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This year is a milestone for Michigan City's Old Lighthouse Museum: 50 years of welcoming visitors each year from around the world who arrive to experience this gem on Lake Michigan's southern shore.

This 50th anniversary, which includes special events planned, would not be possible without the many volunteers who have given their time and talent to keep this attraction a local treasure.

Several pierhead lights exist along Lake Michigan's southern shore, but those who volunteer at Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park consider it "the only lighthouse in Indiana." The reason being, it's the only building that actually housed lightkeepers and their families. It also was the sturdy base for the beacon light contained in a cupola on the roof.

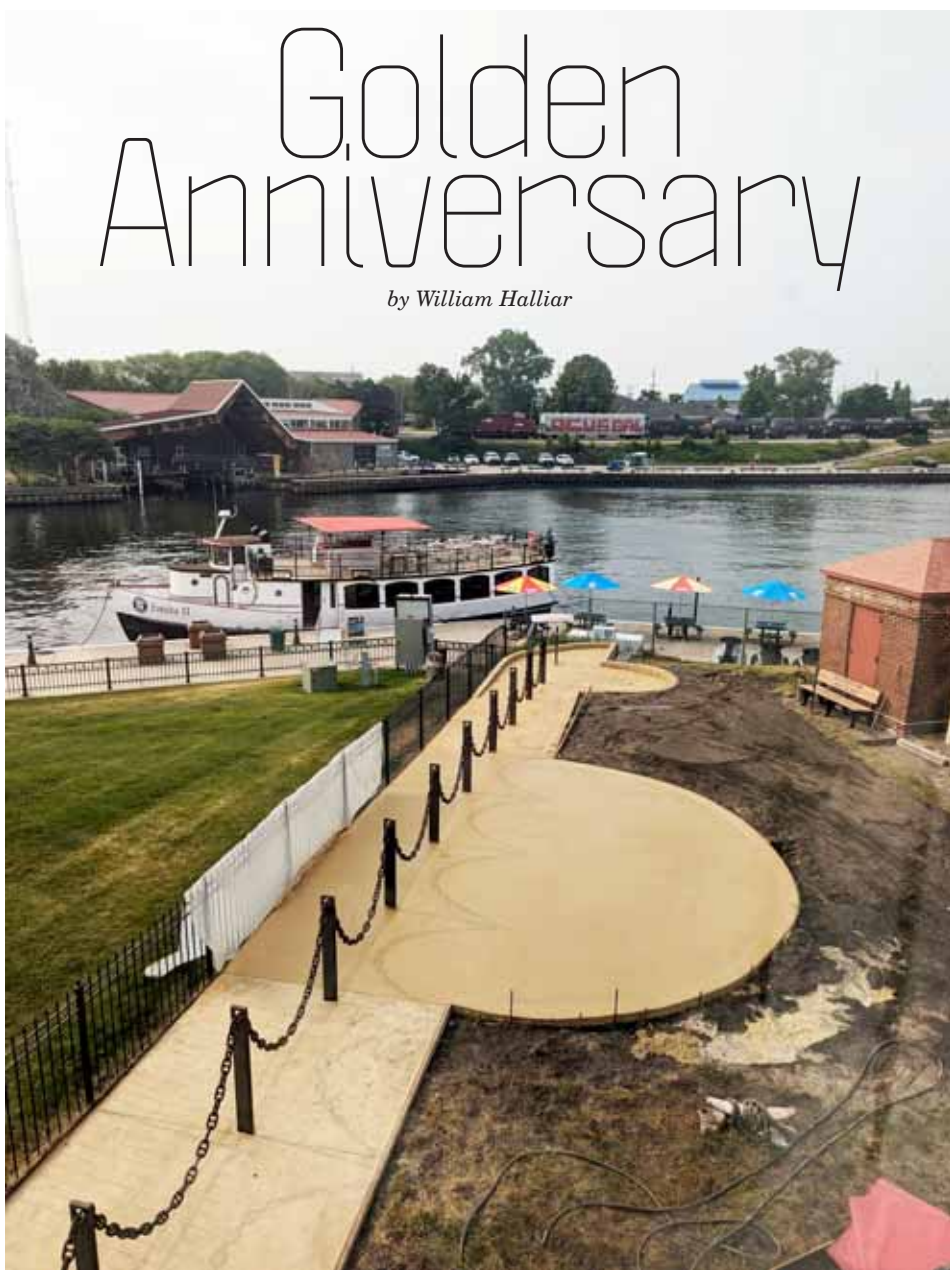
The original conical-shaped lighthouse built at the mouth of Trail Creek was constructed in 1837. It served as a beacon to storm-tossed vessels until the current building was built in 1858. Over the years, many men and women served the light, keeping it burning through storm and gale.

In 1904, the Fresnel lens, which created a bright beacon from whale oil or kerosene lamps reaching far into Lake Michigan's waters, was removed from the top of the building and placed at the end of the breakwater in a separate pierhead light tower powered by electricity. The 1858 lighthouse building continued as the home for keepers until 1940, when it was abandoned. Considered surplus by the U.S. Coast Guard, it was sold to the city in 1960.

Over the ensuing years, the historic building saw much abuse. With windows broken and doors caved

Golden Anniversary

by William Halliar



A view from Old Lighthouse Museum of construction on the new Eastland memorial.
Photo provided by Josh McIntyre.

in, it became the target of vandals, as well as a dangerous playground for neighborhood children.

What to do, then, with the abandoned, derelict wreck of a structure? After many years of service to

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Golden Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

Lake Michigan, the old lighthouse had become an eyesore. It was rumored the city considered tearing it down.

Enter a rescuer.

The Michigan City Historical Society, whose president at the time was Edna P. Kitchell. Edna was described by some old-timers as a “scary woman,” a “force of nature.”

On March 9, 1965, the Michigan City Historical Society signed a lease agreement with the Michigan City Port Authority and Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department. The plan was to restore the lighthouse, then establish and operate a museum within its sturdy brick and stone walls. Indeed, it would take a “force of nature” and a lot of hard work to make that dream come true.

Much money was needed to accomplish the task. Many fundraising campaigns were launched over the years as work progressed on the building. The thought was, if local contractors could volunteer time and material, while local labor unions and Indiana State Prison volunteers could pitch in, \$80,000 would be a sufficient sum to put the building back in shape, then open its doors as a museum.

Edna and the Historical Society board had their work cut out for them. Not only did they face the daunting task of restoring the old building, but also securing the funds to do the job.

Coming to the rescue were organizations and businesses such as The Marquette Chapter of Questers, Barker Welfare Foundation, NIPSCO and about 10 other Michigan City firms donated time and materials to complete the restoration work. Gov. Edgar Whitcomb provided \$10,000 from the Governor’s Contingency Fund.

Much of the work fell to Historical Society vol-



This archival photo taken Feb. 6, 1973, shows the installation of the replica lantern room. Photo provided by Josh McIntyre



The archival photo taken Sept. 30, 2014, shows the new lantern room installation. Photo provided by Josh McIntyre.

unteers, who never flagged in their task until the project was finished. Before construction even could begin, the building had to be cleared of nearly 20 years of accumulated rubble and debris. In addition, the cabinet work was damaged, cupboard doors smashed, plaster falling off the walls, windows broken and porch columns damaged. On top of that, and the chimneys and downspouts were in deplorable condition.

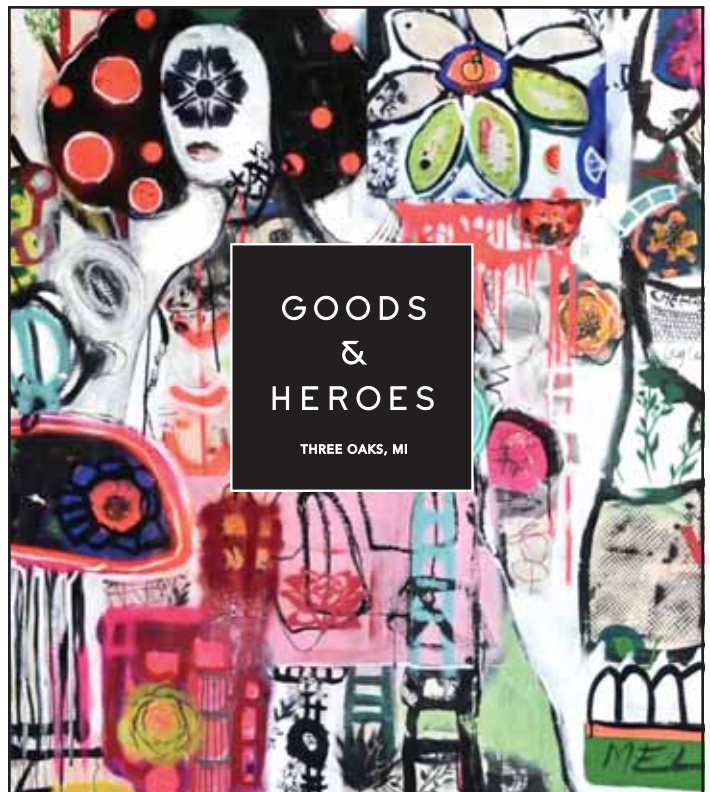


These photos reveal the vandalism and disrepair that befell the building that would become Old Lighthouse Museum. Photos provided by Josh McIntyre.

A project estimated to take two years lasted eight. The goal finally was to “light the light” of the old building and welcome all within its doors.

Old Lighthouse Museum was dedicated on June 9, 1973. However, there remained much more work to be done. After interior exhibits were set in place, a special “tea” with tours for Historical Society members was held Dec. 23. A new cupola, built to

Continued on Page 4



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Golden Anniversary

Continued from Page 3

original plans, had been installed in January, and in December, the light finally was shown once again from the roof of the old lighthouse.

The museum finally opened its doors to the public in January 1974. Since that time, it has been lovingly cared for, maintained and shown off by an amazing group of volunteers who to this day sacrifice time and resources so the history of our city, its harbor and old lighthouse will not be forgotten.

Today, Kirk Rogers and myself are the Historical Society co-presidents. Josh McIntyre is the vice president and museum office manager. Annette Baker serves as secretary and Johnny Stimley is treasurer. Jan Hoepfner, Jeffrey Thorne, Rod Hoepfner, Dale Cooper and Paula Trout all provide invaluable services as well. Trout, for example, serves as museum curator. Cooper is the liaison between the county and local historical societies. She also promotes museum programs on social media and through weekly radio programs. Thorne provides legal counsel. Rod Hoepfner is responsible for all things building and grounds, while Jan Hoepfner creates the society newsletter, and serves as photographer and arranges paranormal tours.

McIntyre, by the way, is creating a digital archive of old photos housed at the museum so future generations can enjoy them, particularly through the Internet and social media.

“The museum has been open for 50 years, and I expect us to keep on going for another 50+ years,” McIntyre said. “We acquired over half a million photo negatives in the past year, and I can’t thank Rick

Rempala, Stewart Michard and Michelle Wolsiefer enough for the amount of work they have put into the digitizing project for over a year now.

“It’s a project that I expect will take quite a few years to finish, but in the future for the museum, I would like to have an online digital database for researchers and history enthusiasts to be able to use.”

McIntyre hopes the museum continues working with other local museums and college interns to forge a strong relationship with the community, and



The lovingly restored Old Lighthouse Museum today. Photos provided by Josh McIntyre.

hopefully encourage more people to join the Historical Society.

“The Old Lighthouse Museum is important to the Michigan City community because we are able to continue telling the story of Hoosiers living on Lake Michigan since Michigan City was incorporated in 1836,” McIntyre says. “We proudly preserve and display various local artifacts and photos throughout the museum in one of the most iconic and one of the oldest buildings in the city that is open to the public for all to enjoy.

“This allows us to provide educational outreach and conduct research requests,” he continued. “Thanks to the help of our amazing volunteers, we are able to share many of our historical items online to bring back memories of the past for many Michigan City past and current residents to enjoy and learn about our city’s history.”

More About the Upcoming Celebrations

Old Lighthouse Museum, 100 Heisman Harbor Road, has a year-long celebration planned for its 50th anniversary. These events include:

- **Saturday, June 24, 3 p.m.** An adults-only “Fundraiser Cruise” with Captain Vic’s Harbor Country Adventures. Hors d’oeuvres will be served, with live music and an open bar planned. Tickets, which are \$50, can be purchased at Old Lighthouse Museum.
- **Saturday, July 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** An Old Lighthouse Museum Anniversary Celebration/Eastland Memorial Dedication. The program includes guest speakers, free museum tours, food by Carlson’s, bagpipes and Michigan City Municipal Band.
- **Sunday, Aug. 20, noon-3 p.m.** An old-fashioned ice cream social. Wear period dress, and enjoy ice cream, music and a museum tour.

The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday through October. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for ages 5-13 and free for toddlers. The museum is open with free admission the first Friday of each month, complete with refreshments, a puzzle or treasure hunt with prizes.

Call (219) 872-6133 or visit www.mchistorical.org for more information.

Potawatomi Audubon Society Hikes

Potawatomi Audubon Society has two nature walks scheduled.

The first is at 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The second is at 9 a.m. CDT Wednesday, June 28, at Robinson Woods, Chickaming Open Lands, 12291 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Mich.

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Michigan City Pridefest Returns



The Michigan City Pride Committee will host Michigan City Pridefest 2023, an annual celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, from 1-8 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at Washington Park’s Guy Foreman Amphitheater.

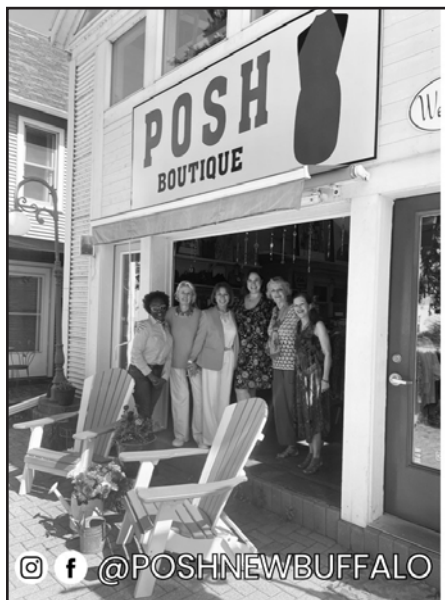
Last year’s event brought in approximately 4,500 attendees. This year’s festival, which will include a wide range of activities and performances, is free and open to the public. Washington Park parking fees may be charged for those without a current

parking sticker.

“Our goal is to create an inclusive and welcoming space where people from all backgrounds can come together to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community,” Cory Soller, a Michigan City Pride Committee member, said in a press release.



Follow the Michigan City Pride Committee on social media for updates, or visit www.MichiganCityPride.com for more details.



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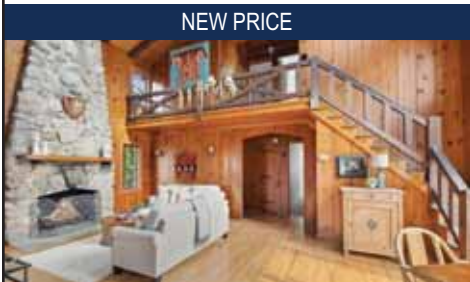
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Canterbury Summer Theatre Opens 55th Season With “The Violet Hour”

Canterbury Summer Theatre kicks off its 55th season with the romantic-mystery “The Violet Hour” on Wednesday-Saturday, June 14-17, at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

Written by Richard Greenberg, who won a Tony and was a Pulitzer finalist for “Take Me Out,” “The Violet Hour” is being developed as a Broadway musical. The story takes place on April 1, 1919. Young, independent publisher John Pace Seaver is setting up his office: a couple of dilapidated rooms in a Manhattan tower. With only enough capital to publish one book, John finds himself besieged by two authors. Denny McCleary, John’s brash and gifted college friend, has produced a manuscript so large, it lives in a trio of crates. He’s also being lobbied to publish the memoirs of Jessie Brewster, the popular black jazz singer who is John’s secret mistress.

As John deals with these two, another drama is playing out in the outer office: a mysterious machine has arrived and is spewing out stacks of pages, while John’s hapless assistant strives vainly to stem the flood.

The director is Canterbury Associate Artistic Director David Graham. The cast includes Donna Fondjo, Jack Gordon, Lauren Landman, Tony Morell and Calum Sullivan, who are part of the Canterbury resident company. Scenic design is by Ray



Donna Fondjo (left), Tony Morell and Jack Gordon star in “The Violet Hour.”

Scott Crawford, lighting by Alex Gray and costumes by Amber Gantt. Annabelle Lamb is the stage manager. The production, which contains adult themes and language, is recommended for high school age and older.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. Tickets are \$20 for regular admission and \$18 for seniors, with half-price discounts for students and military personnel.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at (219) 874-4269 or email at info@canterburytheatre.org

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New Exhibits Open at The History Museum

“Trailblazers: Legacies of Excellence” and “Indiana Lore” are two new exhibits at South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

“Trailblazers” runs through July 15, while “Indiana Lore” continues through May 12, 2024.

Set against the backdrop of Juneteenth, the day that commemorates the legal abolition of slavery, “Trailblazers” showcases local figures in African-American culture and history. It highlights the story of Rosemary Sanders, the first black musician to play in South Bend Symphony Orchestra. A concert violinist, she auditioned and was accepted into it in the early 1940s.

Also celebrated are recipients of the museum’s African American Legacy Award, from Helen Pope and John Charles Bryant, who won the award in 1991, to Verge Brother Sage Gillam, who will receive the 2023 award.

“Indiana Lore” is in conjunction with Indiana Historical Society. Through historic photos and original art by Indianapolis-based artists BrainTwins, it



Concert violinist
Rosemary Sanders

traces the roots of Indiana’s tall tales, from the green-eyed ghost of a bulldog guarding a grave at Terre Haute’s Highland Lawn Cemetery, to the Grey Lady who lurks in the children’s book section of Evansville’s Willard Library. Other tales explored include the palm reader at the Tuckaway House in Indianapolis, Churubusco’s Beast of Busco, and the supernatural spirits surrounding the Avon Bridge in Hendricks County.

Stories from St. Joseph River Valley are featured, like Hazel McNalley, accused of murdering her children, as well as LaPorte County’s notorious serial killer, Belle Gunness.

Museum hours are (Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. House tours are available at 1 and 2 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$11 for adults, \$9.50 for seniors, \$7 for youth 6-17 and free for members. Visitors can tour the adjoining Studebaker National Museum for an additional cost. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for details.

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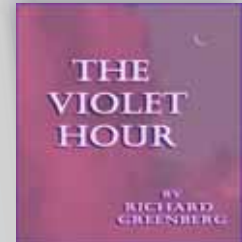
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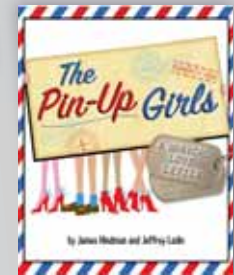
Canterbury Summer Theatre

The Violet Hour
June 14 - 17



Dames at Sea
June 21-July 1

The Pin-Up
Girls
July 5- 15



Honky Tonk
Angels
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Scotland Road
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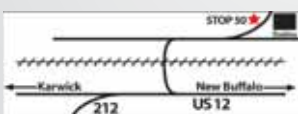
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Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 22nd season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series continues at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at Christ Church, 531 Washington St.



Gerhard

The program is by Matt Gerhard, the director of music at Kokomo Zion Church and assistant choir director at Northwestern MS/HS. He earned a bachelor's degree in church music from Olivet Nazarene University (2008) and a master's degree in choral conducting from California Baptist University (2010).

As a recitalist, Gerhard performs for the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, Christ Lutheran Fine Arts Series in Kokomo, Olivet Nazarene University, Joliet (Ill.) Theatre Organ Enthusiasts and Timbercrest Senior Living Center in North Manchester, Ind. He also performs pre-show theater organ music at Warren Performing Arts Center and Hedback Theatre in Indianapolis, and the Long Center in Lafayette.

Gerhard serves as president of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, as the Indianapolis Pipe Organ Festival coordinator for the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, secretary of the Kokomo Symphonic Board, a member of the Indiana Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and a Long Center Theatre Organ Society board member.


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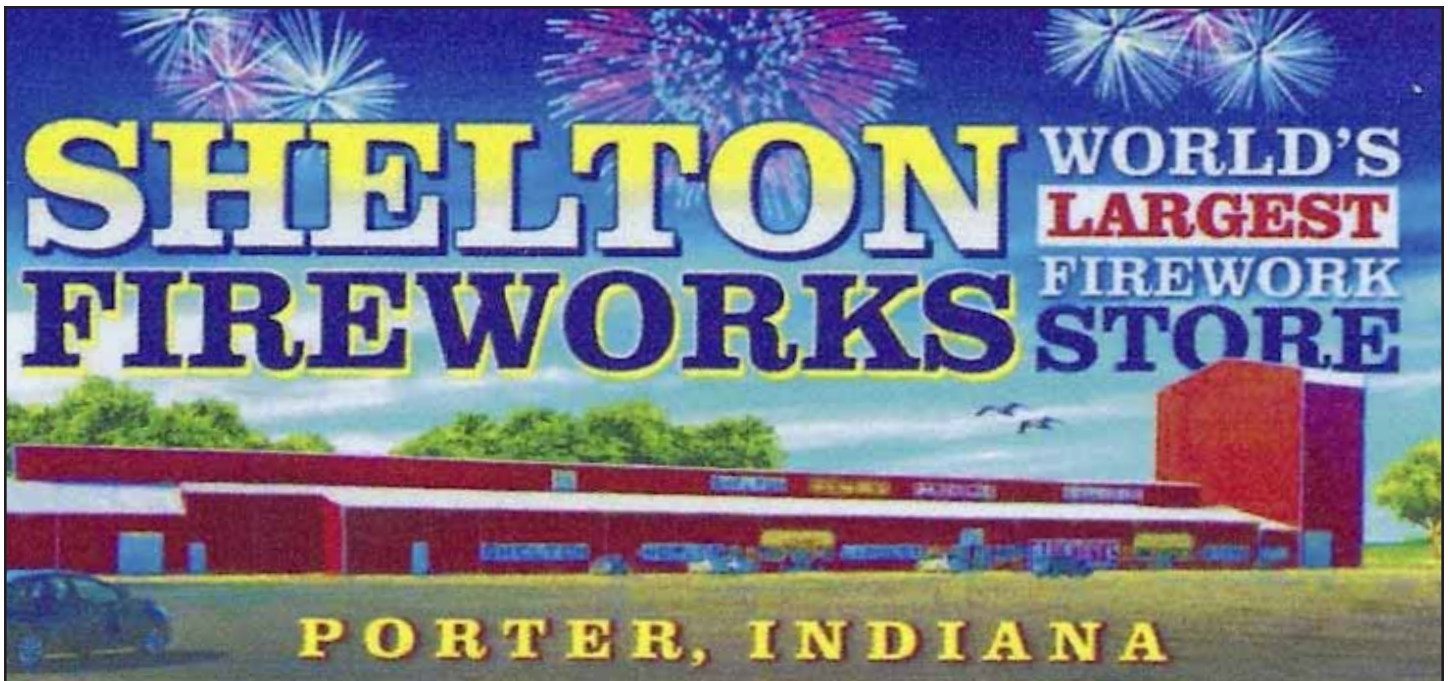
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Equestrian Center Campaign

The Friends of Spring Creek Equestrian Center hopes to raise \$100,000 through GoFundMe with its “Horses Helping Kids Learn-Classroom Needed” campaign.

The goal is to expand the center’s equine-assisted learning programs, from improving the facility and building a dedicated classroom to adding arena-side seating overlooking the indoor arena.

Located in Three Oaks, the center serves hundreds of children and adults each year through horseback riding lessons, homeschool classes, camps for kids, horse shows and special events. Children learn about horse behavior, how to care for horses and how to ride.

A three-minute video about the effort is posted at tinyurl.com/yzpyuhr5. Gifts are not tax-deductible.



NB Library Community Forum

Film historian Dr. Annette Bochenek will present a program on classic TV and film comediennes at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 20, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program includes a multimedia presentation featuring women such as Gracie Allen, Lucille Ball and Eve Arden. Bochenek is an archivist, film historian and scholar of Hollywood’s Golden Age. She also is president of the Windy City Film Fanatics. She is a regular columnist for Turner Classic Movies and an assistant professor at Purdue University.

The free program is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

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 Week 3: Geographic Genius
 (No Camp July 3 & 4)
 Week 4: Inventors Workshop
 Week 5: Splish Splash
 Week 6: Safari
 Week 7: International Sports

Registration forms are available at the Long Beach Town Hall, Long Beach Community Center, and online at longbeachin.org.

Any questions email longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

Harbor Country Hikers



Alex Florian shows off an invasive plant during a 2022 hike.

The best way to handle invasive plants is the focus of the next Harbor Country Hikers at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, June 17, at Harbert Road Preserve, 6056 Harbert Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

Participating in the hike is Alex Florian, an invasive species coordinator for the SWxSW Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

The 90-acre preserve has seen many disturbances over the years, creating ideal conditions for out-of-place plants to thrive. It has wetland, prairie and woodland trails, and nesting habitats for birds of all types. The two-mile hike is rated moderately physically difficult.

HCH volunteers recommend wearing long pants, a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots, and take insect repellent and water. HCH membership is preferred; however, hikes are open to the public.



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

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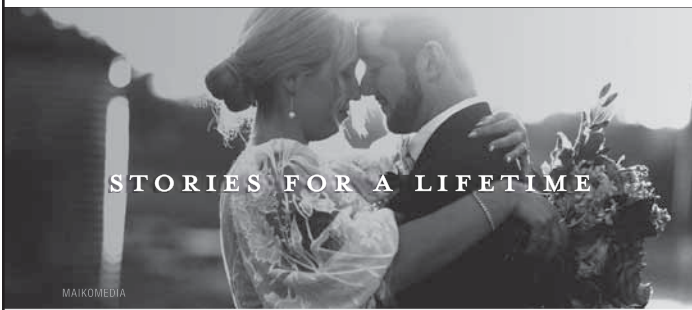
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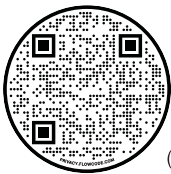
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Pandemics Exhibit



An example of an iron lung is part of the exhibit.

“Fighting Fear: Pandemics Past and Present,” a joint effort by The History Museum and Saint Mary’s College, runs through June 4 at the South Bend museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The exhibit addresses the fears, prejudices and resilience of communities as they faced mass illness. Throughout the 20th century, epidemics from polio to the HIV/AIDS crisis challenged and changed local, national and global communities. Three years ago, of course, saw the arrival of COVID-19.

The exhibit is supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Indiana Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Tours of the Oliver Mansion are available daily. Admission is \$11 for adults, \$9.50 for seniors, \$7 for youth 6-17 and free for members. Visitors can stop by the adjacent Studebaker National Museum for an additional charge. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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AED Initiative

Through Round 1 of its When Seconds Count: AED Initiative, Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte has awarded 48 AEDs, 37 cabinets and signage to 23 grantees.

The amount awarded totals \$102,164.

Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte recently held its 2023 Round 1 AED Celebration at the HFL Conference & Learning Center. Each year, HFL provides grants for automated external defibrillators as part of the initiative. The goal is to ensure the community has access to life-saving devices.

The Round 1 celebration coincided with National CPR and AED Awareness Week (June 1-7).

The Round 1 AED recipients are:

- American Legion Post 83.
- Anam Cara Stables.
- Beats for Bub, Colton Davis Foundation.
- Citizens Concerned for the Homeless.
- Dunes Arts Foundation.
- First Lutheran Church.
- Foundation Property Management.
- Friendship Botanic Gardens.
- Independent Cat Society.
- Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire Department.
- La Lumiere School.
- LaPorte Community School Corp.
- LaPorte County Historical Society Museum .
- Michigan City Area Schools.
- Michigan City Pop Warner Football and Cheer.
- MSD of New Durham Township.
- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.
- Paladin.
- Service League of Michigan City.
- Solid Waste District of LaPorte County.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- Town of Long Beach.
- Tri-Township Consolidated School Corp.

Since 2017, HFL has awarded 185 AEDs to the community. The total amount awarded to date in AEDs and CPR-related grants is \$435,398.

HFL accepts grant requests once a year, starting on Feb. 14. To be eligible, applicants must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit, a school or governmental entity. Requests are only accepted through HFL's grant portal. Visit www.hflaporte.org for details.

"Water Dancing" Photo Exhibit

"Water Dancing," a new exhibit by Lake County photographer Norman Turner, runs through June 29 at Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art.

The primary focus is Turner's series of waterdrop images. He also enjoys taking blue light pictures of downtown Chicago and leading aspiring photographers in photo excursions throughout the region.

Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East. Email info@artbarnschool.org or call (219) 462-9009 for more details.

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Revisiting “Airplane” Amid Today’s Cancel Culture Mentality



Ted Striker (Robert Hays, right), is updated by the only doctor on the flight (Leslie Nielsen) about the need to land the plane in “Airplane.”

“They’re destroying comedy because 9 percent of the people don’t have a sense of humor. When we do screenings of ‘Airplane’ today, we get asked if we could do ‘Airplane’ today. Sure, without the jokes.”

Ain’t that the truth.

By the way, that’s David Zucker, one of the three writers/directors behind “Airplane,” responding just last year as to how the classic 1980 comedy might fare amid cancel culture and political correctness.

He’s not wrong.

Think about some of the gags from “Airplane”:

- The “ever seen a grown man naked?” pilot.
- Subtitles for black characters speaking jive.
- Passenger alerts in Spanish that are nowhere near literal translations.
- An inflatable, and frisky, “automatic” pilot.
- A naked woman who stands in front of the camera...for absolutely no reason.

Yes, “Airplane” by today’s standards is cancel culture catnip. There’s just one problem.

Revisiting the movie last week, my 16-year-old son and I were laughing so hard, we never stopped to question if it offended us. Does that make us terrible, culturally insensitive people? Nope.

Why is “Airplane” still a laugh riot? Because it remembers a key element of comedy.

Surprise.

Yes, the movie’s direct target — disaster flicks — may not click with young audiences. But the rest of the humor does. Many laughs come out of nowhere.

past
present

Andrew Tallackson



Zucker, his brother, Jerry, and their buddy, Jim Abrahams, took the approach of, let’s throw everything and anything against the wall and see what sticks. Start the jokes in one direction, then resolve them somewhere else entirely.

A little context first.

Film historians credit “Airplane” with single-handedly killing off the disaster movie. When the genre struck gold in 1970 with the Oscar-winning “Airport,” the United States was entrenched in the Vietnam War. The disaster movie was much-needed escapism, where tragedy could resolve itself through hope and survival. It reached its zenith with “The Poseidon Adventure” (1972) and “The Towering Inferno” (1974), both by Irwin Allen. Then, these movies, for a lack of a better explanation, went on autopilot. The approach: assemble an A-list cast, pile on the soap opera, then destroy everything in sight. Audiences, Hollywood assumed, would eat it up.

Wrong.

With the arrival of Steven Spielberg (“Jaws” in 1975) and George Lucas (“Star Wars” in 1977), the

summer blockbuster was born. The “new” Hollywood had arrived, and audiences devoured it. Disaster movies now were ripe for satire, and that’s where “Airplane” succeeded. From there, these movies sputtered and died...until 1996. That’s when “Twister,” “Independence Day” and “Daylight” capitalized on nostalgia for the old Irwin Allen-style flick

When “Airplane” debuted in July 1980, audiences instantly got the joke. The source for Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker, or ZAZ, as they became known, was the 1957 Paramount film “Zero Hour!,” in which ZAZ took the same story, and large stretches of dialogue, and spun them into comedy gold.

(Turner Classic Movies airs “Zero Hour!,” and it’s unwatchable now. You hear key lines and expect the outrageous “Airplane” punch lines.)

“Airplane” draws plenty of blood skewering the “Airport” series — sequels popped up in 1975, 1977 and 1979 — which probably means nothing to today’s generation. Ditto the “Saturday Night Fever” parody, which now is considered a time-capsule movie. Or the fact that Leslie Nielsen, Peter Graves, Lloyd Bridges and Robert Stack were poking fun at themselves. Nielsen, in fact, had played the stone-faced captain in “The Poseidon Adventure.”

I braced for the racial comedy. Would I cringe? Playing devil’s advocate, the flashback to Peace Corps work with an African tribe featured tired stereotypes back then, and they still are today. Surprisingly, the “subtitles” sequence didn’t bother me.

Here me out.

When “Airplane” debuted, it came after a decade of “blaxploitation” pictures like “Shaft” and “Foxy Brown.” Movies that defied Hollywood by placing black actors and actresses center stage. At the same time, it trapped many of these actors in stereotypical images. In “Airplane,” having the “subtitles” emerge as a brainy discussion on infidelity is hilarious. The payoff, of course, is the spectacular sight of “Leave it to Beaver” mom Barbara Billingsley being the only one on the plane who speaks jive.

That’s what comedy is about. Laughter from the unexpected. When a bar fight breaks out in a flashback, for example, the muscly hands imply it’s guys. Instead, the camera pulls back to reveal two Girl Scouts. Now *that’s* funny.

Much of the film’s silly dialogue makes you laugh because, again, it comes out of nowhere. Leslie Nielsen asking Julie Hagerty if she can handle bad



Lloyd Bridges (left) and Robert Stack poke fun at their past roles.

news. She says no. He instantly proceeds with the bad news. Lorna Patterson’s flight attendant, crying that she’s unmarried. Seconds later, a passenger remarks how lucky she is to have a husband.

The airport, itself, is a spectacular hot mess where many of the gags are in the background. Like the religious zealots. The squabbling loudspeaker staff, debating the correct lane for passenger unloading. The runway employee who accidentally guides a plane into the actual building.

I also appreciate the scene of Robert Stack driving to the airport, clearly placed in front of a screen, for a totally fake effect. Feeding off that, ZAZ switch the backgrounds to include a bicyclist caught in the path of Stack’s vehicle.

Or how gleefully silly it is when Patterson’s flight attendant sings a folk ditty to a sick child, everyone on the plane in full “aww” mode. Then, she inadvertently knocks out the girl’s IV while singing...and no one notices.

The most shockingly funny gag, to me, at least, involves the plane as it’s about to land, the passengers watching an in-flight movie where a plane explodes on impact with the runway.

I chose “Airplane” for this edition because on Friday, June 16, I turn 53. With time, my attitudes toward politics, entertainment and the like have evolved. It’s natural. With life experiences come altered perceptions in how we view life itself.

But I know funny when I see it. “Airplane” is funny. Hysterically funny. Laugh-till-your-sides-hurt funny.

Make no apologies about it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

Each year, many guests eagerly anticipate “An Afternoon of Chamber Music,” the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival fundraiser that doubles as a musical preview of the annual summer event.

The concert recently was held at the family home of Barbara Bankoff in Michigan City. Festival co-founders Nic and Sunny Gardner-Orbovich greeted guests, with Sunny, the festival educational director, showing off her creative talents by wearing a dress of her own design and construction.

The afternoon began as Bankoff welcomed her guests to the home of her late parents, Milton and Sylvia Bankoff. They would be thrilled, she said, that their home is used for such functions. The stunning mid-century home, built in 1956, is well-suited to such concerts, almost as if it was designed with such occasions in mind. On this day, the old house would be filled with the joyous sounds of laughter and music.

The elegant dining room was resplendent and overflowing with tasty hors d’oeuvres and wines befitting the occasion. But the real treat, for which all were present, was the amazing music. The strains of fine music so often slow the pulse and give rest from the hustle and bustle of a busy spring weekend. This day would be no different.

The theme of this year’s festival is “Many Peoples; Many Musics,” the afternoon’s selections reflecting that theme. The performers were Nic Orbovich, who also serves

An Afternoon of Musical Delights

by William Halliar

as festival artistic director, and longtime MCCMF contributor Zosia Glashauser, a violinist with Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

Music soon filled the quiet spaces of the old Bankoff home as strings vibrated in unison with hearts, the strain of Roma tunes soaring and whirling about the guests, many listening in rapt attention. Pieces performed included “Songs My Mother Taught Me” and “Gypsy Lullaby” by Antonín Dvorák, a rendition of the old spiritual “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” and “Variations” by Béla Bartók.

Nic demonstrated bowing techniques, flute sounds created on the high strings, and *pizzicato* (plucking sounds) to give the audience an idea of the intricacies of the music being performed.

The 2023 Michigan City Chamber Music Festival is at 7 p.m. Aug. 12, 14, 18 and 20 at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. In addition are three family concerts at 6 p.m. Aug. 15, 17 and 19 at Niemann/Head Start, 811 Royal Road, Michigan City. Nic, Sunny and the festival board of directors pride themselves in attracting fine musicians from around the world. All concerts are free to the public.

Visit www.MCCMF.org for more details.
(All photos by James Conlin.)



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Gems of Beverly Shores is the theme of the town’s Garden and Art Walk from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 24. Guests may stroll through gardens and inside two iconic homes. Advance tickets, which are \$15 at www.absr.org or \$20 the day of the walk, include a raffle entry for an original watercolor or garden gift basket. Check in at the Admin Building, 500 S. Broadway in Beverly Shores, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a map and wristband for the free shuttle bus.

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“The Boogeyman” Updates Stephen King Story With Plenty of Scares

by Andrew Tallackson



in
Theatres

Rob Savage's camera spins upside down to depict Sawyer (Vivien Lyra Blair) as she checks beneath her bed in “The Boogeyman.”

Having not read Stephen King's 1973 short story “The Boogeyman” in, well, gosh, some 40 years, curiosity got the better of me. Revisiting it before seeing Rob Savage's big-screen treatment, what struck me is how grim it is. A distraught father, pouring his soul out to a therapist, tells of how each of his young children died at the hands of some unspeakable entity. The final twist? The therapist *is* the monster.

King, in his early days as a horror novelist, showed no mercy, even with children. Many times, they met with the same grisly fates as adults. I wondered how Savage might pull this off without alienating his audience. Turns out, he takes the basic idea of King's tale and comes up with a new spin on it. The result is not great art. Heck, it's not even original. But the truth is, I covered my eyes four to five times during “The Boogeyman.” You go into a movie like this hoping to be scared, and that's what you get.

Many King yarns are built around grief and loss. Savage honors that by introducing a devastated family. Chris Messina stars as Will Harper, a therapist whose wife just died in a car accident. His daughters, high-schooler Sadie (Sophie Thatcher, Showtime's “Yellowjackets”) and elementary school age Sawyer (Vivien Lyra Blair, Princess Leia in Disney+'s “Obi-Wan Kenobi”), are making the difficult transition back to school.

As if these three need more misery, a curious man turns up seeking counseling from Will. A man named Lester Billings (David Dastmalchian), who



“The Boogeyman”

Running time: 98 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for terror, violent content, teen drug use and some strong language.

is accused in the press of murdering his three children. The scene where Lester tries to purge himself of grief is straight out of King's story; really, the only aspect of the movie that belongs entirely to the author himself.

Lester's presence in the family home lures a monster there. One that shows itself only at night, and shrouded by darkness.

“The Boogeyman,” like many a King tale, is a catalog of childhood fears: darkness, closets, creepy basements, beds — anywhere something might lurk, waiting patiently.

For much of the movie, we do not see the creature. We hear it. Like the characters, we think we see it, and these are some of the movie's best frights: the point-of-view shots as characters peer into the dark, trying to locate what's scaring them. Anyone who has *ever* covered their eyes during a horror movie, and does not particularly enjoy doing so, should steer clear of “The Boogeyman.” Savage takes the slow-burn approach, where he draws out the tension, strings us along until he's ready to make us leap out of our seats.

Thatcher and Blair are very good, creating fright-



Sophie Thatcher is excellent as a teen juggling problems at school with an emotionally distant father.

ened girls who muster up the courage to combat evil. Thatcher, in particular, finds a balance between teen angst linked to friends at school and frustration with her father. There is a no-nonsense approach to these actresses that grounds the story in some semblance of reality.

I braced for a finale where Savage spills the blood, gore and other entrails in generous supply. It never happens. Instead, he keeps toying with us, with what we can and cannot see.

Will "The Boogeyman" be mentioned in the same breath as Stephen King adaptations like "It," "The Shining" or "Salem's Lot"? No. It lacks the power, the boldness to venture somewhere new. Still, you leave the theater rattled, your stomach in knots. That, to me, is good horror.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Indiana Dunes National Park

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- **Sunset Paddle at Marquette Lagoons from 5-6 and 7-8 p.m. Thursdays in June.** 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 1-8:30 p.m. Fridays in June 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 June.** 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.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, June 16, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, June 17, at 101 Rice St. (U.S. 12), Michigan City.** 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.
- **Pinhook Bog Open House from 3-5 p.m. Saturdays in June.** 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.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in June.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in June.** 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 June 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 June 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 June 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.
- **Dog Days at Chellberg from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays in June at the Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm.** Take pets and join a ranger to learn how dogs can become a B.A.R.K. Ranger. After getting sworn in, visitors can take pets on a hike. The program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes. Visit www.dunefriends.org for more details.
- **Mount Baldy Solstice Hike from 8-9 p.m. Wednesdays in June.** Experience sunset views of Lake Michigan and Chicago during the ranger-led tour. Passes are required. Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12.
- **Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29 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 June 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 June.** 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.



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It's time to take your volleyball GAME OUTSIDE. A camp hosted by the EVP Academies of LaPorte, features all the latest drills and training techniques that build your skills for the next level. Lots of contests and games too, with fun and active instructors! The camp will concentrate on the fundamentals of passing, setting, serving and spiking. You will learn to overhand serve and play organized games. The lesson plan directs individual training that helps each student reach a new level. This four-day camp is for girls & boys ages 8-14yrs. Canceled classes are made up on Friday.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **4 Day-camp**

Ages 8-10

6/19	6/22	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
6/26	6/29	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/10	7/13	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84
7/24	7/27	1p-2:30p	8-10yrs	84



Ages 11-14

6/19	6/22	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
6/26	6/29	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/10	7/13	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99
7/24	7/27	230-4:30pm	11-14yrs	99

VolleyKidz USA (8-10yrs)

Volleykidz is an introductory class for children 7yrs to 10yrs. The lesson plan introduces the pass, set and spike using a very light volleyball. Volleykidz will improve each child's hand/eye coordination and left/right coordination through the use of fun drills and games. Lesson plan also incorporates short educational drills including spelling, math & science.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	4:30-6pm	8-10yrs	\$99

Jr. VolleyKidz USA (11-13yrs)

Improve your volleyball skills with 90 minutes of drills in setting, passing, overhand serving and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of individual training, pairing drills and game situation development that help each student reach a new level. Instructors organize short games at the end of each class. The lesson plan also incorporates leadership and educational components.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 8/24 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

PROGRAM #	DAY	DATE	TIME	AGE	COST
JUNE	Wednesdays	6/7-6/28	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
JULY	Wednesdays	7/5-7/26	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84
AUG.	Wednesdays	8/2-8/23	6-730pm	11-14yrs	\$84

NEW! Youth Volleyball Summer League

This summer indoor volleyball league is perfect to keep your volleyball skills fresh for the upcoming grade school season. In this co-ed league you can request to play with a group of friends. Games are scheduled on Thursdays. The YOUTH league will have two levels; Blazers and Top Flight. You will overhand serve and play organized games. EVP Certified coaches. Game formats are based on skill-level of athletes and may include 6-person and 4-person teams. Two matches per week.

LOCATION: LB Park MIN/MAX: 18/72 PER CLASS **WEEKS: 4**

DATE (s)	DAY	PROGRAM #	TIME	Ages	COST
June	4-25 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
July	9-30 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59
Aug.	6-27 Sun		430-630p	10-13yrs	\$59

REGISTER AT WWW.EVPACADEMIES.COM

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:

- **Movie & a Craft: "The Bad Guys" at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 15.** The movie is Rated PG. Children 17 and younger who arrive by 10:15 a.m. have a chance to win a copy of the movie. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Friends of the Library Book Sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at the Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St.**
- **Board Game Cafe at 3 p.m. Friday, June 16.** Try a variety of board games with family or friends.
- **Movies in Washington Park at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.) Friday, June 16.** The library joins forces with Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department for the series that kicks off with "Minions: the Rise of Gru." The movie, Rated PG, is shown in North Pointe Pavilion.
- **Juneteenth Celebration at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 18, at Washington Park's Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheatre.** Admission

is free. Activities include giveaways, raffles, free hot dogs and burgers, free health screenings, community resources, music, dancing and open mic. The library then is closed Monday, June 19, in observation of the actual holiday.

- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in June.** 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.
- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20.** 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.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in June.** 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 Maker-space. 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.
- **Among Us Scavenger Hunt in June.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters hiding there and win a prize.
- **Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! through July 22.** For every 10 hours a person reads, reads to someone else or listens to someone read, they have a chance to win a raffle item. Record reading hours and select the desired raffle prize for a chance to win.

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

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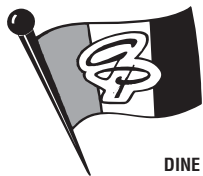
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LaPorte County Public Library

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:

- **Virtual Author Talk with Jamie Beck (adults 19+) from 1-2 p.m. Thursday, June 15.** Beck is an award-winning photographer. Register at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/27151>
- **Coolspring Storytime from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at the Coolspring Branch.** Each session, which includes stories and songs, is part of a themed six-week program, with a four-week break between sessions.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, June 16, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Splatter Painting (teens 12-18) from 1-2 p.m. Friday, June 16, in the main library Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** Teens will throw, fling and splatter paint onto canvases.
- **Teen D&D from 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 19, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, June 19, in the main library multi-purpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.

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.

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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Historical Society Museum



The Old Lighthouse Museum pop-up exhibit.

Two new exhibits are on display at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Indiana Historical Society's traveling exhibit "Indiana Through the Mapmaker's Eye!" runs through June 29. It examines four ways people have used maps throughout history. LaPorte County maps from the museum's collection will be showcased.

Also, a pop-up exhibit to celebrate Old Lighthouse Museum's 50th season runs through July 7.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Guitar Lessons for Beginners from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Thursday, June 15-July 20.** The free classes are limited to 10 attendees and open to ages 8-11. Children must commit to the full six-week session. Participant must take an acoustic guitar and music stand. Email nbtlevnts@gmail.com if interested.
- **"Mommy and Me Story Time" (ages 0-3) at 10 a.m. EDT Monday, June 19, at New Buffalo Township Park, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo.**
- **Youth Advisory Board Meeting at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 20.**
- **"Ladies of Laughter: Great Comediennes" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 20.**

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday while supplies last.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Story Time at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday.

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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2023 Innovators Awards

The Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest has opened nominations for 2023 Innovators Awards.

Three awards are planned in addition to individual and team honorees: Richard C. Sussman Prize for Team Innovation, Society of Innovators Fellows and the John H. Davies Lifetime Achievement Award.

Now in its 19th year, the Society of Innovators celebrates Northwest Indiana's seven-county region. Individuals and teams are nominated through an online application. Anyone who lives or works in Northwest Indiana is eligible. All applications must be submitted through www.pnw.edu/soi. There is no fee to nominate, and self-nominations are encouraged. The deadline is July 31. More information is available at pnw.edu/innovators-awards or by email to societyofinnovators@pnw.edu

Team honorees can include an individual company, government unit, non-profit agency or group of organizations from a specific project. For individual and team honorees, the innovation must have been developed in the Northwest Indiana region in the last four years.

For the three specific awards:

- The Society of Innovators may select up to five innovators each year as fellows from among previously inducted individual and Team Lead honorees. They must live or work in Northwest Indiana, and demonstrate significant achievement in innovation and contribution to the community.
- For the Richard C. Sussman Prize for Team Innovation, one team may be selected annually from among inductees. The prize helps promote 21st century innovation in the private, public, non-profit and government sectors.
- For the John H. Davies Lifetime Achievement Award, the Society's highest honor, the winner may be selected from selection committee recommendation, and at the board's discretion.

The awards luncheon is Nov. 2 at the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex on the Westville campus. Sponsorships are available. Email societyofinnovators@pnw.edu for details.



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American Red Cross

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

- LaPorte County Annex, 809 State St., LaPorte, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, June 15.
- Palko Services, 4991 W. U.S. 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, June 15.
- American Legion, 107 N. Flynn Road, Westville, 1-6 p.m. Thursday, June 15.
- St. John Lutheran Church, 111 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte, 2-6 p.m. Thursday, June 22.

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

United Way Golf Outing

United Way of LaPorte County's 19th annual golf outing is Saturday, July 22, at Beechwood Golf Course, 2222 Woodlawn Drive, LaPorte.

Registration opens at noon, with the shotgun tee time and box lunch at 1 p.m. The silent auction ends, with awards presented, at 5 p.m.

The event is 18 holes of golf with a cart. It also includes: a box lunch, open bar cart(s) on the course, games, a chance to win a new car, trophies for the winning team, free water and soft drinks, and free shots under the pavilion. Individuals cost \$125, while a foursome costs \$500.

In the event of rain, certificates for golf will be available, if requested, to use at a later date.

Visit www.unitedwaylpc.org for more details.

Regional musical artists are the featured organists at the **Wednesday Pipe Organ Concert Series** at

Christ Church, 531 Washington St.

Wednesday concerts begin at 12:15 p.m. Central time.

The church is home to an **1891 Roosevelt**

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Rhonda Edgington, Stephen Schnurr, Matt Gerhard, George Karst Kent Jager, Mark Sudieth and Ann Dobie



Information: (219) 608-4719 or (219) 809-2929.

Christ Church Sunday Worship (10 a.m.)

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Gabis Acorn Concert Series

The annual summer Acorn Concert Series returns to Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, with tribute bands playing hits by Queen, Lady Gaga, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pink Floyd, Toto and Linda Ronstadt.

Shows start at 7 p.m. The schedule includes:

- June 16: Radio Gaga, recreating the music of Lady Gaga and Queen, with opening act Lauren Dukes.
- July 15: Red Not Chili Peppers paying tribute to Red Hot Chili Peppers, with opening act Positive Vibe Technicians.
- Aug. 4: Echoes of Pompeii, the nationally touring Pink Floyd tribute band.
- Aug. 25: The Ron Burgundys, delivering yacht rock and soft-core hits from the 1960s-1980s, with opening act Phantom Zone.
- Sept. 22: The Linda Ronstadt Experience, featuring "American Idol" star Tristan McIntosh, with opening act Lomax Station.

Local food vendors will sell beer, wine, mixed drinks and food. No outside alcohol is allowed. Friendly dogs on leashes are permitted, and concerts are family-friendly. Take lawn chairs.

Gates open one hour before showtime. Concerts are held rain or shine. Ticket prices vary per show and can be purchased at www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts. Member discounts are available. Gabis is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

Household Hazardous Waste

LaPorte County Solid Waste District will hold a household hazardous waste collection from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Items accepted include batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps and medication.

Call (219) 363-1450 or (219) 326-0014 for more details.

PoCo Muse Summer Hours

Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, has announced its summer hours.

Through Labor Day, hours are extended on Thursdays to 7 p.m. Otherwise, the museum is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily and closed Mondays. Admission is free. Visit www.pocomuse.org or find @pocomuse on social media for more details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 15, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.



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

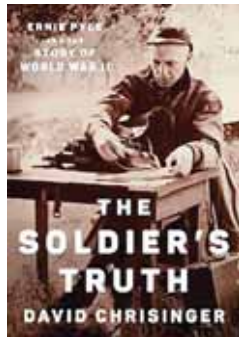
this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain 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 will be published after the favor is granted.

Author Talk

David Chrisinger will give a program on famed Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Chrisinger is the author of the new biography The Soldier's Truth: Ernie Pyle and the Story of World War II.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.



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Summer Third Fridays

Chesterton Arts District will host Summer Third Fridays, in which Chesterton's downtown arts and creative businesses hold programs, promotions and events, June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18.

Businesses will stay open until 7 p.m. each night. The events celebrate artists, artisans, entrepreneurs and arts organizations. Programs include workshops, artmaking, gallery talks, live music, restaurant promotions, walking tours and open studios. The June 16 participants include: Chesterton Art Center; Three Moons Fiberworks; Pieces of Jayde; Willow, Trusty Spot; Duneland Pottery; Moth Wing Studio; Holly Jackson; Lemon Tree Mediterranean Grill; South Shore Tattoo; and Westchester Township History Museum.

Visit www.visitchesterton.org or follow Visit Chesterton on Facebook for more details.



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Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies,"

June 1, 2023

Event: Closest to the Pin Drive,
Hole 6



Flight A

Low Gross — Barb Rumbuc.
Low Net — B. Rumbuc, Pat Czizek, Phyllis Roach.
Low Putts — Barb Rumbuc.

Flight B

Low Gross — Paula Hutchinson.
Low Net — Paula Hutchinson.
Low Putts — Carol Tylisz.

Flight C

Low Gross — Sandra Provan.
Low Net — Sandra Provan.
Low Putts — Sandra Provan, Mary Schlunz.

Flight D

Low Gross — Kathy Grott.
Low Net — Kathy Grott.
Low Putts — Pam Betcher, Tina Kintzele.



Event: Mary Knaup.
Chip-Ins: Paula Hutchinson, #5; Carol Tylisz, #7.
Birdies: Carol Tylisz, #7; Sandra Provan, #2.

June 5

Event: Mark Your Ball

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A Flight

Low Gross — Pat Czizek.
Low Net — LuAnn Uremovich.
Low Putts — Sandy Baldwin, Mary Beres, P. Czizek.
Event — S. Baldwin, P. Czizek, Jane Shuger, LuAnn Uremovich.

B Flight

Low Gross — Carol Tylisz.
Low Net — Florence Stokfisz.
Low Putts — Paula Hutchinson.
Event — Paula Hutchinson, Carol Tylisz.

C Flight

Low Gross — Alice Wozniak.
Low Net — Alice Wozniak.
Low Putts — Sheila Brackin.
Event — Carol Hullings, S. Provan, A. Wozniak.

D Flight

Low Gross — Ann Batagianis.
Low Net — Ann Batagianis, Pam Betcher.
Low Putts — Ann Batagianis.
Event — A. Batagianis, Tina Kintzele, Cindee Schroll.
Birdies — Barb Rumbuc, #1, Alice Wozniak, #4.

South Course, "Par-Tee
Women's Golf League,"
May 31, 2023

Flight A

Low Gross — Barb Rumbuc.
Low Net — Barb Rumbuc.
Low Putts — Mags MacEntee.
Event — Linda Hirsch.

Flight B

Low Gross — Sandy Baldwin, Paula Hutchinson.
Low Net — Sandy Baldwin.
Low Putts — Paula Hutchinson, Mary Lou Marshall
Event — Sandy Baldwin.

Flight C

Low Gross — Sheila Brackin
Low Net — Sheila Brackin
Event — Sheila Brackin, Carolyn Cooney, Jane Wall

Flight D

Event — Pam Jaracz, Sandra Provan.

Chip-Ins

Mags MacEntee.

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LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 9-Hole League

June 1, 2023

Event: Regular Golf

A Flight

- First — Janet Andreotti.
- Second — Joan Carey, Donna Hennard.
- Third — Vicki Hill, Kathy Kenefick, Beth White.
- Low Putts — Mary O'Neil, Beth White.

B Flight

- First — Amanda Ferlmann.
- Second — Marci Meyer.
- Third — Nancy Thill.
- Low Putts — Amanda Ferlmann.

C Flight

- First — Ann Daley.
- Second — Sally McCarthy.
- Third — Catherine Kelly, Alison Kolb.
- Low Putts — Kathi Mole.

D Flight

- First — Regina Bradley.
- Second — Joanie Doyle.
- Third — Toni Hyland.
- Low Putts — Regina Bradley.

18-Hole League

May 30, 2023

A Flight

- First — Cindy Levy.
- Second — Lisa Blaze.
- Third — Linda Behringer, Peg King, Kathy Peters.

B Flight

- First — Kathy Kenefick.
- Second — Rise Wendt.
- Third — Jean Guerin, Mary O'Neil.

C Flight

- First — Diane Rubey.
- Second — Meg Caplice.
- Third — Alison Kolb.

(A Play the Pro competition was part of the regular event. Golf Pro Brian Godfrey played with only his 8 iron to give himself a handicap. Eighteen women beat the pro with their net scores.)

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In the Area

June 14 — Potawatomi Audubon Society nature walk, 9 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

June 14-17 — Canterbury Summer Theatre, “The Violet Hour,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Shows: 2 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m. Thur.-Sat. Tickets: \$20/regular admission, \$18/seniors, half-price discounts/students & military personnel. Reservations: (219) 874-4269, info@canterburytheatre.org

June 15 — Movie & a Craft: “The Bad Guys,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 15 — Friends of the Library Book Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 15 — Virtual Author Talk with Jamie Beck (adults 19+), 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/27151>

June 15 — Coolspring Storytime, 1:30-2 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 15 — Arts in the Park, LaPorte’s Fox Park. Preconcert: 6-6:45 p.m., main band: 7-8:30 p.m. *June 15* — Latin Swing Factor. *Wednesdays*: LaPorte City

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Band, 7 p.m.

June 16 — Board Game Cafe, 3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 16 — Splatter Painting (teens 12-18), 1-2 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 16 — Movies in Washington Park, dusk (about 8:30 p.m.), Washington Park’s North Pointe Pavilion. Free. Movie: “Minions: the Rise of Gru.” Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 17 — Necktie 5K Walk & Run, 8-9 a.m., Reborra Plaza, 1 E. Lakefront Drive, Beverly Shores. Fee: \$30. Reservations: tinyurl.com/jhuptdxk

June 17 — Program on Ernie Pyle, 2 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

June 17 — Michigan City Pridefest 2023, 1-8 p.m., Washington Park’s Guy Foreman Amphitheater. Info: www.MichiganCityPride.com

June 19 — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 19 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

June 20 — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 21 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, Matt Gerhard, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church, 531 Washington St. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Through June 18 — “Boeing Boeing,” Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$30/general, \$27/students & seniors, \$25 groups of 4 or more. Pride Month promo (50% off): Promo Code PRIDE. Reservations: tinyurl.com/4tp2kwud

Through June 29 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, “Indiana Through the Mapmaker’s Eye!,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Also: Old Lighthouse Museum’s 50th season pop-up exhibit through July 7. Info: (219) 324-6767

Through June 30 — Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz, Dr. John Wilhelm, 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 July 1 — “Intertwine: Stitches of the Soul,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

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 dance lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver dance lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

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

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

Thursdays in June — 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 in June — Pinhook Bog Open House, 3-5 p.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

June 16 — Acorn Music Festival: DAY ONE featuring Alejandro Escovedo and Shemekia Copeland, 5 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$100 + \$10 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 16 — Chesterton Arts District Summer Third Fridays. Info: www.visitchesterton.org, "Visit Chesterton" on Facebook.

June 16 — Acorn Concert Series (Radio Gaga), 7 p.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Reservations: www.pnw.edu/gabis-concerts

June 16 — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 17 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-11 a.m., 101 Rice St. (U.S. 12), Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

June 17 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Harbert Road Preserve, 6056 Harbert Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

June 17 — Acorn Music Festival: DAY TWO featuring Cracker, 2 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$100 + \$10 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 18 — Stephen Philip Harvey Octet, 5 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: cabaret seating/\$20; general admission/\$15; door/\$20. Reservations: <https://ticketstripe.com/sphoctet>.

June 18 — Acorn Music Festival: DAY THREE featuring Son Volt, 2 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$100 + \$10 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

June 19 — "Mommy and Me Story Time" (ages 0-3), 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Park, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 20 — "Ladies of Laughter: Great Comediennes," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 21 — "Industrial Evolution: Studebaker's South Bend Factories," 1:30 p.m. EDT, Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Admission: \$2, museum & campus members/free. Info: (574) 235-9714.

June 21 — Pride Open Mic Night Featuring Dylan Reed Leavitt, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

Through June 29 — Photography exhibit, "Water Dancing," Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East. Info: (219) 462-9009, info@artbarnschool.org

Through June — Acrylic painter Connie Kasal/photographer Carol Estes, The Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Hours (Eastern): 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. Info: gallery@courtyardfineart.com, (800) 291-9287.

Through July 6 — Works by Kuhn Hong, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through July 15 — "Trailblazers: Legacies of Excellence," 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.

Continued on Page 46



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Continued from Page 45

Through July 16 — “America the Beautiful: The Photographs of Clyde Butcher,” “Ansel Adams: Selected Photographs from the Portfolios,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/8-12, \$8/13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Through July 31 — “Budgie’s Garden” Art Show, Front Street Crossing, 227 S. Front St., Dowagiac, Mich. Featured artist: Lisa Quinlan-Heibutzki (past collaborator with *Beacher* columnist Charley McKelvy).

Through Sept. 4 — “The Art of Elizabeth Catlett from the Collection of Samella Lewis,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Coffee with the Curator gallery tour: noon-1 p.m. EDT June 15. Info: www.krasl.org, info@krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

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.



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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 June — Bird Walk and Talk, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

Fridays in June — Beach Fun Friday, 1-8:30 p.m., West Beach, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays in June — Dog Days at Chellberg, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Wednesdays in June — Mount Baldy Solstice Hike, 8-9 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Wednesdays in June — Sunset Around the Fire at the Pavilion, 8-9 p.m., Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

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

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing: “The Flash.”* Rated PG-13. Times: 7 p.m. June 16, 3:30 p.m. June 17, 12:30 & 7 p.m. June 18. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Power for Good Grants

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County is accepting online applications for its 2023 Community "Power for Good" Grants through Friday, July 21.

Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 to fund projects that strengthen LaPorte County in meaningful ways. Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations located in or serving LaPorte County residents. In addition, churches may request funds for non-religious purposes, such as community programs or projects. Governmental bodies, including townships and fire districts, as well as educational institutions and teachers may apply.

Applicants can review information on Unity's website, www.uflc.net/grants/community-grants, prior to starting an application.

Contact Unity Foundation at (219) 879-0327 or visit www.uflc.net for more details.

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Chamber Anniversary Bash

To celebrate its 105th anniversary, Michigan City Chamber of Commerce will host a party from 5-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at Millennium Plaza.

Presented by Harbor Country Adventures, the event includes networking, music, food and a sunset cruise. Chamber members and the community are invited. Each guest receives a \$5 voucher for one food or drink item. Additional items will be available for purchase by member vendors. Guests also can join the sunset cruise aboard the Emita II.

Individual tickets cost \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Tickets are available at www.MichiganCityChamber.com, the event found on the chamber events calendar under the News & Events tab. Email Katelyn at kswistek@mcachamber.com or call (219) 874-6221 for more details.

ArtBash Tickets

Tickets are available for "All You Need Is Love," Lubeznik Center for the Arts' 2023 ArtBash benefit, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa.

The evening includes: a buffet dinner, open bar, silent auction, a DJ and dancing, a paddle raise, treats and art experiences. Tickets are \$150 per person. All proceeds support LCA programming. Visit tinyurl.com/mrx9eyn6 for reservations.

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Are you organized and outgoing? Based in Michigan City, join us to give back to your community. Work with a leading non-profit on a team to strengthen and develop volunteer relationships, maintain outreach, execute and maintain recruitment, retention and appreciation program. Part-time including Saturdays during the summer and beyond. Contact Sophia at exdir@laportehabitat.org for the full picture.

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Animals: A Novel by Will Staples (*hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 290 pages.*)

This book and its subject matter, while a novel, is meant to be taken seriously. The subject — wildlife poaching and trafficking — is an ongoing disgrace to the entire world.

The reptilian-texture cover is gray and black. It feels like you're touching the hide of an elephant or rhino, with streaks of red (projecting blood?) — it's quite an effect. The first page of each chapter is ghosted in the background in the pattern of a different wild animal hide. It was the cover, itself, that touched something in me that this was not a Hollywood horror story, but rather a real-life horror story that goes on even as I write this...

Is this a political thriller? A murder-mystery? You could call it both because the very nature of killing and poaching endangered species of wild animals affects national and international politics, as well as murders, drug distribution and prostitution.

What happens here is designed to make you not only think about, but get angry about, what we're doing to the balance within nature. I'm talking about elephants, rhinoceros, tigers and other exotic animals, even pangolins (I had to look that one up — it's an Asian animal that looks a lot like an armadillo, only larger).

I was angry, as well as uncomfortable, upon learning how pervasive animal trafficking is to the very fabric of our lives. There are people in this world who will pay dearly for the fun (*really?*) and notoriety of having something their other billionaire friends don't have. And some third-world countries still think certain animal parts have medicinal and aphrodisiacal properties...and are even a delicacy to eat. And, of course, there's the ivory of elephant tusks made into jewelry and works of art. Don't even ask me about the making and drinking of tiger wine...ugh.

And, no surprise, when criminals found out these animals had real monetary value in certain circles, they realized they were another great source of revenue.

While the story takes the reader around the world, it begins in Kruger National Park in South Africa. A park ranger, Cobus Venter, is tired of finding dead animals with missing body parts — the poachers usually only take what parts get them money — although many animals are taken alive to be sold to zoos around the world. Something like a white tiger is a welcome addition to a zoo or roadside attraction.

Cobus has three friends who guard a section of the park with him: Lawrence, he's from Mozambique, but can't go back because poachers will kill

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



him; Oupa and Basani are a married couple, but Oupa was recently killed by poachers.

Cobus is tired of trying to get someone to listen to him about the poachers, so he decides to quit his job and go out on his own...but what road will he take? Has he decided to go over to the dark side? You know — if you can't beat 'em, join 'em?

The story shifts to Los Angeles and Randall Knight, agent for a company insuring animals.

He's discovered racing horses are being doped with cobra venom to make them run faster until their great hearts give out. Is anyone listening to him? Do a few dead horses at a stable mean anything? How about all the tigers dying at SafariWorld in Miami? Only one cub, recently acquired, is alive. He carried a feline leukemia virus that infected the others. Knight traces the cub to a questionable dealer. This time, he's not giving up...or will he give in? The money is excellent.

In Guantanamo Bay prison, Kevin Davis, CIA money-laundering specialist, is questioning Ridden, a prisoner whom he thinks knows a lot about animal poaching. But he wants something in return for his information (of course), but the CIA bosses aren't interested in Kevin's story. They'll only take action when any proof is shown that links the poaching to terrorists.

All these people will somehow intersect one day — but not all will see that they are on the same side.

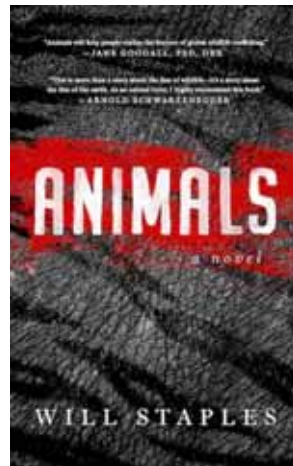
Besides the plea for international animal rights, the story is exciting and has a kind of "Mission: Impossible" theme to it. Action takes the reader to South Africa, Macau, Hong Kong, Mozambique, Thailand and Vietnam...a lot of moving around. There's even a run-in with the Chinese triads.

Research for this book has been collected from many sources, along with resounding approval from Dr. Jane Goodall. Staples has announced all profits from the sale of this book will go to "nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting wildlife."

The final word: The publisher reiterates that while this book is a novel, "the characters, locations and plot points" are based on fact. I too, was incensed at how the beauty of our wildlife is being used, abused and killed for material gain — after all, it all boils down to money, right?

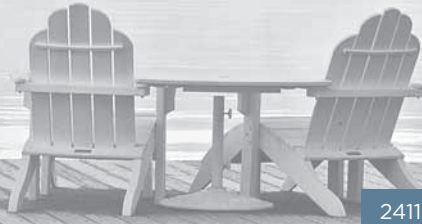
Even Arnold Schwarzenegger said, "This is more than a story about the fate of wildlife — it's a story about the fate of the earth..." I couldn't agree more.

Till next time, happy reading!



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