, she will continue instilling self-confidence and appreciation in her students for future performances.

"If you're offered to do something like, just take it," she said. "I didn't know how many students would be going, and I was optimistic about the experience. I knew it would be fun. I hope my students can gain self-confidence, endurance and perseverance from this experience."

Contact William Tallackson at
williamdtallackson1@gmail.com



Above: Ready to perform at the Kennedy Center (below).



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Concours d'Elegance

The Concours d'Elegance at Copshaholm will celebrate Chrysler's centennial, as well as Mustang's 60th anniversary, at its sixth annual show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 13, at South Bend's Studebaker National Museum.

Special classes featuring Mustangs and Chryslers join MGs, Studebaker Larks and DeSotos on the 90-car show field. Other class features include pre-World War II race cars, Classic Car Club of America Full Classics, flathead Ford V8 automobiles and brass-era motorcars 100 years and older.

Special guests are Emeline King, the first black female designer for Ford Motor Co., and Cindy Sisson, executive director of Women In Motor Sports North America. King will present a program on 60 years of the Ford Mustang, and hold a signing of her book, What Do You Mean A Black Girl Can't Design Cars? Sisson will host a screening of "Shirley," a documentary on drag-racing legend Shirley Muldowney, and the documentary "Boundless" profiling women's motor sports pioneer Betty Skelton.

The Concours at Copshaholm's chief judge is automotive scholar-historian Matt Short. Judging is French Traditional. The awards ceremony narrator is automotive raconteur Bill Rothermel.

The Pass In Review and awards ceremony begin at 2:30 p.m. EDT. The museum is located at 201 Chapin St. Visit www.concoursatcopshaholm.org for more details.



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All proceeds from sales of the paintings benefit The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery and the Shirley Heinze Land Trust.
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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.

Fantastical Fairies Garden Craft

Create a fairy house from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.
Participants make one to take home and a second for the Fairy Lights Night Hike. The process includes upcycling plastic bottles. Register in advance.

Fairy Lights Night Hike

Catch fireflies, find fairy houses and hunt for glowing fairies from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, July 12, at Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.
The program involves a hike in the woods with black light flashlights.

Adventures with April

The programs are at 10 a.m. Mondays, July 15 and 22, at Bluhm County Park.
The focus is crickets July 15 and butterflies July 22. April takes children through the park to learn about crickets/butterflies, followed by a craft and a snack provided by Westville Public Library.

Storytime at the Park

The program, which involves a story and craft, is from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Children also meet a real turtle.

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Lane Closures

If you drive a lot, and who doesn't, then you know your lot in life is the sudden lane closure. Sometimes announced. Sometimes not.

So, what to do when you find yourself in the lane closing sooner than later? And, of course, no one, but no one, will let you merge into the open lane. They won't even make eye contact with you.

Been there, done that, right?

Right. So what to do?

Where to go?

How about practicing a little patience and humility and spread some sunshine, or at least a little peace?

Yeah, how about practicing those virtues in all our affairs? It works for me, if I work it.

Here's a case in point:

Despite my retired station in life and steady advance through the 70s, I tend to overbook. Today was no exception.

To wit, I had a long-standing luncheon just over the border in Indiana at noon Michigan time, and an ironclad appointment to give blood close to home, later in the afternoon. I am a universal donor with O-negative blood and am sought after every two

months to drop a pint. Oh, O-negs can only receive O-negative blood, so we O-negs do feel an obligation to donate regularly.

The luncheon went down first, put off to a later date. Then the email saying the blood drive had been canceled. Scratch the former, cancel the latter and build a whole new day.

Hmm.

I didn't have to overthink it, because I readily drew on past lane closures that resulted in bold new plans. Such as that fateful Friday a few years back when we headed for Chicago on the South Shore to attend a Sonny Rollins jazz concert at Orchestra Hall. Yes, *the* Sonny Rollins, legendary composer and saxophonist.

We booked ourselves into the first balcony for a good look at the jazz legend, and decided to make a mini-vacation of it, thus booking a room in a budget hotel in the Loop. (Well, there are no budget hotels in the Loop, but we got the lowest rate possible.)

When we checked into the hotel before the concert, we found we were assigned a room that wasn't much bigger than broom closets we had known and

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



loved. There was a window all right, but it looked out on an air shaft. As air shafts go, this wasn't a particularly scenic one.

Great, right?

But not so great when we went in search of affordable sustenance before the concert. Affordable sustenance in the Loop on a Friday after rush hour? Are you kidding me?

Good luck with that, and we had none. We finally settled on an overpriced noodle shop with tiny bowls of designer food at designer prices. We learned from that experience to always pack our own lunch and/or dinner when we go to Chicago. Yet, another "lane closure" learning experience.

So, armed with a broom closet for a room and a wallet-busting meal of questionable value, we hiked over to Symphony Center on Michigan Avenue for the jazz concert of a lifetime.

Except it wasn't going to happen in our lifetime: Sonny Rollins, the aging jazzier, had just canceled his tour, due to health concerns.

The friendly folks at the box office said they texted us a message announcing the cancellation. Alas,

we didn't have a smart phone (and still don't), so we didn't get the message. So, there we were at Symphony Center, within a downbeat of Orchestra Hall, with no concert to attend. And an overpriced meal of questionable value in our bellies, and the prospect of a night on a lumpy hotel bed in our near future.

Our mini-vacation had turned to mush.

I know, I know: You're going to say we wouldn't have suffered such a devastating lane closure had we but joined the herd and smartphoned up. Yeah, well, we were (and are) confirmed "down-market, low-income rejectors of advanced technology," as the marketing maven and futurist Faith Popcorn once labeled people like us. We were, and remain, Cave People.

But then the friendly folks in the box office happily refunded our tickets to our credit-card account. We took that as a sure and certain sign to change lanes, and change immediately.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" Natalie asked.

"Yeah, if we catch that late train at Randolph, we can get back to Michigan City at a decent hour, and get enough sleep to get up early tomorrow and go birding with the BBC." (No, we weren't intending to go birding with the "Downton Abbey" crew, but rather with the Berrien Birding Club in Michigan.)

"All in favor say 'aye.'"

"AYE!"

So we quick marched back to the hotel with the heroic view of the air shaft, retrieved our overnight bags and ran/walked to the station at Randolph, where we just made the late train to Carroll Avenue. And then, of course, a reasonable drive home to Harbert, Mich., where our lonely cat welcomed us with open paws.

We did, indeed, bird our brains out with the BBC that Saturday morning. Our feather-favoring friends were surprised to see us. We said when life closes one lane, you merge into the open lane. And just think of all the birds we would not have seen had we spent the night in Chicago staring at the air shaft.

That useful lesson from past lane closures brings me back to the day in question at the beginning here. Faced with two — not one, but two — lane closures, I simply smiled and said, "Be prepared to merge."

And merge I did, first into a friendly and open meeting with friends I didn't expect to see that day. Then to an opening of my dusty clarinet case for a reacquaintance with my old licorice stick. I wanted to tune up for a forthcoming Open Mic Night, so I spent the time allotted to the blood drive to driving my clarinet all the way up to high C and back.

And if they cancel the Open Mic Night, then I'll play a happy tune or two for Natalie, and we'll get to bed in time for some early morning birding with the BBC the next day.



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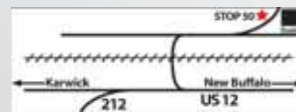
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A Look Back at One of the Best From One of the Greats: Donald Sutherland



Donald Sutherland and Brooke Adams are wonderful together in "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

With the passing June 20 of Donald Sutherland at age 88, Hollywood lost another one of the greats.

To younger audiences, he was President Snow in the "Hunger Games" series. But to a generation groomed on 1970s-1980s cinema, he was the enigmatic presence whose range spanned comedy, drama and, in some cases, pure anarchy. "The Dirty Dozen," "M*A*S*H," "Kelly's Heroes," "Klute," "Don't Look Now," "Animal House" and "Ordinary People," the latter for which he was criminally robbed of a Best Actor Oscar nomination. Later in his career, he was the silver-haired scene-stealer, from the practical, loving father in "Pride & Prejudice" (2005) to the slimy corporate executive in "Disclosure" (1994). In that film, he had the best line, slamming an ambulance-chasing attorney with the quip, "*She'd change her name to TV listings just to get in the paper.*"

So many stellar performances. If asked to choose my favorite, no hesitation, it's 1978's "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," which for my money is the best of the many tellings of Jack Finney's 1955 novel The Body Snatchers. I had the good fortune to read it for the first time last year. Time has not dulled its clean, crisp prose, its ability to chill through fear and paranoia as an alien invasion reduces the residents of a small California town to lifeless copies of themselves. Finney's argument: emotion, human feeling, that's what define us. Robbed of that, we are simply robotic entities deprived of free will.

Interesting thing is, Finney's classic has yet to receive a truly faithful adaptation. Instead, each adaptation uses the author's themes as a launch-

past
present

Andrew Tallackson



pad for social commentary. The 1956 version comes relatively close to Finney's tale, but exists more as a parable about McCarthyism. The 1978 remake shifts to San Francisco to comment on the "Me" generation. Abel Ferrara's blah 1993 take curiously sets the action on a military base, where uniformity *is* the norm. Nicole Kidman's 2007 update is largely an active movie, but with a powerful final scene that hints at the dark side of free will: unceasing war and conflict.

But Sutherland's film, with deviously sly direction from Philip Kaufman ("The Right Stuff") and a razor sharp script by W.D. Richter ("The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension"), is just as terrifying today as it was in 1978. I saw it as a child. Revisiting it last year through a lovingly restored 4K update, it affected me more because I appreciate as an adult what it achieves.

The movie was among a slate of 1970s offerings that fed off mounting societal paranoia, much of it fueled by Vietnam and the Watergate scandal. The fear being, we were no longer in control. We were being watched. Dark forces were brewing beneath the surface. These themes took the form of hits like

“3 Days of the Condor,” “The Parallax View” and my personal favorite, Francis Ford Coppola’s “The Conversation” (1974).

In this vision of “Invasion of the Body Snatchers,” “Me” generation folk get in touch with their feelings, attend book parties for psychologists and take creepy mud baths...until a disconnect with loved ones emerges. Kaufman stages the way individuals behave as if they’re not the same people with documentary-like unease. As if there’s some unseen puppet master pulling the strings.

Laboratory scientist Elizabeth Driscoll (the wonderful Brooke Adams) feels it. Her boyfriend seems cold, distant. *Off*. A few others around the office behave similarly. A health department colleague, Matthew Bennell, is the only one willing to listen to her...and that’s how Sutherland enters the picture.

We know from the character’s first scene, where Matthew storms into a restaurant, finding rat droppings in the soup, that Sutherland is no pushover. He’s unrelenting. He’s also sensible, a good listener. If anyone can be an ally for Elizabeth, it’s him.

That is why we cherish Sutherland as the one possible guy to survive an alien invasion. There is a boldness to him, a likability, an identifiability, that makes us cling to him. That he’ll be the rock to get us through this.

Kaufman, as director, surrounds Adams and Sutherland with a killer ensemble, and not just by brilliantly casting Spock himself, Leonard Nimoy, against type, but also in realizing the early eccentric potential of future sci-fi icons Jeff Goldblum (“Jurassic Park,” “Independence Day”) and Veronica Cartwright (“Alien,” “The Witches of Eastwick”). They appear as the husband-and-wife owners of

a mud spa. That leads to one of the all-time great creepout sequences at the mud spa. The idea that anyone, *anything*, could be below the murky mess of these pits, well, Kaufman exploits it to the hilt. He also brilliantly edits the sequence so we get our first taste of the alien beings as they morph into the people they aim to replicate. I’ve seen the film anywhere from 8-10 times, and that sequence, more than anything else in the film, gives me the heebie-jeebies.

As the alien presence in San Francisco closes in on Matthew and Elizabeth, the movie achieves an aching sadness as these two realize they’re running out of options. The last act is relentless, never allowing you to feel like the characters are safe.

Maybe that is why the legendary final shot of the movie is so disturbing. We’ve clung to Sutherland for so long, even as he suffers tremendous loss, we hold out for the possibility that he may make it. Those who’ve seen the film know the dark truth. The alien scream that erupts from Sutherland’s mouth as a familiar face recognizes him is, rightfully so, one of the most chilling closes to any movie. *Ever*. You are left shocked by a sense of loss, the nihilistic realization that all is lost.

Sutherland was still acting before he passed away. He was wonderful in 2022’s “Mr. Harrigan’s Phone,” a strong Netflix adaptation of the Stephen King novella. Last year, he was the portrait of reason amid lawlessness in the Paramount+ series “Lawmen: Bass Reeves.”

Still captivating us all these years later.

He will be missed.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



The dynamite supporting cast includes Leonard Nimoy (left) and Jeff Goldblum.

SHOW UP & SHOW OUT



Michigan City Soul Steppers presented the 17th annual "Show Up & Show Out 3-D" on June 29 at Krueger Middle School gymnasium. The drill/drum/dance competition drew teams from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Maryland, Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana. All photos by Andrew and William Tallackson

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School Supply Drive Under Way



Retired Michigan City Area Schools speech pathologist Kathy Retseck and retired teacher Nancy Hansen sort school supplies donated in 2023.

Several local organizations have announced a community-wide school supply drive that runs through Aug. 7 for area students needing materials to start the school year.

The businesses have collection bins to accept donations from employees and the public. Collection sites are at: Al’s Supermarket (Franklin Street and Karwick locations); First Trust Credit Union; Michigan City Area Schools’ Administration Building; Members Advantage Credit Union; Peepers Reading Glasses; Reins of Life (Michigan City location); Restore Dental Arts; The Salvation Army of Michigan City; Woodland Veterinary Center; and Weil-McLain. Visit www.EducateMC.net/BackToSchoolRally for the full list.

Businesses, churches and other organizations are invited to join the drive. Supplies collected by community organizations and individuals may be brought from 9 a.m.-noon Thursday, Aug. 8, to the MCAS Administration Building, 408 S. Carroll Ave.

Suggested donations include: pencils, black pens, spiral notebooks, 3-hole notebook paper, markers (washable), dry erase markers, erasers, glue sticks, pencil boxes, 2-pocket folders, disinfectant wipes, gallon and quart size Ziploc bags, highlighters, composition books, scissors, crayons and index cards.

The annual Citywide Back-to-School Rally is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at Elston’s Gill Field. It is a collaborative effort supported by numerous community agencies. This year, the organizing committee includes representatives from Indiana Black Expo, MCAS, Franciscan Health, Anthem, LaPorte County Family YMCA, Sodexo and the LaPorte County NAACP.

Information on volunteering, sponsorships and exhibiting at the rally are available at www.EducateMC.net/BackToSchoolRally

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Fridays-Sundays in July-August.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 9.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, July 13, at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Join a ranger to hike the park's trails this summer, with each week featuring a new trail. It's 19 hikes covering 66 miles to honor the year the park was established.
- **Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays through Aug. 31 at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Participate in a nature-themed craft, visit the live animal room or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone. The program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 9-11 a.m. Sundays through Sept. 1.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Critter Talk from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 14, at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage.** Learn about animals that make the Indiana Dunes home. Discover how and where they

- live throughout the park's many ecosystems.
- **Mount Baldy Open House from 1-3 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 25.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Birding at the Farm from 11 a.m.-noon Monday, July 15, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Join a ranger to learn basic birding techniques. Binoculars will be provided.
- **Fire Side Chat at the Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 7 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Join a ranger to view a Lake Michigan sunset and enjoy a fire. Take marshmallows to roast.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.
The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **The 27th annual Sand Sculpture Contest from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday July 13.** The theme is "animals." Vote for the "People's Choice Award."
- **Phenology Fun Walk at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 14.** Join naturalists for a one-mile walk to study the seasons and how things change.
- **Spider Show N' Tell at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 14.** Meet at the nature center to learn about arachnids that call the Dunes home.
Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs.

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2nd Floor of the Clubhouse at Beachwalk (Stop 7)**

**And don't miss out on our old fashioned Community Party!
Enjoy plenty of refreshments and connect with neighbors
Saturday, July 13, 2024, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Georgia
(Stop 3, between Colfax and the lake)**

Next Meeting Date: August 31

All SBHA meetings are held from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
2nd Floor of the Clubhouse at Beachwalk (Stop 7)

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The following programs are scheduled:

- **Film showing: "Escape to Witch Mountain" at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 11.** The movie is Rated G. Children and teens 18 and younger who arrive by 10:15 a.m. have a chance to win a copy of the movie. Light refreshments are served.
- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 11.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Scratch Club (ages 7-17) at 4 p.m. Thursdays, July 11 and 25.** Learn to code with Scratch — a platform to create stories, games and animations — by working through projects and sharing ideas. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in July (except July 4).** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Beginning Genealogy Workshop with the DAR from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 15.** Members of the Miriam Benedict Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will provide assistance with completing a generational chart and starting a family tree. Attendance is limited, so register at <https://t.ly/H46uL> or call Michelle at (219) 873-3044. Take a laptop if pos-

sible. Some computers will be available.

- **Diamond Painting from 3-5 p.m. Monday July 15.** Youth ages 10-17 can learn how to diamond paint. Registration through the website is required due to limited supplies.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in July.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in July.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Diamond Art for Adults at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 16.** Decorate a sparkling bookmark. No experience is necessary. Limited supplies are provided, so advance registration is required. Call Brenda at (219) 873-3064 for more details.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Summer Reading Scavenger Hunt in July.** Find the pictures hiding in Youth Services and receive a prize. The theme is "Inside Out."
- **Summer Reading Program: "Adventure Begins" through July 27.** The free, all-ages program has participants record reading hours to be included in a raffle. Eligibility involves every 10 hours read, reading to someone else or listening to someone read.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.

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


Yoga with Jacquelyn

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9am All Levels YOGa in the yURT at Inspiration Wood, Westville, IN

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

The following programs are planned:

- **Traveling Lantern Theatre Company: The Quest for the Kakapo! 10-11 a.m. Thursday, July 11, at the main library Multipurpose Room.** Join the Caterpillar Hunter as he travels around the world to rescue a rare, endangered parrot known as the Kakapo from New Zealand
 - **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, July 12, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
 - **Summer Reading Celebration: Slime Party from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, July 13, at the Coolspring Branch.** Ms. Anna reveals step-by-step how to make slime.
 - **An Evening with the Symphony from 6-7 p.m. Saturday, July 13, in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra members will present the concert. Take blankets, chairs and bug spray.
 - **Yoga and Storytime in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden from 5-5:30 p.m. Monday, July 15.** Hear a story and engage in all-levels yoga for families.
 - **Summer Author Series Viewing Party: Max Brallier from 12:45-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, at the main library Multipurpose Room.** Brallier is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Kids on Earth*. Register online for the Zoom session.
 - **Stretch and Refresh Yoga from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Coolspring branch.** The class is for adults of all abilities. All poses are adaptable. Take a yoga mat if possible.
- LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.



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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

June 27, 2024

Event: "10 Decades of Golf"

FRONT 9

First: Kate McNabb, Britt Whitfield, Bridget Van Eekeren, Mariah Dell.

Second: Katy Lee, Meg Caplice, Jill Craig, Susan Yemc.

Third: Anne Robson, Christine Roder, Joanne Sullivan, Katie Bologna.

BACK 9

First: Rise Wendt, Susanne Oconn, Monika Tynan, Virginia Vecchio.

Second: Jean Guerin, Jane Irvine, Cindy Levy, Melanie Davis.

Third: Teresa Curi, Jo Dodd, Beth Cane & Mary Kral, Cindy Blum, Moria Cronin, Katie Murphy.

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Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies"

July 1, 2024

Event: Most 3 Putts, Closest to the Pin Drive, Hole #6



A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.

Low Net: Jane Shuger.

Event: Mary Beres, Phyllis Roach.

B Flight

Low Gross: Carol Tylisz.

Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall, Carol Tylisz.

Event: Evelyn Cassin, Linda Wabshall.

C Flight

Low Gross: Carol Hullings.

Low Net: Carol Hullings.

Event: Sandra Provan.

D Flight

Low Gross: Linda Komp.

Low Net: Carol Bernier, Linda Komp.

Event: Linda Sperling.



Event: Closest to the Pin Drive, Hole #6, Barb Rumbuc

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

South Course,

Par-Tee Women's League,

June 26, 2024

Event: Poker game: 1 card for 2 putts, 2 cards for 1 putts



Flight A

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.

Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.

Low Putts: Sharon Weber.

Flight B

Low Gross: Jill Bellen.

Low Net: Jill Mellen.

Low Putts: Patty Jercich.

Flight C

Low Gross: Jane Spang.

Low Net: Jane Spang.

Low Putts: Jane Spang.

Flight D

Low Gross: Alice Wozniak.

Low Net: Alice Wozniak.

Low Putts: Sandra Provan.



Pars: Pat Czizek, Barb Rumbuc, Jane Shuger, Sharon Weber, Paula Hutchinson, Mary Lou Marshall, Linda Wabshall, Carol Tylisz, Sandra Provan.

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Jim St. James

TU July 9 • 6-8p
Steve & Mary

TU July 16 • 6-8p
Neil Allesee

SU July 21 • 6-8p SKIRT

SU July 28 • 6-8p
Sofa King Revolution

SU July 14 • 6-8p Soul Shine

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**American Red Cross**

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

- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 12:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, July 12.
- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, July 15.

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.

Barker Mansion

The following programs are through Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.:

- **“Gilded Age Tea Party” at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 13.** Tea experts will guide visitors through tea etiquette. The program will feature teas and treats.
- **Enchanted Garden Hour, “Fairylend in the Garden,” at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 20.** Garden fairy Willow Whisperwing and the Fairy Godmother lead the family program. Children are invited to wear fairy wings.

Regular admission is \$16.50 for adults, \$10 for seniors 60+ and children (6-17) and free for veterans/active military with ID. Guided tours, which cost \$20, are at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Visit <https://barkermansion.org> for ticket prices and more details.

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Soup Du Jour Choice of butter or herbed olive oil add Pimiento cheese	Oysters Rockefeller Creamed spinach, prosciutto, garlic, shallots
Bread Board Shishito peppers, toasted garlic, balsamic glaze, lemon wedge	Pan-Roasted Chicken Chicken breast, garlic, mushrooms, shallots, capers, pan sauce, roasted potatoes
Blistered Shishito Shishito peppers, toasted garlic, balsamic glaze, lemon wedge	The Elk Burger 1/2 lb elk patty, smoked cheddar, house-made bacon jam, mayo, roasted potatoes
Goat Cheese Polenta & Kale Sautéed kale, polenta, goat cheese, cherry tomato, balsamic	Cavatappi Alfredo Cavatappi prosciutto, cream, imported Pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken, 6 oz flat iron steak
Whipped Feta Whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, kalamata olive	Tapenade Salmon Olive-crusted salmon, fresh spring mix, red pepper aioli, goat cheese, asparagus
Crab Cake Lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinaigrette	Bone-In Pork Chop Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots, maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes
Steamed Mussels Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette	*Filet & Caesar 6 oz black Angus filet, artisan romaine, cherry tomato, cheese, house Caesar
Lodge House Salad Spring mix, cherry tomato, red onion, cucumber, creamy basil, croutons, cheese	*Filet 6 oz black Angus filet, Chef's seasonal vegetable
Beet Salad Roasted beet, Gorgonzola crumble, candied walnuts, balsamic	*Ribeye 16 oz black Angus ribeye, asparagus, roasted potatoes
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LCSO Auditions

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will hold auditions for the 2024-2025 season from 5-9 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 4 and 11, at The Presbyterian Church of LaPorte, 307 Kingsbury Ave.

Sought are musicians to fill the following vacancies: Flute 2; Oboe 2; Principal Trumpet; Trumpet 3/Section Trumpet; Piano/Keyboard; Section Violin (seats available in Violin I and Violin II); Associate Principal Violin II; Associate Principal Cello; Section Cello; and Principal String Bass.

All instruments are available to audition for subbing opportunities.

The 2024-2025 season features seven performances: four mainstage classical subscription concerts, as well as the Hoosier Star fundraiser, Children's Education Concerts and Holiday at the Pops.

LCSO is a per-service orchestra offering annual contracts. All positions are paid. The 60-piece orchestra includes musicians from Michigan City, LaPorte, Chesterton, Valparaiso, Merrillville, South Bend and Michigan.

Visit <https://lcsos.net/new-musician-audition/> for information about audition requirements and to reserve an appointment. Contact Personnel Manager Elisabeth Waldburger at lcsopersonnel@gmail.com for more details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Books + Bites: Not Your Mama's Book Club for Teens.** The program is at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 11.
- **Summer Reading: "Things That Go 'Who' in the Night."** The program is at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 11.
- **Linda Stone Cake Decorating.** Programs are at 6 p.m. July 15, July 18 and July 29.
- **Understanding Democracy's Dysfunction.** The program is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16.
- **Ukulele classes for 12 and older.** Times are 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, July 9 and 16, with July 30 being a jam session. Call or email to reserve a spot.

Weekly programs:

- Story Time in the Park at 10 a.m. Mondays at New Buffalo Township Park.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

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Historical Society Online Collection

After months of work, LaPorte County Historical Society has unveiled its online collection.

Accessed at www.laportecountyhistory.org through the "Research" tab, visitors can search through a portion of the society's photograph collection. At launch, the focus is the Dr. M. Barbara Backer Medical Collection. With thousands of images surrounding medical care in LaPorte County already uploaded, more will be added each month until the entire collection is searchable online.

Soon after, work will begin on scanning and adding the photography collection from the society's archives. Contact Danielle Adams at director@laportecountyhistory.org for more details. The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave.

Faith-Based Diabetes Initiative

Franciscan Health Michigan City will present "Fan Out Diabetes," the latest installment in its free, faith-based church diabetes initiative.

The effort pairs minority church congregations here with the healthcare system and community organizations to bring free two-day diabetes education, prevention and detection mini workshops to the church after Sunday services.

The next sessions are at 12:30 p.m. July 14 and Aug. 11 with New Disciple Love Fellowship Church at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 123 Helen St. Participants are asked to attend on both dates.

Registration is not required. Contact Nila Williams, Franciscan Health Michigan City community health improvement coordinator, at Nila.Williams@franciscanalliance.org or (219) 283-9649.

Read The Beacher On Line

<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

Porches, Patios, and Decks is the theme of Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk on Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests tour lovely landscapes, hardscapes and gardens. Advance tickets are \$15 at www.absr.org, or \$20 the day of the Walk, and include a drawing entry for an original stained glass garden sculpture. Check in at the Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a map and wristband for the free shuttle bus.

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In the Area

July 10 — “Climate & Coffee-Summer Lunch & Learn Edition,” 12:15-1:15 p.m., LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District, 2857 W. Indiana 2. Free. Info: Lschwab@Laporteco.in.gov, (219) 326-6808, Ext. 2112.

July 10-11 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m. *July 11*: Planet Claire (B-52’s Tribute Band). Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m.

July 10-13 — Canterbury Summer Theatre, “Starting Here, Starting Now,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 2 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m. Thur.-Sat. Tickets: \$20/regular admission, \$18/seniors, half-price/students & military personnel. Reservations: info@canterburytheatre.org, (219) 874-4269.

July 11 — Film showing: “Escape to Witch Mountain,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

July 11 — Traveling Lantern Theatre Company: The Quest for the Kakapo!, 10-11 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

July 11 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

July 11 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

July 11 — Fantastical Fairies Garden Craft, 6-8 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Registration: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

July 12 — Fairy Lights Night Hike, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

July 13 — Beverly Shores Garden and Art Walk, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Advance tickets: \$15 at www.absr.org, \$20/day of walk. Check in: Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway (10 a.m.-1 p.m.).

July 13 — “Gilded Age Tea Party,” 1 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Info: https://barkermansion.org

July 13 — An Evening with the Symphony, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

July 15 — Adventures with April, 10 a.m., Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

July 15 — Beginning Genealogy Workshop with the DAR, 1-3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: https://t.ly/H46uL, (219) 873-3044.

July 15 — Diamond Painting, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

July 15 — Yoga and Storytime in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden, 5-5:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

July 16 — Summer Author Series Viewing Party: Max Brallier, 12:45-1:45 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

July 16 — Diamond Art for Adults, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: (219) 873-3064.

July 17 — Storytime at the Park, 10-11 a.m., Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

July 17 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Anthony Holt, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 629-5853.

July 17 — Stretch and Refresh Yoga, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org

Through July 14 — “Talley’s Folly,” Dunes Arts Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$35, \$25 (four or more). Reservations: www.dunesARTS.org, (219) 879-7509.

Through July 31 — “Towns of LaPorte County Pop-Up” exhibit (focus: Trail Creek), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. *July 13*: Trail Creek Free Admission Day.

Through Aug. 11 — “Learning the Land: Stewarding Beauty” (Joel Sheesley), The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. *Opening reception*: 5-7 p.m. July 12 (Sheesley lecture: 4-5 p.m. at administration building). Info: www.bsdepot.org

Through Sept. 2 — Oasis Splash Park, Washington Park. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Free admission. Info: (219) 873-1506, www.emichigancity.com/315/Oasis-Splash-Park

Through September — Work by Bill Cavalier, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: lucia@qas.org

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose

Continued from Page 37

Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$30 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Info: (219) 336-3099.

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

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

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays through Aug. 8 — Michigan City Municipal Band 156th season, 7:30 p.m., at Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater, Washington Park.

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

Fridays through Aug. 9 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 5-6:30 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu.

Saturdays through Oct. 26 in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Franklin streets. Info: tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr

Saturdays in LaPorte — Farmed & Forged Market, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe, LaPorte.

Saturdays in LaPorte — Guided tours, 2-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Second Tuesday of the Month — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m.,

Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at Kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org

Sundays through Aug. 25 — Mount Baldy Open House, 1-3 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays through Sept. 1 — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9-11 a.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu

In the Region

July 11 — Books + Bites: Not Your Mama's Book Club for Teens, 1 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

July 11 — Summer Reading: "Things That Go 'Who' in the Night," 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

July 11 — PettyBreakers: A Tribute to Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 12-14 — Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff weekend, Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph, Mich. *Block party*: 5-9 p.m. EDT July 12, KAC grounds, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. General admission tickets: \$5. Advance tickets: www.krasl.org. Fair hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-6 p.m. July 13/10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 14.

July 13 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-11 a.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu

July 13 — The 27th annual Sand Sculpture Contest, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 13 — The Concours d'Elegance at Copshaholm, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, South Bend's Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. Info: www.concoursatcopshaholm.org

July 13 — Acorn Anywhere at Fernwood: The Bergamot, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 conve-



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July 14 — Phenology Fun Walk, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 14 — Critter Talk, 10-11:30 a.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Portage. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

July 14 — Spider Show N' Tell, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

July 14 — Help Hounds: Midwest Made, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

July 15 — Birding at the Farm, 11 a.m.-noon, Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

July 15, 18, 29 — Linda Stone Cake Decorating, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

July 16 — Understanding Democracy's Dysfunction, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Through July 28 — "Family Haulers: The American Station Wagon," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Aug. 22 — Duneland Plein Air Painters, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through Aug. 25 — Art exhibit, "The Drama of the Dunes," Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Sun. (through Labor Day, until 6 p.m. Thur). Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through Aug. 25 — "Traditional Echo: Contemporary Pokagon Artists & The Ones Who Came Before," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

Through Sept. 1 — "Beneath the Surface" (LaPorte artists Jon Hook & Andrea Peterson), Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Reception:* 4-7 p.m. July 19 (artist talk: 5:30 p.m.). Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through September — Monthly visual art shows, The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Schedule: *July/Phyllis Norris; August/David Baker; September/Bill Boyce.* Hours (Eastern): 9 a.m.-noon Mon.-Thur., 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sun. Info: www.Mediatorharbert.com

Through Oct. 6 — "Against the Grain," Montague/Urschel Gallery at Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Info:

www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through Oct. 20 — "Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Studebaker-Packard Corporation," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through Oct. 13 — "Resist!" exhibit, Beutter-Kernan Hall, Community Learning Center, St. Joe County Public Library, 305 S. Michigan St. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Fridays-Sundays through August — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays through Aug. 31 — Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in Chesterton — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw

Wednesdays through Aug. 7 — Fire Side Chat at the Pavilion, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* "The Sound of Music." Rated G. Time: 7 p.m. July 11. *Also:* "Robot Dreams." Not Rated. Times: 4 p.m. July 12, 7 p.m. July 13, 4 p.m. July 14, 7 p.m. July 16. *Also:* jazz cabaret. Time: 7 p.m. July 12. Free. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.



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.

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Pitch Dark by Paul Doiron (hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook or audiobook. 291 pages.)

When a favorite author announces a new book, I get goosebumps. And when that author has a series I follow, it's like rainbows and fireworks.

One such author is Paul Doiron, who takes the reader to northern Maine, close to the Canadian border, for an outdoor adventure that is as much armchair travel as it is an exciting cat-and-mouse thriller. This is Book 13 in the series in which the Maine landscape becomes beautiful *and* forbidding under Doiron's pen. His stories are well plotted and thrilling from beginning to end. There's no lapse in jaw-dropping action, but the reader will ask, just what is really going on here? Doiron knows how to throw out red herrings to keep up the suspense and test your detecting ability.

Mike Bowditch is a game warden investigator. He's married to Stacey, and they have a half-wolf, half-dog named Shadow. Stacey's dad, Charley, is like a father to him. He's taught Mike a lot about the mountains and forests of northern Maine, its hunting and tracking.

As the story opens, Stacey is contemplating taking a pregnancy test when the phone rings. It's Warden Brandon Barstow, a rookie warden, with the news of a missing person — maybe — named Hammond Pratt. Baby news will have to wait.

After checking into a local lodge, Pratt wanted to rent an ATV, which was strange considering the heavens sent down a torrent of rain every day the past week, making a trek through the woods nasty and dangerous. He also inquired if anyone knew of a man and his daughter living in the woods, keeping a low profile. When he offered money for information, that sounded suspicious.

Brandon says there was a man from Alaska, Mark Redmond, who has a 12-year-old daughter, Cady, and who was building a log cabin for Josie Jonson near the Canadian border. Josie is a bush pilot and someone Stacey Bowditch thinks of as her godmother. Time to find out what Josie knows about Redmond.

While wanting to protect the privacy of the Redmonds, since she can't believe anything bad about the pair, Josie agrees to fly Mike and Charley to where the Redmonds are staying. Also, with Pratt offering money for information, even Mike would

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



like to get there before he does.

Things can only go downhill from here, right? Redmond's daughter has cut marks on her arms, alerting Mike to the fact that all must not be right with her relationship with her father, but she refuses to say anything. Redmond's story sounds fishy from the first word, and unfortunately, it eventually

leads to a death and the most realistically written chase through the woods I have ever read.

Mike has to make a decision that could affect the rest of his life. He can chase Redmond and his daughter toward and into Canada, carrying guns illegally even though he's law enforcement. He would risk being arrested by the Canadian border patrol and subsequently reprimanded by his department, probably losing his job in the process. Or, he could try to catch up with them before they reach the border.

And where's Pratt now? He has disappeared. Not good. Still, Mike is conflicted with what he is witnessing here. Can he be wrong about all these people? As the old saying goes, "Who's zooming who?" Mother Nature refuses to cooperate and the weather slows Mike down. The rain continues, the wind has covered trails with trees and now it appears the Red-

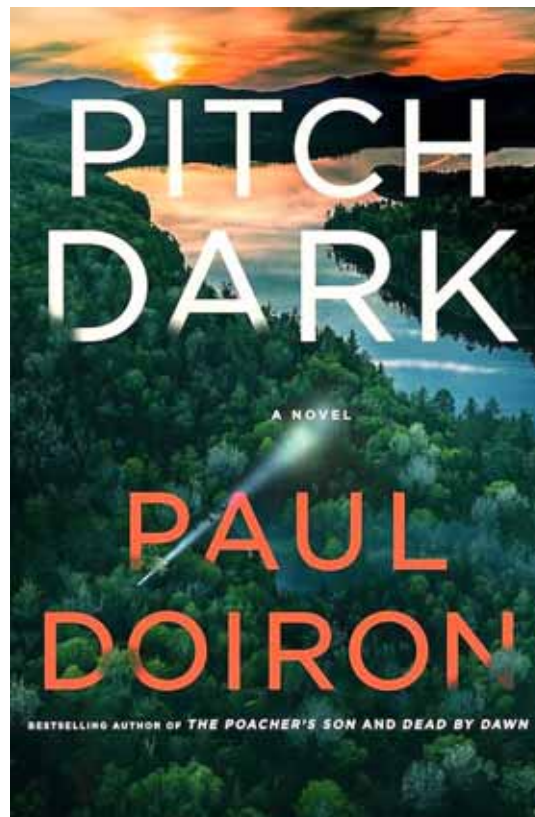
monds are heading for a lake where contacts have a boat that will take them across to the trail leading into Canada. If they get that far, it could shut down any chance of an apprehension by Mike.

Mike is on his own in this situation. He's going to be man against man, man against nature, nature against man — it's the triumvirate of battles, the outcome of which no one can predict.

The final word: This story is pure reading excitement. Every Mike Bowditch book is a standalone, giving enough facts to explain his character and how far he'll go to protect those in need. He truly is a man's man with a studied understanding of the people and animals that inhabit his homeland.

No surprise Doiron can speak so eloquently about the Maine wilderness — he lives in Maine and is a registered Maine guide specializing in fly-fishing.

Till next time, happy reading!



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This charming home boasts four bedrooms and three bathrooms and so much open space for entertaining. The peaceful location with woods at the back provides a serene and private setting. Enjoy outdoor living on the deck and relax in the spacious living room with vaulted ceilings while looking out at your expansive lawn through the many large windows. Benefit from modern conveniences such as a whole-house generator, new appliances, water softener, and fresh interior paint. The finished basement adds valuable entertainment space for gatherings and activities. Don't hesitate to seize the opportunity to own this meticulously maintained home with numerous desirable features.

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4 Bedroom

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