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The Art of Design

by Linda Weigel

“Art interior is the natural projection of the soul.” Coco Chanel

With the popularity of home-improvement shows, many of us often wonder how the hosts bring it all together so effortlessly.

For me, once all major construction changes are complete, the best part is next. It's the choices in paint color, furniture, carpeting, draperies, metals and ceramics that pull everything together in functionality with great design, intimacy and personality. It is art as 3-D space: light, texture, balance and color.

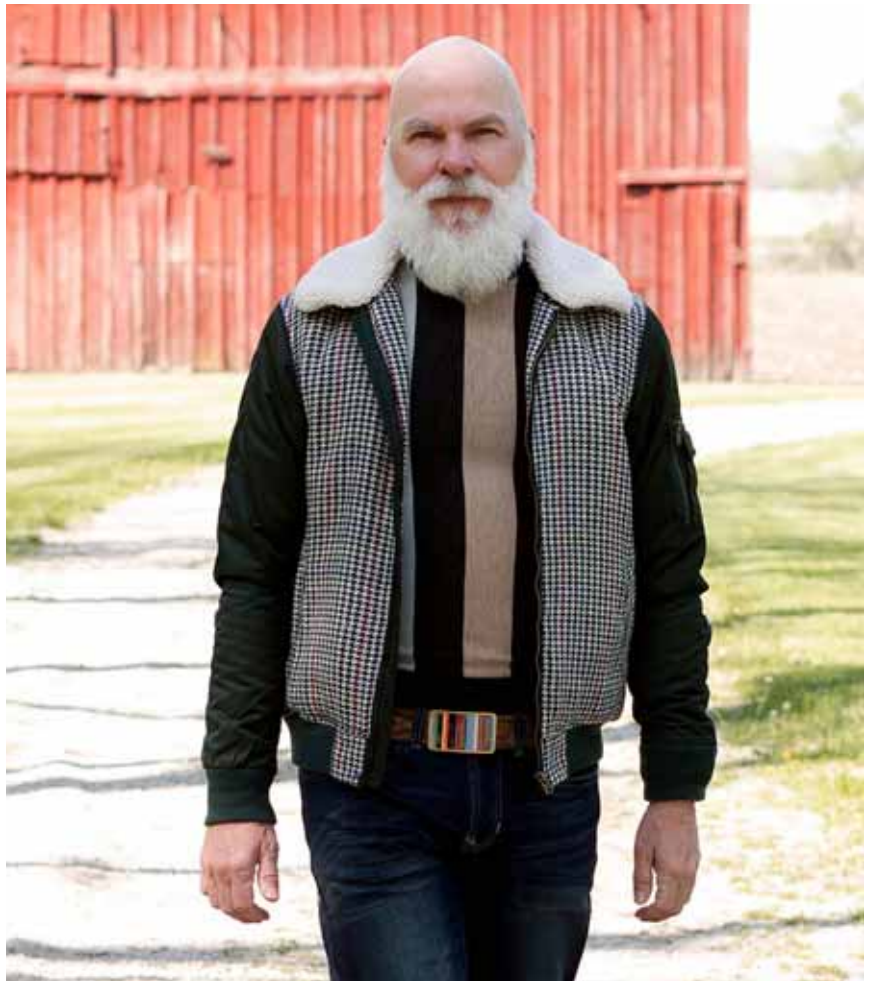
Years ago, I worked with an interior designer developing custom-made, site-specific art for designer showrooms. When it came to installing design objects for the room or rooms, including my art, I was amazed to discover the level of work involved in the selection and execution of every component, resulting in an exciting, comfortable space. Every little detail was attended to and thoughtfully arranged in a beautiful orchestration of light, color and design.

The effect was magical.

Recently, I had the chance to meet an interior designer and returning native Hoosier whose story is fascinating.

Ancestry and Education

Robert Alt is the fourth generation to occupy Baker Brothers Farm, 6801 W. County Road 250 South. His Dutch forebears, brothers Andy and Ralph Baker, immigrated to the United States in the 1940s to partner and buy two farms: one for each of them. Andy is Robert's great-grandfather. The farm then passed down to his grandmother, then eventually to him and his sisters. Robert, himself, was born in Winamac. His mother grew up nearby on the Thompson Farm just



Robert Alt is photographed at Baker Brothers Farm. Photo provided.

north of him now on Wozniak Road.

“My mom and dad were sweethearts when they were little kids,” he said. “They went to church together. They got married after my dad got his degree from Purdue in 1961.”

From there, his father taught in Westville before accepting a position in Winamac. His mother and

Continued on Page 2

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The Art of Design

Continued from Page 1

brother still live in Winamac. As a child, he often visited the farm and has many wonderful memories of times spent there. He views himself as part of that legacy, and by holding onto the generational farm, and making improvements as needed, he is keeping it in the family for future generations.

“I come from a very talented family,” he said. “My mom was a wonderful seamstress. Both my grandmothers were wonderful seamstresses. My one grandmother was an amazing baker. I’m a 10-year 4-H’er as well. My mom has a good sense of scale and aesthetic, and her house is flawless and beautiful.”

In fact, on a recent visit, his mother insisted on where to place a painting in his shop. Clearly, the eye for composition and design was there from the beginning.

Robert is a Purdue legacy student. His grandfather and father went to Purdue, as well as his two older sisters.

“So, it was just easy for me to go to Purdue,” he said. “The interior design program at Purdue, at the time, was new, maybe only four or five years when I started. It really wasn’t accredited.”

The design program, however, did become accredited while he attended school there.

“I am technically trained in commercial design,” he said. “It was really commercial hospitality, technical. At the time it was BCT – Building Construction Trade. I really wanted to do residential, and then I got a job at The Merchandise Mart (Chicago) as a fabric clerk, at one of the fabric houses. That’s where I met Tom Girot. He sort of let me spread my wings, and he saw my talent. I went into residential right away.”

Girot was a prominent figure in the design world.

“Everybody knew him, especially in The Merchandise Mart,” he said. “I got very lucky.”

Robert mentioned Girot’s influence, his amazing taste and talent, and how they became lifelong friends. Through contact and mentorship with Girot, he found his own niche in design.



Robert is the fourth generation of his family to occupy Baker Brothers Farm. Photo by Linda Weigel.

Philosophy and Experience

“The details are not the details. They make the design.” Charles Eames

Over the course of his career, Robert has developed his own approach to the work. On his website, he talks about how “our homes are reflections of our past, of our current situations, and of our aspirations. I have long felt a deep connection with the idea of home, having spent many of my formative years on my grandparents’ farm in Northwest Indiana, learning the value of land, of connections born in the home, and of traditions lovingly passed on to me from my parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors.”



The sign for Baker Brothers Farm. Photo by Linda Weigel.

Those home connections, and what they represent, are a major component in how he approaches his work, and why he becomes invested in the emotional side of the work, “because you’re doing something so personal for clients.” That commitment takes trust, knowing the client’s history and desires, as well as thinking long term, not necessarily bound up by what is trendy.

He has been an interior designer in Chicago for 28 years. The job has evolved over time, with interesting opportunities in team partnership and one-on-one affiliations through large homes, businesses and small, singular room makeovers.

In the 1990s, when there was a big boom for huge homes, Robert became part of a team that included an architect, builder, interior designer and landscape architect, all working together through the entire process.

“You know, from design, build, install, it took

Continued on Page 4

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Continued from Page 3

three years, especially if it was a 10,000 square-foot house. I painstakingly did every little accessory, and every little pillow, and every little nuance in a client's house. That's what I've always done. I didn't do a lot of projects a year. I did really great projects a year."

Asked how he defines his choice of art in interior design, and how he uses it, he replied, "For me, scale is the most important part that I am creating for the client. Art is in the eye of the beholder."

Friesland Home and Vignettes

"The home should be a treasure chest of living."

Le Corbusier

I wondered, then, in light of his work history, why Robert would move back to Indiana to take over the farm, then open his company, Friesland Home.

He says he was always a Hoosier at heart, and when he decided to "wind down my career in the city and move back home, I needed to do something." He hoped to continue part time with city work, and he sold his Chicago home.

"I ended up having so many things from my house," he said, "and the farm house was full as well, so I made the decision and took everything from my Chicago home and put it in storage.

"I then took everything from here and put it all into the same storage. I was more or less living with just the bare necessities, and then COVID hit. That sort of pushed off opening of the store, but that was always my plan, to move back to Indiana and do some type of retail where I could also still do my design work."

Why the name Friesland Home? The name "Friesland" comes from his Dutch heritage. His great-grandparents were from the village of Donkerbroek, in the municipality of Ooststellingwerf, within the province of Friesland. The Netherlands have provinces instead of states, and Friesland is the largest of the 12. His grandmother was first-generation American, and "she always talked about Friesland. Friesland! Friesland!"

After his dad passed away when he was only 3, his grandparents, especially his grandmother, became very important to him and his sisters. Spending so much time with her gave them the opportunity to know and appreciate their Dutch culture. In 2017, he and his sister traveled to the Netherlands, visiting Donkerbroek.

"We walked where our great-grandparents told all the stories that we had heard about the Netherlands growing up,"

he said. "That's where the name (Friesland) came from."

The imprinting of years spent with his grandmother and her stories, then experiencing firsthand his Dutch heritage, clearly was impactful.

After COVID, Robert had his choice of several barns or outbuildings on the farm to choose from for his showroom/shop. Once the decision was made, he began rehabbing by first pouring a concrete floor and adding electric. He painted the interior walls and ceiling a single shade of black to best set off his vignettes in dramatic lighting arrangements. Store inventory largely comes from either his Chicago home or the farm itself.

Robert specializes in creating vignettes. My understanding of the term is that it is like a composition: a compact visual arrangement of objects that make a personal, eye-catching statement. With Robert, it is compositions so perfectly balanced and symmetrical, it is difficult to move on from one example to the next, as each is an individual statement of near perfection.

I was heartened to learn his striking sales counter, a heavy wood piece, came from the former Lows clothing store in downtown LaPorte. Alt secured it at auction, preserving that piece of LaPorte history.

Robert considers himself lucky with his career and embraces his heritage. He is especially happy enjoying the younger members of his family, and how the creativity gene passed down to future generations. One of his nieces is building a career in fashion design in Los Angeles, while another working niece has a young son who finds time to create art.

"That generational thing has gone on to the next generation of creativity," he said. "I just love that. I'm so proud of that. I'm super proud of that. This is sort of a family affair. We support each other like crazy as far as being cheerleaders."



Robert specializes in creating vignettes of his work. Photo by Linda Weigel.

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After a Sluggish First Act, “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes” Soars

by Andrew Tallackson



Freya Allan stars as a woman turning to apes for help in “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes.”

“Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes” makes marvelous use of technology to wow you. Once the story catches up, dragging its feet for more than an hour, the movie is a high point for this reboot franchise.

By reboot, I mean 2011’s “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.” After various incarnations over time of the same plot since the 1968 original, it found an inspired way to birth a virus that not only backfires, but makes humans subservient to apes. James Franco was starched-shirt stiff, but John Lithgow was incredibly moving, with Andy Serkis elevating motion-capture technology into unparalleled art.

Two well-regarded sequels followed — “Dawn” (2014) and “War” (2017) — but I was not a fan. Save for well-executed action sequences, the sequels have long, drawn-out passages that reduce technological wonders into stone-cold bores. The first hour of “Kingdom” is no different...until the magnificent second act.

The story unfolds some 300 years after Caesar, the first talking ape, dies. Apes now exist in clans. Noa (Owen Teague), a young chimp, reluctantly teams up with a woman tracking him, Mae (Freya Allan of Netflix’s “The Witcher”) after a rival clan attacks his village and abducts his family.

Before then, we spent a good chunk of the movie’s nearly 2 ½ hour runtime in Noa’s village. Director Wes Ball (the “Maze Runner” trilogy) and screenwriter Josh Friedman (Steven Spielberg’s 2005 “War of the Worlds” remake, James Cameron’s “Avatar: The Way of Water”) conceive a haunting apocalyptic world. The skeletons of once towering skyscrapers exist, but the earth has consumed them, blanketing them in greenery. The motion-capture technology that digitizes actors into apes is so transformative, it surpasses everything achieved by this franchise.

★ ★ ★^{1/2}

“Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes”

Running time: 145 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13
for intense sequences of sci-fi violence/action

You never feel like you’re watching effects, but living, breathing creatures.

There are plenty of quiet moments. More than we need. Lots of scenes of Noa and his fellow apes in their habitats that could have been established with a scene or two. The movie also holds off on pairing Noa and Mae together for too long. Again, one scene or two of her following him would have sufficed.

What we’re talking about is shaving a good 15-20 minutes off the movie’s first act, because once Noa and Mae arrive at the rival ape clan’s compound, the movie is intoxicating eye candy. These brutish apes live by the sea, the rotting hull of a massive tanker in the shallows. The apes try to break into a former human compound that may contain useful, leftover technology.

Would the technology still work 300 years later? An obvious lapse in logic; however, the explosion that sends waves crashing into the compound, the rousing heroics, the depth of human emotion, the sweeping score by “Maze Runner” composer John Paesano (shades of vintage John Williams are everywhere), it’s like the franchise was destined to arrive at this moment.

No doubt we’ll get another sequel. The franchise reinvents itself decade after decade. Do we need more? Not really, but what can’t be denied is, in the second act, “Kingdom” is dynamite moviemaking.

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Contemporary Pokagon Artists Focus of New KAC Exhibit

“Traditional Echo: Contemporary Pokagon Artists & The Ones Who Came Before,” which showcases six Pokagon Band of Potawatomi artists, runs May 18-Aug. 25 at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

A free opening celebration is from 6-8 p.m. EDT Friday, May 17. Also on display that night is art by Allissa Corak in The Lab, while pieces by Kris Sanford are featured on the KAC exterior. Guests can participate in an artmaking project inspired by an upcoming installation in the East Garden. A cash bar and lite bites are planned.

Skyler Alslup, Kathy Getz-Fodness, Mary Getz, Justin Johnson, TJ Martin and Christina Rapp will display their work in the galleries; in tandem, guest curator-Pokagon Archivist Jennifer Marcussen will pair archival objects highlight-



Artwork by Justin Johnson.

ing the legacy of the arts and honoring ancestral knowledge. The result will include contemporary and historic beaded masks, functional ceramics and textiles.

In a press release, Marcussen, a Pokagon member and advocate for preserving tribal heritage, calls the exhibit “a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of the ancestors.” She is pursuing a master’s degree in Human-Centered Design and Engineering at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, with a focus on user experience design, and a master’s degree in Library Information Science at Wayne State University, specializing in archival studies.

In conjunction with the exhibit is “Coffee With the Curator” at noon EDT Thursday, May 23. Marcussen heads the free program. Visit www.krasl.org for more details.

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Coolspring Elementary Students Donate Care Packages to Franciscan Patients

Coolspring Elementary School students recently delivered 54 care packages featuring a coloring book of their artwork for Franciscan Health Michigan City patients.

“On behalf of the Coolspring students, we would like to present you with these 54 goodie bags, which contain a student-made coloring book, coloring supplies and a sweet treat for the patients and families of the patients at your hospital,” sixth-grader London Stupar, 12, said during the presentation. “We are hopeful that these donations will spread a little joy on this Better World Day.”

Through the annual, national event sponsored by the nonprofit EL Education, students celebrate meaningful student work that positively impacts the world around them.

The students developed the concept of creating a coloring book with pages of student artwork for Franciscan patients. The books were presented in



Coolspring Elementary School students delivered 54 care packages for patients at Franciscan Health Michigan City.

small backpacks also containing crayons and snacks with a card attached reading, “Please accept this gift to help you heal from Coolspring Elementary School students.”

The card also contains a QR code linking to a voice recording from students saying, in unison, “Coolspring Elementary students wish you well.”

Coolspring Art Teacher Nicole Ward led the students, saying she is proud of their efforts.

“I think it’s a beautiful way to connect to the community,” Ward said in a press release. “Hopefully, it will impact the patients in a very positive way.”

Sister M. Petra Nielsen, Franciscan Health Michigan City vice president of mission integration, thanked the students for sharing their gifts.

“I am truly touched by the compassion and care shown by these young students for hospitalized strangers,” she said in a press release.



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Short Film by Dunes Managing Director to Premiere at Athens Film Festival

by Andrew Tallackson



Elise Kermani (left) is photographed with her all-female crew while shooting "Without Fame."

It is fitting that Homer's "Odyssey" was a driving force behind Elise Kermani's short film "Without Fame."

Back in 2018, she returned home to Michigan City after a lengthy absence. She'd been thinking about Homer's epic poem, wanted to tell it in some fresh format, but wasn't sure where to begin.

Then came the image of a body washing onto a shore, one inspired by migrants who've perished in the waters near Greece after difficult ocean treks.

And from there, a fascination not with Odysseus, but his mother, Antikleia, a tragic figure often overlooked amid discussions of Homer's work. Antikleia, ironically, means "Without Fame" in ancient Greek.

Thus was born Kermani's eight-minute short film — an all-female production — that premieres May 22 at AGON International Archeological Film Festival in Athens, Greece.

It is quite a coup for Kermani, the Dunes Arts Foundation managing director. The festival received 1,250 entries from 100 countries before narrowing the field to 63 films from 24 countries. Kermani's work is one of only two U.S. inclusions.

"It's really a dream for me," she told *The Beacher*, "because my work is very academic and very specific, so when I go to these things, most of the people

are going to understand what I am doing. What I am saying."

Produced by Illium Pictures mostly north of Los Angeles, the film was shot over two days last September during the Hollywood actors-writers strike.

Kermani describes Antikleia as proof of how a mother's life can diminish once her child leaves. However, she tries not to literalize her vision, but allow symbolism to carry the meaning. That includes infusing music and dance into the imagery.

"I like to include dance in my work because it can tell a story without being literal; expressing character and narrative, while still leaving plenty open to the imagination," she said.

Kermani also chose to feature a traditional Greek song, "Tzivaeri" ("My Treasure"). She first heard it about a decade ago during a trip to Greece. Transfixed by it, she hoped one day to use it in a film. Getting someone Greek to sing and record it for the film, she says its presence represents a mother's adoration for her child.

"Without Fame" certainly fits neatly into Kermani's wheelhouse. An adjunct lecturer of media art at Empire State University in New York, she is influenced by European theatrical video art. She also likes to spin modern takes on classic material.



A scene from "Without Fame."

With her latest project, Kermani is thrilled to have it included at the AGON International Archeological Film Festival. Celebrating its 28th anniversary, the event emphasizes not only archaeological films, but also documentaries, reportage, fiction, animation, research and educational films.

"It's filmmakers making works about history from all over the world," she said. "It's very cool."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will walk the Mount Tabor Trails in Baroda, Mich., at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, May 18.

The trails are mostly on the Valparaiso Moraine, a glacial formation that makes for a hilly, twisting hike. The hike leader, HCH President Pat Fisher, will discuss recent glacial lake history, including Lake Baroda. May flowers, including mayapples and grapes, should be blooming, with deciduous trees pushing out the last of their summer leaves.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is welcome. Hikers should prepare for muddy and slippery ground, wear long pants (preferably tucked in), sturdy shoes or boots and a sun hat. Take insect repellent and water.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the group's Facebook page for more details.



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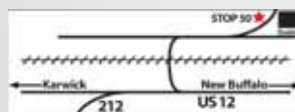
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Unity Foundation Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Day With Grants

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Day, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County surprised four local teachers with classroom grants.

Unity Foundation invited the public to submit nominations by sharing what makes the teacher special. Of the nominations received, four were randomly selected. Their schools each will receive a \$250 grant from the Random Acts of Kindness Fund for the teachers to use for items in their classrooms or creative projects to enhance learning.



Josie Southworth (back row, fourth from the left) is photographed with her class and Shannon Walker from Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

The following teachers recognized, their schools and excerpts from the nominations are:

• Melissa Coffeen, Kesling Intermediate (LaPorte): *“She teaches the mild program for fifth and sixth grade. These kids need so much encouragement,*

and she provides it. She makes sure she has everything in her room for them. Snacks, games and drinks. She makes sure that she teaches their grade standards at their level. She is their cheerleader.”

• Kyle McCallum, South Central: *“Kyle is an absolutely amazing teacher! He goes over and beyond to teach his students the importance of the earth’s land. He also packs food bags for underprivileged children every week to be sent home on the week-*

ends. He is the real deal of caring for our children.”

• Dan Olson, LaPorte High School: *“He’s funny. The kids love him. He uses poker to teach statistics. It’s their favorite day of the year. Statistics!”*

• Josie Southworth, Joy Elementary (Michigan City): *“She has gone beyond the duties required by her job to care for her children. She has shown compassion for not only their academic growth, but also their mental and emotional growth and well being. She is awesome, and it has been an honor to have her as my child’s teacher.”*

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The History Museum Lecture

The lecture “Media Coverage of Civil Rights: Shameful to Heroic” is at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 19, at South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The speaker is *South Bend Tribune* columnist Jack Colwell, who wrote about civil rights issues — local and national — dating back to the 1960s. He will discuss longtime news-media faults, and how coverage then took down some of discrimination’s most deplorable practices.

Before and after the lecture, guests can tour the exhibit “Undesign the Red Line” and visit the Worker’s Home, now interpreted as a 1950s African-American residence.

Admission is \$5, or \$3 for members. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended online at www.historymuseumSB.org. Call (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, for more details.



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Harbor Country Film Group



In what is arguably the most famous scene from "Five Easy Pieces," Bobby Dupea (Jack Nicholson) tries to order toast at a roadside diner.

Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran will screen and discuss Bob Rafelson's "Five Easy Pieces" at 6 p.m. EDT Monday, May 20, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Jack Nicholson earned an Academy Award nomination in 1970 for his role as Bobby Dupea, a shiftless, 30-something oil rigger and former piano prodigy. Full of rebellious spirit, he's immune to any sense of responsibility. Learning his distant father suffered a debilitating stroke, he sets out on a road trip to reconsider his past. Karen Black co-stars as his girlfriend, Rayette Dipesto. The late critic Roger Ebert said the movie "has the complexity, the nuance, the depth of the best fiction."

The screening is free, with free popcorn served.

NB Library Community Forum

Nick Bogert of The Region of Three Oaks Museum will speak on the life of Edward Kirk Warren at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 21, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program is through the Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum.

Bogert, who has spent years collecting images and stories about Warren and his family, originally made his presentation at the Historical Society of Michigan. Warren is attributed with shaping Michigan history through prosperity, better roads and other civic improvements, strong religious convictions and a philanthropic streak.



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“The Fall Guy” Works Better as an Action Film Than as a Comedy

by Andrew Tallackson



Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt star in “The Fall Guy.”

“The Fall Guy” is a fun movie that’s never a great one.

The movie, loosely lifted from the 1980s TV show, exists to have a cheeky, wink-wink laugh at itself. A meta parody where the film is about the very thing it’s parodying. You couldn’t ask for a director better suited for this: David Leitch, a former stunt performer who co-directed the first “John Wick,” then balanced action with laughs in “Deadpool 2” and “Bullet Train.” The buried treasure in his resume: 2017’s gritty Charlize Theron actioner “Atomic Blonde,” which has one of the most exhaustive fight sequences ever.

Leitch gives “The Fall Guy” the right tone. Someone just needed to beef up the script by Drew Pearce (“Iron Man 3,” “Hobbs & Shaw”), which is structured perfectly for laughs...but without providing enough of them.

The *cast*, though. That can’t-miss cast. When people talk about actors having a certain chemistry, they’re talking about duos like Ryan Gosling (“Barbie”) and Emily Blunt (“Oppenheimer”). Performers operating at full star wattage who clearly enjoy each other’s company. Who feed off each other splendidly

At the start of “The Fall Guy,” Gosling plays a stunt performer with the appropriately macho name Colt Seavers. He’s begun dating his latest film’s camerawoman, Jody Moreno (Blunt). The project also marks his latest collaboration as stunt double



“The Fall Guy”

Running time: 126 minutes. In Theaters. Rated PG-13 for action and violence, drug content and some strong language.

for action star Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson, “Bullet Train”). Tom is a moron. A wimp.

When Colt is injured during a stunt gone horribly wrong, he falls off the grid, reduced to parking cars for a swanky establishment. Eighteen months later, he’s lured back into stunt work when Tom goes missing on his new film. Turns out, Jody is the director. The film, shooting in Sydney, Australia, might just be his ticket to kickstarting his career...and resurrecting his fling with Jody.

Leitch, and Pearce’s screenplay, know enough about the movie industry where it feels like you’re getting a glimpse into the stunt profession. And Jody’s movie, “Metalstorm,” is some ridiculous sci-fi epic that’s like watching “Dune” had it been mis-directed by DC hack Zack Snyder (“Man of Steel,” “Batman vs. Superman”).

At its best, “The Fall Guy” coasts on energy fueled by Gosling and Blunt. The actress again plays the smartest person in the room, which forces Gosling’s Colt to step up, to think at Jody’s manic level.

But consider that the “Metalstorm” producer is

played by none other than Hannah Waddingham. As Rebecca on “Ted Lasso,” she’s a striking comedic presence. British refinement wooed by Ted’s folksy charm. Here, she’s buried under a ridiculous wig and not a single funny piece of dialogue. When scene-stealing Oscar-nominee Stephanie Hsu (“Everything Everywhere All at Once”) pops up as Tom’s personal assistant, you prep for fun. This is a woman who, especially in last year’s raunchy “Joy Ride,” knows how to surprise you. But, again, not one funny line of dialogue, her scenes over before you know it.

Other comic potential gets squandered. The “Metalstorm” cast, on a filming break, heads to a local karaoke bar. The schlubby camera guy performs Christina Aguilera’s “Genie in a Bottle,” which is sorta kinda amusing, but not the belly laugh the movie believes it to be. Why not have the guy writhing around on the floor, like Aguilera in the music video? That might have produced bigger laughs. Taylor-Johnson, during the movie’s action climax, may be doing a Matthew McConaughey impression, which would be clever if his lines were as wacko as the “Dazed and Confused” star is.

See what I’m getting at? The template for laughs is there, just not true comedic inspiration,

Indeed, the action is invigorating. How could a movie about stunt people not be? In acknowledging the tricks of the stunt trade, Leitch delights in showcasing why they never fail to amaze. That’s especially true during a street chase in which Gosling dukes it out with a bad guy in a construction truck knocked on its side and dragged along at high



The action scenes play off the movie’s knowledge of stunt work and the movie industry.

speed. And Gosling, reborn as a gifted comedian after last summer’s “Barbie,” gets to flip the bird in one spectacularly epic sight gag.

Leitch definitely knows how to stage a spectacle. He moves “The Fall Guy” so rapidly, the movie is breathless in its ability to keep going, to entertain at all costs. In many cases, it succeeds. After all is said and done, though, you realize you didn’t laugh much.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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At The Center of Creativity and Innovation

Nearly 500 Northwest Indiana poets submitted entries in the Eighth Annual “Juried Showcase of Poetry,” a Center for Creative Solutions showcase during World Creativity & Innovation Week and National Poetry Month.

The winners read their work April 28 to family, friends and community members at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau. The event followed a women’s poetry reading earlier in April, funded by Sinai Temple, that included Carnessa Carnes, Carmen Navarro, Kayla Vasilko, Valerie Wallace and Jamie Wendt before a standing-room-only audience at Michigan City Public Library.

Introducing the program, The Center’s Bill Halliar noted the showcase began eight years ago with three student poets from LaPorte County. Since then, poets from Porter and Lake counties have joined the competition.

Event co-sponsors for World Creativity & Innovation Week were: the Bethany Church Foundation of LaPorte; WIMS Radio; Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest; and “Art on the Air” broadcasted on Lakeshore Public Radio. For the first time, every LaPorte County library signed on as a showcase co-sponsor.

Dr. William Allegrezza of Indiana University Northwest judged the entries. He teaches creative writing, professional writing, composition and literature classes. His primary interest is contemporary poetry in the Americas. He has published 14 books in many countries, and his work has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese.

The winners were:

STUDENT WINNERS

- Lainey Bell, First Place, First Grade, Wadsworth Elementary, Griffith.
- Lucy Connors, Second Place, First Grade, Wadsworth Elementary.
- Jaylani Strange, Third Place, First Grade, Wadsworth Elementary.
- Myles Yuknis, First Place, Second Grade, Queen of All Saints, Michigan City.
- Ellianah Nabatanzi, Second Place, Second Grade, Queen of All Saints, Michigan City.
- Christian Arnold, Third Place, Second Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Elise Kliza, First Place, Third Grade, Beiriger Elementary, Griffith.
- Emma Katich, Second Place, Third Grade, Beiriger Elementary, Griffith.

- Milo Zibutis, Third Place, Third Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Violet Loyd, Honorable Mention, Third Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Robin Cole, First Place, Fourth Grade, Beiriger Elementary.
- Raegan Donley, Second Place, Fourth Grade, Beiriger Elementary.
- Holden O’Brien, Third Place, Fourth Grade, Beiriger Elementary.
- Alissa Smith, Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Anna Nelson, First/Third Places, Fifth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Logan Jacques, Second Place, Fifth Grade, Beiriger Elementary.
- Imani Moore, Honorable Mention, Fifth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Kennedy Davis, First Place, Sixth/Seventh Grades, Barker Middle School, Michigan City.
- Kyleigh Russell, Second Place, Sixth/Seventh Grades, Queen of All Saints.
- Amelia Arnold, Third Place, Sixth/Seventh Grades, Queen of All Saints.
- Peyton West, Honorable Mention, Sixth/Seventh Grades, Our Lady of Grace School, Highland.
- Yareli Villalobos, First Place, Eighth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Kayla Campbell, Second Place, Eighth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Lauren Furore, Third Place, Eighth Grade, Queen of All Saints.
- Shokria Khairy, First Place, Ninth Grade, La Lumiere School, LaPorte.
- Helena Acosta, Second Place, Ninth Grade, La Lumiere School.
- Zoe Zeilbeck, Third Place, Ninth Grade, La Lumiere School.
- Carmen Navarro, First Place, 10th Grade, La Lumiere School.
- Alexis Rodriguez, Second Place, 12th Grade, Portage High School.
- Leanna Monteiro, Third Place, 12th Grade, Portage High School.

ADULT WINNERS

- Sandra Young, LaPorte, First Place.
- Valerie Wallace, Michigan City, Second Place.
- Juliana Michelbrink, Westville, Third Place.



Kyleigh Russell of Queen of All Saints.



Shokria Khairy of La Lumiere School.



William Halliar is photographed with LaPorte's Sandra Young, the first-place winner in the adult division.

Continued from Page 20

Earlier in April, a crowd gathered at Michigan City's A.K. Smith Career Center for a community breakfast that kicked off World Creativity and Innovation Week.

A portion of the event focused on scholarships and Student Innovation Awards.

Center board members Keri Marrs Barrón and Dale Cooper presented the Tej Ram Gupta scholarships for innovative work to A.K. Smith students Jeremiah Allen and Alayla Dunning of Michigan City High School and Connor June of Westville High School.

The scholarships are funded by the B.R. Foundation through Dr. Rakish and Bina Gupta of Michigan City in conjunction with the center. They are named after Mrs. Gupta's father, Tej Ram Gupta, who was dedicated to education.

In addition, Pat Lain and Anna Schapekahn, board president and Valparaiso University intern, respectively, for the center presented Student Innovation Awards funded through the Morgan Family Foundation. They included:

- Collin Gallagher, Chesterton High School, who built a hydrogen generator.
- Isabel Barron, LaPorte Middle School, whose artwork was displayed this year at the Indiana Statehouse.
- Kimberley Hoeckelberg, Shyann Smolen and Elise Seward, Porter County Career Center, who created a school-based composting program.
- Charity Ibikunle, Munster High School, who designed a program, "Escape the Silence," helping elementary and middle-school students deal with everyday problems like bullying and self-image.

Lain also commended Barker Middle School students for their STEM projects. Winning students included: Prentess Bell, Dayton Ostermeier, Bentley Mazurkiewicz, Alisha Benlis Green, Jack Soller, Alex Soviak, Brachelle Wright, Mariah Edwards, Evin Hodgson and David Morales. In their honor, a donation was given to teacher Amy Hamann on behalf of the Barker Middle School STEM program.

The final set of innovation awards went to To'ney



Tej Ram Gupta Scholarship winner Alayla Dunning (center) is photographed with Keri Marrs-Barron (right) and Dale Cooper.



Student Innovation Award winners Austin Morford and Alayla Dunning, of the A.K. Smith Career Center, with Pat Lain and Anna Schapekahn of The Center for Creative Solutions.

Jones, Austin Morford and Alayla Dunning, who participated in the A.K. Smith Career Center "Cupcake War Competition." A monetary donation went to Chef Angi Nipple on behalf of the culinary arts program.

(Visit www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com, send an email to creativity52@comcast.net or call (219) 326-7259 for more details.)

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“Late Night With the Devil” is Smart, Scary and Extremely Well Acted

by Andrew Tallackson



Jack Delroy (David Dastmalchian) watches as parapsychologist June Ross-Mitchell (Laura Gordon) tries to communicate with a possessed girl (Ingrid Torelli) in “Late Night With the Devil.”

I skipped “Late Night With the Devil” in theaters because the title, let alone the ridiculous poster, suggested it was crap.

Tsk tsk.

It’s one of the year’s best movies.

Lesson learned about judging that proverbial book by its cover.

The movie, now streaming on AMC+, falls into that sub-universe of the horror genre known as the faux documentary, the “found footage” thriller instigated by “The Blair Witch Project,” galvanized by “Cloverfield,” then reduced to tiresome cliché.

“Late Night With the Devil,” though, is nowhere near a cash-grab “Exorcist” knockoff. Far from it. It is a carefully executed morality tale about the price of fame and fortune, particularly at the expense of loved ones and worse, one’s own soul. And with flawless production values, the images feel like they’ve been directly lifted from the 1970s. That authenticity locked in place, and with David Dastmalchian (“Oppenheimer”) carrying the movie with one wow of a performance, the stage is set for one unsettling journey.

The movie’s documentary-style prologue reveals how Jack Delroy (Dastmalchian) rose through the ranks of late-night talk-show hosts, carving a suc-



“Late Night With the Devil”

Running time: 93 minutes. AMC+/Shudder. Rated R for violent content, some gore and language, including a sexual reference.

cessful niche for himself with the variety-style “Night Owls with Jack Delroy.” His direct competition, though, is none other than Johnny Carson. The venerable “Tonight Show” host proves unbeatable in the ratings, so Jack decides it’s time to pull out all the stops. Go for broke with one wild, live episode on Halloween night.

Late night hosts, even today, can slip into ham-handed parlour tricks. The way they force a joke, overemphasizing certain words, waving their hands about or pushing a punch line too far. As if the audience needs the extra emphasis to get the joke.

Dastmalchian nails it. At times, he’s like a low-tier car salesman peddling junked goods. And the way he keeps charging forward, even when jokes or skits fizzle, there’s a desperate drive to the performance that suggests someone willing to do anything to jolt his audience.

I love how brothers Colin and Cameron Cairnes, the writers-directors-editors, gradually intro-

duce the supernatural element guest by guest. At first, it seems like a freak occurrence. A corny psychic (Faysal Bazzi) leads to sparks from overhead lights...although his eyes briefly roll back, all color drained away.

Then, "Late Night With the Devil" introduces one whopper of a character: young Lilly D'Abo (Ingrid Torelli), who survived a mass suicide, is present with parapsychologist June Ross-Mitchell (Laura Gordon) and, here's the kicker, may be "possessed."

What can be said about Torelli, a young Australian actress, in the role? Well, prepare to be sufficiently creeped out. She is hyper alert. Sitting at attention, eyes wide. Like she's scoping out her prey. Lilly also seems to know a lot about Jack, which not only unnerves him, but we, as the viewer. Twice, I got spooked, rattled in my seat.

Through Lilly, we are forced to rethink our position on Jack. None of what happens on the set that night feels random. Like it's all linked somehow to Jack's past.

How does it all play out? The Cairnes brothers tinker with reality, with what is real and what may be hallucination. But in the end, the message is crystal clear. It helps too, that because the brothers treat their story like a documentary, what we experience mostly feels like the real thing. The movie understands that what scares us is not an assault of gore and effects, but by the presence of evil when we



David Dastmalchian gives one wow of a performance.

least expect it. Especially when we've been rather naughty in our own ambitions.

From here on out, expect great things from the Cairnes brothers.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is Wednesday-Sunday, May 15-19.

Organized by Indiana Audubon Society, the event includes Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park as hosts. Uniting major environmental groups, it highlights the dunes area's biodiversity and bird-watching opportunities. Planned are more than 160 guided field trips and car-pool tours, presentations, workshops and social events.

A free public launch is from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The kick-off features the opening of the "Dune Birds in Art" exhibit, showcasing works inspired by the region's birds by more than a dozen regional artists.

Also, festival artist Kristina Knowski, creator of the 10th-anniversary logo, will unveil the 2024 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival fine art print in the visitor center auditorium. Prints will be available for sale. Also that night, the festival premiere of PBS' "Flyways" is at 6:30 p.m., which tells the migration stories of godwits, curlews and Red Knots across the globe.

Festival registration is at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com



- **Science Fridays Series from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The presentations by local experts change topics each month. May's speaker is NPS botanist Dr. Dan Mason, who will discuss ongoing restoration of the Great Marsh and Cowles Bog Wetland Complex.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, May 17, 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.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Bailly-Chellberg parking lot, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20.** 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.
- **Chellberg Farm Care from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 18, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Meet a ranger and fellow volunteers to care for the farm. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Porter Beach Restoration from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 18.** Meet staff and volunteers at Porter Beach Parking Lot at Wabash Avenue and Johnson Beach Road. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Temporary passes will be available.
- **Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in**

May 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. Saturdays-Sundays in May.** Rangers and volunteers share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse/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 May 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.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 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:

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival 2024

- **Monarch Butterflies from 2-3 p.m. Thursday, May 16.** Avid monarch enthusiast Jim Starin will discuss everything from tagging and tracking to planting natives. He'll also discuss their life cycle, and their journeys to the north and Mexico.
- **Shrooms of the Dunes from 2-3 p.m. Friday, May 17.** Learn about Indiana Dunes mushrooms from mycologist-author Rob Hallock, specifically: the life cycle of fungi, their role in the environment and common fungi of the region.
- **Youth & Family Birding Day from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 18.** Birding hikes start every hour at the nature center. Also planned are bird games, bluebird house building, a photo ID quiz and giveaways.
- **Gardening for the Birds from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, May 18.** Indiana Master Naturalist Mary Nell Murphy will share tips to attract birds. Native plants of Indiana/Midwest will be highlighted, plus other features that attract birds.
- **Big Bend Birding from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, May 19.** Learn more about Big Bend in West Texas, which is considered the national park with the most bird species.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chertonton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs.

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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:

- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 16.** 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 from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in May.** 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.
- **Film Showing: "Ordinary Angels" at 2 p.m. Friday, May 17.** The film is Rated PG.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Teen Trivia: "Star Wars" (ages 10-17) at 4 p.m. Monday, May 20.** Participants can compete individually or on teams. Prizes go to first, second and third place.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** 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.
- **Sports Trivia for Adults at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.** Call Sydney at (219) 873-3044 or Molly

at (219) 873-3042 to register or 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, May 22, 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.
- **Scratch Club (ages 7-17) at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 23.** 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.
- **"Star Wars" Scavenger Hunt in May.** Find the characters hidden in Youth Services for a prize. Locations change each week.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- **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.

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Historical Society Meeting

The LaPorte County Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2405 Indiana Ave.

LaPorte County Historian Bruce Johnson will present a free program on the history of LaPorte's various hospitals.

Call (219) 324-6767 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:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 17, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Design a Decorative Birdhouse from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Coolspring Branch meeting room.** With supplies provided, guests will design, color and decorate a birdhouse.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Rebecca F. Kuang from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.** Kuang will discuss her *New York Times* bestselling novel, Yellowface.
- **Storytime for Adults from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, at the main library Meeting Room B.** The program involves reading from short stories, excerpts from novels and/or poetry! Coffee will be provided.

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.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, "Five Easy Pieces,"** at 6 p.m. Monday, May 20.
- **E.K. Warren program** at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21.

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.
- 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.

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

Dunes Summer Theatre

Dunes Summer Theatre will host a Spring Soiree, complete with a preview of "Blithe Spirit," from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the home of Alexander deHilster and Michael Jefvert.

In addition to the performances, the event includes cocktails and appetizers. Season ticketholders and any 2023 donors who contributed more than \$150 attend for free. The reservation deadline is May 15 to Elise Kermani at contact@dunesArts.org. More information, including ticket costs, is available at www.dunesArts.org or (219) 879-7509.

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May 2, 2024

A FLIGHT

Low Net

First: Vicky Krop.
Second: Julie Doyle.
Low Putts: Vicky Krop.

B FLIGHT

Low Net

First: Barb Hall.
Second: Donna Hennard.
Third: Pat Bailey, Jean Guerin, Mary Weithers.
Low Putts: Barb Hall, Donna Hennard.

C FLIGHT

Low Net

First: Carol Lyons.
Second: Ann Daley.
Third: Ginny Hogan, Kathie Mole.
Low Putts: Carol Lyons.

D Flight

Low Net

First: Joanie Doyle, Teresa Curi.
Second: Leslie Meyer.
Low Putts: Teresa Curi.
Sunken Approaches: Teresa Curi, #7, #9.

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies"
May 6, 2024

Event: Closest to the Pin Drive,
Hole 6 & Most 1 Putts



A Flight

Low Gross: Patricia Czizek.
Low Net: Patricia Czizek.
Event: Jane Shuger.

B Flight

Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall.
Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall, Linda Wabshall.
Event: Evelyn Cassin.

C Flight

Low Gross: Ann Batagianis.
Low Net: Ann Batagianis.
Event: Mary Knaup, Alice Wozniak.

D Flight

Low Gross: Jan Smith.
Low Net: Jan Smith.
Event: Jan Smith.



Event: Closest to the Pin Drive, Hole 6: Czizek.
Birdies: Czizek.



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SAM Spring Showcase



Piano student Arthur Anderson.

School of American Music's free Spring Showcase at The Acorn, which features performances by intermediate and advanced students, is at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, May 19, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

The students hail from instructors Tom Fischer, Madison Kutch, Donna Mitchell, Tom Parisi, Garth Taylor and Denise Vanden Bussche. Performances include "Sound of Silence" and "What Was I Made For?" on piano, vocal solos "Cry Me a River" and "I Feel Pretty," blues and ragtime medleys on guitar.

Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, or visit <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com> or School of American Music on Facebook for more details.

National Veterans Awareness Ride

The Wall Gang Inc. will join members of the National Veterans Awareness Ride for the latest journey to Washington D.C.

The group will start at 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, at American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Ave., before riding south on U.S. 421. Encouraging residents to support the groups are Post 451, the Westville Area Chamber of Commerce, Town of Westville and Westville schools. As riders enter the town, they will acknowledge students while passing by.

The NVAO began in 2005 as a non-profit organization that honors all veterans. The Wall Gang is a non-profit veteran's-support organization. Every year, the group dedicates its ride to a LaPorte County veteran whose name is on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. This year, the ride is dedicated to Sgt. Roger William Pedue.

Public Art Committee

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



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Pine Lake Cemetery Tours

Advance registration is required for the Pine Lake Cemetery tours scheduled for noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Leading the tours are County Historian Bruce Johnson, Museum Director Danielle Adams and Assistant Museum Director Savannah Jackson. They will highlight the stories of 10 monuments.

Current LaPorte County Historical Society members are free. Anyone who would like to become a member can pay the new \$20 annual fee, receiving a complimentary tour tote bag, no charge for the tour and free admission to the museum and society events this year.

Otherwise, tickets are \$5 per person, while children 18 and younger are free. The tote bags cost \$10. Register in advance at director@laportecountyhistory.org

MCHS Program Anniversary

Students, alumni, partners and founders of Michigan City High School's Early College program will celebrate its 10th anniversary at 1 p.m. Friday, May 17, at Michigan City High School, 8466 W. Paks Road.

Speakers include: Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent; Kyle Dean, Michigan City High School principal; Rhonda LaMarr, MCHS Early College school counselor; Nancy Cobaxin-Antemate and Shane Hemphill, MCHS Early College Club; Early College alumni panelists; and Horizon Bank representatives.

A brief presentation in the auditorium will spotlight program founders and history. A panel of recent alumni will discuss their experiences, and this year's Early College graduating seniors will be recognized. Horizon Bank representatives will announce two new scholarships. A reception follows in the school library.

Park in the "horseshoe" lot on the building's west side, then enter through Door M. Visit <http://educateMC.net/EarlyCollege> for more details.

Garden Club Plant Sale

River Valley Garden Club will host its plant sale from 10 a.m.-noon EDT Saturday, May 18, at Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway, just north of Chikaming Township Center.

The sale features homegrown perennials, flowers, groundcover, vegetable plants, bushes and small trees grown by club members. Because they are grown locally, they don't have to be acclimated to Southwest Michigan or Indiana. Plants are divided into sun-loving and shade-tolerant. Gardening tools and books are part of the sale as well.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 362-4564 or evpalulis@yahoo.com for more details, or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

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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, May 18.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 22.
- Hamon Gray, American Legion Post 83, 228 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 22.

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.

“Resist” Exhibit Highlights Protest

On May 17, 1924, University of Notre Dame students led hundreds of citizens into downtown South Bend to confront the Ku Klux Klan, leading to a three-day show of resistance.

Debuting on the 100th anniversary of the clash, the exhibit “Resist!,” hosted by South Bend’s The History Museum, runs through Oct. 13 at Beutter-Kernan Hall in the Community Learning Center at St. Joe County Public Library, 305 S. Michigan St. Produced by Indiana Historical Society, it is a sister exhibit to one on view at IHS in Indianapolis.

The South Bend exhibit features a view of Michigan and Wayne Streets, where the clash originally happened, and is augmented by items from The History Museum’s collection. Artifacts will provide local evidence of KKK activity, both at the time of the 1924 clash and in more modern times. Also included is a multimedia experience that tells of the Notre Dame and KKK confrontation. The History Museum also will offer a walking tour of significant points during the clash as part of the exhibit.

Library hours are (all Eastern) 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, for more details.



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In the Area

May 16 — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 17 — Film Showing: “Ordinary Angels,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 17 — Free piano concert (based on Book of Psalms), 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1225 Michigan Ave., LaPorte.

May 17-18 — “Nightmare at Pop Culture,” Pop Culture and Collectibles, 2010 E. U.S. 20. Tickets at store.

May 18 — Pine Lake Cemetery tours, 2 & 4 p.m. Tickets: \$5, 18 & younger/free. Registration: director@laportecountyhistory.org

May 18 — Design a Decorative Birdhouse, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch meeting room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 18 — Dunes Summer Theatre Spring Soiree, 4-7 p.m., home of Alexander deHilster & Michael Jefvert. Costs/reservations: contact@dunesArts.org, www.dunesArts.org, (219) 879-7509.

May 19 — Pets & Pours (Michiana Humane Society spring fundraiser), 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets/reservations: tinyurl.com/yxxdb8d5

May 20 — Teen Trivia: “Star Wars” (ages 10-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 21 — Nature’s Tiny Tots, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

May 21 — Sports Trivia for Adults, 5:15 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info/registration: (219) 873-3044, (219) 873-3042.

May 21 — Virtual Author Talk with Rebecca F. Kuang, 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 21 — LaPorte County Historical Society, 7 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Free. Info: (219) 324-6767.

May 22 — The Wall Gang Inc./National Veterans Awareness Ride kickoff, 8 a.m., American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Skwiat Ave.

May 22 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

May 22 — Storytime for Adults, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through May 31 — “Wanatah History Pop-Up Exhibit,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through June 3 — Drawings by Michele Corazzo, The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

Through June — Work by Julie Kasniunas, 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/Bufalo).

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, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

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

Tuesdays in May — 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.

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

May 15-19 — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival,

Indiana Dunes national park/state park. Free public launch: 6-9 p.m. May 15 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Info: tinyurl.com/2p83798v

May 16 — Monarch Butterflies, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 17 — Shrooms of the Dunes, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 17 — 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

May 17 — 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

May 17 — Jackie Venson, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 17-July 7 — Michiana Annual Art Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. *Reception*: 2-4 p.m. EDT May 19. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/maac/

May 18 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-9:30 a.m., Bailly-Chellberg parking lot, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 18 — Chellberg Farm Care, 9 a.m.-noon, Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 18 — Youth & Family Birding Day, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 18 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Mount Tabor Trails, Baroda, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

May 18 — River Valley Garden Club plant sale, 10 a.m.-noon EDT, Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway. Info: (269) 362-4564, evpalulis@yahoo.com, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org

May 18 — Gardening for the Birds, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 18 — Matthew Logan Vasquez with Justin & The Cosmics, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 18-Aug. 25 — "Traditional Echo: Contemporary Pokagon Artists & The Ones Who Came Before," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. *Opening reception*: 6-8 p.m. EDT May 17. Info: www.krasl.org

May 19 — Big Bend Birding, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

May 19 — School of American Music Student Recital, 3 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations

Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 19 — Matthew Ball ("The Boogie Woogie Kid"), 5-7 p.m., Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: advance/\$12, walk-in/\$15. Reservations: tinyurl.com/484767st

May 20 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, "Five Easy Pieces," 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

May 21 — E.K. Warren program, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Through May 29 — "Birds of the Hudson: Block Prints by the late Stephen Rengstorf," "Prairies Big and Small: Photographs by Susan Kirt," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Reception*: 4-7 p.m. May 17. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through May 31 — "Birds, Butterflies & the Beauty That Surrounds Them" (Pamela Kirkham's original acrylic paintings), Fernwood Botanical Garden Clark Gallery, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.pamkirkham.com

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

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

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

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

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

Sundays in May — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: www.nps.gov/, (219) 395-1882.

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "The Fall Guy." Rated PG-13. Times: 3:30 & 7 p.m. May 17-19. *Also*: "Being There." Rated PG. Time: 7 p.m. May 16. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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The Princess of Las Vegas by Chris Bohjalian
(hardcover, \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an ebook and an audiobook. 377 pages.)

“This story is, at its core, a tale of two sisters. The sisters are from Vermont...which may explain their naïveté.”

This book, with its cover art, title and author’s name, practically jumped off the shelf into my hands. The author is one I respect, having read three of his previous novels: The Lioness, Hour of the Witch and The Flight Attendant.

The beautiful lady on the cover is an amazing look-alike of Princess Diana. So what does she have to do with Las Vegas? I had to find out...

The story starts out with a murder that still doesn’t make me understand the title. Richie Morley and his brother, Artie, run the Buckingham Palace casino (now we’re getting a connection). Richie is driven out into the desert and shot dead. Of course, it’s set up to look like a suicide. And why not? The BP casino, sitting off the strip, is hemorrhaging money and falling into disrepair, except for its feature musical cabaret, a tribute titled “Princess Diana — Candle in the Darkness.” Aha. Now, it’s beginning to make sense. And what will happen to the BP now?

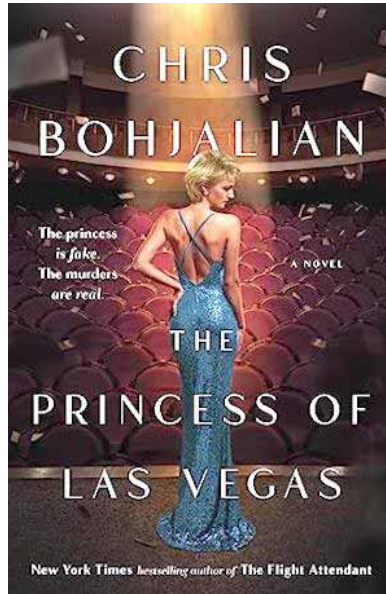
Diana is portrayed by Crissy Dowling, a Vermont transplant by way of New York City, where her acting and musical career was going at a snail’s pace — until an agent saw her passing resemblance to Diana and started her out as a Diana party act, which lead to performance art, a road show and finally Vegas.

For the past seven years, Crissy has done two tribute shows a night. Everything about the show is legit. She does extensive research, studies videos and photos, even develops a good British accent as the icing on the cake.

Her show features music of the 1960s-1970s and “a standup tightrope between heartbreak and hilarity.” She talks openly about Diana’s bulimia, which incidentally is her own affliction. But Crissy also adds some other things to her own diet — like Ad-derall, Valium, Diazepam, booze and purging...“*Me and Elvis. I had no Dr. Nick. But no one could self-medicate the way I could!*”

Her gowns and jewelry are costume stuff carefully mirroring the real ones Diana wore. But Diana’s fatal night in Paris is never mentioned.

Crissy develops a popular following. Soon, patrons are sending her all kinds of Diana mementoes, from dolls and photos to statues and jewelry. Crissy puts all these items in a closet and once a year sells



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



them as “Diana’s Castle” on Etsy. The money then goes to her favorite teen shelter, showing a soft side of which few are ever aware.

In short, the BP has little else as popular as the Princess Diana tribute show.

Until...

Crissy’s younger sister, Betsy, a social worker back in Vermont, who adopted a 13-year-old foster child, Marisa, comes to Vegas with her new boyfriend, Frankie Limback, a former investment banker now in cryptocur-rency. He’s in bed with some question-able characters at a company called Futurium. Phew. Following so far? One important fact, Betsy and Crissy look a lot alike — *a lot alike*. Could figure in the story somehow...maybe. But there’s also the fact that through-out the book, Crissy keeps saying Betsy killed their mother — what’s that all about? Will we ever know?

In the meantime, Crissy meets Yevgeny Orlov. Very cagey about his work. Businessman? CIA? Russian spy? Who cares? Not Crissy, who falls for the guy.

Meanwhile, Betsy finds out that Frankie’s employer, Futurium, wants to buy the BP. They say that soon, Las Vegas will accept cryptocurrency at all casinos on the strip, and they will be in at the ground level. “*Have there ever been two more perfect bedfellows than casinos and crypto?*”

Unfortunately, Betsy is beginning to see tells that should wave all kinds of red flags. But Frankie is so nice to her...why does he want her to dye her hair and cut it to look like her sister as Diana?

Did I mention that not long after his brother’s demise, Artie Morley is found hanged in his office? Another suicide, of course, the police say. Crissy is not so sure. Will there be more “suicides” before Futurium gets what it wants? It’s fewer than two weeks before the 25th anniversary of Diana’s death, and Crissy must put on a special show — can the BP casino last that long?

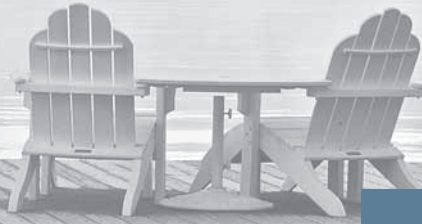
The Final Word: This is a well-told story that will appeal to a wide audience. Bohjalian is the king of characterization. These people leap off the pages in a series of events that climaxes in an eye-opening scene as hot as the Nevada sun.

As Crissy observes: “*Las Vegas was built on a bed-rock of luck. But it was bad luck.*”

Till next time, happy reading!

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Meghan Maddox

Meghan has been MTM Long Beach Realty's Top Producer in 2021, 2022 & 2023. She broke sales records in 2022!



"Meghan did a great job representing us in our search for a new home for our son and his fiancée'. She was available and helpful whenever we had questions or concerns, and handled negotiations exceptionally well. We would recommend her highly" ~ Cheryl Bloode

You can reach Meghan at :
219-877-5795 or
meghanmaddoxrealtor@gmail.com

A few of Meghan's listings & a vacation rental she manages ↪



For Sale

1288 W 300 N

- 3406 sq. ft.**
- 3 Bedrooms**
- 2 Bathrooms**
- 2 Fireplaces**
- Finished Basement**
- Master Suite**
- Heated 2 Car Garage**
- \$520,000**

For more info scan the QR Code



For Sale

2804 Oriole Trail

- 2013 sq ft.**
- 4 Bedrooms**
- 2 Bathrooms**
- Fireplace**
- Screened in Porch**
- Blocks From the Beach**
- Spacious Lot**
- \$539,000**

For more info scan the QR Code



Vacation Rental

Tryon Retreat

- 1 Bedroom**
- 1 Bathroom**
- Sleeps 4 guests**
- Unique property**

For more info scan the QR Code



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