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Thor Thordarson radiates positivity, strength and a sense of adventure. He jokes that being born in Iceland — a rock in the middle of the Atlantic — you have to be positive.

At the same time, being raised in an environment of volcanic activity, surrounded by natural beauty, he learned to appreciate life at an early age. He understood the importance of leaving the house, not just for safety, but also to revel in the splendor of the great outdoors.

Thor's long-ago dream to become a missionary bush pilot offering healthcare in the rugged terrain of Iceland evolved into him becoming a registered nurse, still licensed in Indiana, and retiring from a fulfilling career as a healthcare consultant.

The final piece of Thor's dream, being a pilot, occurred in 2009 when he began flight training with the former LaPorte Aviation Services. A licensed commercial pilot, he also holds a commercial multi-

# The Great Outdoors

by *Connie Kuzydym*

engine license with additional ratings and endorsements. For jet ratings, he has a second in command rating for Beechjets, which are used mostly for charters and business travel. An avid learner, he plans to acquire additional jet certifications.

In 2021, Thor's business acumen

helped chart his retirement activities.

"The best time to start a business is when you don't need to rely on it. So, I figured, I'm going to start it then," Thor said.

So, he opened Flight Saga with his friend, Frank Aerts. With flight school locations at LaPorte and Michigan City airports, Flight Saga welcomed their inaugural student in 2022. Two years later, with a solid plan in place, they have achieved their objectives, surpassing this year's projections. Currently, they hope to transition to a part 141 pilot school, which is suited to full-time students focused on an

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Thor Thordarson is photographed by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski on Sept. 25, having taken off from LaPorte Municipal Airport and enjoying a quick flight to New Buffalo, Mich.

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# The Great Outdoors

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aviation career. The change could enable eligibility for scholarships, and state or federal aid. Also, the school could be marketed nationally and internationally.

“They could come here, do their entire study, from learning to fly, to commercial airline pilot and then go to the airlines. That’s what we want to have here. That’s a dream,” Thor said.

For his own instrument rating, Thor flew around Lake Michigan making stops along the way. The most memorable were to Mackinac Island, flying into Canada and back, around the northern part of Lake Michigan and landing in Green Bay, Wis., and having lunch at Lambo Field, then flying back along the lakeshore.

“Wouldn’t you rather take off and land at a place where every time you see beautiful Lake Michigan, the lakeshore and the Chicago skyline?” Thor said. “Those are the kinds of things I think people from around the country and around the world would love to come and do.”

Besides flying, Thor enjoys building and servicing planes. He is certified in maintaining small engines for light sport aircraft.

“I can basically do any maintenance, inspection and sign off on those,” Thor said. “You don’t want to be so dependent on other people that if something

breaks in the airplane, you’re stuck.”



Frequent relocations due to his parents’ missionary work afforded Thor and his siblings the ability to adapt to new environments and make new friends as they moved from one continent to another.

Living in Nigeria with his parents and sister, at 13 he asked to attend school in Michigan, where his two brothers were attending school.

Doing home study with poor phone service grew tiresome. Assignments and tests were sent by postal mail, often taking a month each way before he received graded results.

“I wanted to be where the excitement was, which was where my brothers were,” Thor said with a laugh.

His parents allowed him to attend Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Mich. He spent a year there and graduated at 16, then enrolled at Andrews University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

His paternal grandmother, a midwife, was the biggest career influence. In the summers, he spent several weeks with his grandparents. During these visits, he not only became well-acquainted with his grandmother, but also witnessed the high regard in which she was held by others. She was one of the first women in Iceland to obtain a driver’s license and own a car. Prior to that, she rode on horseback to deliver babies throughout the countryside.

“There were generations of kids delivered by her,”

Thor said. “As a midwife, she’d go sit with a person in labor for...days... and was checking in on them before them. You’d be in the grocery store... so many people...would come up and give her a hug. It was obvious how important she was to the whole community, the doctor she worked for...those two people in healthcare were up here not because they were politicians or people with power, but because they were helping people... that was why I always



Thor Thordarson is photographed by *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski in a simulator at LaPorte Municipal Airport.



This undated photo shows Thor (front right) with his family. His midwife grandmother, who greatly influenced him, is on the right in full Icelandic national costume.

knew from the beginning I wanted to be in health-care.”

During college, while working at a summer camp in Michigan, he met his future wife, Lori. They married a year later at the age of 18.

His career began as a registered nurse at the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs, where he specialized in mental health, long-term care and substance abuse recovery for three years. He then was appointed as the Acting Associate Chief Nursing Service for Education on an interim basis, where he implemented structural changes to benefit caregivers and their responsibilities. Through that experience, he found his calling.

Thor understood that to thrive and succeed administratively, he needed to learn the various facets of business, as that language is markedly different from healthcare. Before pursuing a Master of Business Administration, he also recognized the importance of acquiring medical-surgical experience, which led him to spend three years in nursing at Cleveland Clinic.

Subsequently, Thor was admitted to Kent State University’s MBA program. While there, he met a consultant from KPMG, one of the top six accounting firms in the nation, which extended him a job offer.

Consulting opened a world of opportunities. Thor was in numerous places for a shorter period of time, which in turn afforded him the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the healthcare environment.

“I was working with some of the biggest health-care organizations...Cleveland Clinic, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania Medical Centers, Metro Health in Cleveland, University Hospitals, Rochester General,” Thor said. “Summitt Medical Group ended up being one of the largest medical groups on the East Coast. I was working with them when they were starting to form their strategy for the future.”

Continued on Page 4

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# The Great Outdoors

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Thor helped transform these organizations through projects that improved patient outcomes, and their experiences and engagement with the facilities. He also helped build top-ranked health and hospital systems. He helped save millions of dollars annually, and worked with the staff to improve a patient's overall experience.

Having been a nurse, his objective as an administrator was to simplify processes and reduce frustration for the nursing staff.

"As a staff nurse, you're learning there's a whole bunch of people at the top level who have never taken care of a patient," Thor said. "They mean well, but they don't know the impact their decisions have on the frontline caregiver. So, one of the first things you should do as an admin is go talk with the people who are in the front lines and see what their frustrations are. Don't assume that you know what is hap-



Thor Thordarson competes on the national level in barefoot waterskiing. Provided photo.

pening. They'll tell you. Most of the nurses I know are very forthcoming with information on what you should be doing, and it's usually very helpful."

□

Thor's life has revolved around health, wellness and the outdoors. It is easy to see why, considering the influence of his upbringing and the surrounding environment.

Iceland, a country of remarkable beauty, is marked by the resilience of its people who survived multiple catastrophes.

"Honestly, Iceland is one of those stories of, how are people still alive over there," Thor explains. "Black death wiped out half the population, a volcanic eruption claimed over a third of the livestock population, it was invaded by pirates of the Middle East that enslaved numerous individuals and took them to the Middle East. There was a mini-ice age. It's just calamity after calamity."

Yet, they survived, shaping the nation's mindset towards survival and optimism.

Thor's childhood in Akureyri, the capital of North Iceland, was idyllic. Harsh winters give way to summers that are often beautiful due to the Gulf Stream's influence. As the weather systems advance northward, they bring sunshine and temperatures ranging from the 40s to mid-50s, sometimes warmer. In contrast to the south, the north is home to forests, which are scarce in the south.

He recalls with a laugh his mom telling them to go outside in the morning to wake up, take 10 deep breaths of fresh air, then play. In retrospect, she probably needed a break, all these boys in the house. There was no end to the trouble in which they could find themselves.

Thor says by venturing into the Icelandic countryside, off the beaten path, one is enveloped by breathtaking views and the serene silence of nature. This emphasis on outdoor experiences fostered a deep-seated appreciation for nature and a passion



Thor Thordarson is photographed doing the Laugavegur ultra marathon in Iceland, heading through a geothermal area. Provided photo

for various outdoor pursuits.

He has finished several triathlons, an Ironman in Louisville, Ky., and a mini ultra-marathon in the region of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, which erupted in 2010, leading to significant disruptions in air travel and more.

"That mini ultra was 35 miles. It was in the mountains, crossed glacial rivers, crossed snow caps, under glaciers, there are thermal springs you have to be careful where you go," Thor said. "It's the only race I've done where in the instructions prior to the race, it says 'in case of volcanic eruption here's what you do.'"

He also has experienced Iceland's Westfjords on an unguided backpacking trip with friends and family within a national park so remote, access is only possible by boat.

"The weather...was everything from driving rain, to fog, to sunny and clear and in between, but it was

50 degrees. You have to be prepared for anything," Thor said.

As they trekked through the wilderness, they encountered wild arctic foxes, and whale bones washed ashore. The sparse growth of grass and moss evoked memories of the breathtaking landscapes from "The Lord of the Rings' and other epics.

"One of the things you find in Iceland is people are outdoors a lot, no matter the weather," Thor said. "The saying in Iceland is there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. Just dress appropriately, and you'll be fine."

It is quite remarkable that Thor's entire family ended up in this area. When his father, a pastor, and mother, a school teacher, retired, they moved to LaPorte from Iceland. His eldest brother, Thorstur, initially moved to West Virginia, then to South Bend to serve as a pastor. His other brother, Smari, a radiologist, already was in LaPorte. His sister, Harpa, received her social-work credentials



Thor Thordarson is seen with his wife, Lori, and mother on top of *Snaefellsjokull* in western Iceland. That is the mountain that is the entry to the "center of the earth" in Jules Verne's novel). It also overlooks *Hellissandur*, the small town where his father was born and raised. Provided photo.

in this area and now lives near Plymouth.

Thor and his wife were looking to move to this area, as her grandparents were getting up in age and they wanted to be closer to assist them. A job opportunity at the Woodland Surgical Center in Michigan City presented itself, so they moved to LaPorte County.

"That was a really good move for us. We've been in the LaPorte area except for the journey to Chicago and back, which isn't too far, basically since 1997," Thor said.

In 2023, Thor retired from his consulting career and moved back to LaPorte. This past August, he and Lori celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. Lori, a dedicated, impactful

teacher specializing in pre-K to first grade, retired a few years back. They have three children living locally and one in Chicago. They have four grandchildren, with a fifth on the way.

In his free time, besides flying and maintaining

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## The Great Outdoors

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airplanes, Thor enjoys spending time with his family, “especially the kids and grandkids. They are the priority right now.”

Thor also enjoys waterskiing. He first tried it when he was 17. During the 1980s and 1990s, bare-foot waterskiing became one of the fastest growing water sports in the U.S. He has been competing on the national level. At the time of this interview, he had practiced that morning on Silver Lake, preparing for the national competition in Montana.

Amid laughter, he says, “I’m in the old fart division. They call it masters, 60- to 65-year-old division. I’m just participating for fun. There was a time when I was in my 20s, I would say, I’m going to win. Now, this has got to be about fun, otherwise you will hurt yourself.”

□

Despite retiring from healthcare, Thor maintains a keen awareness of the industry’s developments and sees a shift occurring.

Incentives for hospitals have been focused on surgery and illness care. He sees a trend toward insurance companies finally funding research into health and wellness, its correlation to how that lowers cost of care and how it helps people live a healthier life, and to live life to its fullest within their limitations.

A consummate business person, Thor is excited by all this. He is developing ideas and engaging in discussions if the opportune moment presents itself.

He understands the difficulty for most people regarding working out. Some people get excited by a heavy workout, but most people find it difficult to begin or stay motivated.

“We call it a workout because it’s sort of like work. We call it exercise, but what we really should be doing is just going outside and playing,” Thor said. “Kids don’t exercise. Do you see a 4-year-old who needs exercise? No, they’re busy playing.”

He suggests spending time outside with friends:



Thor Thordarson and his wife, Lori, are pictured in one of the Flight Saga planes over New Buffalo and Lake Michigan at sunset. Provided photo.

walk, swim, go bird watching, visit the beautiful sites the area has to offer.

“It’s those two things: get outside and play,” Thor emphasizes “That does more to get people healthy, feeling well and young, than all the workouts, exercises, whatever you can have.”

He truly values and touts the improvements being made to the area’s natural allure, making it more accessible to everyone.

“When we first moved here, I didn’t see a lot of people out running and walking,” Thor said. “Now, you go to Fox Park, Soldier Memorial Park, there’s people everywhere, enjoying the outdoors. They’re playing, walking with their kids... strolling couples, people of all ages, it’s just fun to see. I don’t know if I’m noticing it more than before, but I think there has been a bit of an uptick.”

Growing up amid Iceland’s splendor, he truly appreciates the abundant natural beauty that surrounds us.

“I like to be active, be outdoors and enjoy nature,” Thor said. “I have this saying, everybody is a member of the world’s largest gym, where the membership is free and it’s open 24/7/365. It’s called the great outdoors.”



Thor Thordarson enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. Provided photo.



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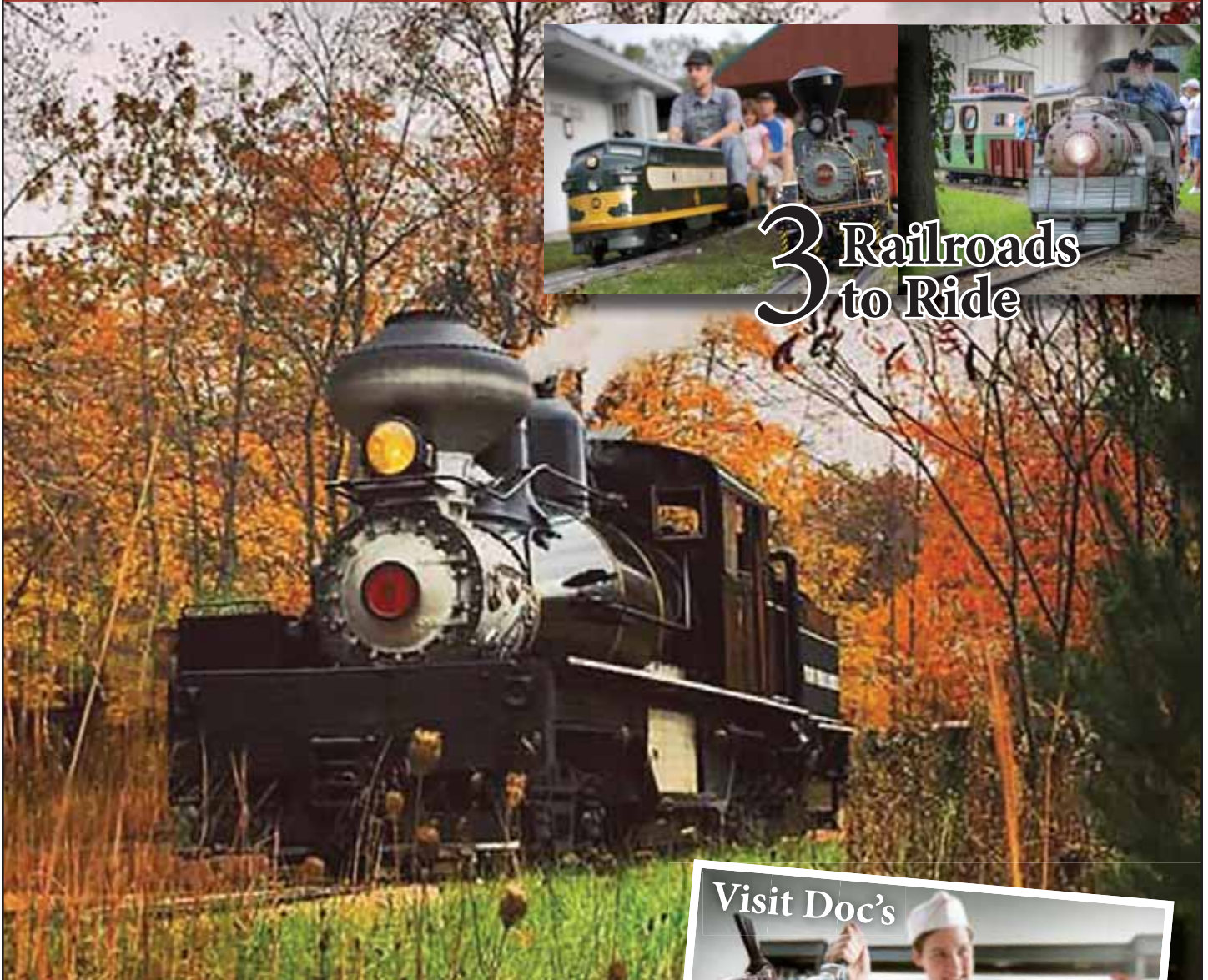


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### “Agnes of God”



Alayna Lauritsen (from left), Bobbi Lauritsen and Greta Friedman star in “Agnes of God.”

The Holdcraft Players will present “Agnes of God” as its fall production Oct. 18-27 at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The drama plays out in the office of psychiatrist Martha Livingstone (Greta Friedman), appointed by the court to determine if a young nun is fit to stand trial for the accused murder of her newborn child. Agnes (Alayna Lauritsen), the young nun, claims to have no knowledge of the pregnancy nor the birth. Mother Miriam Ruth (Bobbi Lauritsen) attempts to protect Agnes as Dr. Livingstone digs for the truth. Rounding out the cast are Emmie Riegel, Sue Vale and H.B. Lemonger. The director is local actor-turned-director John Hutchinson (“I Regret Nothing”).

Performances are at 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Oct. 18-19 and 25-26 and 3 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 20 and 27. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at [www.yptcinc.com/tickets](http://www.yptcinc.com/tickets) or at the door on show dates. The production team and cast will host a question-and-answer session each Sunday after the show.



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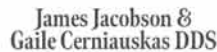
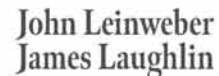
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## Haunted Trails



The annual Haunted Trails is from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Families are invited to wear Halloween costumes. Also planned is trick-or-treating, family activities and ghost stories from the Northwest Indiana Storytellers Guild. If the weather is poor, refer to the gardens' social media pages to confirm the details.

Tickets are available at the door or at [www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org](http://www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org). The cost is \$5 for 13 and older and \$2 for children ages 2-12.

## Schaaf Work Part of Concert

“Remembering Naomi” by Michigan City’s Dan Schaaf is among the compositions to be performed during the autumn band concerts at Valparaiso University’s Chapel of the Resurrection on Saturday, Oct. 19.

The composition honors Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson (1843-1899), an African-American suffragist and Michigan City native. It uses music, historical narrative and Anderson’s own words to tell her story. The guest narrator is Christina Hearne, director of the VU Access and Accommodations Resource Center.

Schaaf’s performance is part of the 7:30 p.m. concert. The schedule is:

- 4 p.m. — VU Chamber Concert Band.
- 7:30 p.m. — combined Valparaiso University Luce Concert Band and Valparaiso Community/University Concert Band.

Admission is free. The performances are sponsored by the VU Department of Music. Email Jeff.Doebler@valpo.edu for more details.

## Art Barn School of Art

- **Watercolor Society of Indiana Intermediate Watercolor Workshop (18+) from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.** Watercolorist Terry Armstrong will walk students through painting autumn pumpkins, revealing how to create texture with watercolors. The cost is \$90.
- **A free, all-ages Watercolor Demo with Armstrong from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.** Presented by the WSI, Armstrong will showcase his watercolor technique.

Register through [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org). The Art Barn School of Art is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-9009 for more details.

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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Science Fridays Series from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The presentations by local experts change topics each month. October's speaker is Dr. Erin Argyilan. To celebrate Earth Science month, she will lead a presentation on the evolution of Lake Michigan's southern shoreline, coastal processes and the science of shoreline change. Also, learn how modification of the shoreline contributed to the formation and movement of Mount Baldy.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m.-noon at Chellberg Farm and Porter Beach, both Saturday, Oct. 19.** The no-hassle volunteer option helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](http://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.
- **Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in October 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.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Sundays in October.** 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.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in October at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Fall Colors Hike from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** The hike begins in the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot, which is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
- **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](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **The 35th Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival is Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19.** All programs are outdoors, but move into the Nature Center Auditorium or nearby shelter if the weather is poor. *On Friday*, the schedule is: "Campfire Stories and S'mores" at 7 p.m. Hear stories at the campground shelter next to site 116. S'mores at the campfire are provided by Friends of the Indiana Dunes. Parking is available at the Nature Center or campground gate overflow parking lots. Take chairs because seating is limited. *On Saturday*, the schedule is: "Stories for Children" at 10:30 a.m.; "Storyteller's Favorites" at 1 p.m.; "Stories From Around the World & An Open Mic" at 2:30 p.m.; and "Ghost Stories" at 5:30 p.m.
- **Bird Bingo! at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18.** Help fill bird feeders and play a game with prizes.
- **The J.D. Marshall History Hike at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23.** Meet at the Nature Center for a 1.5-mile flat walk to the beach and back.  
*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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## Sarah Paulson is Brilliantly Intense in “Hold Your Breath”

by Andrew Tallackson



Sarah Paulson is terrific as a struggling Depression-era mother in “Hold Your Breath.”

“Hold Your Breath” either is a period-piece supernatural thriller or a Dust Bowl descent into madness. And here’s the thing: directors Karrie Crouse and Will Joines leave that for you to decide.

I enjoy ambiguity in my entertainment. It suggests the storyteller has faith in the viewer to do some detective work: digesting the details, considering all possibilities. Others find the approach maddening. They prefer their resolutions crystal clear... and there’s nothing wrong with that.

“Hold Your Breath,” which just debuted on Hulu, is not necessarily a great movie, but it is an exceedingly well-made one, and another reminder that “American Horror Story” regular Sarah Paulson is one heck of a good actress.

She plays Margaret Bellum, a mother of two on her own in the middle of nowhere in 1933 Oklahoma. The Great Depression in full swing, her husband is in New York, the only place he can find work, sending checks by mail so the family has income.

Paulson, who specializes in women on the edge, hints early that Margaret is coming apart at the seams. Not from what she says, but from how Margaret carries herself. Eyes nervously flitting about. Lips quivering. Brittle posture. She’s a lit fuse ready to erupt. She’s been on her own, as a parent, for far too long, and Dust Bowl life is taking its toll on her.

Joines and Crouse — the latter wrote the script — expertly create that piano-wire tension rippling



### “Hold Your Breath”

*Running time: 94 minutes. Hulu. Rated R for some violence/disturbing images.*

within Margaret. Their movie is a triumph of production design, editing and music to chip away at Margaret’s sanity. With dust storms a daily ritual, Margaret’s home requires constant cleaning: dust particles everywhere, rarely absent from the home’s interiors. The winds outside rarely stop howling. Treks to visit relatives require venturing across barren plains.

Everything is in place to suggest isolation has exacted its toll...or has it? Margaret’s eldest daughter, Rose (Amiah Miller, superb), enjoys reading a horror tale about The Gray Man, an evil entity that knows how to appear and disappear within seconds, inhabiting humans and messing with their minds. It terrifies her younger sister, Ollie (Alona Jane Robbins, equally fine), prompting Margaret to demand the book not be read anymore.

Rumors abound of a drifter in the area who killed an unsuspecting family. And when Wallace Grady, a mysterious man claiming to be a preacher, arrives, Margaret and her daughters aren’t sure what to make of him. He’s played by Ebon Moss-Bachrach, the Emmy-winning scene-stealer from FX’s “The



Amiah Miller is superb as Margaret's oldest daughter, Rose.

Bear." Wallace seems OK, but when it appears he's healed Rose of her nosebleeds, red flags pop up that something is off. Big time.

Is Wallace a supernatural creature? Is he The Grey Man come to life? That is the mystery of "Hold Your Breath." The teasing performance by Moss-Bachrach suggests a few options. That Margaret finds it increasingly difficult to discern what is real and what is hallucination certainly fits in with the Gray Man legend. Watching Paulson implode, her hold on reality slippery, is a marvel to witness.

By the end, the answer to the mystery of "Hold Your Breath" is one of two realities. Either an evil presence is using the Dust Bowl as a cover for menacing behavior, or a tragic casualty of the Great Depression is the destruction of the American family. The movie makes its case for both outcomes. I have my theory based on a final scene that recreates iconic imagery from that time period.

Am I being vague? You bet. That uncertainty, that's what "Hold Your Breath" is all about.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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# Guardian Riders, Legion Post Unite for “Adopt-A-Vet” Program

by Kim Nowatzke

Guardian Riders and American Legion John Franklin Miller Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20, have joined forces to honor veterans through a new project, Adopt-A-Vet.

The local non-profits recently became aware of the need to place bronze government memorial plaques on 50 veteran graves — some have no identification — subsequently agreeing to raise funds to make this happen.

Jeff Loniewski, the new superintendent for Greenwood Cemetery and Swan Lake Memorial Gardens, said he was making repairs and cleaning out areas when he found the plaques. He explained that the veterans didn't have the necessary concrete foundation required at Greenwood, nor the granite foundation required at Swan Lake, for the plaques to be installed. There are 15 for Greenwood and 35 for Swan Lake awaiting their final resting places.

Loniewski made efforts to reach the veterans' families, but that did not prove successful. Some plaques go back decades. Each lists the veteran's name, birth-death dates and other military information, such as rank or the war in which the veteran served. They also cover a variety of branches of service.

“We proactively reached out to veteran organizations in the area, and these two (Guardian Riders and American Legion Post 37) have stepped up,” he said.

The cost for the foundations, including shipping, is \$10,700. Loniewski said the cemeteries are waiving any setting fees.

Guardian Riders Secretary Kim Wallace told *The Beacher*, “We are asking for the help from the community to help us raise funds to give these deserving veterans their plaques on their final resting places. This is a community thing. We're asking others to Adopt-A-Vet.”

Guardian Riders is a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving LaPorte County. According to its mission statement, they are a “group of patriotic Americans dedicated to helping all military veterans of any military engagements in which the USA has been, is now, or ever will be involved. Our highest priority is to keep alive and at the forefront of our government's attention the issue of returning all our POW's/MIA's and to honor and support all those who have ever served our country. We are further dedicated to raising funds for the express purpose of helping those who are less fortunate with the highest priority going to veterans, families of veterans and/or active military personnel in all the Armed Forces of the United States of America.”

Guardian Riders President Kip Piper said, “These



veterans need the honor and respect they deserve — that is what the Guardian Riders is all about.”

Through donations and their largest annual fundraiser, Fox Park Music Fest, Guardian Riders' many accomplishments in 2023 included: building 21 ramps for disabled veterans and those less fortunate; a Vans for Vets donation for van repairs and purchasing a new van to provide transportation to medical appointments; providing Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the needy; sending care packages to veterans at the Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette, Ind.; helping with multiple veteran's funerals; and donating to the Deserving Children's Roof Sit.

Guardian Riders, which welcomes new members, meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at American Legion Post 37.

Donations for the Adopt-A-Vet project can be made by cash or check to “Guardian Riders – Veterans Headstone Fund” and deposited at Horizon Bank. Checks or money orders can be dropped off at American Legion Post 37 or mailed to Guardian Riders, P.O. Box 8711, Michigan City, IN 46361.

## About the Photos

**Above:** Guardian Riders President Kip Piper kneels next to the government-issued plaque for his father, William J. Piper.

**Left:** Guardian Riders Secretary Kim Wallace (top photo) stands next to the government-issued, bronze, veteran's memorial plaque for her father, Earl N. Rowley (bottom photo).

All photos provided.

## “Apartment 7A” is a Surprisingly Good Prequel to “Rosemary’s Baby”

by Andrew Tallackson



A seemingly nice couple (Dianne Wiest and Kevin McNally) takes pity on a struggling dancer (Julia Garner) in “Apartment 7A.”

“Apartment 7A” isn’t the terrible idea one expects it to be. A prequel to “Rosemary’s Baby” sounds as useless as a sequel to “Titanic,” but somehow, the movie effectively balances being a parable about selling your soul to the devil and charting the pattern of evil in the Bramford apartment complex.

The performances carry the concept. Julia Garner, the “Ozark” Emmy winner, and two-time Oscar-winner Dianne Wiest, taking over the Oscar-winning Ruth Gordon role, are worthy adversaries.

Garner, in particular, creates a raw vulnerability as Terry, a Broadway dancer who in 1965 suffers a traumatic injury during a live performance, then spends the next four months struggling to repair her damaged credibility. Audition after audition, it’s a sadistic exercise in humiliation at the hands of male theater directors who enjoy making her squirm.

You can see the courage creeping out of Garner’s tremulous body as she stands up for herself, including a confrontation with one director, Alan (Jim Sturgess), who aims to break her down. There is a strength there, within Terry, trying to reassert itself that Garner achieves with galvanizing effect.

Somehow, though, Terry ends up dizzy and deliri-



### “Apartment 7A”

Running time: 107 minutes. Paramount+. Rated R  
for some violent content and drug use.

ous outside the Bramford in Manhattan. For anyone familiar with “Rosemary’s Baby,” either through Ira Levin’s 1967 novel or Roman Polanski’s Oscar-winning movie (1968), we know the place is a coven for Satanists trying to birth a new heir.

Polanski’s film contained hallucinatory passages, blurring horror and reality, that remain unsettling even by today’s standards. I half expected Natalie Erika James, the director/co-writer, to up the ante with more nudity and violence. She doesn’t. I was surprised...and pleasantly so. James’ movie isn’t about being exploitive. It’s about honoring Levin’s tale so we realize a pattern existed at the Bramford long before characters by Mia Farrow and John Cassevetes showed up in the original.

Terry meets a seemingly sweet couple at the Bramford, Minnie and Roman Castavet (Wiest and Kevin McNally, respectively), who take her under

their wing, allowing her to stay in the adjacent apartment. Conveniently, things now seem to be going Terry's way on Broadway. She's cast in the dance chorus of Alan's latest show, and "Apartment 7A" has fun recreating the style and physicality of Broadway in the 1960s. And when British scene-stealer Rosy McEwen turns up as Vera, a chorus member who makes life hell for Terry, the movie has a juicy, "All About Eve" vibe to it. McEwen is like a young Nicole Kidman...if a young Nicole Kidman was a jealous, conniving harpy.

No disrespect to the late Ruth Gordon, but I prefer Wiest's take on Minnie. The "Hannah and her Sisters" Oscar-winner mimics Gordon helium-balloon voice, but the performance is more subtle in its true intentions. The way a smile barely conceals her sinister plot. Minnie's clipped demeanor while cutting Terry's hair reveals a woman who will not tolerate any deviation toward the endgame. It's a portrait of patient evil.

The end, too, is perfect. Terry's final stand may, in fact, be a feminist middle finger to everyone trying to control her.



The behind-the-scenes drama takes on the feel of "All About Eve."

"Apartment 7A" is by no means a classic. It does not rival its predecessor, nor is it likely to be remembered in the same breath as that film. But for those who appreciate the original story, the prequel is a treat. A clever expansion of ideas in this universe. It shouldn't work, but somehow, it does.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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## Unity Foundation Celebrates Power for Good Grant Winners

During Unity Foundation of LaPorte County's Annual Celebration on Oct. 2, Unity announced \$210,000 in Power for Good Community Grants.

Laura Francesconi, board member and grant committee chairperson, recognized the 53 organizations that received the grants:

- Advancing Christ's Kingdom Ministries, Michigan City, ThanksGIVING Turkeys.
- Arts in the Park, Summer Concert Series.
- Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County, Springfield Club 2024/2025 Afterschool Programming.
- Catholic Charities, Safe Haven: Homeless Prevention.
- Center Township Trustee-LaPorte County, Crock Pot Cooking in the School.
- Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Inc., CCH Type 2 Diabetes Prevention and Management Program.
- City of LaPorte Police Department, Neurosequential Model Assessment.
- Community Food Pantry of Galena, Hudson, Kankakee, Wills Townships Inc., Mission Support.
- Diamonds and Pearls Mentorship, Leadership Camp.
- Dunebrook Inc., Child Advocacy Center, Trauma Focused Therapy for Child Abuse Victims.
- Dunes Arts Foundation, Creative Theatre Arts Program for Safe Harbor Summer Camp Students.
- Dunes House, Feed the Soul of Recovery.
- Family Advocates, Expansion Support.
- Fly High Youth Services Inc., Fly High for the Holidays.
- Friendship Botanic Gardens, Ecological Education Programs.
- Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana, Girl Scout Leadership Experience, LaPorte County.
- HealthLinc Inc, Cold and Flu Kits for Pediatric Patients in LaPorte County.
- Independent Cat Society, Saving Hundreds of Kittens.
- Intrepid Phoenix, fitness program for recovery from substance use disorder.
- Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, Elementary Programming: Michigan City Area Schools.
- LaPorte County Drug Free Partnership, Prevention and Intervention of LaPorte County Mental Health and Substance Use Crises.
- LaPorte County Family YMCA, Youth and Family Programming.
- LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity, McColum, and Woodward Street Five Home Project.
- LaPorte County Meals on Wheels, Blizzard Box Bonanza 8.
- LaPorte High School, SlicerTech: LaPorte High School Robotics.
- La Ventana Culinary School, Culinary Classes for People with Disabilities.
- Leadership LaPorte County Inc., High School Program.
- LETSGO City, Summer City Sweat.
- Michigan City Area Schools, "Future Wolves" Elementary Sports Program.
- Michigan City Holiday Meals, Free Holiday Meals.
- Michigan City Police Department, Empowering Connections: MCPD and Ben's Blue Bags.
- Nest Community Shelter, Nest Emergency Homeless Shelter.
- New Durham Twp., Back to School Tennis Shoes.
- New Prairie High School Robotics, NPHS Las Pumas 2197 Robotics, 2024-2025 FIRST Robotics Competition Season.
- Open Door Community Alliance Inc., Medication Assistance Program.
- Paladin, Additional Infant Care Classroom.
- The Pax Center, Community Gardens.
- Sacred Heart Food Pantry at St. Mary, Power for Good: Feeding and Caring for Michigan City's Most Needy.
- The Salvation Army of LaPorte Indiana, Client Choice Food Pantry.
- The Salvation Army of Michigan City, Weekend Backpack Feeding Program.
- Save the Dunes, Co-Creating a Demonstration Pollinator Garden with LaPorte County Communities.
- Shirley Heinze Land Trust, The Art of Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve: A Coloring Book for Conservation.
- Social and Learning Institute Inc., Science & Nature Exploration.
- St. Michael's Inc., Drone and Boxing Program.
- Stepping Stone Shelter for Women Inc., Shelter Basic Needs Food Program.
- Supplemental United Pantry Inc., Fill The Shelves.
- Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen, Mission Support.
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Food Pantry.
- We All In Recovery Inc, Recovery Cafe.
- Westville-New Durham Township Public Library, Supporting Early Childhood Literacy in Westville.
- Women's Care Center, CARE Program.
- Young Audiences of Indiana Inc., Arts-Integrated Education Residencies.
- Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County, School Buddies Mentoring.

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## Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17) at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.** Meet in the children's makerspace, with no experience necessary. Children 12 and younger must attend with a parent or guardian
- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.** Designed as a way to unwind and create, the library provides the paint, canvas and pompoms. An award goes to the piece voted Worst Art. No registration is required.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in October.** 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.
- **Super Smash Bros Tournament (ages 10-17) at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18.** No registration is required. Winners receive a GameStop gift card, while second and third place get Pokémon cards. Participants must know how to play prior to entering.
- **Writing Out Loud at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.** Melanie Benjamin is the author of *The New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling historical novels [The Swans of Fifth Avenue](#), about Truman Capote and his society swans, [The Aviator's Wife](#), a novel about Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and [Mistress of the Ritz](#), based on the true story of the American woman who ran the Ritz during World War II. Her latest, [California Golden](#), is about two sisters navigating the early days of the California surf-



Benjamin

ing culture. She also is a member of the Authors Unbound Speakers Bureau. She lives in Chicago with her husband.

- **Any Book Book Club (adults only) from 5-6 p.m. Mondays.** Participants can discuss any books they are reading. Meetings are the second Monday of the month. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in October.** 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.** 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.
- **Jackbox Games for Adults at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22.** Take a smartphone or tablet for interactive party games. No prior experience is needed. Email [events@mclib.org](mailto:events@mclib.org) or contact Michelle at (219) 873-3064 or Molly at (219) 873-3042 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.
- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, in the Makerspace.** Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 9-17, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.
- **Reading Scavenger Hunt in October** Find the pictures hiding in Youth Services and receive a prize. The Halloween theme is "Four Spooky Creatures."
- **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](http://www.mclib.org) or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.*

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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:*

- **Technology One-on-One from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, in the main library Study Cafe.** Individuals can book a one-hour session with a tech team member. Take a device, charger and list of questions. Registration is required.
- **Stretch and Refresh Yoga from 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the Coolspring branch.** The class is for adults of all abilities. All poses are adaptable. Take a yoga mat if possible.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Paint-a-Pumpkin from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Paint a pumpkin to look like a favorite book character or an original design. All supplies are provided.
- **Haunted LaPorte from 6-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Learn about some of the most haunted locations in LaPorte County and hear spooky stories.
- **Jigsaw Puzzle Swap from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Take puzzles in advance to the circulation desk Oct. 14-18 and receive one ticket voucher for each puzzle. The accepted piece count is from Kids to 2000+. Tape all four edges of the boxes or put all pieces in a plastic bag so pieces don't fall out.
- **Family Storytime from noon-12:30 p.m. at the Coolspring Branch and 6-6:30 p.m. at the main library, both Monday, Oct. 21.** The focus is stories, songs and other activities.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Lori Gottlieb from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22.** Gottlieb will discuss her book Maybe You Should Talk to Someone. Register online.

*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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.*

## Arts & Craft Show

New Buffalo Service League's annual Arts & Craft Show is from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 19, at New Buffalo Middle and High School gymnasiums, 1112 Clay St.

More than 100 vendors will sell merchandise, along with breakfast, lunch items and baked goods.

Proceeds support scholarships to New Buffalo high-school seniors in May 2025.



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## Harbor Country Film Group



Eva Marie Saint and Marlon Brando star in "On the Waterfront."

Harbor Country Film Group will screen the Oscar-winning "On the Waterfront" (1954) at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, Oct. 21, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Group leader Eve Moran will lead the introduction and discussion afterward.

Marlon Brando won an Oscar for his role as Terry Malone, an ex-prizefighter and longshoreman whose conscience conflicts with the waterfront's code of silence. Contributing to the urban ethical tale are Eva Marie Saint (the Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner), Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb and Rod Steiger. Budd Schulberg won an Oscar for his script, and Elia Kazan won for directing.

Free popcorn will be available. The group is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

## Public Art Committee

Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Fourth St.

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## New Buffalo Township Library

- **Mobile Legal Aid-Tenant's Rights Workshop.** The program is from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran.** The free program is at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21.
- **Teentober Halloween Bonfire.** The program is at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22, at New Buffalo Township Memorial Park, Red Arrow Highway.

### Weekly programs:

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Pajama Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

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

## Barker Mansion

- **Spook-Tacular Halloween Party for Kids from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 19.** Recommended for children ages 4-10, the cost is \$15 per child with an accompanying adult. Planned are: Creepy Crafts Corner; Spooky Story Time; Monster Mash Dance Party; Ghoulish Games; and the Costume Parade.
- **The Barker Cottage Events, "Agatha Christie & Whiskey," from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at The Barker Cottage, 227 W. Seventh St.** The cost is \$25 for the 21-and-older event. The focus is Christie's "Hallowe'en Party," which inspired the recent film "A Haunting in Venice." Refreshments include a charcuterie board and curated whiskey tasting.

*Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit [www.barkermansion.org](http://www.barkermansion.org) for more details.*



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## American Red Cross

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

- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.
- Indiana Department of Transportation, 315 E. Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21.

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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more details.

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|                                | WON | LOST |
|--------------------------------|-----|------|
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| 1. Pin Pals                    | 12  | 8    |
| 1. Pin Ball Wizards            | 12  | 8    |
| 2. Gutter Busters, Gutter Gals | 11  | 9    |

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

|                      | SCORE |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Dottie Brinckman  | 176   |
| 2. Mary Lou McFadden | 173   |
| 3. Joan O'Sullivan   | 145   |
| 4. Mimi Troller      | 143   |
| 5. Barb Macudzinski  | 141   |

### SPLITS

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Kathy Straninger | 5-10  |
| June Salmon      | 2-7-8 |



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### Reins of Life Volunteer Training

Reins of Life Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center will offer new volunteer training from 2-4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at the Michigan City facility, 9375 W. County Road 300 North.

Volunteers are not required to have horse experience, but do need to be at least 13 and wear closed-toe shoes. After attending the training, volunteers can help in therapeutic riding lessons, special education field trips, Nuzzles and Snuggles program and events such as horse shows and parades.



If unable to make the training, horse feeders are needed. A private training is scheduled after registration. Feeders generally volunteer for one shift a week at either 7 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Feeding includes handling all of the 15-horse herd, throwing hay and cleaning stalls. It takes about 1.5 hours per shift. Volunteers need to be 16 or older.

Call (219) 874-7519 to RSVP for either session. If no one answers, leave a message, including an email address. Visit <https://www.reinsoflife.org> for more details.

### Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

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

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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### In the Area

**Oct. 17** — Drum Fit, 9-10 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

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

**Oct. 17** — Stretch and Refresh Yoga, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 17** — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 18** — Paint-a-Pumpkin, 3-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 18** — Super Smash Bros Tournament (ages 10-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 18** — Haunted LaPorte, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 18-27** — The Holdcraft Players, “Agnes of God,” The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Times: 7 p.m. Oct. 18-19 & 25-26, 3 p.m. Oct. 20 & 27. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/students. Reservations: [www.yptcinc.com/tickets](http://www.yptcinc.com/tickets). Tickets also available at door.

**Oct. 19** — Sports Card, Comic Book & Toy Show, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., FOP Lodge Michigan City, 416 U.S. 20. Free admission. Info: (219) 229-0411.

**Oct. 19** — Spook-Tacular Halloween Party for Kids (ages 4-10 with adult), 10 a.m.-noon, Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15. Info/registration: [www.barkermansion.org](http://www.barkermansion.org)

**Oct. 19** — Jigsaw Puzzle Swap, 10-11:30 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 19** — “Enter the World of Crystals & Rocks: An Introductory Workshop,” 1 p.m., A Mindful Place, 2626 N. Indiana 39, Suite 4, LaPorte. Cost/info: (219) 363-4756, A Mindful Place on Facebook.

**Oct. 19** — Writing Out Loud, Melanie Benjamin, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 20** — Haunted Trails, 1-4 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Cost: \$5/13 &

older, \$2/children ages 2-12. Tickets at door or [www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org](http://www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org)

**Oct. 22** — Virtual Author Talk with Lori Gottlieb, 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 22** — Jackbox Games for Adults, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3064, (219) 873-3042.

**Oct. 23** — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

**Oct. 23** — Pumpkin Carving Contest, 5-7 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**Oct. 23** — “Agatha Christie & Whiskey” (21+), 6-8 p.m., The Barker Cottage, 227 W. Seventh St. Cost: \$25. Info/registration: [www.barkermansion.org](http://www.barkermansion.org)

**Through Oct. 19** — “KAPOW! Mighty Mythos,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**Through Oct. 20** — “Following Light” plein-air exhibit, The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

**Through Nov. 2** — “Illuminations: Glass Artists of Chesterton Art Center,” The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

**Through Nov. 7** — Traveling exhibit, “Lost Landmarks of Indianapolis,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Through Nov. 20** — Yoga (chair assisted), 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, A Mindful Place, 2626 N. Indiana 39, Suite 4, LaPorte. Costs/info: (219) 363-4756.

**Through Nov. 27** — “Lost Cemeteries of LaPorte County” exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Through December** — Michigan City Art League, 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](mailto: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 October** — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Mondays in October/November** — Walk With Friends, 2-3 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. No Nov. 11 program. Info: (219) 325-8315, [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

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

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

**Tuesdays in October** — 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 in October** — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

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

**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

### In the Region

**Oct. 18** — Bird Bingo!, 9:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 18** — Chesterton Third Friday, 4-8 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

**Oct. 18** — Science Fridays Series, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Oct. 18** — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Oct. 18** — Peach Jam: A Tribute to the Allman Brothers Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations/info: www.acornlive.org

**Oct. 18-19** — Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. *Friday schedule*: “Campfire Stories and S’mores”/7 p.m. *Saturday schedule*: “Stories for Children”/10:30 a.m.; “Storyteller’s Favorites”/1 p.m.; “Stories From Around the World &

An Open Mic”/2:30 p.m.; “Ghost Stories”/5:30 p.m. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 19** — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9-11 a.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Oct. 19** — New Buffalo Service League’s annual Arts & Craft Show, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Middle and High School gymnasiums, 1112 Clay St.

**Oct. 19** — Fall Colors Hike, 2-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Oct. 19** — Autumn band concerts, Valparaiso University Chapel of the Resurrection, 1600 Chapel Drive. Schedule: 4 p.m. — Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band; 7:30 p.m. — Valparaiso University Luce Concert Band & Valparaiso Community/University Concert Band, “Remembering Naomi by Michigan City’s Dan Schaaf. Info: (219) 464-5087.

**Oct. 19** — “Echoes of Barcelona” with guitarist Bryan Lubeck, 7:30 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$25/cabaret seating, \$15/general, \$20/door. Reservations: ticketstripe.com/bryanlubeckshow

**Oct. 19** — Corky Siegel, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations/info: www.acornlive.org

**Oct. 20** — Youth Open Mic Night, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

**Oct. 21** — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Oct. 22** — Teentober Halloween Bonfire, 5 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Memorial Park, Red Arrow Highway. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**Oct. 23** — The J.D. Marshall History Hike, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Through Oct. 17** — Photographer Deb Potis, The Village Gallery, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**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. 30** — “Of Giants and Warriors” (local artists Diane Grams/Tim Lace), Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Fresco painting demonstration*: noon Oct. 19/RSVP to gallery@chestertonart.org. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org



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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.

Continued from Page 33

**Through Nov. 1** — Julia Holmaas' "Worldviews," The Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org), (219) 462-9009.

**Through Nov. 2** — Izard + Shelton exhibit, Roti Roti Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, Mich.

**Through Nov. 10** — "Language as Form: Calligraphy & Sculpture by Gwen Yen Chiu"/Nick Collard's "Forest," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Through April 6, 2025** — "From the Speedway Comes Their Stamina: Studebaker Racing & Record-Breakers," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org)

**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](mailto:friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com)

**Saturdays in Chesterton** — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: [tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw](http://tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw)

**Saturdays in October** — Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Miller Beach. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in October** — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in October** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Miller Beach. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing*: "Strangers on a Train." PG. Time: 7 p.m. Oct. 17. *Also*: "White Bird." Rated PG-13. Times: 4 & 7 p.m. Oct. 18-20, 7 p.m. Oct. 22. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

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### Community Concert Association



Jason Coleman.

Jason Coleman marks the latest LaPorte Community Concert Association season at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, at LaPorte High School's PAC, 602 F St.

The pianist celebrates music made famous by his grandfather, Floyd Cramer, in a concert of country and pop classics. He incorporates multimedia to share personal stories, photos and films of growing up with his "Grandad," culminating in a series of video duets.

A season ticket costs \$65. The family ticket, which covers two adults and all students, is \$150.

Contact Bill Burger at (219) 362-5292 for more details. Members who can help purchase season memberships are: Beth LeRoy at (219) 362-8262; Burger at (219) 362-5292; Vickie Parrett at (219) 363-2083; Wini Lambert at (219) 326-9616; Bruce Johnson at (219) 362-3749; Shirley Duerr at (219) 326-5318; Kathi Jones at (219) 872-3933; and Roger and Sue Smith at (219) 362-2944.

### Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center will celebrate the season's final Chesterton Third Friday, complete with 12 local artists, a cash bar and light bites, from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18.

Works include handmade jewelry, prints, ceramics and sculpture. Artists include: Emily Blossom, Susan Brandsetter, Maureen Duffy-Daugavietis, Georgia Geis, Zoe Gladkowski, Dorothy Graden, Laurel Izard, Morgan Johnson, Jayde McAloon, Mindy Milan, Alice Nebelsiek-Piorowski and artists from CAC's Teen Arts Group.



Guests are invited to wear Halloween attire.

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](http://www.chestertonart.org) for more details.

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**Screening of “Nosferatu”**

Local moviegoers can experience E.F. Murnau's “Nosferatu” (1922) at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Barker Hall at Trinity Church, 600 Franklin St.

Trinity Music Director Dr. George Karst will accompany the film on the Barker Hall Baldwin grand piano and organ. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Trinity Youth Group travel fund, with the youth providing movie treats.

A column by Matt Kubik about the movie will appear Monday on *The Beacher's* Facebook page.

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It's October, that time of apple orchard visits, trick or treating and spooky stories. For the rest of the month, I have chosen books perfect for the season. Whether you believe in ghosts, spirits or things that go bump in the night, these stories always seem to lend themselves to the season.

Here, I give you a girl with an obsession for taking photos, and an unwelcome ability to see and talk to spirits who can't move on to the hereafter.

Rita Todacheene is a crime-scene photographer who works too many hours and sees too many broken bodies. Then, there are the spirits that come unbidden, wanting her to bring them closure and a chance to move on. She has an extraordinary ability to capture the details of a crime scene, the details of which the author describes maybe all too well.

Rita, a member of the Navajo Nation, has lived with her grandmother since childhood on the Navajo reservation near Gallup, N.M. Her mother went off to school to get an education, a better job, but they don't see her much. That satisfies Rita, who loves her grandmother and neighbor, Mr. Bitsilly, the tribe's medicine man.

Rita is 5 when she sees her first spirit. Her grandmother explains the ability is a gift and a curse. The medicine man prays over her, and the years goes by. Rita learns no one wants to hear or believe her stories about the dead; in fact, those stories always get her in trouble.

A homemade camera, given by her grandmother, starts Rita on a lifelong journey of capturing the essence of people and places that leads her to a college degree in photography...then nothing. She can't find a job until she sees the ad for a forensic's assistant, taking photos of police crime scenes. She gets the job.

It's now five years later, and the job is taking its toll on her. She counts out the number of each photo as she decides on the best angle to capture the horror and details of the moment. Since the author vividly describes the details of the dead, it's easy to see how taking photos of the mangled and missing parts of a human body eventually get to you.

Spirits rise up from the wreckage of their deaths

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



and demand Rita bring the guilty party to justice, or just to tell a loved one it was an accident and not a suicide. As Rita says, "I didn't feel their past. I felt their presence."

After a particularly horrendous week, Rita gets three months off to recuperate, and she returns to her grandmother's house. But the voices won't let

go, and Rita's sense of wanting to help throws her back into the fray, trying to find evidence to put away Detective Garcia, a cop so crooked and dangerous, and probably with ties to a Mexican cartel.

A woman named Irma supposedly threw herself off a highway overpass and Garcia, the detective in charge, rules it a suicide. Irma appears before Rita, sharing the real story, and that she will hound her to her grave if she doesn't help. That grave may be closer than Rita thinks if Garcia finds out she's investigating him.

"Grandma always said to me that you never do things for people to get something in return... You do it because they need you. You do it because if you don't, no one else will."

Does Rita have any other choice but to help Irma? Especially after Grandma's words?

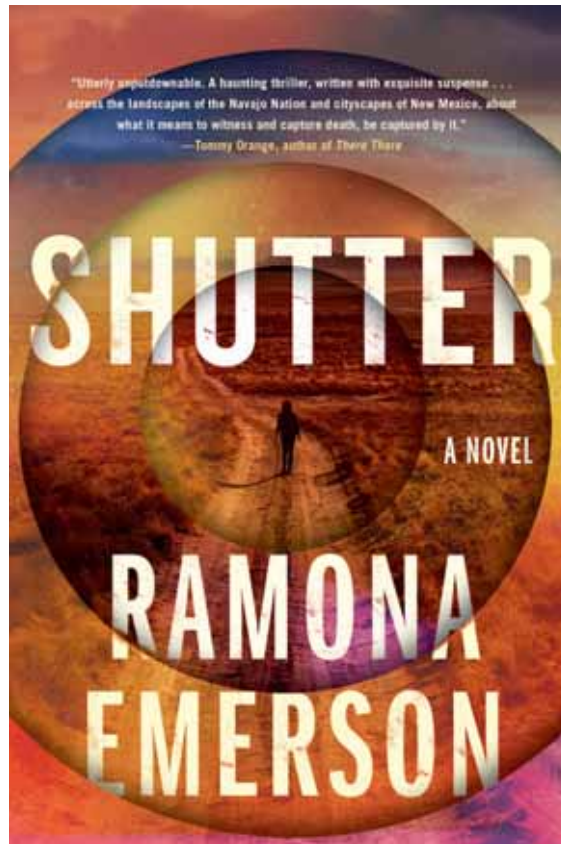
Alternating chapters show her as a child and as an adult. Rita's

path in the spirit, as well as the real world, is told with compassion and believability.

*The final word:* It doesn't matter if you believe in spirits or not to enjoy this extremely well-written book. You may think Rita is hallucinating, or maybe she is the real deal. No matter, we seldom die at convenient times, and maybe this story helps to see how unfinished business at the time of death can spill over into the living world, to a person open to the many possibilities of life and death.

Emerson is Navajo and lives in New Mexico. She and her husband run a production company: Reel Indian Pictures. She has been a forensic photographer, writer and editor. *Shutter* was long-listed for the 2022 National Book Award. She just published another book about Rita, *Exposure*.

Till next time, happy reading, and don't forget to pick up the apple cider!

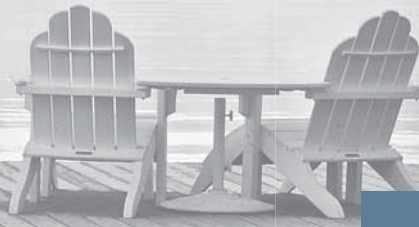


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# Top Producers for September

Mike & Joann Liberatore  
219-363-2944  
mliberatore18@gmail.com



Hailee Hills  
219-363-7840  
haileehillsrealtor@gmail.com

Words that have been used to describe Mike's work ethic are Integrity, Professionalism, Knowledgeable, Competent, and Hard Working. Mike and his wife of 34 years, Joann, joined forces in 2014 and then elevated their level of service by adding team member Hailee Hills in 2020 to provide the best buying and selling experience in LaPorte County and surrounding areas.

# Most Transactions for September

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“Ashlan was extremely kind and helpful! Every question we had was answered right away and she was very patient with showing us all of the houses we were interested in seeing!”

- Katie B., Sold Sept 2024

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