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# A Diamond Anniversary

by William Halliar

Beverly Shores is a lovely, quiet little community tucked among sand dunes along Lake Michigan's southern shore. Residents claim their home is "a village of passion and inclusion," with a heart to survive into the future. It is, in fact, an island unto itself, with neighbors like Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park.

And now, the town first conceived as a community of second homes for Chicagoans this year celebrates its 75th anniversary.

A little historical perspective first.

Indiana became a state on Dec. 11, 1816, and began building the "Michigan Road" to cross the great National Road at Indianapolis, then run from Madison on the Ohio River to Michigan City, a naturally occurring port on Lake Michigan. A first survey for a possible route through the state was conducted in 1828, the road to Michigan City completed in 1834.

In 1832, Isaac C. Elston laid out the port city of Michigan City. It was obvious to him there was money to be made on his little parcel of land, as the Michigan Road was headed this way. He purchased the land "sight unseen" for \$1.25 an acre and laid out 206 lots, a public park and marketplace.

Soon after, Chauncey Buckley Blair purchased land that would become known as Beverly Shores in 1838. Blair was born in 1810 in Blandford, Mass. History tells us he worked on his uncle's farm as a youth, and

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The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery is viewed by many as a gateway to the community. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

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## A Diamond Anniversary Continued from Page 1

when he came of age determined to “try his fortunes in the west.” Over the next several years, he traveled on horseback through the trackless regions of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, gaining a “knowledge” of the land.

Chauncey and his brother, Lyman, entered the grain-shipping business in Michigan City, where they built and owned Indiana’s largest warehouse at the time. In the early 1800s, the brothers were among pioneer grain shippers in Indiana; their firm was named C.G. & Blair. They became road builders and bankers. Chauncey and Lyman built a 30-mile-long plank road to the harbor and constructed the first bridge pier on the east side of Lake Michigan. Chauncey later became president of State Bank of Indiana, then organized Merchants Bank of Chicago,

where he became known for his work in rebuilding the city after the great fire of 1871.

Thus from humble beginnings, and through his wit and hard work, Chauncey Blair acquired the money needed to buy the land that would one day become Beverly Shores. What he saw in this barren wilderness of sand dunes is difficult to say from a modern perspective. Perhaps he simply loved the unusual flora, fauna and dunescapes. He certainly had the wherewithal to purchase the land.

Our region of Indiana was the last part of the state to be settled. The region did not begin to be settled until the last half of the 1800s. Before that, Northwest Indiana was a wild place of sand dunes and swamps bordered on the north by Lake Michigan and on the south by the great Kankakee Marsh. It was just plain hard to get here from anywhere else in Indiana.

According to the narrative found in Thomas H.



The dunes landscape that made the area that would become Beverly Shores so attractive.



Cannon's Lake and Calumet Region of Indiana, "The nature of the soil not being attractive to settlers very few permanent locations were made." The Eastern Indiana Co. purchased the land in 1901, and it was reported an attempt to raise cattle and cultivate cranberry marshes failed.

Enter the Bartlett brothers: Frederick and Robert, real-estate agents from Chicago who in 1929 purchased 3,600 acres of lakefront land in the Indiana Dunes, with the dream of developing them for residential use. According to an article in the June 18, 1935, issue of the *Valparaiso Vidette-Messenger*, "It was these two who saw the possibilities of the region. For many years, legions of Chicago people had been battling bad roads to get to their summer homes in Michigan, passing by sites closer to home and far more beautiful. The Bartlett Company entered the work on a large scale."



This undated photo shows the earliest origins of Broadway in Beverly Shores.

This work on the new community began just as the Great Depression set in. The *Valparaiso Vidette-Messenger* article continues: "Weaker men would have given up, but for three years the company went on developing and improving, utterly ignoring the depression."

In 1933, Robert S. Bartlett took over the company and continued the development project alone. He felt there would soon be an upward turn in real-estate values, so he decided to devote all of his time to his new community on the shores of Lake Michigan. He named it after his 2-year-old daughter Beverly; thus, it came to be known as Beverly Shores.

According to the booklet A Visual Story of Beverly Shores, Robert Bartlett "held a grand vision for this area, similar to Floridian resort communities but styled in Spanish Eclectic (architecture)." Bartlett hired architect Frederick Mertz to design homes and buildings in Spanish Revival and Mediterranean styles that were popular at the time in Florida and California.

According to local historian Carl Reed, "Beverly Shores was promoted as a development with fine bathing beaches and an 18-hole golf course, handy to the Loop by Rapid Electrified Transportation."

Continued on Page 4

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## A Diamond Anniversary Continued from Page 3

Soon, the community boasted more than 200 buildings, including The Beverley Shores Inn, with facilities for dining and dancing, the Beverly Shores Playhouse, a public school, a town administration building and two train stations. There even was a beach casino that, according to the *Valparaiso Vidette-Messenger*, was “of modern architecture and construction,” furnished with metal furniture in colors of canary yellow, black, cream and green.

In 1935, Robert Bartlett purchased 10 buildings from what was called the “Colonial Village” at Chicago’s Century of Progress World’s Fair. The buildings were dismantled and reassembled in the new community. Among these historic reproductions were Washington’s Mount Vernon, the tower of the Old North Church, Ben Franklin’s print shop, Paul Revere’s home and the House of Seven Gables of Nathaniel Hawthorne fame.



The Colonial Village from the 1933 World's Fair saw 10 of its buildings purchased by Robert Bartlett.

erly Shores. These homes, which now find their permanent location along Lake Front Drive, have for the most part been restored with the House of Tomorrow, designed by William and Frederick Keck, renowned for its innovative design to capture solar energy, and set to be completed soon.

Robert Bartlett finally called it quits on his dream in 1946, turning his back on the community he and his brother built, leaving his dream behind for others to finish.

It is noted in the booklet *A Visual Story of Beverly Shores*, “*Disappointed in the lukewarm reception of the Century of Progress homes and his other improvements, and discouraged by the toll the war had taken on the community, by 1946 Robert sold his land and quit the area, leaving his development to fend for itself.*”

The booklet goes on to state, “*There was no municipal water...there were no set fire or police protections (previous to this time fire and police protection were provided by the Bartlett Company), and available road services were nonexistent. The community of Beverly Shores had to make a decision and do it fast.*”

A 12-member Beverly Shores Incorporation Committee formed to explore the idea of making the community the first incorporated town in Pine Township, Porter County. The proposed town would cover 10 square miles, including 5 1/2 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline as its northern border and Indiana Dunes State Park to the west. U.S. 12 and the LaPorte County border would be the southern and eastern boundaries. At this time, the proposed town would include two railroad stations, a post office, public elementary school, four taverns, three restaurants, a hotel, Theater in the Dunes, two grocery stores and an administration building.

The Porter County Board of Commissioners meeting on Dec. 2, 1946, granted the Beverly Shores Incorporation Committee the right to hold an election to determine whether the town might incorporate. An election was held on Saturday, Dec. 21, and by an almost 2-1 majority, the residents of the little town agreed to incorporate.



The old North Church from the Century of Progress World's Fair.

Unfortunately, few of these structures exist today, but a more famous purchase was made by Bartlett and added to the community at the same time. These buildings, still today, draw much attention and acclaim. Bartlett purchased six of the World’s Fair’s “Modern Homes” and moved them intact across Lake Michigan on special barges to a pier especially constructed to receive them at Bev-



The Porter County Commissioners established Beverly Shores as an Indiana town on Wednesday Jan. 2, 1946.

Over the years, the little town has had its challenges, including in 1966 when the National Park Service tried to incorporate the town in its plans. It would have demolished all the buildings and included the land in the National Park.

But as *A Visual Story of Beverly Shores* states, the town “has adapted, becoming a place, not only of yearlong residents, but also ‘Sometimers’ who enjoy the summer season and weekends.”

Today, the population of Beverly Shores is 596 happy souls strong. Despite the diminutive size, the populace is comprised of folks filled with pride in their community. They fill their days with volunteerism, community events and initiatives. Among the thriving organizations today are: The Association of Beverly Shores Community Foundation, Beautification Committee, Volunteer Fire Department, Communications Committee, Environment Committee, Environmental Restoration Group, Lithuanian Club, Dunes Women’s Club and The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery.

The depot, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 due in large part to the Dunes



Carl Reed and Monique Rub

Woman’s Club, was built in 1929. Today, it houses the museum and art gallery, along with serving as a stop for South Shore trains between Chicago and South Bend.

The depot stands as a gateway to the community, beautifully restored and welcoming. Residents like to say the station “provides a hint that there is something special about Beverly Shores.”

The Depot Art Gallery and History Museum is a nonprofit organization with a volunteer board, all of whom have an outsized love for their community. Local historian Carl Reed and Monique Rub, volunteer members of the nine-member Historical Board, proudly boast the building hosts at least three curated exhibits a year, in addition to maintaining a history museum and gift shop featuring local artists.

Indeed, the town is known as a haven for artists. In embracing inclusivity, residents are not just white, but also black, Latino and Asian. The Lithuanian community has encountered a warm embrace. The town also is known for being open to the gay community.

So, from the depot that welcomes visitors to sparkling beaches and unique architecture, Beverly Shores has much to be proud of as a quiet rest from the hustle and bustle of the outside world.



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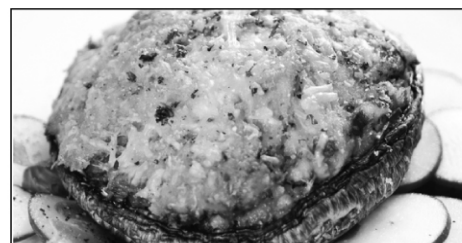
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## Artisan Fair Artist Search

The LaPorte County Historical Society seeks vendors to participate in its second Artisan Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 10, at the historical society museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

The event is the same day as the LaPorte County Draft Horse Association's Plow Day near the Door Prairie Barn. Museum entrance is free.

All types of artisans are invited, and spots are limited.

Contact Assistant Director Danielle Adams at [assistantdirector@laportecountyhistory.org](mailto:assistantdirector@laportecountyhistory.org)



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## First Friday Poetry Slam

After a three-year hiatus, the annual First Friday Poetry Slam is from 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 1, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Readings begin at 5:30 p.m. with audience members as judges. The event is conducted "tournament style." Performers are eliminated each round, with the last one standing crowned as the champion. Tim Stafford returns as emcee. He is a poet, storyteller and former Chicago Grand Slam Champion from Lyons, Ill. His work has appeared on "Def Poetry Jam" and in numerous anthologies.

Admission is free, and a cash bar and complimentary light refreshments are planned. Spots are limited. Poets should prepare three original pieces, each under three minutes, and register by contacting Samantha Bean at (219) 874-4900, Ext. 202, or [sbean@lubeznikcenter.org](mailto:sbean@lubeznikcenter.org)

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## “Drinking Habits” at Footlight



Joy Scott stars as Sister Augusta and Dee Piotrowski as Sister Philamena.

Tom Smith's fast-paced comedy, “Drinking Habits,” runs April 1-3 and 7-10 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

In the play, two nuns from the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing (Dee Piotrowski and Joy Scott) have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open. Enter two tabloid reporters and former fiancées (Kristin Allison and Adam Wogomon) doing an undercover story on the wine-making nuns.

Also in the play are Cindi Reyes, Brien Rissman, David Mikolajczyk and Kaelie Winebrenner.

Times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Doors open 45 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 on Thursdays. Make reservations through the box office at (219) 874-4035 or at [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

## Native Plant Sale

April 9 is the deadline for submitting pre-sale order form with the Friends' 26th Annual Native Plant Sale, which is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23, in the Friends of Indiana Dunes office, 1000 W. Oak Hill Road, Porter

More than 90 native plant species will be available, including woodland flowering plants and ferns; dry, medium and wet prairie flowering plants; grasses, shrubs and trees. Also planned are hard-to-find woodlands and ferns. Plant varieties come in pots and are native to Northwest Indiana, North-east Illinois and Southwest Michigan.

Pre-sale ordering is recommended because a limited quantity of each species is ordered from the supplier, Possibility Place Nursery. Every year, several varieties will have completely sold out to pre-sale customers. Orders are filled in the sequence in which they are received.

Forms are available to print at [www.dunefriends.org](http://www.dunefriends.org). A link is available on the Friends Facebook page. Copies also are available at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center and Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Open shopping of all plant material is available the day of the sale. Gardening consultants can answer questions about native plants and specific habitats. Take photos with proposed native garden sites. Free leaflets on planting, and the many benefits of going native, will be available. All profits support the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

The office is near Chellberg Farm, with parking immediately to the north at the National Park's headquarters complex. Admission is free.



Contact Chair Angel Gochee-Goins at (219) 707-3617 or email [angel@dunefriends.org](mailto:angel@dunefriends.org) for additional information.





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## Legacy Center Gallery

Sacred artwork by local artist Elda Rundzaitis marks the next installation at The Legacy Center Gallery through June 30.

Rundzaitis began drawing and painting at a young age during high school in Buenos Aires. She continued with private study and began painting with oils when she and her family moved to Chicago in the 1960s. Being of Lithuanian descent, she was commissioned to paint the Image of Our Lady of Siluva on the high altar at a Lithuanian Catholic Church. Since that time, her focus has been painting sacred images for churches and chapels. A Beverly Shores resident for more than 50 years, she enjoys painting dunescapes and nature themes.



One of the works by Elda Rundzaitis.

The gallery is located at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Prints of Rundzaitis' work will be sold, with all proceeds donated to the church. Artwork can be viewed during Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays. Enter through the doors off Esther Street.

## Shirley Heinze Spring Hike

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host a "Walks with Shirley and Friends" hike at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 2, and meeting at Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond.

Expert birder Matt Kalwasinski will lead the hike to observe waterfowl and other early spring migrants. Hikers will visit a variety of Lake County locations: the Highland Rookery, Grant Street Marsh and the Shirley Heinze property Seidner Dune and Swale. Kalwasinski has led many birding trips for Shirley Heinze, Indiana Audubon Society and Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society.

Group sizes are limited to 15 hikers, and tickets cost \$25. Reservations can be made at [www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley](http://www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley).

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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, March 31.** Trash Trekkers helps keep trails and beaches clean as part of the drop-in program, a no-hassle volunteering option. Visitors can receive trash bags at the Visitor Center front desk or Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](https://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for details.
- **A Birding Hike with Matt Kalwasinski, a Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society expert, from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, April 3.** Meet inside the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and carpool to the birding spot of the month. No experience is required. Take binoculars and dress for the weather.



IDNP has jobs for four teens this summer.

The Youth Conservation Corps program is a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. April 30 is the application deadline. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. The program runs June 5-Aug. 13, and applicants work the entire length of the program. Jobs include working as part of a crew doing a variety of manual labor tasks, normally outdoors. The crews perform work such as staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings and work as grounds maintenance (mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning

restrooms) and trails rehabilitation.

No experience is necessary. Participants are selected by random draw from the pool of applications. They must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 5, but not turn 19 before Aug. 13, the end date of the program. The application is available through high school guidance offices or the IDNP Office at (219) 395-1772. The forms also are available at [www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm)



The National Park Service has approved an IDNP entrance fee that begins March 31.

The new revenue will help fund the Marquette Greenway Bike Trail, visitor services, parking and transportation improvements for a park that has seen attendance increase from 1.7 million visitors to more than 3 million since its 2019 name change.

The fee only affects the national park, not Indiana Dunes State Park. Costs vary depending on the method used to enter:

- The per person/walk-in/bike-in/boat-in rate is \$15 (up to a maximum of \$25 per family).
- Motorcycle pass is \$20.
- One- to Seven-Day Vehicle Pass is \$25.
- Annual Pass is \$45.
- Commercial Fee for a Motor Coach (Bus): up to \$100.

Holders of the following federal land passes will not pay an entrance fee: Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Veterans, Military and Gold Star Family Pass, Fourth Grade Pass, Access Pass (for permanent disability) and Volunteer Pass.

The Entrance Pass (1-7 days) and Annual Pass will be available at: Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, seasonally at West Beach Entrance Station or online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). The Annual Pass is available now and the Entrance Pass on the first day fees are collected: March 31. There are plans to have local vendors such as gas stations, or other retailers near the park sell passes. More information will be available when vendors are confirmed. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for more detail.

*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.*



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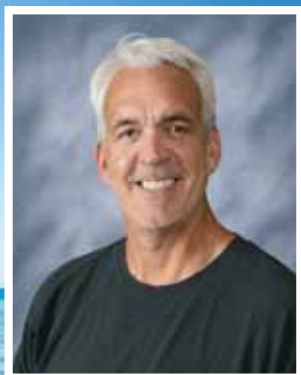
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## Alinsky Award Winner

Angie Nelson-Deutch is this year's Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award winner through The Rotary Club of Michigan City.



Nelson-Deutch

The annual award honors Paul Alinsky, who was a past Rotary Club president, past Chamber of Commerce board chairman and Sentinel Alarm Co. founder. It goes to a community member dedicated to community service and excellence, passion and innovation in their vocation/career.

Nelson-Deutch is president of I&D Squared Consulting LLC, a company she launched in 2017 focusing on improving diversity and inclusion in the region. She is a certified trainer for the Cultural Intelligence Center, providing unconscious bias training, meeting and strategic-planning facilitation services, and assisting community organizations with non-profit establishment and oversight. She also serves on the Michigan City Common Council At-Large as current council president, and on the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission from 2020-2021.

Nelson-Deutch was nominated by Kris Pate, United Way of LaPorte County executive director.

"She looks at possibilities to create a better world and then brings others to the table to play a role with her in making great things happen," Pate said in a press release.

The nomination included a long list of community service dedication, including the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Links Inc., Greater Michigan City Chapter of the National Drifters, Indiana United Ways Associations, LaPorte County United Way, Unity Foundation, Save the Dunes, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Rotary STRIVE mentor, Salvation Army volunteer and Vibrant Communities Steering Committee. She is a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Past honors and awards include the NAACP Trailblazer Award, Humanitarian of the Year, LaPorte County United Way Volunteer of the Year, Leadership LaPorte County Outstanding Alumni Community Service Award, Leaders as Heroes Award, Influential Women Up and Coming Business Woman of the Year, and the Dunebrook Lester Radke Community Service Award.

The selection committee included Rotarians and non-Rotarians who chose this year's honoree from among four nominations received. Nelson-Deutch will be honored and presented with a replica of the Paul Alinsky memorial, along with a contribution to a charity of her choice. The award will be presented at the Rotary Club's meeting at noon Thursday, April 14, at The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St.



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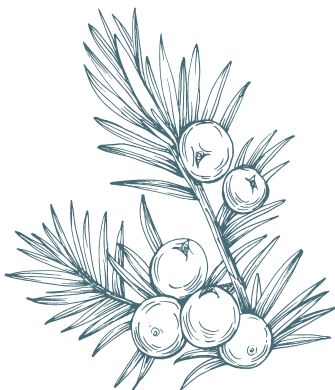


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## Lucky Together

Michigan City Mainstreet Association hosted the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12, the route heading north on Franklin Street from 11th to Fourth streets.

*The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski was there to capture all the fun.









# Primed for Prime: Three Shows Worth Your While

by Andrew Tallackson

The consensus on the latest season of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” is that it’s not as funny. That the COVID-induced hiatus did creators Daniel Palladino and Amy Sherman-Palladino no favors. The series now shows signs of fatigue.

Disregard those reviews. Push ‘em away. Put your hands over your ears and mutter “lalalalala” if you have to. Season 4 is the most involving yet, with more than its share of big laughs.

The Prime hit now sees the characters in a period of transition — personally and professionally. Mulling the next big step. Examining family ties and close friendships. It is an essential growth period before the fifth and final season.

What the show’s current naysayers forget is that the road to success, the ascent up the comedy ladder, is not seamless. There are pitfalls. Setbacks that toss rising careers into limbo.

And that’s where we find Midge Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) as Season 4 begins. If you recall, Season 3 ended with Midge pushing her edgy comedy too far. Having toured with crooner Shy Baldwin (Leroy McClain), she tread through icy waters, accidentally “outing” him as gay before a packed house at The Apollo. Canned from the tour, she’s now the victim of bad press, unable to find work. Desperate, she lands a hosting gig at a Manhattan burlesque club called The Wolford.

All comedians hit periods when the well dries. When they’re stuck taking any career scraps tossed their way. The twist here is how Midge transforms the nightspot. It’s now run more efficiently. The performances take on the feel of a Bob Fosse show. Midge, herself, draws a largely female crowd itching to hear her standup. What could have been a brief foray into sleaze emerges as a comic bright-spot: a “home” of sorts for Midge amid the cadre of female talent.

In past seasons, Midge’s parents — Abe (Tony Shalhoub) and Rose (Marin Hinkle) — and in-laws — Moishe (Kevin Pollak) and Shirley (Caroline Aaron) — walked a queasy line marked by Jewish caricatures. In Season 4, they feel like real people. Shalhoub, in particular, has several standouts as Abe, now a theater critic for a New York newspaper. The first gem arrives when the Jewish community turns against him — during a Bar Mitzvah, no less — for having panned a musical by a local Jewish composer. The second, and most uproarious, sees Abe fleeing matchmakers furious with Rose, ending up in a Catholic church...right during Communion. These are big, Laugh Out Loud moments. And don’t count



Midge Maisel (Rachel Brosnahan) now finds herself working at a Manhattan burlesque club called The Wolford.

Marin out as Rose. She has a dynamite scene where, under hypnosis by a stage comic, she re-enacts verbatim Midge’s standup routine at The Wolford.

Even Pollack and Aaron have toned it down, particularly during a health scare in which Moishe is moved by a potential obituary Abe writes about him. This is the reason we care about these characters. They wear their hearts on their sleeves. That scene, alone, is proof of it.

Alex Borstein never disappoints as Midge’s agent, Susie Myerson, a woman who can weave profanities into a sentence like a master seamstress. Susie’s career as an agent is booming, which brings back the great Jane Lynch as grandiose Sophie Lennon, and her Mafia buddies, Frank (Erik Palladino), and

Nick (John Scurti), who like to hang out at her office. Contract killers who now delight in warming up pots of coffee.

Season 4, ultimately, will force Midge to “get off the pot,” as they say, to decide what kind of career she wants for herself. Luke Kirby’s still acidic portrait of Lenny Bruce plays a key role in that, and watching the actor recreate the comic’s Carnegie Hall performance, a snowstorm raging outside, I was struck by why Brosnahan wins us over every time. Every season has a moment when Midge gets to watch backstage as one of the greats performs to a packed house. I love the look on Brosnahan’s face. There is no ego, no air of jealousy. Just a smile. Recognition that she is in the presence of people in

their element, who love what they do.

Season 4 closes with Midge on the verge of an epiphany. And with the show’s creators saying the next season is it for good, I suspect everyone, indeed, is saving the best for last.

□

The first time we see Alan Ritchson as Jack Reacher, he doesn’t look real. More, like he was designed in a CGI lab to resemble a Viking terminator. A hulking figure with steely eyes and biceps that could level entire city blocks.

Then, Ritchson opens his mouth, and we realize, the guy can act. Like, *really* act. Imposing when needed, but with sly comic timing when cracking skulls or, more often than not, breaking the ice with chilly colleagues.

That is the pleasure of “Reacher,” Prime’s monster ratings hit. We bear witness to the birth of a TV star...and the proper introduction to a character beloved by readers.

I started watching the first “Jack Reacher” movie (2012) with a ridiculously miscast Tom Cruise, but never finished it. If memory serves, I nodded off after the first 20 minutes. The Prime series, however, which takes as its source Killing Floor, Lee Child’s 1997 debut novel, is truer to the author’s vision, not just in the casting of Ritchson, but also in how it tells its story. You feel like you’re experiencing a good book told over the course of eight episodes.

The series finds Reacher, a former U.S. Army military policeman, wandering the country, ending up in the fictional town of Margrave, Ga. He stays to investigate the brutal death of his brother, butting heads with local officials while unraveling a deep-rooted conspiracy.

We expect the locals to mistrust Reacher, but we savor how Roscoe Conklin (Willa Fitzgerald), a local officer, sizes up Reacher as someone who can help with the investigation. More reluctant is Margrave’s chief detective, Malcolm Goodwin (Oscar Finlay), who resents being told what to do by an outsider. The three actors make a wicked-good team. They feed well off each other. And as the investigation mounts, Ritchson’s military background, the way he swiftly sizes us a person or predicament, reminds me of Benedict Cumberbatch’s approach to playing Sherlock Holmes in the hit BBC series. Details spill out of Ritchson at a dizzying rate. And for Reacher, he’s almost always right.

The show’s violence can be extreme — Reacher disposes of villains with Schwarzenegger-like efficiency — but plenty of dark humor buffers it. Like



Continued From Page 19



Jack Reacher (Alan Ritchson, left) initially butts heads with chief detective Malcolm Goodwin (Oscar Finlay).

the scene where Reacher can't fit three dead bodies in the trunk of a vehicle, so he "improvises." Ritchson, as Reacher, has a way of disarming his attackers, particularly with verbal mindgames. Again, the actor is invigorating. He isn't just muscle. There is a sly brain behind the brawn.

The Margrave investigation, in many ways, is standard police-procedural material. But by honoring Child's vision of Reacher, there are plenty of twists. The fate of one major player in Margrave is

a major shock. When the action scenes arrive, the show amps up the risks so there is more at stake.

The show also fleshes out the backstories of not just Reacher, but Malcolm as well. That is what separates the series from other crime shows. Character is at the forefront. These people are fleshed out in ways movies cannot do. The show has the time, the breathing space, to make these characters human.

"Reacher" quickly was renewed for another season. With through-the-roof ratings, Prime knows it has a good thing on its hands. Stick to the books, stick to Ritchson...and the formula for success should go untainted.



In a way, the new season of "Upload" suffers from a malady critics refer to as "sequelitis." The first season introduced a world unlike any other TV comedy. We marveled at the invention behind it while laughing at the brashness of the characters, or savoring the gentleness of the romance.

With Season 2, we now know how this world operates, how to navigate through it. The element of surprise is gone, the freshness absent.

That doesn't mean "Upload" has lost its charms. Far from it. In fact, by enhancing everything that's right about the series, while elevating three supporting players to the forefront, the laughs are just as generous.

If you're new to "Upload," the Prime series envisions a near future where humans can bypass

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death by uploading their consciousness to a virtual afterlife. Friends and family can still chat with loved ones by cell phone or virtual reality goggles.

In Season 1, 27-year-old computer engineer Nathan Brown (Robbie Amell) meets with a premature death and is uploaded to Lake View, a pricey digital afterlife that's like a Swiss chalet. Each uploaded individual is assigned an "angel," a human resource in the real world who visits them digitally when summoned. The humor of the first season derived from Nathan exploring his new digs while falling head over heels for his angel, the lonely, but fetching Nora (Andy Allo). Together, these two uncovered the plot to kill Nathan that landed him in Lake View.

Season 2 finds Nathan believing conniving ex-girlfriend Ingrid sacrificed her own life so she can upload to Lake View, thus being together forever. Turns out, Ingrid has done nothing of the sort. She's camped out in her bathtub, in virtual reality gear, trying to manipulate Nathan into loving her.

Ingrid is played by comic actress Allegra Edwards. If she made you laugh first season, then she's out-of-control hilarious this time. Fascinating, actually. She's so narcissistic, so obsessed with her own appearance and happiness, she can't fathom a world that is not entirely about her. Edwards, thankfully, does not play her with a cruel edge. She's simply clueless, but operating at full-speed ahead. The energy level of the performance is fearless.

We savor Zainab Johnson as Aleesha, Nora's best friend and colleague. Johnson takes a stale stereotype — the "sassy" black best friend — and turns it on its head. This season, the "sass" is more a weariness of having to put up with her upload, Luke (Kevin Bigley), who has the hots for her. These two are a riot, especially Johnson, who now has her sights set on a promotion and is less tolerant of Luke.

Season 2 also introduces a cult-like forest commune, the Luds, that intends to infiltrate Upload through Nora. After a mildly intriguing setup — the group is anti-technology much in the way Luddites protested progress — the show can't find anything clever or amusing about them. They're dull filler in a show otherwise bursting with ideas.

Amell and Allo, however, have lost none of their charm. A viable chemistry remains between them.



Nora (Andy Allo, left) and Aleesha (Zainab Johnson) head out on a field trip with their uploads: Nathan Brown (Robbie Amell, left) and Luke (Kevin Bigley).

It's a rare case where two people belong together not because the script says so, but because we believe they are a good match. We rally behind them, all the way to the cliffhanger ending.

My hope for Season 3 of "Upload" is that series creator Greg Daniels ("The Office," "Parks & Recreation") makes the threats to digital afterlife as compelling as the characters. In two short seasons, the series has firmly established a world we enjoy and characters we embrace. Never lose sight of that, and "Upload" will remain a comic delight.

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## “Deep Water” Has Trouble Making Sense

by Andrew Tallackson



Vic (Ben Affleck) and Melinda (Ana de Armas) have a most complicated marriage in “Deep Water.”

“Deep Water” is totally confusing. We keep waiting for the aha moment – the twist, the shocking reveal – that explains the characters.

We never get one.

Maybe that’s why a theatrical release was scrapped and “Deep Water” ended up on Hulu. Surprising, when you consider its pedigree. The story is lifted from a 1957 novel by Patricia Highsmith, known for mindgame thrillers like “Strangers on a Train” and “The Talented Mr. Ripley.” The director is Adriane Lyne, purveyor of erotic thrillers where women are transformed into charcuterie boards (“9½ Weeks”) or copulate atop dirty dishes (“Fatal Attraction”). Toss in Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas, who were dating amid filming, and you have serious talent here. Odd, though, that no one could figure out what their movie is about?

The setup is intriguing because we don’t have all the puzzle pieces. Vic (Affleck) and Melinda (de Armas) live in small-town Louisiana with their adorable daughter and a house that looks ripped out of a Pottery Barn catalog. Lyne knows how to establish his leading ladies with a killer shot. The first time we see de Armas as Melinda, she’s seated at the top



### “Deep Water”

*Running time: 115 minutes. Hulu. Rated R for sexual content, nudity, language and some violence.*

of a flight of stairs, watching her husband return from a bike ride. She has a look about her. A hungry look. Like all she has to do is bat come-hither eyes and men collapse at her feet.

The marriage between Vic and Melinda, though, is loveless. Not only that, but Melinda flaunts dalliances with other men. Almost like she’s retaliating against Vic. He seems casual about it; however, at a party, while chatting with Melinda’s latest conquest, he breezily admits he killed her last lover.

Is he joking or serious? Affleck is uncharacteristically subdued. No warning signs that something is off, which makes Vic unsettling. We can’t figure him out. Melinda, though, is seething with rage toward him. Her public flirtatiousness is almost like a dare, for Vic to awaken from his slumber and take action.

As an author, Highsmith was fascinated by the bleak side of human nature, where characters tap

into dark desires. Lyne, as a director, loves female characters who use sex as a weapon, as a means of control. De Armas, after her mousy breakout role in “Knives Out” (2019), certainly gives a brave performance, appearing topless and speaking in crude excess.

As the body count rises and other characters suspect Vic is responsible, “Deep Water” heads toward three possible outcomes: one, that Melinda is mental; two, Vic is a total psycho; or three, that Vic is a psycho and Melinda is bitterly, and reluctantly, complicit in his behavior. Tantalizing possibilities, wouldn’t you say?

A shame, then, that “Deep Water” falls victim to what I call the “idiot plot.”

Where the fate of a local screenwriter (playwright Tracy Letts) investigating Vic is so ludicrous, and ludicrously predictable, you can’t believe Lyne kept it in the movie. Where the sexual tension between Affleck and de Armas isn’t sexy, the two panting like dogs in heat.

Worse, we can’t decide how we feel about these people. We can’t figure them out because the movie knows nothing about them. We need the “why,” the reasons for their behavior, to make an investment in the story.

By the end, we don’t get that. Lyne, I suspect, wants the audience to decide for itself. If we really



Melinda delights in flaunting dalliances with other men, seen here with a local pianist (Jacob Elordi) in a swimming pool at a local party.

gave the story some thought, we might arrive at a conclusion. Do we care enough to do so? Not really.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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## Wireless Network Creating “Swath of Connectivity” for Michigan City students

Michigan City Area Schools, in partnership with Neo Network Development, has entered Phase 2 of a comprehensive project providing free wireless broadband Internet to more students.

The project is supported by a \$600,000 Indiana Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund grant. Recently, a 60-foot pole and wireless equipment were installed at Knapp Elementary School, providing free wireless Internet to all MCAS-owned devices at approximately 300 homes within a one-mile radius of the school. To access the service, families will be issued a free, pre-configured router that plugs into a standard home electrical outlet. The router will enable school Chromebooks and tablets to access the Internet and be kept at home until all students living at that address have left MCAS.

MCAS contacted 65 households in grades PreK-12 living within the immediate coverage area, offering them the router. Once the functionality and service quality are verified at these homes, additional families will be contacted.

According to MCAS Director of Technology Kevin McGuire, the wireless equipment at Knapp is the latest to be installed on an MCAS building, providing “a swath of connectivity” through Michigan City. Wireless hubs now exist at Knapp, the Elston building and administration building, all providing free broadband to school-issued devices. The service limits access to streaming and video game outlets so students can complete school-related tasks.

Work continues to improve performance and optimize the network. McGuire says once this is complete, close to 1,500 households with MCAS students will be served.

Neo Networks CEO Vince Aragona describes the MCAS project as a hybrid LTE/fiber network that utilizes existing MCAS owned fiber, Internet and



David Wojcik (back), Neo Network vice president of business development, and Kevin McGuire, MCAS director of technology.

MCAS facilities.

MCAS was poised to transition to virtual learning from the onset of the pandemic, due to the district’s comprehensive 1:1 technology program, which ensured all teachers and students had devices in hand. MCAS also provided “hot spots” to those in the most need who lacked Internet access. Moving forward, however, MCAS plans to continue partnering with Neo Networks to add more wireless Hub locations in hopes of providing connectivity for all MCAS students at no cost to their families.



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## Michigan City Public Library

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

The front doors are open. 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 from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the makerspace.** Participants have the chance to win the Best Worst Art Trophy. Advance registration is required at <https://bit.ly/3Cv9iff>
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 6.** 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.
- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org) or (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at [www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/](http://www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/) Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.



Volunteers are needed for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at least one day a week during tax season through April. The IRS provides some training, and helpers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.



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- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required. Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.

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## Harbor Country Hikers



Lydick Bog is a Shirley Heinze Land Trust property.

Harbor Country Hikers will explore a kettle hole bog at 2 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 2, at South Bend's Lydick Bog Nature Preserve, 25898 U.S. 20.

Kettle hole bogs formed when huge blocks of ice detached from glaciers during the Ice Ages. The falling ice created depressions in the ground, which filled with water as the ice melted. Kettle hole bogs contain unusual flora, including insect-eating plants.

Lydick Bog is a dedicated Indiana State Nature Preserve that protects one of the state's last remaining sphagnum bogs. It contains several different habitats and is home to amphibians and reptiles. It also attracts a wide variety of birds.

Doug Botka, Shirley Heinze Land Trust stewardship ecologist and Lydick Bog lead steward, will lead the hike. Participants will cover about two miles of trails; the physical difficulty is rated moderate. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots and take plenty of water.

Membership is encouraged; however, the public is invited. HCH observes federal and state COVID guidelines, and face masks are optional. The group offers an all-terrain rollator — a wheeled walker with oversized tires — on a first-come, first-served basis. Request one by emailing [harborcountryhikers@gmail.com](mailto:harborcountryhikers@gmail.com).

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details.

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## Lend-A-Hand Day



Participants in a previous Lend-A-Hand Day.

The Steady Stitchers Club of LaPorte County Extension Homemakers will host Lend-A-Hand Day from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at The Steady Stitchers' new studio, 1640 First St., LaPorte.

Volunteers can help make items to donate to those in need. No specific abilities are required. Anyone who can sew, cut, sort, pin, stuff or tie is welcome. All items made are donated to local non-profits. All materials and instruction are provided. Volunteers can take a sewing machine; however, some machines will be provided. Lunch and dinner are provided. Any amount of time is welcome.

A licensed sewing machine technician will be available to clean and oil machines from 3-7:30 p.m. at a discounted price. Machines can be brought during the designated time, or schedule an early dropoff by calling (219) 716-5003 or (219) 363-8122.

Contact the Purdue Extension LaPorte County office at (219) 324-9407 or email [kulman@purdue.edu](mailto:kulman@purdue.edu) for more details.

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **After Fool's Day Hike from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 2.** Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center for a hike.
- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck Story at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2.** Meet at the Nature Center to learn about the sinking of the J.D. Marshall just offshore of IDSP.
- **Salamander Gander at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 3.** Meet at the Nature Center to view salamanders, then head out for a short walk.

*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 or for more information.*

## NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library will host a program on the Lincoln Highway at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 5, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program, part of the Friends of the Library's Community Forum, features Todd Zeiger, director of the Indiana Landmarks Northern Regional Office and a Lincoln Highway Association board member.

Conceived by an Indiana entrepreneur, largely in response to the growing number of automobiles, the Lincoln Highway was the first coast-to-coast road in the U.S. It ran from Times Square to Lincoln Park in San Francisco — a distance of nearly 3,400 miles. Although much of the route is now interstate or Federal highway, portions of the original road still exist in nearby Northwest Indiana towns such as South Bend, LaPorte and Valparaiso.

Zeiger will share the story of the highway's origin and the two routes it followed in Indiana, and highlight past and surviving historical sites along the way.

The presentation is free. Use of a face mask is requested.

## Children's Art Scholarships

Scholarships to assist Michigan City children in taking art instruction are available through the Michigan City Public Art Committee.

The Michigan City Common Council created the fund in 2011. Visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between ages 5-18 will be funded. The maximum grant request per individual is \$200. Funds are available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination taught by a legitimate instructor.

The committee will not fund music, writing, dance or drama instruction.

Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider in the city limits. The deadline for applying is at least 30 days before instruction begins.

All applications can be picked up and returned to: LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St., or Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

## Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 31, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The speaker is Lea Goldman, who will discuss her role as a "storyteller," along with some of the narratives of her paintings.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

## LaPorte County Parks



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

### Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Dates are April 11 and 18.

Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

### DIY Campground Grandma

Meet Roxy Wiley, the author of "DIY Campground Grandma," from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, at Luhr County Park.

Learn tips to create and launch themes, surprises, crafts and photo tips.

### Birds, Frogs and Bugs Oh My

Hunt for birds, frogs and bugs, and learn their sounds, from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Luhr County Park.

Binoculars will be provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to reserve a spot.

### Earth Day Celebration

The event, which features Ranger Laura and other environmental booths, is from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Michigan Public City Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

### Daddy Daughter Dance

The event that features dancing and refreshments is Friday-Saturday, May 20-21, at the Luhr County Park Morgan Shelter

A maximum of 72 people are allowed each night. Times are 6-8 p.m. May 20 and 2-4 p.m. May 21. The cost is \$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter.

Pre-registration and payment are required on or before May 12 or until full, whichever comes first.

### Field Trips

Formal educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park. The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

Visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for sample programs. Email [natureniki@csinet.net](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net) or call (219) 324-5855 for details.



# American Red Cross

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

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

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



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## In the Area

### **April 1 — APRIL FOOL'S DAY.**

**April 1** — Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Meeting Room A @ LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**April 1** — First Friday Poetry Slam, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Admission: free. Poet registration: (219) 874-4900, Ext. 202, [sbean@lubeznikcenter.org](mailto:sbean@lubeznikcenter.org)

**April 1-3, 7-10** — “Drinking Habits,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/Thur. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, [www.footlightplayers.org](http://www.footlightplayers.org)

**April 5** — Bad Art Night, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Advance registration: <https://bit.ly/3Cv9iff>

**April 5** — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3-5 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Advance registration: [dwolf@mclib.org](mailto:dwolf@mclib.org), (219) 873-3045.

**April 6** — DIY Campground Grandma, 9-10 a.m., Luhr County Park, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

**Through June 30** — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, The Legacy Center Gallery @ 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.

**First/Third Tuesday** — Bingo, 5-6 p.m., Long Beach Community Center, Room 13, 2501 Oriole Trail. Free.

**Saturdays** — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

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

## In the Region

**April 2** — Shirley Heinze Land Trust “Walks with Shirley and Friends” hike, 8 a.m., Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: [www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley](http://www.heinze.ejoinme.org/WalksWithShirley). Info: (219) 242-8558, [www.facebook.com/heinzetrust](http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust)

**April 2** — After Fool's Day Hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 2** — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EDT, South Bend's Lydick Bog Nature Preserve, 25898 U.S. 20. Info: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**April 2** — The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck Story, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 2** — The Erly w/ opener Resurrection Blues Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$15, VIP/\$40. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**April 3** — Salamander Gander, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 3** — Birding Hike, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**April 5** — Friends of the New Buffalo Library program (the Lincoln Highway), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

**Through April 10** — "Youth Art Month 2022, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fr./1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8/students, \$6/students (ages 8-12). Info: [www.midwestmuseum.us](http://www.midwestmuseum.us), (574) 293-6660.

**Through May 15** — Guillermo Sotelo's "Broken Alphabet: A Love Letter to Graffiti," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Through May 28** — "University of Notre Dame: The Fabric of a Global University," The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors (60+), \$7/youth (6-17), free/members. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (574) 235-9664, [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org)

**Through Oct. 2** — "WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars," 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: \$10/adults, \$8.50/seniors 60+, \$6/youth ages 6-18. Info: [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org), (574) 235-9714.

**Saturdays in March** — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

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

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now showing:* "The Outfit." Rated R. *Starts April 1:* "Drive My Car." Not Rated. Check website for details. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

The weekly deadline to submit listings for Upcoming Events is noon Thursday

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## LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



March 22, 2022

#### TEAM STANDING

|                     | WON | LOST |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Lady Strikers    | 20  | 12   |
| 2. Gutter Busters   | 19  | 13   |
| 3. Dolls With Balls | 18  | 14   |

#### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

|                     | SCORE |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Dottie Brinckman | 190   |
| 2. Kathy Osborne    | 183   |
| 3. Deb Frederick    | 167   |
| 4. Susan Kieffer    | 157   |
| 5. June Salmon      | 152   |
| 6. Shelley Dunleavy | 150   |

#### STRIKES

Kathy Osborne, Dottie Brinckman 3

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

## LEAP Olympics

Registration begins Friday, April 1, for the first LEAP Olympics set for May 16-20.

Employees, board members and immediate family can participate in eight events, all starting at 4:30 p.m.

Events include volleyball, dodgeball, cornhole, Euchre, golf, bowling, a scavenger hunt and ring toss. All events are at partner locations. Trophies will be awarded to winners of individual games following the event that night. A traveling trophy will be presented to the overall winner Friday, May 20.

Partner locations include: LaPorte Civic Auditorium, City of La Porte Parks Department, LaPorte Community School Corp., Beechwood Golf Course, LaPorte County Public Library, LaPorte County Family YMCA and Dunes Operation Center.

Visit [www.laportepartnership.com](http://www.laportepartnership.com) and click on the LEAP Olympics icon halfway down the page for more information or to register.





## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Harbor** by **Katrine Engberg** (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 340 pages.)

Time for a dose of Nordic noir.

Many Scandinavian authors have made it big in the American book market. Take Steig Larssen with The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, which made it to No. 1 in book form and twice on the big screen. Authors like Jo Nesbo, Henning Mankell and Camilla Lackberg, among others, have become mainstays of American thriller/mystery novels and, in this case, a police procedural.

It's off to Copenhagen, Denmark, for this story of greed, dysfunctional families and a whole lot of who do you trust?

The story starts out with a call from the city's incineration plant. The large claw that moves the waste picked up by garbage trucks turns up the body of a young man, naked and wrapped in plastic.

That was Monday morning. The story then goes back two days to the police call about a missing teen, Oscar Dreyer-Hof. His parents, Henrik and Malin own an art auction house, making them prominent in the city and therefore not to be ignored.

Detectives Jeppe Korner and partner Anette Werner are put on the case, not happy to give up their Saturday for a 15-year-old teen who will probably show up soon, hung over and regretting the wild party he thought was going to be such a blast.

However, his backpack is found hidden at the marina where the family keeps a small sailboat. The sailboat also is missing. The strangest clue is a piece of paper from the 15-year-old boy with a quote from Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray. It makes no sense to family or police: *"He looked around and saw the knife that had stabbed Basil Hallward. He had cleaned it many times, till there was no stain left upon it. It was bright and glistened. As it had killed the painter, so it would kill the painter's work, and all that that meant. It would kill the past, and when that was dead, he would be free."*

The first thought is that a ransom note is forthcoming. When that doesn't happen, the next obvious thought is that the boy went off and committed suicide, but without a body, it's all conjecture.

The body found Monday in the waste silo is soon identified by the medical examiner. It is not Oscar,

but 27-year-old schoolteacher Malthe Saether. He just happens to be Oscar's Danish teacher. Connection to Oscar's disappearance? The police are at a loss. Back to looking for Oscar...or his body, while adding Saether to their investigation.

Since Oscar was on the family sailboat, Jeppe and Anette make a boat trip from the marina to the fortress called Trekroner Sea Fortress, where they talk to the caretaker, Mads Teigen. It's a place where a body could be hidden. There's something creepy about him, but Anette finds herself strangely attracted to him. But is he someone to examine more thoroughly? Or maybe just a red herring? Engberg throws out a lot of them. Every time you have an aha moment, something else points you elsewhere.

Interestingly, there's much more to this story than just a missing boy and a murdered teacher. It shows that while working cases that take up so much of their time, the detectives still have lives outside of the police station. There are family dynamics with enough characters to make this a fascinating look at what secrets and misunderstandings can do to any relationship, be it wife and husband, or parent and child.

Jeppe and Anette make good partners, but their love lives are at the straining point. Jeppe is trying to see if his love for Sara can include her two daughters. Meanwhile, Anette feels a disconnect from husband Svend and baby daughter Gudrun, now making excuses to see Mads about the Oscar case.

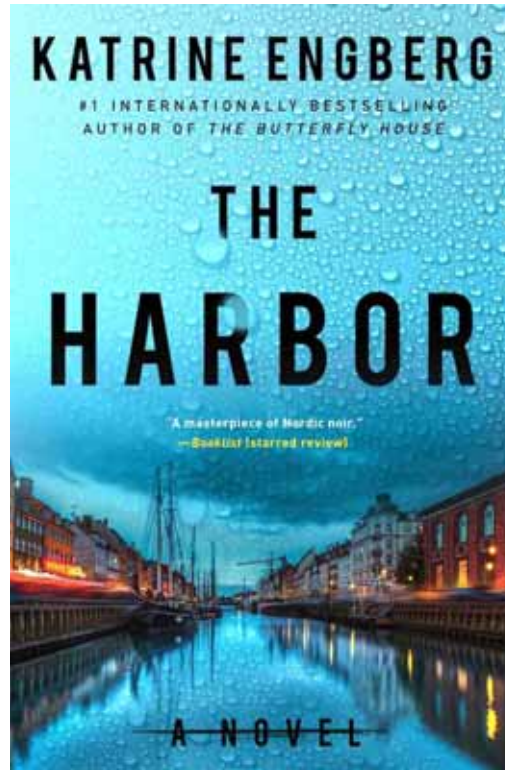
There's also Oscar's family — parents Henrik and Malin, and siblings Victor and Essie. Here is a family that may live together, but doesn't communicate with each other.

All the characters are brilliantly portrayed as Jeppe and Anette try to decide who's zooming who. Then, another schoolteacher is killed. She falls off the train platform — or was she pushed?

The sale of stolen art online, the far-reaching effects of child pornography and the ends some will go to save their reputations and illegal pursuits must finally be uncovered...won't they?

The suspense is here, but in the end, so is the heart.

Till next time, happy reading!





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