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Passion Project

by Edmund Lawler

When *The New York Times* wrote its obituary on the Top 40 disc jockey considered by some the greatest of all time, it turned to Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice to offer a few final words.

“Nobody came close to his personality,” the former LaPorte resident was quoted in the July 20 article on Dick Biondi. “He was wild, outrageous, goofy and uplifting. He was like a big kid — he was one of us. He spoke our language.”

It’s hardly surprising that Enzweiler-Pulice factored so prominently into the story on Biondi, who in 1961 was named the nation’s best top-40 DJ while serving up hits for Chicago’s WLS radio. He’s also credited with introducing The Beatles to American radio audiences in February 1963 when he spun “Please Please Me.”

Enzweiler-Pulice is the director of the forthcoming documentary, “The Voice That Rocked America: The Dick Biondi Story.” She hosted a well-attended sneak preview last month at The Acorn in Three Oaks, Mich. Planned well in advance, the screening was held only days after Biondi’s death in Chicago at age 90. It was an emotional day for Enzweiler-Pulice, who first met the wildly popular member of the Radio Hall of Fame 62 years earlier. His death was tantamount to the loss of a beloved family member, says Enzweiler-Pulice, who lived on Pine Lake from 2009-2017.

In 1961, at age 13, she met Biondi when he arrived by helicopter for an appearance at a shopping



Dick Biondi (left) is seen sporting a wild sweater that Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice bought for him.

mall near her home in west suburban Chicago.

“I was listening to WLS one Saturday afternoon and heard that he was going to appear at the Hillside Shopping Center,” Enzweiler-Pulice said in a phone interview from a coffee shop near her home in Villa Park, a Chicago suburb.

“I told my dad, ‘We gotta’ go! We gotta’ go!’” Her father gave in to the urgent request and ferried her, her sister and a friend to the mall.

“I was so excited. I thought I was going to jump out of my skin,” she says. “Dick was so kind. He took time to talk to us and look us in the eye. He really listened and asked questions about us and made us feel really special.”

A rock star in his own right, Biondi even had a

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hit in 1961: a novelty song titled “On Top of a Pizza,” a parody of the folk favorite “On Top of Old Smoky.”

After meeting the radio dynamo, Enzweiler-Pulice launched a Dick Biondi fan club.

“It was just a little grassroots fan club in the western suburbs,” she said. “I created membership cards for the kids in school, and then I started writing a newsletter.”

As editor of the newsletter, she was invited to visit Biondi at the WLS studios in downtown Chicago.

“I tried to get to as many of his sock hops as I could, and he would sometimes bring me backstage to meet the bands,” the onetime fangirl says.

Enzweiler-Pulice stayed in touch with Biondi over the course of his storied career, which wasn’t easy because he worked in so many radio markets. He left WLS in 1963 after getting fired for complaining on the air that the sales department was cluttering his show with too many commercials.

It was just one of what he said was more than 20 firings from radio stations – usually for doing something outrageous. He landed in Los Angeles in 1963 where he spun records for KRLA. Next, he hosted a nationally syndicated program on the Mutual Radio Network.

He returned to Chicago in 1967 to host a Top-40 show on WLS archrival WCFL. The two AM stations staged a battle royale for teen and young-adult audiences in the heart of the Midwest and beyond. WLS could be heard in 38 states and Canada.

Biondi left Chicago again in 1972 for radio gigs in Cincinnati, Boston and Myrtle Beach, S.C., before returning to Chicago radio for good in 1983. He hosted an oldies show on WJMK-FM for 21 years. He took the mic at WLS-FM from 2006 until he left



This *Beacher* file photo of Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice was taken in 2018.



Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice meets DJ Dick Biondi in 1961.

the air in 2018 at age 85.

In 2014, Enzweiler-Pulice, who had retired from running her own video-production company, worked up the nerve to call her old friend at WLS-FM and pitch the idea of doing a documentary about his colorful, controversial career.

Enzweiler-Pulice wasn’t the first to suggest Biondi’s life and career be the focus of some literary or cinematic treatment. Popular Chicago radio personalities John Records Landecker and Bob Sirott – formerly of WLS, now both with WGN – planted the notion with Biondi, according to Enzweiler-Pulice.

“They had been encouraging Dick for years to tell his story – a book, a movie, whatever,” she said. “But Dick would only tell them, ‘Nobody wants to hear about me and Elvis.’”

(Actually, everyone *would* want to hear about the time he was backstage with Elvis. The King signed Biondi’s shirt, which women at the show that night tore off Biondi’s back when he waded into the audience.)

“I explained to Dick that I wanted to do a documentary about him from the fans’ perspective,” she said.

To her surprise and delight, Biondi, with his trademark exuberance, exclaimed, “Yeah, let’s do it!”

She understands why he agreed to the documentary.

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Dick Biondi had a hit in 1961: a novelty song titled "On Top of a Pizza," a parody of the folk favorite "On Top of Old Smoky."

"Dick would do anything for a fan," she said. "Then, I was thrilled and scared and asked myself, 'Could I do him justice?'"

A week later, on March 14, 2014, she conducted her first interview with Biondi at a sock hop at a Knights of Columbus hall in Whiting, Ind.

Ever since, she and her small production team have been developing the independent documentary.

"I have been working on this for nine years, and I finally have a movie that I am proud of. I feel that it represents Dick in the way he should be represented," she says. "Dick was a pioneer. He was doing 'race music' in the Jim Crow South right out of high school in Endicott, N.Y. He did things that were fresh and new, and he was unlike any other DJ you have ever heard. Dick Biondi's voice was so unique."

The documentary includes interviews with members of chart-topping Chicago garage bands of the late 1960s, including The Buckingham's, The Cryan' Shames, The New Colony Six and the band Chicago.

"They are all in my movie," she said, "and they all



Music legend Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys is among those interviewed in the film.

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talk about how Dick Biondi influenced their careers.”

Others interviewed whose careers Biondi advanced include Frankie Valli, former frontman for the Four Seasons and popular solo artist, and two of the original Beach Boys — Al Jardine and music legend Brian Wilson.

Jardine now plays with Wilson’s band, which rocked a sell-out show on Nov. 13, 2015, in the Silver Creek Event Center at Four Winds Casino New Buffalo. Enzweiler-Pulice made arrangements with Jardine for a backstage interview to talk about Biondi’s influence on the Beach Boys in the 1960s.

Wilson, notoriously aloof with the media, did not respond to a separate interview request.

“In 1963, Dick Biondi was at KRLA in Los Angeles when the Beach Boys recorded their first ballad, ‘Surfer Girl,’” Enzweiler-Pulice says. “Band member Mike Love said, ‘Why don’t we bring it over to Dick Biondi to see if he’ll play it?’ So they did. Dick played the record, and people started calling the station saying, ‘We love that record!’”

While interviewing Jardine about how Biondi provided the flight fuel for the spectacular launch of “Surfer Girl,” Jardine said Brian Wilson knew much more about it because Jardine briefly left the band at that point.

He told Enzweiler-Pulice, “I wasn’t there that night, but Brian was, and he is in the next room. I’ll go ask him.”

“When Al left the room, my associate (and documentary film director) Pat Wisniewski and I looked at each other thinking, ‘Will he actually talk to us?’”

“A moment later, in walks Brian Wilson, who sits in the chair,” Enzweiler-Pulice recalls. “I put a lapel mic on him, and he proceeds to tell the story of how Dick Biondi broke ‘Surfer Girl’. Then off he went. What a thrill it was to interview him.”

Other celebrities who provide cameo interviews include comedian Tom Dreesen, former Los Angeles DJ and TV game show host Bob Eubanks, band leader Paul Shaffer and singer Tony Orlando. Veteran Chicago radio personalities Landecker and



In this undated photo, radio DJ Dick Biondi is surrounded by adoring fans.

Sirott also appear.

Enzweiler-Pulice admits to a sense of imposter’s syndrome from having interview access to so many bold-faced names.

“I didn’t even feel like I belonged in the same documentary with all these famous people,” she says. “I had to grow into the role as I was telling the story and writing the script.”

She regrets her inability to include some recognition by The Beatles of Biondi’s important contributions to their careers. She’s tried unsuccessfully for years to contact the Beatles’ organization, Apple Core Ltd., as well as the band’s two surviving members, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Enzweiler-Pulice says she’ll attempt to reach a representative of Starr’s when Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band performs at Four Winds on Oct. 6.

“If only Ringo could just mention the documentary,” she says with an air of hope.

Although she had been producing videos for 10 years, the Dick Biondi story is her first documentary.

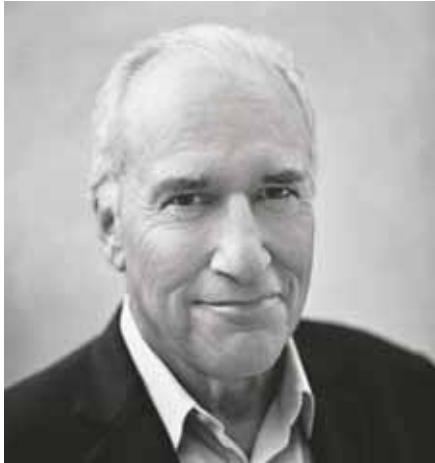
“I knew how to edit. I knew how to operate a camera, but video and documentary are not the same animals,” she says. “The big difference is all the legalities you have to go through to have something made on a broadcast level.”

Another big difference is the size of a documentary’s budget. Enzweiler-Pulice figured she needed about \$200,000 to produce and license it.

“It was a struggle,” she said. “The biggest challenge was trying to raise money, especially through COVID.”

(Documentaries go through the licensing process to avoid infringing on copyrighted material, such as photographs, recordings or TV clips.)

Thanks to donations, crowdfunding and sponsorships, the documentary's fundraising goal is more than three-quarters met. She hopes to hit the \$200,000 mark by Sept. 13, which would have been Biondi's 91st birthday.



Chicago radio legend John Landecker is included in interviews for the film.

The Public Broadcasting System is considering airing the documentary, according to Enzweiler-Pulice.

"All I know is that PBS wants it," she said, "and I am ready to give it to them."

The documentary also is expected to air on streaming platforms and screen

at film festivals.

At the documentary's sneak preview at The Acorn, WGN Radio's John Records Landecker, a Michigan City resident and longtime friend and colleague of Biondi, spoke to Enzweiler-Pulice afterward.

She says he applauded the documentary before asking, "How did you get Dick to agree to the documentary?"

As she's told others, "He would do anything for a fan."

More About the Documentary

Fundraising to defray licensing and distribution costs for "The Voice That Rocked America" is in the home stretch.

Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice encourages potential funders to visit the documentary's website www.dickbiondifilm.com and click the DONATE button to make a tax-deductible donation. For information about becoming an official sponsor, visit the sponsor page www.dickbiondifilm.com/sponsorships-1

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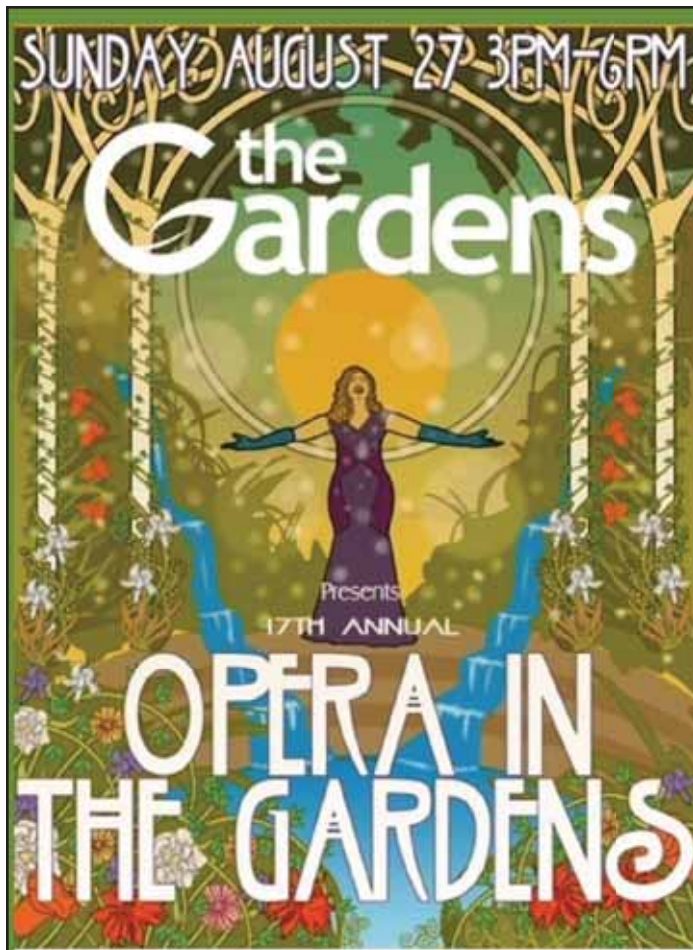
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Lilly Scholarship Application

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship application is available on the Unity Foundation website through Sept. 8.

The program, administered by Independent Colleges of Indiana and locally by Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, will provide two area students with four-year, full-tuition scholarships to an accredited Indiana college or university of their choice, and an annual stipend for required books and equipment.

Applicants must: be a LaPorte County resident; graduate by June 30, 2024, from an accredited high school that serves LaPorte County; intend to pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an eligible college or university in Indiana; have a grade-point average (unweighted) of at least 3.75 as of the beginning of senior year; and submit a complete application at www.uflc.net/scholarships/lilly by the deadline.

Applications are evaluated based on academic achievement, demonstrated service to others, leadership ability, commitment and motivation to succeed, and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee will interview finalists before recommending two students to the Independent Colleges of Indiana, which makes the final selection.

Over the past 25 years, 72 LaPorte County students and their families have benefitted from the program, totaling more than \$4.8 million.

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Friday is Groundbreaking for \$3.1M Long Beach Public Safety Building

by Edmund Lawler



Councilman John Wall (left) and Chief Marshal Mark Swistek are photographed by *The Beacher's* Edmund Lawler at the site of Long Beach's \$3.1 million Public Safety Building.

Long Beach breaks ground at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25, for its \$3.1 million Public Safety Building that will house the fire department and provide space for police department vehicles and equipment.

The community is invited to the event at Long Beach Town Hall, 2400 Oriole Trail. Parking will be available at the nearby tennis courts and Long Beach Community Center. Al's Supermarket on Karwick Road is donating refreshments.

The 10,000-square-foot multiuse structure will replace the outdated fire station and adjacent police garage, both built in the early 1970s. The buildings will be demolished to provide parking for the new building, which will be built on the old parking lot behind the town hall and fire station.

Projected completion date is Dec. 31, according to Council Member John Wall, who also is one of the community's 27 volunteer firefighters. He joined the department in 1979. The completion date sounds ambitious, but the contractor, Holladay Construction Group, is a design-build firm that designs and constructs the structure, which will expedite the

project, Wall says.

In fact, ground already has been broken. Holladay Construction has excavated the old parking lot and laid concrete footings for the new building. Stacks of steel beams that will serve as the building's skeleton are at the ready on the site.

"Ten to 15 years ago, we realized we needed to upgrade facilities," Wall explains. "About a year and a half ago, we got authorization from the town council to begin the process of a design/build concept, which the state of the Indiana allows."

The nature of firefighting has changed dramatically in the half century since Long Beach built the current fire station, says Wall, a construction executive who previously served as fire chief.

"Some of the change is because of the increased complexity of the gear, as well as the technology improvements," he says. Fire science has learned much more about the cancer-causing elements firefighters encounter in a burning structure, he notes.

"We used to keep our gear in our cars or houses," he says. "But the gear is stored at the station now."

As a consequence, we need more storage for the personal protection gear. And the technology on the trucks is dramatically increased, so we're hauling a lot more gear than we ever have before."

The new single-story building with a mezzanine will feature four bays: three for the two fire trucks and the rescue vehicle. The fourth bay will belong to the police department for its squad cars, ATVs and boat, according to Mark Swistek, chief marshal and town administrator.

"Inside, there will be a small fitness room for both police and fire, office space for the fire administration and a large training/meeting room with audio-visual equipment," Swistek says.

In addition, there will be ADA-accessible restrooms for public-safety officers and the community. The meeting room will be available for use by community groups when it's not being used for fire department training or meetings.

Swistek's office will remain in town hall. His force consists of five full-time officers, eight part-time officers and five reserve/volunteer officers. While he was Michigan City police chief from 2010-2019, he helped oversee development of the city's new state-of-the-art, 42,000 square-foot police station at 1201 E. Michigan Blvd. that opened Aug. 1, 2016.

He's had a hand in the design of Long Beach's new facility, which enjoyed strong support from the



John Wall, also a volunteer firefighter, looks forward to moving into more modern quarters at the end of the year. Photo by Edmund Lawler

town council.

"On Dec. 27, 2022, the council unanimously voted in favor of moving the project forward," Swistek says. "In July, the council approved the contract at \$3.1 million, with all five members voting in favor."

The fire department volunteers, as well as the police volunteers and salaried officers, are excited about the new building.

"The town of Long Beach is very blessed to have the volunteers in the fire department," Swistek says. "The enthusiasm of the volunteers and their response times they provide the residents is incredible."

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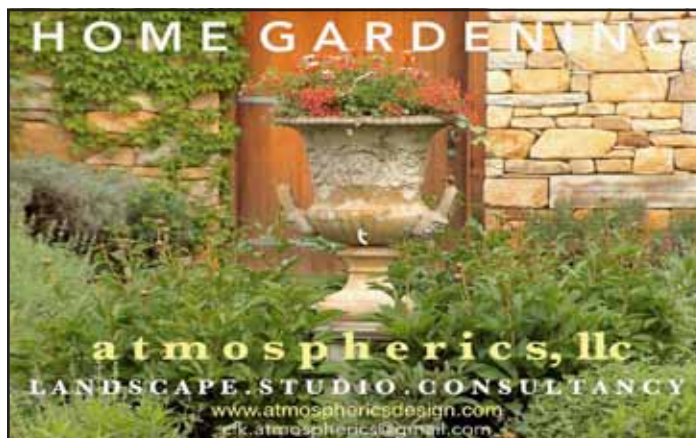
Michigan City Public Library

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:

- **D&D@MCPL in person at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30.** Learn how to play the role-playing game. All supplies are provided, including pre-made 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.



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:

- **Snack and Read Book Club (ages 8-12) from 4-5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, in the main library multipurpose room.** Participants will discuss a book and make a themed snack. The focus is Roland Smith's *Cryptid Hunters*.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, in the main library multipurpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Readers Corner-Kids Edition (ages 6-10) from 5-6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Each month focuses on a different book.
- **Coolspring Readers Corner (adults 19+) from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** The focus is this month's book club selection.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

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- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.
- St. John Lutheran Church, 111 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29.

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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- **NBTL Book Club at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29.**
 The focus is Lynda Rutledge's West with Giraffes.

Weekly programs:

- Mommy and Me Story Time from 10-10:30 a.m. Mondays at New Buffalo Township Park.
- 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.



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Free Family Art Day

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host its free Family Art Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

The intention of Family Art Days is to tie together educational programming with CAC's exhibits.



Examples of the type of projects planned on Family Art Day.

Families can participate anytime. With guidance from the CAC team, they will explore the exhibit by local artist Emily Casella, "In Emotion on Entrain," which transforms the galleries into a train station with colorful drawings, detailed ceramic figures and additional works. Visitors then move into the classroom to create a series of projects inspired by Casella's work, including: colored pencil portraits, collage pigeons and mini zines.

All supplies are provided, and families should dress to get messy.

Registration is required by calling (219) 926-4711 or at www.chestertonart.org/youth-and-teen-classes. Registrations are per group, not per person attending.

Trivia Night

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave., will host Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25.

Hosted by Trivia Master Mark Kline, doors open at 6 p.m. Food and drinks will be sold. Teams of 8-10 people are suggested.

Funds raised benefit St. Luke's ministry to serve First Responders. The church hosts an annual "13 and a Half Hour Meal" each spring for police, fire and EMTs, and will hold a "12-Hour Salute" church service and meal Sept. 10, feeding First Responders from noon-midnight.

Call or text (219) 877-7770 to register a team.

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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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Gadot Makes the Derivative “Heart of Stone” Watchable

by Andrew Tallackson



Gal Gadot stars as a shadow agency spy trying to stop bad AI (artificial intelligence) in “Heart of Stone.”

“Heart of Stone” wastes no time poaching James Bond. In the 20-minute prologue, we get the Italian Alps, undercover agents and a logic-be-damned chase involving parachutes, snowmobiles and a fist fight in a ski-lift tram.

All the 007 essentials...with one difference.

The individual creating headaches for the bad guys is Wonder Woman herself, Gal Gadot. Now, I must confess to having a bit of a crush on her. She is a movie star in every sense of the term. Striking in looks, charismatic in persona. Even in the silly “Fast and Furious” movies, you get the feeling even she knows the movies are dumb, that she’s just tagging along for the ride.

With “Heart of Stone,” she proves yet again she is an action star, which is why I’m willing to cut her derivative new Netflix movie some slack.

Talk about bad timing, though. The movie, directed by Tom Harper (the supremely underrated “The Aeronauts” from 2019), has the misfortune of charting a power grab for dangerous AI (artificial intelligence) right after “Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One” used the exact same plot. The AI, referred to as “Heart,” can control everything, everywhere, all at once, to crib from last year’s Oscar winner.

Gadot’s Rachel, who works for a shadow agency

★ ★ 1/2

“Heart of Stone”

Running time: 122 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, and some language.

called Charter, has infiltrated MI6 to help it unravel the AI mystery. The crew she joins is the movie’s niftiest invention. Yes, it includes “Fifty Shades of Grey” stud Jamie Dornan as Parker, but also two scruffy types: first Bailey (Paul Ready) behind the wheel, then Yang (Jing Lusi), an action dynamo who’s like the second coming of Michelle Yeoh. These four, Gadot’s Rachel included, approach their work seriously, but off-duty with a welcome sense of humor. And the bonus touch: eccentric “Army of the Dead”/“Army of Thieves” star Matthias Schweighöfer as the guiding Charter voice in Rachel’s earpiece.

When Rachel, shedding her naive newcomer image, springs into action during a spectacular car chase, the group’s stunned reaction is a perfect bit of comedy. Then, the script by Greg Rucka (2020’s “The Old Guard”) and “Hidden Figures” Oscar-nominee Allison Schroeder introduces one whopper of a twist, one that completely shifts the course of the film.

Right when things are heating up, though, the buoyancy of “Heart of Stone” takes a hit. We have one doozy of an action set piece that fuses elements of Disney’s “The Rocketeer” with the climax of Marvel’s “Black Widow.” But for the most part, the middle act ebbs and flows. This is where an editor might have helped, specifically to tighten up Rachel’s interaction with the villain’s accomplice (Alia Bhatt), and all the mechanics of the script that lead to the foregone conclusion. There’s also a surprise cameo by an eight-time Oscar nominee with the worst haircut in history.

Again, though, action saves the day, with Harper staging the best building explosion I’ve seen in years. And through it all, Gadot, never backing down from a fight, her character nearly exhausting all of her nine lives, what with the blows to the face, falls from high windows and parachute drops into barren deserts.

Gadot is fun, especially in the final shot. Will I remember “Heart of Stone” a month or two down the road? Probably not. But while the wheels are turning, I was entertained. And for the time being, that was enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

Jamie Dornan co-stars as an MI6 agent.



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Opening Night

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival kicked off its annual event with the program "Music & Psyche" on Aug. 12 at First Presbyterian Church. The program included works by Schumann, Gershwin and Rachmaninov. All photos by James Conlin.



A Much-Delayed Review of “Asteroid City” ...and For Good Reason

by Andrew Tallackson



In “Asteroid City,” Wes Anderson frequently locks his cast in odd poses: one of his trademark visual styles.

There’s a series on Apple TV+, now in its second season, called “The Afterparty.” Ostensibly, it’s a murder-mystery, but the thrust is satire. As each suspect tells his/her story, the flashbacks arrive as parodies of popular genres.

A few weeks back, the series attached its eccentric sister to a spoof of Wes Anderson. The camera panning left and right, characters locked in odd poses, smug voice-over narration. And in just 30 minutes, “The Afterparty” revealed what’s gone wrong with this filmmaker.

He’s become his own cliché.

When “Asteroid City,” his latest, arrived in theaters June 16, I pledged to skip it. His last picture, “The French Dispatch” (2021), was so miserable, I swore off his movies.

Then, “Asteroid City” arrived, and something interesting happened. Over the course of a week, three people contacted me by email, asking if I’d seen it. They refused to say anything else.

The cryptic nature of the emails was akin to a fishing expedition, possibly seeking validation that, yes, it’s OK to think a Wes Anderson movie stinks.

“Asteroid City” arrived Aug. 11 on Peacock, free to subscribers, and those three emails re-emerged from memory. Violating my Wes Anderson embargo, I watched it while my wife took an afternoon nap.

And?

All I can say is, congratulations, Wes Anderson.



“Asteroid City”

Running time: 105 minutes. Peacock. Rated PG-13 for brief graphic nudity, smoking and some suggestive material.

You’ve officially made your worst movie.

Early in his career, with “Bottle Rocket,” “Rushmore” and “The Royal Tenenbaums,” Anderson was the fresh-faced voice of quirky. His films were odd, but oddly endearing. His characters were misfits who marched a step behind everyone else, yet longed for acceptance.

Save for inventive forays into stop-motion animation (“The Fantastic Mr. Fox,” “Isle of Dogs”), and a charming movie here and there (“The Grand Budapest Hotel”), Anderson became his own worst enemy, his style boring, predictable and too out there. He no longer cares if *you* care about his characters. And still, he attracts A+ acting talent.

The point of “Asteroid City,” which emerges in a scene that’s like amateur hour student filmmaking, is that you don’t need one. You can say or do whatever you like. His latest weaves together a play, the rehearsal of it and the realization of it as a sound-stage movie basically shot in three colors: orange, yellow and blue, like a weathered 1950s postcard.

A bunch of Anderson weirdos gets sidelined in a

nondescript southwestern city where atom bomb testing and alien visits are common. The actors all speak in that clipped Anderson tone, as if heavily medicated, the conversations verbal diarrhea.

Many of Anderson's regulars are present, including Jason Schwartzman, Tilda Swinton, Adrien Brody, Edward Norton, Willem Dafoe, Jeffrey Wright. Sadly, he initiated more of Hollywood's best — Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Bryan Cranston, Liev Schreiber, Hope Davis, Rupert Friend, Maya Hawke, Steve Carell, Matt Dillon, Hong Chau and Margot Robbie — into his stylized nonsense.

Five times during this relatively brief film — 1 hour, 45 minutes — I hit pause to see how much time remained. The movie stumbles and rambles. It's almost like Anderson shows contempt for his audience. Like he's punishing us for sitting through his movie.

When my wife awoke from her nap, she asked what I'd watched. My reply: "Wes Anderson's lat-



The talented Scarlett Johansson should be nowhere near this movie.

est." Her genius response: "Ugh. He hasn't made a good movie in years."

Enough said.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Franciscan Health Michigan City Partners with The Milk Bank

Franciscan Health Michigan City is collaborating with The Milk Bank to provide infants in need access to breast milk in and out of the hospital.

Patty DeStefano, Franciscan Health Michigan City Family Birth Center manager, said the hospital began the process with Indianapolis-based The Milk Bank last October. The program launched Aug. 1 at the beginning of World Breastfeeding Month.

Franciscan Health Michigan City now is one of two Milk Bank partnership sites in LaPorte County, said Sharmilee Thot, Franciscan Health Michigan City medical director and OB/GYN.

DeStefano said the hospital wants to increase exclusive breast-feeding rates in women who give birth at the Family Birth Center. It has been successful in meeting that goal, more than tripling rates in 2022. The Milk Bank partnership, she said, will enhance those efforts.

The program provides human milk at the Family Birth Center to infants after birth and up to 40 ounces of milk after discharge. It is available for purchase without a prescription through the Milk Express at the Prenatal Assistance Program at the legacy campus, 301 Homer St.

Lactating mothers wishing to donate breast milk may do so at the Milk Depot at the WIC office next to the Prenatal Assistance Program office. DeStefano said 8 percent of the donations that come into program are from mothers who have lost a baby.



Pasteurized, donated human milk is placed into bottles for use by families in need.

“Many say it helps them through the grief process to know they are helping provide for other babies,” DeStefano said in a press release.

Some parents using The Milk Bank programs are those who adopted infants. Others may have medical reasons for not being able to provide breast milk, or may need to be separated from their child, creating a gap in breast milk availability for the infant.

DeStefano said the milk goes through a pasteurization process and is screened for safety. Those interested in receiving milk for their infant must register at tinyurl.com/3v6db55v. Call (219) 877-1610 for more details.

DeStefano said the milk goes through a pasteurization process and is screened for safety.

Those interested in receiving milk for their infant must register at tinyurl.com/3v6db55v. Call (219) 877-1610 for more details.

Opera in the Gardens

“Opera in the Gardens,” a mix of light opera and Broadway selections, is from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

The 17th annual program features music from “Mamma Mia!,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Grease” and other selections. Free light refreshments will be available, along with a cash bar.

Tickets cost \$45 (general) and \$50 (premium). Doors open at 3 p.m. Make reservations at <https://friendshipbotanicgardens.org>



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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.
- **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. 19, at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** 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.
- **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. Woz-

niak Road in Michigan City.

- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in August.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **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.
- **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 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.
- **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. 24.** Learn about frogs, toads and salamanders.
- **Beach Mysteries at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 25.** Meet at the Nature Center to identify items found on the beach.



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- **Leapin' Lizards Hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.** Participants in the moderate hike will seek out the fastest and only lizard in the dunes.
- **Great Lakes Hummingbird Presentation and Banding Demo from 8:30-11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.** From 8:30-9:30 a.m., meet at the Nature Center as banded Allen Chartier discusses attracting, feeding and research on hummingbirds. From 9:30-11 a.m., Chartier will catch, band, then release any birds that visit the Nature Center's feeders.
- **Papercraft Birds at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.** Make a geometric folded paper bird in the Nature Center Auditorium. Register by calling (219) 926-1390 so enough supplies are available.
- **Leave No Trace Table from 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Aug. 27.** Stop by the Nature Center to meet the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Team (Becca and Luke), the focus being minimizing personal impacts to protect the dunes.
- **Reptile Rendezvous at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27.** Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to see live turtles and snakes, the emphasis being how they survive the cold winter months.
- **Critter Dinner at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 28.** Meet at the Nature Center as reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.
- **Ssssnakes Alive! at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30.** Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.
- **Blue Moon Hike at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30.** Hear stories about the moon during the hike, which heads from the Nature Center to Lake Michigan. Treats will be provided. The hike begins after a 20-minute program in the Nature Center Auditorium.

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.

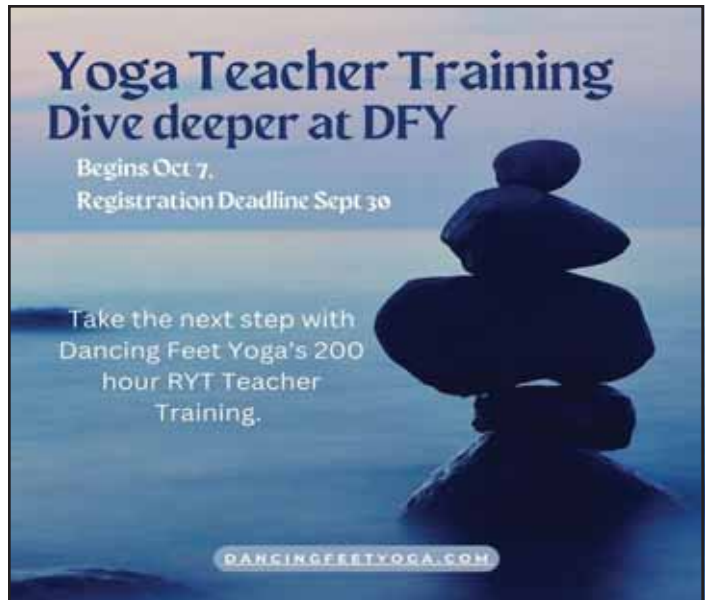


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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

Aug. 10, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

A Flight Low Net

First — Peg King.
Second — Cindy Levy.
Third — Donna Hennard, Nancy Trainor.
Low Putts — Peg King.

B Flight Low Net

First — Joan Carey.
Second — Gloria McMahon, Babs Ward.
Third — Amanda Ferlmann.
Low Putts — Joan Carey.
Sunken Approach — Gloria McMahon (#1).

C Flight Low Net

First — Catherine Kelly.
Second — Ann Daley.
Third — Barb Beardslee, Peg Carey, Marti Doherty, Carol Lyons, Kathie Mole, Tina Sonderby.
Low Putts — Kathi Mole.
Sunken Approach — Barb Beardslee (#18).

D Flight Low Net

First — Regina Bradley.
Second — Linda Sperling.
Third — Kathleen Flores.
Low Putts — Regina Bradley.

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies,"

Aug. 14, 2023

Event: Ringer Tournament

Day 1 + 50/50



A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.
Low Net: Barb Rumbuc.
Low Putts: Barb Rumbuc, Pat Czizek.

B Flight

Low Gross: Evelyn Cassin, Linda Wabshall.
Low Net: Linda Wabshall.
Low Putts: Linda Wabshall.

C Flight

Low Gross: Kathy Grott.
Low Net: Kathy Grott.
Low Putts: Ann Batagianis.

D Flight

Low Gross: Nancy Wilhelm.
Low Net: Nancy Wilhelm.
Low Putts: Nancy Wilhelm.



Chip-Ins: LuAnn Uremovich, Hole #5; Nancy Wilhelm, Hole #7

Birdies: Carol Hullings, Hole #7; Linda Wabshall, Hole #7; Nancy Wilhelm, Hole #7.

50/50: Carol Hullings.

One Book | One Buchanan

Buchanan (Mich.) District Library will host acclaimed author-journalist Alex Kotlowitz during its third annual "One Book | One Buchanan" at 6 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 30, on the Buchanan Common, 122 Days Ave.

The community wide reading program is a partnership between the library and One Buchanan, a local group whose mission is to advance Buchanan as a welcoming city.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Kotlowitz's The Other Side of the River, which features stories of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. His other works include An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago and There Are No Children Here. A former staff writer at *The Wall Street Journal*, his work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine* and on "This American Life."



Kotlowitz

At the Aug. 30 event, participants can discuss the book in small groups, then be part of a conversation with Kotlowitz led by Buchanan Community Schools Superintendent Patricia Robinson. More information is available at www.buchananlibrary.org

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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.

Krasl Art Center Fall Classes

Registration is under way for Krasl Art Center's fall season of classes that begin Sept. 18.

The deadline is Sept. 11. Participants can explore various mediums and engage in hands-on learning with teaching artists. A few highlights are: "Cartooning & Beyond"; "Digital Illustration"; "Colored Pencil Realism"; and "Swivel Hinge Locket." Additional classes include ceramics, printmaking, drawing and mixed media.

Register and explore scholarship opportunities online at www.krasl.org/education

Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 for more details.

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Polish Worker's Home Tours



The worker's home dining room.

Special guided tours of the 1930s Polish Worker's Home ("Dom Robotnika") are at 3 p.m. EDT Aug. 28-Sept. 1 at South Bend's The History Museum.

After several years of being interpreted as the residence of a 1930s Polish family, the house will close after Sept. 5 as the museum prepares for a new iteration to be launched in November.

Tours are free with museum admission.

An open house is from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 4. Self-guided tours are free. Regular admission applies to other areas at the museum, 808 W. Washington St.

Call the museum at (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for details.

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In the Area

Aug. 24 — Snack and Read Book Club (ages 8-12), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 24 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte's Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. **Aug. 24** — The Remedy (rock & country).

Aug. 27 — "Opera in the Gardens," 4-6 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Tickets: \$45 (general)/\$50 (premium). Reservations: <https://friendshipbotanicgardens.org>

Aug. 28 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 28 — Readers Corner-Kids Edition (ages 6-10), 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 29 — Coolspring Readers Corner (adults 19+), 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Aug. 30 — D&D@MCPL, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org

Through August — "Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Traditions in the New Millennium — Photographs by Sharon Hoogstraten," "Early Settlers and Area Native Americans," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.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. Lacey, 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. 14 — Indiana Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "Be Heard: Latino Experiences in Indiana," LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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.

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. 24 — Robbie Fulks with Sarah King, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55

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Aug. 24 — Awesome Amphibians, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

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

Aug. 25 — Illegal Smiles: A Tribute To John Prine, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 26 — Leapin' Lizards Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 26 — Great Lakes Hummingbird Presentation and Banding Demo, 8:30-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 26 — Friends of Indiana Artisan Experience, Black Tree Studio Pottery, 8988 E. County Road 350 North, New Carlisle, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT.

Aug. 26 — The Acorn Tree House presents Campfire Stu, noon EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10 + \$3 convenience fee, \$5 + \$3 convenience fee (children). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 26 — Papercraft Birds, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 26 — Devon Allman & Donavan Frankenreiter, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$55 + \$7.50 convenience fee, \$80 + \$7.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Aug. 27 — Leave No Trace Table, 10 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 27 — Reptile Rendezvous, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Aug. 27 — Midwest Made: Lake Effect Jazz Big 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. 28 — Critter Dinner, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

Aug. 29 — NBTL Book Club, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Aug. 30 — Ssssnakes Alive!, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

Aug. 30 — "One Book | One Buchanan," 6 p.m. EDT, Buchanan (Mich.) Common, 122 Days Ave. Info: www.buchananlibrary.org

Aug. 30 — Blue Moon Hike, 8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton.

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 Sept. 28 — Plein air artist David Baker, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

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

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

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 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-10:30 a.m., 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: visit www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882

Saturdays in August — Paul H. Douglas Cen-

Continued on Page 40



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Continued From Page 39

ter 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*: "Dreamin' Wild." Rated PG. Times: 4 p.m. Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Aug. 26, 4 p.m. Aug. 27. *Also*: "Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story." Rated PG-13. Times: 7 p.m. Aug. 25, 3:30 p.m. Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Aug. 27. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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An Evil Heart by Linda Castillo (hardcover \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook; 306 pages.)

"I'm thinking about...the masks people wear, and how those masks contrast with the personas they present to the rest of the world."

The person speaking here is Kate Burkholder, chief of police in the small town of Painters Mill, Ohio. The town and surrounding farmland are populated by a large Amish community and everyone else they call English.

Kate was born Amish, but left when she turned 18 — and for a very good reason. She went to Columbus, Ohio, and got a job in law enforcement. Since she could speak the old Amish language, she was the perfect choice for police chief of Painters Mill when offered the job. Her parents now gone, her only family is a brother and sister who remained Amish, each with a family of their own. Through these relationships, we learn a lot about the Amish culture and its religion.

Kate runs the police station with a small staff of five deputies and three radio operators. This is a police procedural that is character-driven, grabbing your attention from the first exciting chapter. This one starts with a murder...don't they all?

Aden Karn, a 21-year-old Amish man, is riding his bicycle one morning down a lonely back road on his way to work. A short time later, a woman and her child find his lifeless body lying by the side of the road, his bicycle flung a short distance away.

Was this an accident of some kind? Like a hit and run? Or something more insidious?

Arriving at the scene before the coroner, Kate makes a quick examination of the body.

She notices a strange hole in the shirt fabric the coroner later identifies as made by a bolt from a crossbow. To make matters even more gruesome, it is obvious the murderer stood above the victim and shot another bolt straight into Karn's mouth. An obvious way to make sure the job is complete. What Kate sees is a murderer with a personal knowledge of the victim and an extreme hatred for him.

Kate's mantra is *"someone always knows something."* And so starts the long, arduous journey of questioning people, following leads, looking for clues at the scene of the murder...of course, there are none. The murderer left no clues behind.

Starting her investigation, Kate finds no one has anything bad to say about Aden. He was hard

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



working, kind, in love with Emily Graber, an Amish girl he was to marry...the list goes on. This guy is way too good to be true. So who knows the real Aden Karn? And, who would want to see him dead? Sounds like it's probably one and the same person.

Who indeed? He was on *rumspringa*, the time Amish youth come of age and have the opportunity to live the English lifestyle, making up their mind to either stay with the English or return to the Amish community and get baptized.

Even the smartest of us can be deceived by someone with the innate skills to be other than they are. Even with Kate's ability to read people, it's just possible that this time, her feelings may be deceived...

She's barely started her investigation when another body is found near Painters Mill, that of a young woman whom no one seems to know. She has obviously been murdered — head tied with plastic bag, body tossed in creek — and Kate can't help but think there's a connection between her and Aden Karn. Something is missing here: *"The discovery of two bodies in such a short period of time in a town the size of Painters Mill is an anomaly. It simply doesn't happen.*

I have no idea how this female was killed or who she is...Whatever the case, someone is probably missing her..."

Did I mention Kate is supposed to be planning her wedding? She is engaged to John Tomasetti, an agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. At this point in the investigation, it's anyone's guess whether there will be a wedding — murder takes precedence over marriage.

This is a story of love and marriage, deceit and jealousy, lies and sex, that is sure to keep you guessing and reading until the explosive climax. In the hands of a skilled author like Castillo, this police procedural becomes a brilliant study of the bad and good in people, using characters fascinating and disgusting. It's a whirlwind of a tale!

The final word: If you are interested in the Amish way of life, there is no better author to turn to than Castillo. Her research into the culture and lifestyle is evident and will surely have you seeking out more of her books. And, no offensive language.

Till next time, happy reading!





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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.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On August 24, 79 A.D., at least 16,000 were killed in Italy when an eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

On August 24, 1814, British troops invaded Washington, setting fire to the Capitol and White House.

On August 24, 1869, Cornelius Swartout received a U.S. patent for the waffle iron.

On August 24, 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to make a transcontinental nonstop flight, starting at Los Angeles and landing in Newark, N.J., a distance of 2,600 miles. She made the journey in 19 hours and 5 minutes.

On August 24, 1956, the first nonstop transcontinental helicopter flight was completed. It covered a distance of 2,610 miles in 31 hours, 40 minutes.

On August 25, 1830, a much-publicized race took place between a railroad locomotive, "Tom Thumb," and a horse-drawn carriage. The locomotive broke down, allowing the carriage to win by default.

On August 25, 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel. It took him 22 hours to cover the distance from Dover to Calais, France.

On August 25, 1916, The National Park Service was established as a branch of the Department of Interior.

On August 25, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces liberated Paris, ending four years of German occupation.

On August 26, 1346, artillery is said to have been used for the first time in a major battle. It occurred in the "Battle of Crecy," in northern France, during the "Hundred Years War."

On August 26, 1765, a Boston mob sacked the home of Massachusetts Gov. Thomas Hutchinson after he was accused of favoring the "British Stamp Act."

On August 26, 1884, Ottmar Mergenthaler received a patent for his linotype machine.

On August 26, 1920, Congress adopted the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing that *"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."*

On August 26, 1939, major-league baseball was televised for the first time as experimental station W2XBS broadcast a doubleheader between the Cincinnati Reds and Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field.

On August 27, 1859, near Titusville, Pa., Col. Edwin L. Drake drilled the first successful oil well

in the United States.

On August 27, 1892, fire seriously damaged New York's original Metropolitan Opera House.

On August 27, 1938, at a poetry reading by Archibald MacLeish, a jealous Robert Frost set fire to some papers to disrupt the performance.

On August 27, 1962, the U.S. launched the Mariner 2 space probe. It would fly past Venus the following December.

On August 27, 1982, the Oakland A's Rickey Henderson stole his 119th base, setting a new major league record. He stole three more bases in the same game.

On August 28, 1833, the British Parliament, 27 years before the start of the American Civil War, banned slavery throughout the empire.

On August 28, 1922, New York radio station WEAF broadcast the world's first radio commercial. The Queensboro Realty Co., of Jackson Heights, paid \$100 for 10 minutes of air time.

On August 28, 1963, approximately 200,000 people, who had gathered for a peaceful civil-rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., heard Dr. Martin Luther King deliver his famous "I have a dream..." speech.

On August 28, 1968, while Chicago police and anti-war demonstrators clashed in the streets, the Democratic National Convention nominated Vice President Hubert Humphrey for president.

On August 29, 1817, *The Philanthropist*, the first abolition newspaper in the United States, was published in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio.

On August 29, 1896, chop suey was invented, and first served, at a New York City restaurant. It became a mainstay of Chinese restaurants.

On August 29, 1965, Gemini 5, piloted by astronauts L. Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad, returned to earth after eight days in orbit.

On August 29, 1966, at San Francisco's Candlestick Park, the Beatles gave their last concert.

On August 30, 1780, Gen. Benedict Arnold betrayed the United States when he promised to surrender the fort at West Point, N.Y., to the British. He fled to England where he died in poverty.

On August 30, 1929, Col. E.H. Green took delivery of a newly designed combination gas and electric automobile built by the General Electric Co. of Schenectady, N.Y. It was a 60-horsepower vehicle with no clutch or gear shift. Two pedals, one on each side of the central brake pedal, were used for acceleration.

On August 30, 1963, a direct "hot line" was established between the White House in Washington and the Kremlin in Moscow.

On August 30, 1967, the Senate confirmed Thurgood Marshall as the first black justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On August 30, 1983, Guion Bluford Jr. became the first black American astronaut in space, blasting off aboard the space shuttle Challenger.

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TOP PRODUCER & THE MOST TRANSACTIONS FOR JULY Meghan Maddox

With a family background in real estate, I have grown to love the real estate business and have successfully oriented my practice to cater to the specific needs of my clientele. Through my experience with several local home builders, my unique perspective of home building has given me great knowledge of the home building and buying process. I pride myself on my responsiveness and attention to detail. With years of experience in social work, it was important to have good listening and communication skills. I use those skills now to give guidance to clients/customers in order that they find the home/property of their dreams and a transaction experience that is stress free.



You can reach Meghan at : 219-877-5795 or
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