



Volume 39, Number 31 Thursday, August 10, 2023

Many Peoples, Many Musics

by William Halliar

If you think chamber music is old-fashioned, stogy and meant for old folks, prepare to readjust your viewpoint and hold on to your seat belts.

Chamber music can be steeped in tradition, yes, but much of what will be presented at this year's Michigan City Chamber Music Festival is as fresh and brand new as today's sunrise. Many pieces have never been heard before, some performed on instruments just invented. So new is much of this music, brand new notation systems are being created to capture its rhythms, melodies and subtle harmonies on paper.

"Many Peoples; Many Musics" is the theme for the 2023 Michigan City Chamber Music Festival. Artistic Director Nic Orbovich stresses "there are more composers in the world today than ever before," and that this year's theme "features the works from composers of traditionally underserved communities," all alongside the traditional masterworks expected at these amazing yearly concerts.

Twenty one years ago, Nic and his wife, Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, had a dream of sharing their love of classical music with Northwest Indiana and, more importantly, "bringing people together

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Jasmin Arakawa (seated at piano), Nic Orbovich and Zosia Glashauser perform during a Michigan City Chamber Music Festival concert. Provided photo

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Many Peoples, Many Musics

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through music." Nic took on the role of artistic director, selecting music to be performed at each concert. Sunny, using her background in education, became the festival's education director. Together with fellow musicians, they have created a popular yearly event that strives to look at music and composers in new and different ways.

"We like to break the invisible wall between audience and performer," Sunny says, as she focuses on telling stories through informal and interactive "Family Concerts." She strives to illustrate "how music has come through the human experience."

Consider this year's three family offerings.

The title of the Tuesday, Aug. 15, concert is "Hakenpalooza!" Rudolf Haken, who is professor of electric stings and viola at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, will lead a group of his students in a concert the likes of which has never been heard in Michigan City...or anywhere else for that fact.

We should have known of Haken's penchant for creating new music and inventing new and unique instruments when he introduced his viola "pomposa" at the festival. It is an acoustic instrument that combines attributes of the violin and viola in one package. This year, he will demonstrate new electric instruments in ensemble performances of the music of video games, as well as traditional classics and new original pieces.

Haken takes these new forms of music seriously, insisting his students "study electronic instruments thoroughly." He speaks fondly of Nic and Sunny, and the day that, together, they dreamed of such a festival.

"Without the support of the people of Michigan City," he said, "such a concert series would not be possible."

Haken says the people of Michigan City are "so warm and encouraging; they are open to new ideas." In effect, people are saying, "So, you have new ideas? Whatever you have, bring it on!"

Festival cellist Wesley Baldwin calls Haken an explorer always seeking new frontiers in music.

The second family concert, set for Thursday, Aug. 17, will be somewhat traditional, yet it will consider an old master from a new viewpoint. The program, "Baby Beethoven," will consider what Beethoven might have been like in his younger years. What would such genius have felt as he considered his growing deafness? The concert will feature music performed by festival musicians, shadow puppets, a deaf interpreter and interactive activities. This concert will consider Beethoven and his remarkable music from a new angle.

The Saturday, Aug. 19, family concert, "Come Together," will celebrate "Girl Power." Festival soprano Kim Jones is one of the artists. She also will be featured in the Aug. 18 celebration of African-American/European musicians. Jones has performed with the festival for the past five years. She says she is "so impressed at how Nic put these programs together. Each year, he puts together so much music of composers that I have never heard of. Nic is so special, he goes out of his way to be available to all of the musicians to address their questions and needs."



Rudolf Haken, known for exploring the latest in musical styles and approaches, will take concertgoers on the wildest ride yet. Photo provided



Festival artistic director Nic Orbovich says this year's theme highlights composers of traditionally underserved communities. *Beacher* file photo

While much of the festival lineup will be new to performers and the audience, many times, a new composer can become a favorite. On Aug. 18, Jones will perform the works of Florence Price, who has become her favorite female composer.

Of the festival, Jones said, "We have so much support each year. I love to see the crowds. Each year, I

feel like I am coming home to Michigan City."

Baldwin and his wife, Melisa, who sings and teaches soprano voice lessons, have been part of the festival from the start, when Orbovich proposed it to fellow musicians at a music festival in Hot Springs, Ark., more than 20 years ago. They will present the world premiere of Paul Epstein's "You Give Me Beauty" at the Sunday, Aug. 20, concert.

Wesley and Melisa have four children ranging in ages from 23 to 5. Wesley says their children have "grown up in and around the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival." Wesley is always impressed by the "unusual level of enthusiasm shown by the people of Michigan City for this type of music." The community, he adds, takes "an unusual degree of ownership" in the festival.

Wesley, Melisa and their family travel from Knoxville, Tenn., each year, where they both teach music, to participate in the festival. Over the years, Wesley says, "Michigan City has become very dear to us."

The festival is bolstered by a board of directors

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Cellist Wesley Baldwin

that takes care of the business end, allowing the musicians to create magic without distraction.

Mary Wright is interim board president, and she speaks of the energy she can feel as these amazing musicians come to town each year. Many musicians are from out of town and spend more than a week here with local families as they prepare for the festival. For several years, Wright has opened her home to visiting musicians, and in doing so feels the real heart of this special music. She most enjoys being “surrounded by generous happy people,” adding the “children’s concerts this year will be amazing.”

All concerts in this amazing series are free. All are invited to share the joy of music with these talented and gifted musicians.

The schedule is:

**Aug. 12, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church,
121 E. Seventh St.**

“Opening Night — Music & Psyche”

- “Sonata in A Minor for Violin & Piano” — Robert Schumann. Musicians: Nic Orbovich, violin, Robert Auler, piano.
- “Is Now Not Enough?” — string quartet by Dosithea McKay. Musicians: Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich, violins, Rudolf Haken, viola, Wesley Baldwin, cello.
- “Adagio-Andante Con Moto (from “Concerto in F”)

— George Gershwin. Arranged and performed for solo piano by Auler.

- “Trio Elegiac No. 2 for Piano and Strings — Sergei Rachmaninov. Musicians: Nic Orbovich, violin, Wesley Baldwin, cello, Jasmin Arakawa, piano.

**Aug. 14, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church
“Triumph Over Disability”**

- Cinq mélodies “de Venise” — Gabriel Faure. Musicians: Melisa Barrick Baldwin, soprano, Jasmin Arakawa.
- Four songs for violin and soprano — Gustav Holst. Musicians: Melisa Barrick Baldwin, soprano, Zosia Glashauser, violin.
- “Sonata for Clarinet and Piano” — Joseph Horowitz. Musicians: William King, clarinet, Robert Auler, piano.
- “String Quartet in C# Minor, Opus 131” — Ludwig van Beethoven. Musicians: Nic Orbovich and Zosia Glashauser, violins, Rudolf Haken, viola, Wesley Baldwin, cello.

**Aug. 15, 6 p.m., Niemann School/Head Start,
811 Royal Road
“Hakenpalooza 2!!”**

A concert for families featuring demonstrators of modern electric instruments, and the University of Illinois Electronic String Ensemble with Rudolf Haken and Sunny Gardner-Orbovich. Free dinner is included.



Pianist Jasmin Arakawa

Aug. 16, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church
“You Go Girl! A Celebration of Female
Composers & Musicians”

- “Wonders” for violin, cello, clarinet and piano — Karalyn Schubring. Musicians: Nic Orbovich, violin, Wesley Baldwin, cello, William King, clarinet, Jasmin Arakawa, piano.
- “Java Suite” excerpt — Leopold Godowsky. Musicians: Jasmin Arakawa, piano, University of Illinois Electric String Ensemble.
- “Trio for Piano and Strings in C Major” — Johannes Brahms. Musicians: Nic Orbovich, violin, Wesley Baldwin, cello, Robert Auler, piano.

Aug. 17, 6 p.m., Head Start/Niemann
Elementary, “Baby Beethoven”

A family concert about Beethoven’s younger years featuring Sunny Gardner-Orbovich and MCCMF musicians. It features puppets, live music, interactive activities and lessons about healthy families. Musicians include Nic Orbovich, Zosia Glashauser, Rudolf Haken, Wesley Baldwin and Jasmin Arakawa. A free dinner is included.

Aug. 18, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church
“A Celebration of African-American/
European Musicians”

- “Sonata for Two Violins” — Joseph Bologne Chevalier St. Georges. Musicians: Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich, violins.
- “3 Rags” — Scott Joplin. Musician: Robert Auler, piano.
- “Strum” for string quartet — Jessie Montgomery. Musicians: Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich, violins, Rudolf Haken, viola, Wesley Baldwin, cello.
- Song Set — Florence Price. Performers: Kimberly Jones, soprano, Jasmin Arakawa, piano.
- “Quintet for Clarinet & Strings” — Samuel Coleridge Taylor. Musicians: William King, clarinet, Zosia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich, violins, Rudolf Haken, viola, Wesley Baldwin, cello.

Aug. 19, 6 p.m., Head Start/

Niemann Elementary, “Come Together!”

The third family concert celebrates girl power and music by minorities. The performers include Kim Jones, Jasmin Arakawa, Zofia Glashauser, Rudolf Haken and Sunny Gardner-Orbovich. Free dinner is included.

Aug. 20, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

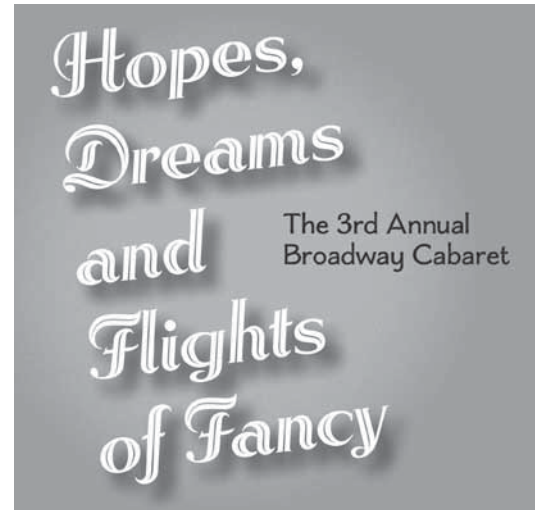
- “Concerto for Cello for Solo & Chamber Group” — Antonin Dvorak. Musician: Wesley Baldwin, solo cello.
- World premiere, “You Give Me Beauty” for soprano and cello by Paul Epstein. Performers: Melisa Barrick Baldwin, soprano, Wesley Baldwin, cello.
- “Gran Partita for 13 winds” — W.A. Mozart.



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Dunebrook's Dragon Boat Races Return to Stone Lake

After a three-year absence due to COVID-19, Dunebrook's Dragon Boat Family Festival returns to LaPorte's Stone Lake on Saturday, Sept. 9.

This marks the eight annual event. Teams can register at tinyurl.com/296pzy8b. Those interested also can contact Dunebrook Development Director Cathy Laughlin at cathy@dunebrook.org. Sponsorship comes with benefits and promotions. Peer fundraising is an added feature this year, with the top peer fundraiser recognized.

This year's event will be a festival atmosphere, according to Ted Perzanowski, director emeritus and event co-chair, in a press release. That includes the GIS Family Fun Area, Food Truck Bazaar, the Captain's online auction, face painting by The Kraft Box and music. Co-Chair Tim Gartland returns to deliver play-by-play color commentary from the lifeguard stand.

Dr. Tammy Button, Dunebrook's executive director, encourages teams and spectators to take sun canopies, beach chairs and blankets. Team shirts and themed team decorations are popular for the Spirit Award competition. Food will be sold, or individuals can take their own. Swimming is not allowed during the races.

Race participants must be a minimum of 13 years old, and every participant or guardian for minors must sign a waiver.

"We provide the dragon boats, safety vests, paddles, professional steersman and practice session with a dragon boat coach," Button said in a press release. "You bring 16-20 team members and a drummer. The skill in dragon boat racing is not in athleti-



cism, but in the synchronicity of the team working together. That is what makes it a great team-building event for businesses, faith groups, schools, families and friends, and organizations."

Reigning champions Applegate & Co. CPA's are returning along with Spirit Team winners Franciscan Health Michigan City. Both teams will compete with returning teams American Licorice, CLH, CPA's & Consultants, Northwest Health and newcomer Smooth Sailing Boat Detailing, and a team powered by Larry Zimmer and Perzanowski.

Button urges teams to register early to secure a spot. Every team races in three heats, with time to relax and hydrate between them.

Festival proceeds support Dunebrook's programs, namely Healthy Families, Body Safety, the Child Advocacy Center and Parent & Family Education.



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“The Dastardly Doctor Devereaux”

“The Dastardly Doctor Devereaux,” a musical melodrama directed by Tony J. Thomas and set in 1918, continues Aug. 11-13 and 18-20 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The show, which kicks off Footlight Players’ 74th season, is set in the emergency room at the Hanover D. Cash Clinic, where Dr. Dogsbreath Devereaux (Tom LeDonne) is in charge; however, the clinic owner is wealthy widow Lotta Cash (Laura Meyer). Dr. Devereaux plans to gain control of the clinic and Lotta’s millions by marrying her, then arranging for her to have a little “accident.” Helping him is the nasty nurse, Hilda Hatchet (Kaelie Winebrenner), whom he promises to wed after getting rid of Lotta. A new nurse, Wendy March (Adrianna LeDonne), and her coworker, Ivy Dripp (Erika Frye), complicate matters when Wendy overhears the plot to get rid of Lotta, finding herself in danger as well. Maybe Dr. Good (Anthony Holt) and Orderly Ward Helper (George Romero) can save Wendy and the unsuspecting Lotta.

The ensemble includes Teagin Powers, Brien

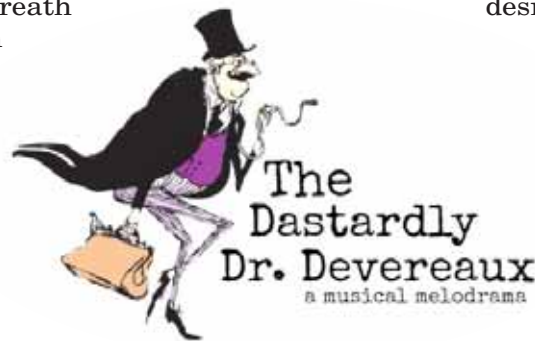
Rissman, Michael J. Thomas, Debbie Bartholomew, Rhonda Brennan, Kathy Chase, Natt Kilbourne, Bobbi Ann Lauritsen, Veronica Thomas and Rick Henderson.

Assisting with the production are: musical director Jennifer Keeley; assistant director/sound designer Alayna Lauritsen; producer Bobbi Ann Lauritsen; costumer Sharon Kienitz; choreographer Michael J. Thomas; set dresser/props Jill Thomas; and light designer-operator Steve Keeley. Tony Thomas also built the set.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and younger.

Group rates for 10 or more are available at www.footlightplayers.org or by calling (219) 874-4035.

Also, Footlight Players will host a baby item drive during the show’s run to help Dunebrook Inc. stock its “Family Depot” this summer. Items can include: baby wipes; diapers in all sizes; learning toys; and household cleaning supplies. All items should be sealed and in their original packaging.



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Unity Honors Moldenhauer

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has awarded Save the Dunes Board President Nancy Moldenhauer with the 2023 Jana Nona Environmental Stewardship Award.

Nona was an ordinary senior who learned the local shallow aquifer — the source for drinking water in the Town of Pines — was poisoned by coal combustion waste. She then inspired other residents to join her and demand accountability by local, state and federal officials. The result was voluntary funding by “potentially responsible parties” to provide most homeowners with municipal water from Michigan City.



Moldenhauer

Save the Dunes, according to a press release, has reached new heights under Moldenhauer’s leadership for the past year and a half. An example it offered was her willingness to serve as a standing witness for Save the Dunes’ recent appeal of a Department of Natural Resource permit approval involving Ogden Dunes’ 2,970 foot-long shoreline revetment.

“Nancy is always striving to improve herself or whatever cause she is a part of,” Betsy Maher, Save the Dunes executive director, said in a press release. “Her passion, coupled with her well-rounded understanding of the complex issues facing our environment, make her an invaluable leader and mentor.”

Plant Swap/Sale

A Ferns and Felines Plant Swap/Sale is from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Fried’s Cat Shelter, 509 Indiana 212.

Swap a plant for a new one, buy one from the booth of sale plants and see the shelter’s many cats and kittens. Those who take a donation for the shelter can enter to win a plant.

The sale is in the parking lot, so parking is in the grass behind the shelter.

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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:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17) at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10.** Meet in the children's makerspace, with no experience necessary. Children 12 and younger must attend with a parent or guardian.
- **Movies in Washington Park: "Super Mario Brothers" at dusk Friday, Aug. 11.** The movie, which concludes the season, is Rated PG. Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department co-sponsors the program.
- **Artist Sharon Hoogstraten at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12.** The professional photographer spent a decade portraying contemporary Potawatomi in regalia, in the process discovering her own roots. The program is a collaboration with The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, which is displaying her work this month. Her book, Dancing Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition

in the New Millennium, is now available.

- **Bad Art Night for Adults at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15.** 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.
- **D&D@MCPL in person at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16.** Learn how to play the role-playing game. All supplies are provided, including premade characters, dice and notebooks. No registration is required, but supplies are available on first-come, first-served basis. Email questions or special accommodations to Miss Dana at dwolf@mclib.org
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in August.** 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.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in August.** Children ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace. Supplies are limited.
- **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.
- **"Star Wars" Scavenger Hunt in August.** Visit Youth Services, find hidden characters and win a prize.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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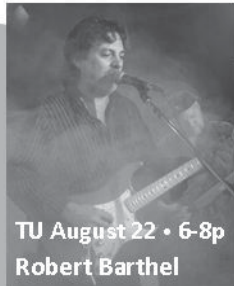
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JROTC Cadets Have Busy Summer

Cadets in Michigan City High School’s Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps kept busy this summer supporting Michigan City Area Schools and the community.

They also worked on improving themselves in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Cadets participated in a leadership camp in Wisconsin conducted by MCHS and attended by three other MCJROTC schools.

Community service activities included a recycling and food drive at Members Advantage Credit Union, the Michigan City Patriotic Parade and the Citywide Back to School Rally, which provided free school supplies to Michigan City students of all grade levels.

MCHS also sent cadets to the National Military Drill Camp at Schreiner University near San Antonio, Texas, and the MCJROTC Senior Leadership Camp in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, attended the MCJROTC Raider Instructor Course in Pennsylvania.

“Besides the personal leadership development of our cadets, the objective is to help our drill team to be more competitive and to start a Raider team,” McGrath said in a press release.

MCHS will start a Raider team and host a meet Oct. 28.

Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, said the goal is to qualify for the national championship in each activity.

The national drill championship is in late April and the National Raider Championship in late March. These trips, like all MCJROTC activities, are done at no cost to the school or cadet; instead, they are funded by the Marine Corps.

The cadets will continue to support MCAS and



Cadet Sgt. Gavin Sigle (right) attended the MCJROTC Senior Leadership Camp in Pennsylvania this summer. He hopes to be part of the Michigan City High School Raider Team that competes for the National Raider Championship in Pennsylvania this year.

the community during the school year. Among the August activities are the MCHS freshman orientation, the superintendent’s speech to instructional staff to open the school year and MCHS home football games.

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Summer Fun Exhibit



The new Summer Fun Exhibit, which highlights what people do for fun in LaPorte County, runs through Aug. 30 at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Artifacts such as vintage swimwear, fishing gear and beach toys are part of the display. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival

Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival will present "Hamlet 50/50," a new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic drama, on Aug. 17-27 at The University of Notre Dame's Patricia George Decio Theatre.

Adapted as part of The 50/50 Shakespeare Project, the production offers a 50/50 balance of lines between male and female characters. Directed by Vanessa Morosco, who adapted the text along with Peter Simon Hilton, the cast includes Xavier King as Hamlet, Madeline Calais as Ophelia, TayLar as Gertrude and co-adaptor Hilton as Claudius. Additional cast members include Becca Ballinger (Horatio) and Joe Foust (Polonius), with George Azcarate, James Cullinane, Tommy Favorite, Meliza Gutierrez, Colleen McLinden, Timothy Merkle, Gabriel Ozaki, Christina Randazzo, Justine C. Ryan and Liz Zimmerman.

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Guest Day at Long Beach Country Club



Long Beach Country Club's 18-hole Guest Day was held July 25, with "Hollywood" being the theme. The winners were:
 First — Mariah Dell, Emmie Lane, Claire Whitehead, Lauren Michalak.
 Second — Jill Craig, Stephanie Thomas, Meg Ca-

plice, Andrea Sells.
 Third — Susan Yemc, Colleen Kennedy, Bridget Van Eekeren, Anne Humphrey.
 Closest to the Pin: Lynn Bourjaily, Betty Toy.
 Longest Drive: Kacky Fetzer, Katie Hayes.
 (Photos provided by Pat Bailey.)



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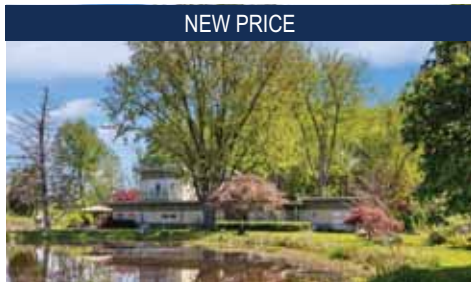
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Art in the Park in Long Beach

It was a beautiful day for the third Annual Long Beach "Art in the Park" on July 29 at the Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

The Long Beach Parks and Recreation Board collaborated with Beach Garden Club, summer camp directors and the community center board to showcase local artists and the community center building. Activities for children also were part of the festivities.

All photos by Bob Wellinski



“The Beanie Bubble” Takes a Sharp Look at Male Ego Amid Notorious Craze

by Andrew Tallackson



Ty Warner (Zack Galifianakis) attends a trade convention with his business partner, Robbie (Elizabeth Banks), in “The Beanie Bubble.”

Of all the vices in “The Beanie Bubble” — greed, arrogance — the most fascinating case study is ego. Fragile male ego.

The new Apple TV+ film, which charts the disastrous collapse of the ’90s Beanie Babies phenomenon, places founder Ty Warner under the knife, and what we encounter is a man who doesn’t respect women. Three women, in particular, who experience the same infuriating treatment. Watching them triumph is what makes the movie so entertaining.

Husband-and-wife filmmakers Kristin Gore — daughter of Al and Tipper — and Damian Kulash base their tale on Zac Bissonnette’s 2015 [The Great Beanie Baby Bubble: Mass Delusion and the Dark Side of Cute](#). On one level, it is time-capsule entertainment charting how the Internet emerged as a key marketing tool while people were losing their minds over these stuffed animals. In many cases, it was as investments, buyers turning to that fledgling online auction site, eBay, to make tidy profits off them.

Ty Warner, whose fascination with stuffed animals sparked the Beanie Babies craze, is played by Zack Galifianakis in a performance unlike anything he’s done. The “Hangover” star typically plays the

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“The Beanie Bubble”

Running time: 110 minutes. Apple TV+.

Rated R for language.

awkward loser pining to hang with the cool kids. Here, he plays Ty as pure manipulation: someone who uses his wounded image to attract smart women to amplify his vision. Then, when the money rolls in, he casts them aside, taking credit for their achievements.

The central women in “The Beanie Bubble,” by the way, are based on three real people.

The first is Robbie (“Pitch Perfect” veteran Elizabeth Banks), who hooks up with Ty, has his aggressive business sense, but pushes for overseas markets before Ty is ready, ticking him off.

Next is Sheila (“Succession” star Sarah Snook), a divorced mother whose two girls become Ty’s creative inspiration for new Beanie Babies.

The third, and most fascinating, is Maya (Geraldine Viswanathan), who joins the company right after high school. She’s based on Lina Trivendi, who is credited as a pioneer in Internet sales.

Three dynamite actresses, each bringing their own intelligence to women whose business savvy enhances Ty's venture.

But here is where "The Beanie Bubble" becomes a compelling study of male ego. Ty, essentially, is a child. Threatened by women as business equals. Fragile ego that embraces new ideas when they contribute to his wealth, but not when they usurp his own prowess.

We know Robbie and Sheila will wise up. Banks and Snook are accustomed to playing women who don't back down from a fight. But again, the most fascinating is Viswanathan as Maya in an extremely sharp and likable performance. The actress creates the smartest person in the room. She breezes through work with a detached sense of snark, knowing when and where it's time to engage in "the game" with Ty. She can placate his ego, feed him the proper BS, to make him think her ideas are his.

But when Maya, privy to economic forecasts that suggest a Beanie Babies downfall is imminent, discusses the matter with Ty, again, we see a man who cannot respect a woman as his intellectual equal.

Were this a straightforward comedy, like "The First Wives Club," then Robbie, Sheila and Maya would embark on a covert mission to destroy Ty. Instead, we witness three women who value their own worth to walk away.

It's been quite a year for movies attacking corpo-



The secret weapon of "The Beanie Bubble": Geraldine Viswanathan as Maya, who is based on a woman credited as a pioneer in Internet sales.

rate culture. Both "Air" and "Tetris," the later another Apple TV+ venture, explored how greed can bring out the best and worst in people. "The Beanie Bubble" falls more into the second realm, reflecting on toxic workplace culture within today's #metoo context. It may not have the same buzz as "Air," but it should. It works awfully hard to tell this story, and in doing so achieves the right balance of brains, humor and feminist triumph.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Exploring the Director's Cut of "That Thing You Do"



One of the original publicity photos for "That Thing You Do."

Chatting movies is my obsession. Even with people I've just met. On rare occasions, discussions turn heated, particularly if opinions clash.

What never fails, what triggers the same reaction every single time, is if I somehow bring up "That Thing You Do." The other person softens, tenderly, as if being asked to hold a puppy. The response: "I love that movie."

How could you not, right?

Feel-good movies have a way of producing the polar opposite reaction because they can get icky. Manipulative.

Not "That Thing You Do."

Everything about it feels right. And people hold onto it tightly, like a scrapbook of family keepsakes. What about it succeeds so beautifully? For some, it is the Oscar-nominated title song which, lucky for us, is catchy, because you hear it *a lot* during the movie. Others, myself included, stress the characters. For me, it introduced the offbeat loopiness of Steve Zahn. Tom Everett Scott's nice-guy drummer Guy Patterson, to me, was the epitome of cool. Women, my wife especially, quote Liv Tyler's wounded attack on lead singer Jimmy (Johnathon Schaech), "*I have wasted thousands and thousands of kisses on you.*"

You could go on about these characters for hours. If writer-director Tom Hanks, making his debut

past
present

Andrew Tallackson



behind the camera, is considered Hollywood's supreme everyman, then his characters imbue the same qualities. They are people you recognize. People who could be your best friend. The guy or gal in the band that plays at local hotspots.

"That Thing You Do" turns 30 in three years: *craziness*. Strange then, as much as my wife and I adore this movie, that we were unaware that in 2007, Hanks released a director's cut with nearly 40 minutes of additional footage. Now, director's cuts are nothing new. When movies, after their theatrical runs, arrive on streaming or home video, studios frequently toss five minutes or so of extra footage back into them, now marketed as the "director's cut." Most times, the additional scenes deserved to remain on the cutting room floor.

Forty minutes, though, is substantial. Forty minutes can significantly alter the tone or feel of a

movie. Had Hanks, with his director's cut, improved or bloated what to me was a perfect movie?

It was time to investigate.

First, know that when "That Thing You Do" arrived in theaters in October 1996, it was not a hit. It was no flop by any means, grossing \$34.6 million against its \$26 million budget. But after a summer of box-office monsters like "Independence Day," "Twister" and "Mission: Impossible," Hanks' directorial debut was the type of little movie that required word of mouth to carry it.

That word of mouth didn't emerge until home viewing. Then, it took off. Big time.

The idea behind Hanks' film is the one-hit wonder. The band that achieves that one instant classic, yet falls to the wayside.

For Hanks, his film suggests that raw talent, and being in the right place at the right time, can catapult a band into the big leagues, but only groups where everyone is on the same page achieve longevity.

It was a tribute to Hanks, to the sweet, gentle feel of his movie, that the Oneders, the Erie, Pa., band at the center of his tale, do collapse by the end, but you don't exit the theater bummed out. More, just thrilled to have shared the ride with these people. In fact, the moment when the band first hears its song on the radio remains a euphoric example of pure, unadulterated joy.

So what's in the director's cut, available through streaming services, blu-ray and DVD? Is it worth the time and effort? More yes than no. Future repeat viewings by my wife and me no doubt will choose the original cut that ended up in theaters. Having said that, Hanks' extended version is like spending time with old friends, learning more about their hopes, dreams and failures.

There is tons more, for instance, of Charlize Theron's Tina, Guy's girlfriend at the start of the film. You have to wonder what happened. Her presence in the film was significantly hacked down. The movie explores in greater detail the initial spark between her and Guy, then her bored rejection of him in favor of her dreamy dentist.

Ethan Embrey, as bass player T.B., not only gets more screen time, but what in the theatrical version was a youthful crush on a singer in a black girl group emerges as a full-blown love affair.

Guy Patterson's chance meeting with his jazz idol, Del Paxton (Bill Cobb), is expanded near the end to show Guy interviewing him for a local ra-



The director's cut reveals how significantly hacked down Charlie Theron's role in the film was.

dio station. Walter White, himself, Bryan Cranston, turns up in more scenes as astronaut Gus Grissom. There's even the implication that Hanks' character, Mr. White, is gay.

These character accents deepen the film. Round out the characters so they are more complex. My theory is that 20th Century Fox believed Hanks had a hit with his movie as long as he kept it light. That anything dealing with race, sexuality and Theron's unlikable ditz had to go.

In some respects, the studio was right. The bones of a more agreeable picture existed within the original framework of Hanks' vision. At the same time, the additional screen time grounds the story in a greater sense of reality.

The director's cut is essential viewing for anyone who adores "That Thing You Do." But if you're like my wife and me, where every once in a while, you get that "itch" to return to this world, the original theatrical cut will do just fine. Time has not dulled its charm. In fact, the innocence of it is more appealing than ever.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

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, Aug. 11 at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at the main library.** Meet in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.
- **Storytime from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.** The program includes stories, a nature walk and craft.
- **Getting to Know Your Apple Device (adults 19+) from 1-2:25 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the main library Meeting Room A.** The focus is iPhones and iPads.

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 programing through the Exchange building.

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American Red Cross

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

- Family Life Center, 154 Main St., Westville, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11.
- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 (six remaining appointments at press time).
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14.
- Lions Club at The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14.


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

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Heritage Trail Garage Sale

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will host the U.S. 12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale, which stretches from Detroit to New Buffalo, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. EDT Friday-Sunday, Aug. 11-13, at Carver Park in Three Oaks, Mich.

The museum will offer picnic lunches, featuring pulled pork sandwiches, Sloppy Joes, grilled items and homemade cookies, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT. Select antique items de-accessioned from the TROTOM collection will be sold.

All proceeds support the non-profit museum, 5 Featherbone Ave. Hours are noon-5 p.m. EDT Fridays-Sundays through October.

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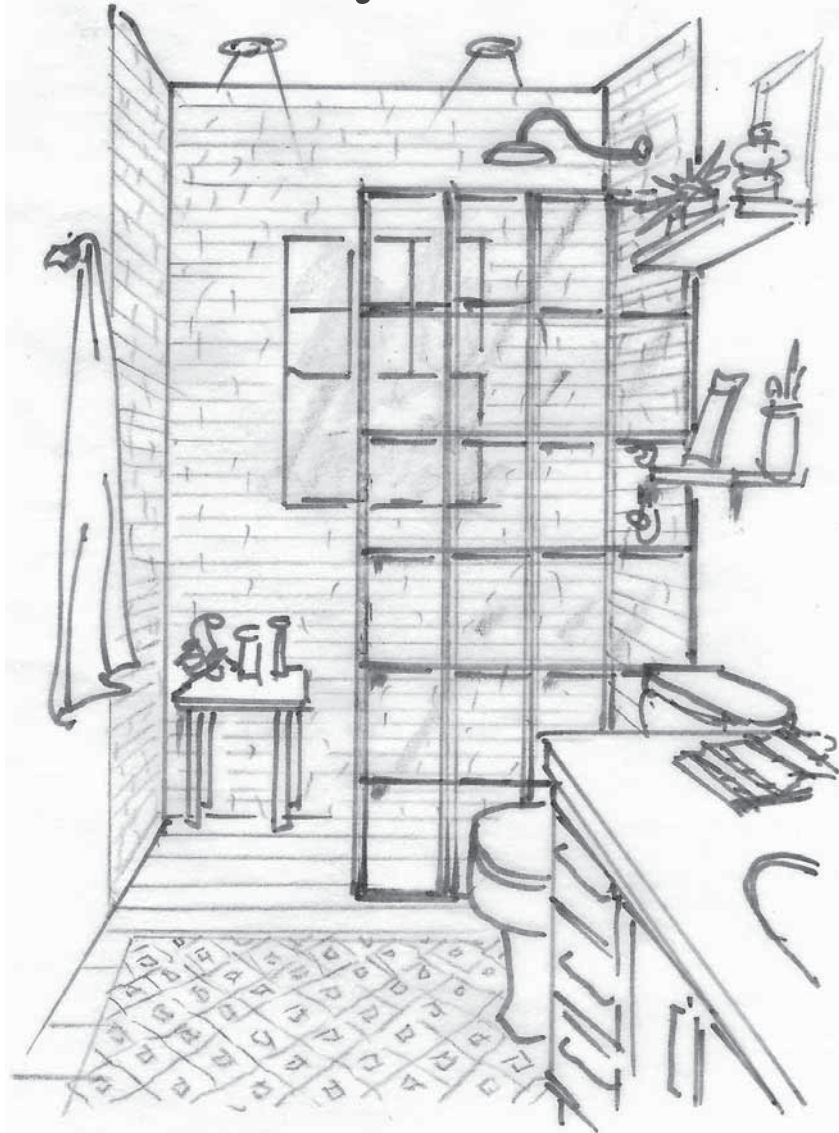
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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-11 a.m. Thursdays in August at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll while observing plant and bird life. Meet at the Visitor Center and carpool to a chosen location.
- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 5-6 and 7-8 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 10.** Join a ranger for paddling in the lagoon. Rangers will lead two groups of 10 paddlers into the lagoon. Make reservations by calling (219) 395-1882. The lagoon is located in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.
- **Beach Fun Friday from 1-8 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 11 at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.** Join staff for activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at 5227 S. Liverpool Road, Hobart.** 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.
- **Birding for Beginners from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary.** Join a ranger to learn basic birding techniques. Binoculars will be provided.
- **Art in the National Park from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Learn how to paint a dunes-inspired painting with an artist from The Art Barn School of Art. The cost is \$15. Reservations are required at the Art Barn's website, www.artbarnschool.org
- **Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in August.** Participate in a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 3-6 p.m. Saturdays in August.** Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- **Dune Ridge Hike from 5-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at the Kemil Beach parking lot.** Join rangers for the hike that includes views of the Great Marsh. The parking lot is located north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road in Beverly Shores.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Critter Talk from 10-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at Portage Lakefront Parking Lot, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Discover how and where animals live throughout the park's many ecosystems.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in August** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. After the hike, help the ranger feed the Chellberg Farm animals from 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in August at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Music Heritage Series Concert at the Farm from 5-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Chellberg Farmhouse.** The Save the Tunes Council performs outside on the lawn. Take a blanket or folding chair.
- **Pitcher's Thistle Program from 9 a.m.-noon Mondays in August at West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood.** Talk to the ranger stationed at the west parking lot about the park, and some of the threatened and endangered species being protected. Afterwards, take a self-guided hike or head to the beach.
- **Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays in August at Central Avenue Beach.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll along

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 Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten of
 Native Americans in Native Dress



Friday evening, August 11th, 5-7 pm

The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery
 525 S Broadway, Beverly Shores



the beach and learn about the origins of the Great Lakes and Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Central Avenue Beach parking lot. Passes are required.

- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in August at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.** Catch a Lake Michigan sunset from the pavilion, and roast marshmallows from the fireplace.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in August at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas 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.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4:30 p.m. daily in August.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

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:

- **Awesome Amphibians at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10.** Learn about frogs, toads and salamanders.
- **Beach Mysteries at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 11.** Meet at the Nature Center to identify items found on the beach.
- **The annual Perseid Meteor Shower & Stargaze from 8:30 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Aug. 12.** Telescopes for deep sky viewing and constellation talks will be in the west parking lot at 8:30 p.m. The best star observations are after 9:30 p.m. Take a chair, towel, bug spray and flashlights. The program is weather-dependent.
- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15.** Meet at the Nature Center for a 1.5-mile flat walk to the beach.

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



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Teacher Project Grants

Sept. 10 is the deadline for Michigan City area educators to apply for Unity Foundation of LaPorte County grants impact teaching and learning.

Unity Foundation manages three programs, established by donors, that have invested in more than 1,000 educators here since the mid-1990s. The grants are \$400-\$500 each. Teachers can complete a brief application at tinyurl.com/23ue3mt9 for 2023-2024 academic year projects.

The Michigan City Education Foundation makes grants of up to \$500 for teachers at public and parochial K-8 schools. Teachers may use grants for hands-on or virtual activities in any academic area or life skills.

(In 1994, the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, Mary Lou Linnen and Bud and June Ruby founded MCEF to empower educators.)

The Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Endowment Fund honors the memory of the former Michigan City kindergarten and first-grade teacher in public and parochial schools. It makes grants of up to \$400 for items that enrich curriculum or enhance a teacher's ability to meet student needs.

Both programs accept proposals from educators at: Barker Middle School, Coolspring Elementary, Edgewood Elementary, Joy Elementary, Knapp Elementary, Krueger Middle School, Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary, Marsh Elementary, Notre Dame Catholic School, Pine Fine Arts Magnet Elementary, Queen of All Saints Catholic School, Springfield Elementary and St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic School.

The Teacher Innovation Fund is a small grant program for Michigan City High School and LaPorte County Career and Technical Education/A.K. Smith Career Center teachers and professionals. MCAS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins and former Michigan City Mayor Chuck Oberlie provided the idea and seed money from personal funds. Grants can be used to buy equipment, supplies, tools for special programs or for ideas to enrich curriculum and meet student needs. Each grant applicant may request up to \$400.

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North Course, "Early Birdies,"

July 31, 2023

Event: Most Pars + 50/50

A Flight

Low Gross: Carol Tylisz.

Low Net: Carol Tylisz.

Low Putts: LuAnn Uremovich.

Event: Barb Rumbuc.

B Flight

Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall.

Low Net: Mary Knaup.

Low Putts: Mary Knaup.

Event: Evelyn Cassin.

C Flight

Low Gross: Charlotte Wozniak.

Low Net: Charlotte Wozniak.

Low Putts: Bev Szybala.

Event: Carol Hullings.

D Flight

Low Gross: Pam Betcher.

Low Net: Pam Betcher.

Low Putts: Nancy Wilhelm.

Event: Jan Smith.

Birdies: Linda Hirsch, Hole #3, LuAnn Uremovich, Hole #6.

50/50: Jane Shuger, Mary Schlunz.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **First "Friendraiser," presented by Friends of the New Buffalo Township Library, from 7-9 p.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 12, at the library.** Proceeds benefit FOL programs and services. Tickets, which are \$50 and include entry, wine and appetizers, are available at the library. The event is adults only.
- **Story Time with Rapunzel.** The program is from 3-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15.
- **"Take the 'Tired' out of 'Retired': Transform Your Retirement!"** The program is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17.

Weekly programs:

- Mommy and Me Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. Mondays at New Buffalo Township Park.
- Guitar Lessons for Beginners (sign-up only) for ages 8-11. The time is 4:30-5:15 p.m. July 20.
- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

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



**LBCC Women's Golf Leagues
9-Hole League**

July 27, 2023

Event: Mix & Match

A Flight Low Net

- First — Vicki Hill.
- Second — Sue Smith.
- Third — Eunie Nondorf.
- Low Putts – Sue Smith.
- Birdies – Eunie Nondorf (#16), Sue Smith (#11).

B Flight Low Net

- First — Amanda Ferlmann.
- Second — Pat Bailey.
- Third — Mary O'Neil.
- Low Putts – Mary O'Neil.
- Birdie – Amanda Ferlmann (#16).

C Flight Low Net

- First — Alison Kolb.
- Second — Anne Linnen.
- Third — Beth Linnen, Katherine Shannon.
- Low Putts – Sally McCarthy.
- Sunken Approach – Alison Kolb (#4).

D Flight Low Net

- First — Toni Hyland.
- Second — Jeanne St. Peter.
- Third — Teresa Curi.
- Low Putts – Jeanne St. Peter.

Aug. 1, 2023

Event: Club Manager's Trophy

A Flight

- First — Janet Andreotti.
- Second — Vicki Hill, Peg King.

B Flight

- First — Amanda Ferlmann.
- Second — M. O'Neil, N. Thill, B. Van Eekeren.

C Flight

- First — Nancy Reinert.
- Second — Susan Keeley.
- Third — Gloria McMahon.

Sunken Approaches

- Linda Behringer, #1.
- Meg Caplice, #14.
- Alison Kolb, #4.



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Ellen Firme Gallery

“Water: Above and Below,” photos by Timothy Lace and paintings by Diane Grams, continues through Sept. 4 at Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

Longtime Northwest Indiana residents, Lace and Grams have been strongly influenced by Lake Michigan. They work collaboratively and independently. Their exhibit offers a set of explorations with different focal points of the elemental sphere of water.

Gram depicts vast landscapes and underwater images, often referencing their scuba diving adventures in the Caribbean. Lace has developed a portfolio of landscapes inspired by nature.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Contact at Kevin Firme at (219) 874-4003 for more details.

Riverview Cemetery Tour

A tour of Riverview Cemetery, offered by South Bend’s The History Museum, is at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Aug. 17.

Led by Travis Childs, the museum’s archivist and St. Joseph County historian, participants can view historic grave-sites and learn about people who once lived in the community. Be prepared to walk on uneven terrain. No food or pets are allowed.

The cost is \$2, or free for members. Participants should meet at the cemetery’s entrance, 2300 Portage Ave. Reservations are not required. The tour is canceled if the weather is poor. Any cancellation will be posted on the museum’s website and social media.

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

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Art Alliance Watercolor Workshop

The Land of Lakes Art Alliance has received Arts Project Support funding from the Indiana Arts Commission for its watercolor workshop with instructor Terry Armstrong.

The day-long workshop, supported by South Shore Arts, is Saturday, Sept. 9, at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Armstrong, a Hoosier artist and workshop instructor, provides step-by-step instructions in a laid-back format.

Email landoflakesartlp@gmail.com or text (219) 363-7962 for more details.

Family History Workshop

A free family history workshop is from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 402 E. Coolspring Ave.

To link participants to the database and aid in the search, those attending should take certain information about parents, grandparents and other family members: given names and surnames, birthdates (at least the approximate year of birth) and residence at the time of birth and/or death.

Light refreshments will be served.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



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FIT-Together Classes

Registration is open for Franciscan Health Michigan City's free FIT-Together program, a family-centered approach to health and wellness.

The 10-week program is from 4-5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Aug. 10-Oct. 12, at the LaPorte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St. It is intended for households with children between ages 8 and 14. Topics include making healthy choices in activities, relationships and emotional health, nutrition and exercise, and activities to improve stress management, effective communication, problem solving and connection.

Participants also learn the seven Cs of family resilience: control, competence, coping, confidence, connection, character and contribution. They should wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes.

Registration is required. Contact Nila Williams, community health improvement coordinator, at Nila.Williams@franciscanalliance.org or (219) 283-9649 to do so or for more details. The program is supported by Franciscan Health Michigan City, General Insurance Services, Kia Can Cook, Michigan City YMCA and The Temple Total Fitness.

Westchester Public Library

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

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

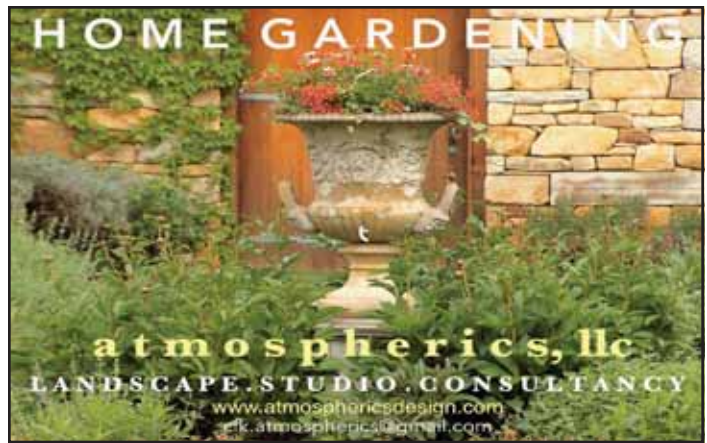
While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday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

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

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In the Area

Aug. 10 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 10 — 3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17), 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 10 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *Aug. 10* — Resistance (Christian rock). *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City Band, 7 p.m.

Aug. 11 — Opening reception, "Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium — Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten" & "Early Settlers and Area Native Americans," 5-7 p.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.org

Aug. 11 — The Boy Band Night, 7 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: online — \$35/members, \$45/non-members; at door — \$45/members, \$55/non-members; free/children 12 & younger. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

Aug. 12 — Lei it On Me Drag Show with Welcome to the Other Side (21 & older), 7-11 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: online — \$35/members, \$45/non-members; at door — \$45/members, \$55/non-members. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

Aug. 11-13, 18-20 — "The Dastardly Doctor Devereaux," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children 12 & younger. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Aug. 11 — Movies in Washington Park: "Super Mario Brothers," dusk. Info: (219) 873-3049.



Aug. 12 — Ferns and Felines Plant Swap/Sale, noon-3 p.m., Fried's Cat Shelter, 509 Indiana 212. Info: The Rooted Nole on Facebook.

Aug. 12 — Artist Sharon Hoogstraten, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 12 — MCCMF: "Opening Night — Music & Psyche," 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 561-1939.

Aug. 14 — Family Storytime and Yoga in the Garden, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 14 — MCCMF: "Triumph Over Disability," 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 561-1939.

Aug. 15 — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Aug. 15 — MCCMF: "Hakenpalooza 2!!," 6 p.m., Niemann School/Head Start, 811 Royal Road. Info: (219) 561-1939.

Aug. 16 — LaPorte County Public Library Storytime, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 16 — D&D@MCPL in person, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info/special accommodations: dwolf@mclib.org

Aug. 16 — MCCMF: "You Go Girl! A Celebration of Female Composers & Musicians," 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 561-1939.

Through Aug. 13 — "Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: Fri. & Sat./7 p.m., Sunday/2 p.m. General admission: \$30; students/seniors/\$27; groups of 4 or more/\$25. Reservations/info: www.dunesarts.org

Through August — Pat Herman's "Perspectives & Retrospectives," SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St. Info: www.PatHermanArt.com

Through August — Summer Fun Exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Sept. 4 — "Water: Above and Below — Photographs by Timothy D. Lace, paintings by Diane Grams," Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.

Through Sept. 30 — Artwork by Kristina Knowski, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. 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: (219) 872-9196.

Through Oct. 21 — "Vivian Maier: In Color," "Under the Same Sun," "to render the infinite," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/

Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose 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 in Michigan City — Creative Tech Activities, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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.

Thursdays in August — Yoga in the Gardens with April Fallon, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: (219) 878-9885, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

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

Thursdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Municipal Band, 7:30 p.m., Washington Park's Guy F. Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater.

Saturdays through Oct. 28 — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: www.emichigancity.com

Sundays through Sept. 24 — Farmed & Forged Market (LaPorte Farmers Market), 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monroe & Lincolnway.

In the Region

Aug. 10 — Awesome Amphibians, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 10 — Brett Dennen with Certainly So, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45 + \$6.50 convenience fee, \$70 + \$6.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 11 — Beach Mysteries, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 11 — Tim Stop, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 11-13 — The Region of Three Oaks Museum-hosted U.S. 12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. EDT, Carver Park, Three Oaks, Mich.

Aug. 12 — Artist reception (Birdie McElroy, Marcy Mitchell), noon-5 p.m. EDT, The Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (800) 291-9287, gallery@courtyardfineart.com

Aug. 12 — Birding for Beginners, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 12 — Art in the National Park, 2-4 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Reservations: www.artbarnschool.org

Aug. 12 — Dune Ridge Hike, 5-6 p.m., Kemil Beach parking lot, north of U.S. 12 on East State Park Road, Beverly Shores. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 12 — Folk group Mustard's Retreat (David Tamulevich/Liby Glover), 7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$12/advance, \$15/door, free/children 12 & younger. Reservations: tinyurl.com/5n99ewr9

Aug. 12 — Friends of the NBTL "Friendraiser," 7-9 p.m. EDT, 33 N. Thompson St. Tickets: \$50, available at library. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Aug. 12 — The Chicago Experience, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 12 — The annual Perseid Meteor Shower & Stargaze, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 13 — Critter Talk, 10-11:30 a.m., Portage Lakefront Parking Lot, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 13 — Music Heritage Series Concert at the Farm, 5-6 p.m., Chellberg Farmhouse, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Aug. 13 — Midwest Made – Mike Struwin Band, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$15 + \$3.50 convenience fee, \$40 + \$3.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 15 — The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 15 — Story Time with Rapunzel, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Aug. 16 — Open Mic Night featuring Help Hounds, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiry: openmic@acornlive.org

Through Aug. 17 — Display, Long Beach's Connie & George Kassal, The Village Gallery at Pines

Continued on Page 46

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Continued From Page 44

Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: www.pinesvillage.org

Through Aug. 30 — Emily Casella's "In Emotion to Entrain," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through Sept. 4 — "The Art of Elizabeth Catlett from the Collection of Samella Lewis," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org, info@krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Through Sept. 17 — Theda Sandiford's "Triggered, Truth & Transformation," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: tinyurl.com/yckh57jx

Through October — "Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age," Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through May 12, 2024 — "Indiana Lore," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

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



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Thursdays through Aug. 10 — Bird Walk & Talk, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu

Thursdays through Aug. 10 — Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons, 5-6 & 7-8 p.m., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Reservations: (219) 395-1882.

Fridays through Aug. 11 — Beach Fun Friday, 1-8 p.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Fridays & Sundays in August — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays/9-11 a.m. Sundays, parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Saturdays in August — Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in August — Pinhook Bog Open House, 3-6 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street (next to Thomas Centennial Park). Info: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8z2utd>

Sundays in August — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in August — 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: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Mondays in August — Pitcher's Thistle Program, 9 a.m.-noon, West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Tuesdays in August — Beachcomber Hike with a Ranger, 6-7 p.m., Central Avenue Beach. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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

Daily in August — Chellberg Farm Open House, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "Oppenheimer." Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. Aug. 11, 6 p.m. Aug. 12, 3 p.m. Aug. 13. *Also*: "Barbie." Rated PG-13. Times: 7 p.m. Aug. 11, 3 p.m. Aug. 12, 7 p.m. Aug. 13. *Also*: "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." Time: 7 p.m. Aug. 10. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Night Will Find You by Julia Heaberlin (hard-cover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 352 pages.)

Astrophysicist or psychic? Or both? Is that even possible?

That's the question this week as Heaberlin brings a powerhouse story of identity, family secrets and kidnapping — could be murder.

Vivian Bouchet is a 28-year-old astrophysicist. She's received her doctorate and is working on the possibility of extraterrestrial life in deep space at a desert research center. Her mother claimed to possess psychic abilities, but it is Vivvy who might really have it. Vivvy doesn't have a crystal ball. She has inner instincts where touching a photo or object, like a bracelet, is a voice whispering in her head.

Vivvy's mother had a number of different jobs over the years, but the strangest was photographer for the county morgue. She kept an album of her photos, which Vivvy studied when no one was around. In Fort Worth, Texas, her mom set up a phone line for psychic readings, telling Vivvy she has the same abilities, but Vivvy is not convinced.

When she is 8, she meets Mike Romano, a 14-year-old whom she has a strong premonition will get killed by a blue horse. When she tells Mike, his mother makes him stay away from her — after all, the child must have psychological problems — until one day, he defies his mother and walks by her house. A teenager in a blue Mustang jumps the curb. If Vivvy had not pushed him out of the way, he would have been struck.

Luck? Or intuition? Or something else?

It's now 18 years later, and Mike is a policeman married to Vivvy's younger sister. He's working on a cold-case kidnapping and possible murder when he calls on Vivvy for help. The case goes back 10 years when 3-year-old Lizzy Solomon disappeared from home and her mother, Nicolette, was charged with her murder. No body was found, but the woman is serving a life sentence.

Mike begs Vivvy to look over a number of files on missing persons, including Lizzy's, to see if she can read anything into them. Going through the files, she gleans a little information from a few of them, and no information at all from others. But with this case, Vivvy is struck by the feeling that Lizzy is still alive, marking the file "alive" to Mike's surprise.

Mike brings along another cop, Jesse Sharp, who sees Vivvy as a fake looking for publicity.

There are a number of photos in the Solomon case file. One, in particular, shows a forest scene with, among other things, a child's bracelet on the

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



ground. Vivvy feels a link to Sharp from that photo, but can't understand why he put it there — unless he is testing her abilities. Vivvy does feel the photo must mean something to Sharp. Maybe he is hiding a few secrets of his own?

Despite him belittling her, she can't help but feel an attraction to him for some reason even she doesn't understand. After all, he's gruff, dismissive and obviously playing the bad cop. And it's also a little off-putting when she sees him following her all over town. Creepy. She can't figure out if he is "on the side of the angels or cuts their wings and lets them fall."

Then, a podcaster, Bubba Guns, who deals in conspiracy theories and reminds me of an Alex Jones-type character, starts talking about Vivvy and making fun of her psychic abilities. He even invites her on his show. She agrees in order to tell her side, and their back-and-forth conversation is exciting and engaging. Vivvy can't help but notice that Bubba seems to know more about the Solomon case than he will admit, but the show turns out to be a huge mistake for Vivvy, because Bubba's followers soon are camped

out in her front yard, threatening her. Looks like her gift is turning out to be more of a curse.

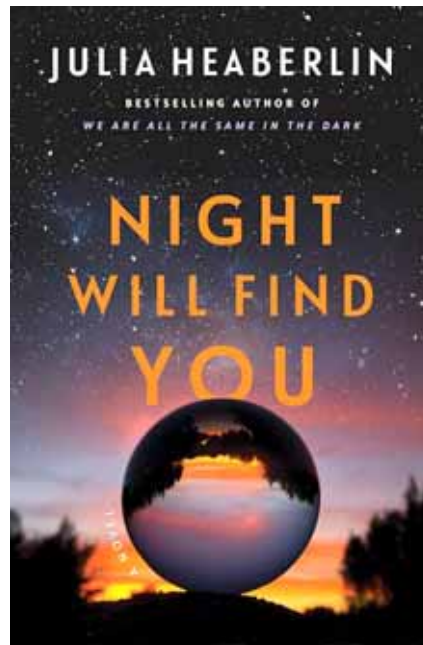
Yet, Vivvy can't get Lizzy Solomon out of her head, and despite the crazies after her, she continues what is no less than a quest, because she is sure the girl is still alive. After meeting her mother in prison, she is convinced she is not a murderer.

Every chapter will have you vacillating between scientific skepticism and faith in the unseen. The psychic world vs. the scientific world embodies a great plot filled with characters who keep you wondering if you like them or not. And there are plenty of twists and things you don't see coming — like the climax. Not what I expected.

The final word: As Vivvy says "My whole life, I've struggled with my belief in science versus this thing my mother called a gift. But I don't always accept the truth — that these two forces inside my head thrive on each other.

"We are given imagination to expand our worlds, and science to confirm it. They are not mutually exclusive." What do you think?

Till next time, happy reading!



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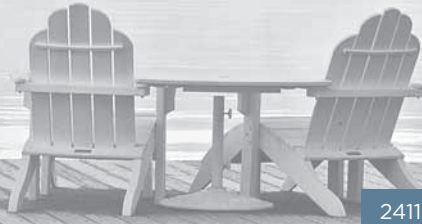
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FEATURED AGENT

Jenn Bauer

Jenn Bauer is a LaPorte County native. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Bob, for over 30years. They have two adult daughters and three grandchildren. Jenn has been in the real estate industry for 10 years and a licensed agent/property manager for six of those years. Whether it is buying, selling or renting, her goal is to "Make the Move" for her client(s) easy and stress free.



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