



Volume 39, Number 19 Thursday, May 18, 2023

# A Legacy of Joy at Joy

by Kim Nowatzke



Willie Moore and his wife, Gloria, have served as crossing guards for students attending Joy and Marsh elementary schools. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

Willie Moore may be retired now, but his legacy of spreading joy near Joy lives on.

The 79-year-old former crossing guard at Coolspring and Carroll avenues near Joy Elementary School turned in his yellow safety vest Jan. 4, but he remains beloved by the community for his friendliness, positivity and genuine care for others.

Sometimes, it was a wave and a smile. Passersby might have been treated to a bow, salute, even a little jig. There were plenty of greetings, including, “Good Morning,” “How are you doing?” and “Don’t work too hard.” Whatever the case, after an encounter with Willie, it left a smile on the face and a heart touched.

“Mr. Moore is a wonderful, loyal friend to Joy Elementary,” principal’s secretary Natalie Patino shares. “He meant so much to our school. We knew our students were safe when Mr. Moore was seen crossing our kiddos and their families across the street. Since his retirement, I get about three calls a week from community members around the city asking where he is. They all end their calls with, ‘I sure am going to miss his morning waves and salutes.’ ...We made Mr. Moore an official (Joy) viking a couple of years ago. He wears his Joy School shirt proudly.”

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Former Joy Principal Lisa Suter agrees.

“He would start our students with something positive each day,” she said.

The teachers were affected as well.

“The corner is not the same without his gigantic smile, enthusiastic wave, his head nod and love for the kids!,” kindergarten teacher Jen Landing said.

“I miss seeing him. He gave me the positive vibe I needed to enter my classroom!”

Jamie Oliver’s son, Eli, a Joy fourth-grader, hasn’t forgotten his friend.

“My son and him were buddies! He is missed tremendously,” Jamie said. “Every morning, he’d come up to our vehicle and shake his hand. Eli still talks about him.”

Willie first began spreading smiles on the street in 2017 as a City of Michigan City employee. He started as a substitute crossing guard near Marsh Elementary School, then relocated close to Barker Middle School before landing at Joy in the middle of the 2017-2018 school year. His wife, Gloria, still works as a crossing guard at Barker Avenue and Oak Street near Marsh Elementary School.

“They miss his saluting, bowing and dance steps,” she shared. “He would shake hands with the kids, and they would smile like a Cheshire cat. He made a lot of people’s days.”

Willie explained the source of his joy and motive for spreading it: “God gives me the joy and I give it back

to everyone else – I let them know there’s love in the world – even if you don’t believe it.”

Faith plays a big role in the lives of Willie and Gloria, who will celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary June 3. They have five children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They worship at First Baptist Church of Lakeland in Michigan City. Willie serves as a deacon/minister, acting as a “right-hand man” to the pastor by preaching sermons and coordinating the monthly First Sunday that features youth.

“When you are serving God and trying to do the right thing, good things happen,” he said. “Keep Him on your mind. Every day is a new chapter when you’re working for God.”

In his crossing-guard position, Willie would arrive early and stay late, putting in an extra unofficial half hour or so on his own time. It was a small price to pay, he felt, for being there to protect the children – and anyone else regardless of their age – which he considered his responsibility.

“I called the children and the parents ‘my children.’ I respected all of them and taught them respect,” he said.

The feeling was mutual.

“I believe he gained a lot of people’s respect by how he acted on that corner,” Gloria said.

Willie says he didn’t think about the weather.

“It was cold out there,” he added, “but it didn’t stop me.”

He wore handwarmers, but also shared them.

“He would sacrifice his for the parents and kids,” Gloria said.

Willie Moore was often seen bowing to vehicles as they passed by.  
Photo by Kim Nowatzke.



Willie Moore waves at cars as they pass by Carroll and Coolspring avenues, where he would spread joy each school day.  
Photo by Kim Nowatzke.

“I had to take care of my kids,” was his reply to his wife.

The tough winters started to take their toll on Willie, and his doctor recommended retirement.

“We found his heart capacity had dropped to 10 percent and his immune system was down,” Gloria explained.

In 2004, after several heart attacks, he underwent triple bypass surgery and has had several stents and a defibrillator. He also has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Willie admits he misses his days as a crossing guard.

“I miss standing on the corner – talking to people on the corner,” he said. “They still call me the ‘dancing crossing guard.’ They still look for my little brown car (parked nearby). I enjoyed the people and the chance to communicate with different people.”

Recipients of his kindness weren’t shy about sharing their thoughts to a Facebook prompt about their favorite crossing guard – and the chance to wish him the best in his retirement.

“He was the best crossing guard ever!,” KyLeigh Dickens exclaimed. “He would stop us every morning, and my kids would roll down the window no matter what the weather was and he would shake my children’s hands and tell them good morning and say, have a great day, momma. I miss seeing him at the cross stop. So happy to hear he’s doing well and enjoying retirement.”

Continued on Page 4

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## A Legacy of Joy at Joy

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Sarah Poston mentioned how Willie always made a rough morning better.

“Rain or shine, he was out there brightening everyone’s day,” she recalled. “We only saw him when one of the kids missed the bus – so you know our morning was not going well, but it was impossible to leave that intersection without a huge smile on your face and a feeling of hope in your heart. I wish nothing but blessings for Willie and his wife.”

For Jamie Sewell, an encounter Willie was worth a detour.

“We live in LaPorte and choose to drive our kids to school in Michigan City,” Sewell said. “We would purposefully drive out of our way to go through his intersection in the morning on our way to Edgewood. He put off so much positive energy – it was impossible to have a bad day after that!”



A portrait of Willie and Gloria Moore.

Ginny Storey-Mosley was thankful the opportunity existed to give back a bit to the beloved crossing guard.

“We drove that way many mornings on our way to school,” she said. “I loved his early morning energy, and offered to drop by a hot cup of coffee. His face always lit up when we slowed down and handed him a fresh cup to keep him warm.”

In addition to their crossing guard jobs, the Moores also volunteered for 21 years as agents on the Michigan City Police Department Emergency Management team. They retired in 2022, having assisted officers with security for their personal items or equipment



Eli Oliver, then a Joy Elementary School fourth-grader, stops to take a photo with his buddy, Willie Moore, on June 2, 2022.

at events like parades, in addition to helping with parking and other responsibilities. Willie even received a “Mayor Ron Meer Meritorious Award” for his part in the “Mount Baldy Miracle Rescue” of Nathan Woessner on July 12, 2013. It was actually through the Emergency Management team that Willie heard about crossing guard job opportunities.

In his younger years, Willie had a career as a truck driver, which he had to leave because of his health. He is an Army veteran, retiring in 1991 after 20 years of service in which he traveled to Korea, Japan and more. His positions included squad leader, platoon sergeant and platoon leader. He had orders to go to Vietnam, but was diverted to Germany. Having lost one brother in the war, another brother spoke up on his behalf to not send him so both would not be in Vietnam at the same time.

But, it’s been his crossing-guard stint that has turned Willie into somewhat of a local celebrity. Gloria has grown accustomed to being out in public and people recognizing him, sharing their appreciation.

“One lady was walking down our street and she saw me and said, ‘That is where he lives at!’” Gloria shared with a laugh.

Though Gloria says he’s “behaving himself” during retirement, she knows her husband will continue to spread joy to others – in his own way – with a smile on his face and love in his heart.

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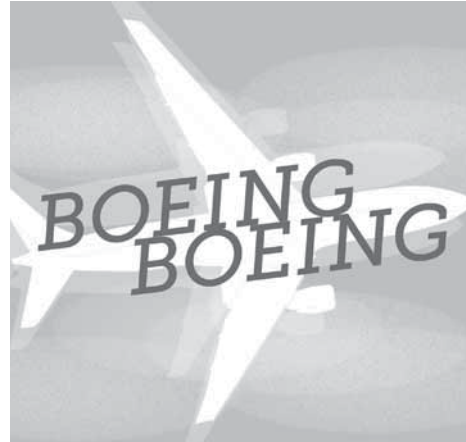
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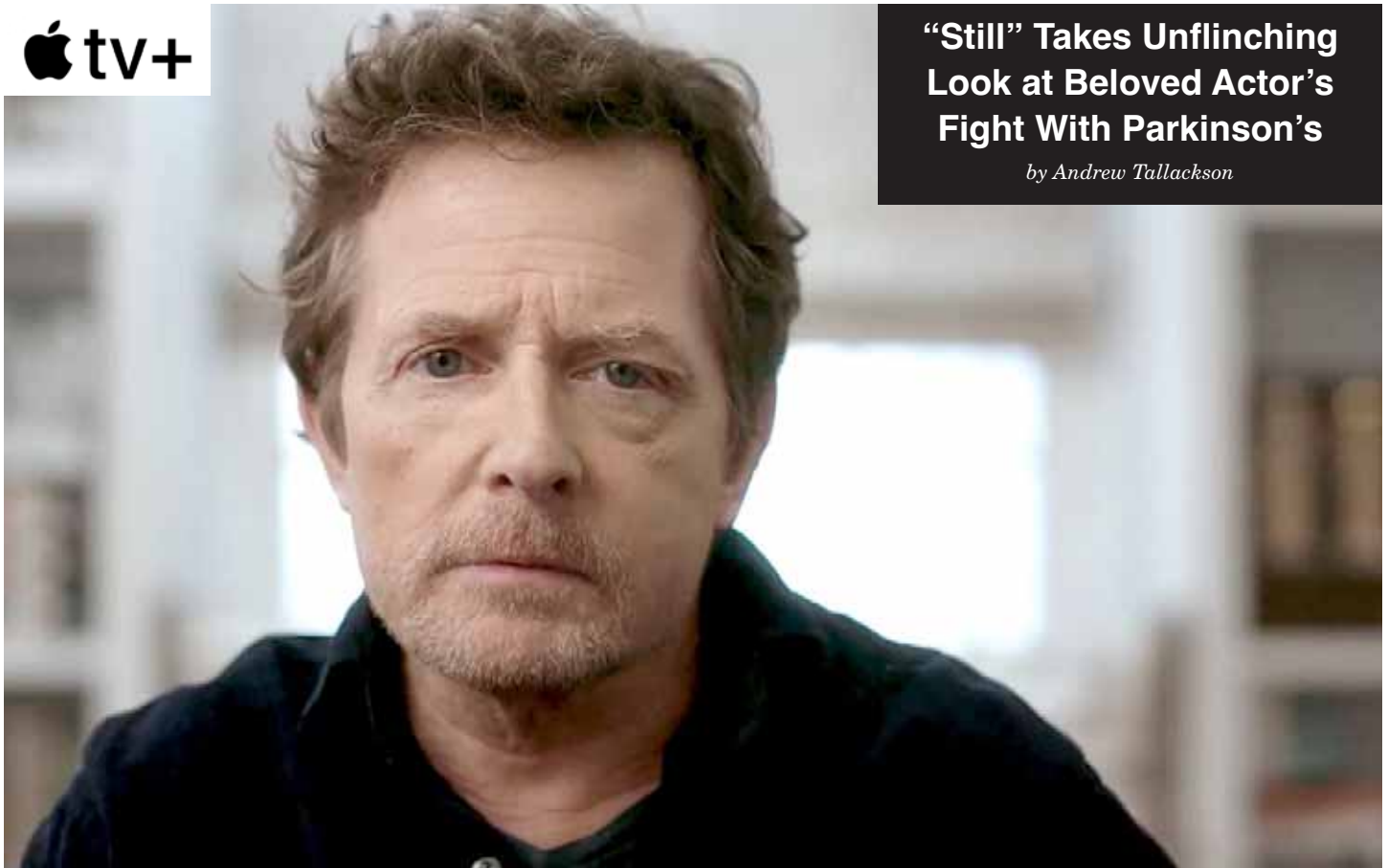
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## “Still” Takes Unflinching Look at Beloved Actor’s Fight With Parkinson’s

by Andrew Tallackson

“Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie” earns its title for a reason. A few, actually. By suffering from Parkinson’s disease, and having been a squirrely little tyke, the “Back to the Future” star cannot recall when his body *wasn’t* in motion. And now, the title reveals, he hasn’t given up on the fight of his life, even though the disease is winning the fight.

The juxtaposition in this Apple TV+ documentary between the actor amid early success and now, at 61, his body and mind ravaged by Parkinson’s, is heart-breaking. That Fox doesn’t want pity, that he unflinchingly reveals the effects of the disease, make the film powerful, even when Oscar-winning director Davis Guggenheim (“An Inconvenient Truth,” “He Named Me Malala,” “Waiting for Superman”) makes atypically wrong moves in telling this story.

To his credit, by placing the camera directly in front of Fox and refusing to edit away from him, Guggenheim lets the physical and mental struggle play out on its own. There are times when you can see the questions sinking in, but Fox lacks the muscle control to get the words out. And when the words do come, Fox gets as much off his chest as possible.

We see clips of Fox at career highs (“Family Ties,” the “Back to the Future” trilogy), along with scenes today where he goes through rigorous physical therapy, and not always triumphing. Early in the film, he heads out for a stroll and falls to the ground, his therapist there to help him up. He also requires makeup to cover facial bruises from another fall.

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie”

Running time: 95 minutes. Apple TV+.

Rated R for language.

His family is present, including wife Tracy Polan. We see her in many scenes. Fox on more than one occasion calls her his rock. Why Guggenheim doesn’t interview her, allow her own voice to come through, is puzzling. Here is a woman who took her vow of “for better and for worse” to heart, but the movie, in many ways, keeps her at a distance.

The worst mistake: Guggenheim hires actors to stage filler moments so the camera isn’t always on Fox. They remind you of those Discovery Channel/TLC/A&E shows where, to amp up the drama, they recreate moments discussed, but you never see the actors’ faces. It’s laughably cheesy on those shows. It does *not* work here. You don’t need it.

Fox is one of the most beloved presences on the planet. More so because of what he’s going through now. That he admits, in the film, that he is in pain, that he doesn’t expect to live through the next 20 years, is devastating. That he refuses to give up, that he counts every day with family as a blessing, those words alone, are the truth, the reason “Still” earns the title bestowed on it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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## Groundbreaking Planned for TROTOM Expansion Project

Thanks to a campaign that's raised more than \$80,000, The Region of Three Oaks Museum will break ground on a major expansion project at noon EDT Friday, May 19, at the museum, 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks, Mich.

The museum has been running out of space to store artifacts, photos and documents highlighting Southwest Michigan history. The expansion involves a 1,440-square-foot addition to the existing site.

At the ceremony, museum board members will be present, along with village officials who partnered with TROTOM on a grant application. Also expected are representatives from the Pokagon Fund and Berrien Community Foundation, both of which awarded \$10,000 grants.

After the ceremony, the museum will offer guided tours of the museum. Storage space used to contain much of the collection has included:



Pictured are some of the museum's many items stored for now on the third floor of Three Oaks Library.

- The Three Oaks Library attic, which includes dozens of large items.
- A storage area under the stands at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich., which has housed outsized artifacts from Three Oaks for decades. Stadium officials are reclaiming that space, so large items, including a hand-carved undertaker's wagon, sleigh and carriage, will return to Three Oaks this summer.

*(The museum is open from noon-5 p.m. EDT Friday-Sunday through October.)*

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### Lakefront Career Network Volunteers at Interfaith Community P.A.D.S



Lakefront Career Network on May 5 volunteered to help with various projects at the group's spotlight organization, Interfaith Community P.A.D.S.

Each year, the LCN, a Michigan City Chamber of Commerce committee, partners with a local non-profit to raise community awareness of the organization. Interfaith Community P.A.D.S. is a faith-based nonprofit that provides shelter for the homeless.

LCN Committee Co-Chair Jeremy Ross said in a press release P.A.D.S. needed some exterior and interior work, including: breaking down old wooden risers to provide space for more beds; cleaning up the perimeter to provide guests with a clean, safe and positive place; and new plantings to beautify the grounds around Sacred Heart Church.

Duneland Landscape provided tools and mulch and ServiScape helped with weed removal.

LCN will continue to support P.A.D.S., along with events to connect young professionals in the area.

Lakefront Career Network members volunteer to help with various tasks at the Interfaith Community P.A.D.S., which is located in downtown Michigan City.



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Playwrights should be full- or part-time Northwest Indiana or Southwest Michigan residents. Works can be of any length, including one-act plays, dramatic monologues, portions of works in progress and full-length works, including plays intended for special audiences, such as youth or seniors. There is no limit in terms of content or subject matter. Musicals and non-musicals may be submitted; musical submissions should include written scores or sheet music.

Submissions are limited to those not yet receiving full productions. Authors should submit no more than three for consideration. Entries should be written primarily in English, although sequences or scenes may be in another language.

Plays must be clearly legible and prepared in standard script format. Performances of winning scripts will be concert or staged readings with limited rehearsal.

If making an electronic submission (PDF or Microsoft Word), include by email a cover letter with mailing address, a list of previous readings or performances of the work and contact information to ArtisticDirectorDAF@gmail.com. Send printed scripts and cover letters to The Dunes Theatre, P.O. Box 384, Michigan City, IN 46360. Plays selected for the festival will be announced by mid-July.

**Harbor Country Hikers**

Harbor Country Hikers will visit the hills and vineyards of Mount Tabor Trails at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, May 20.

The group will cover a little more than two of the 3.5 miles of trails that loop through woods and vineyards. Hike leader and HCH President Pat Fisher will explain why Southwest Michigan is ideal for growing grapes.

The trails connect Round Barn Estate and Tabor Hill Winery. The hike is rated moderate, with plenty of hills. Depending on the weather, the trails' clayey soil could make for some slippery walking.

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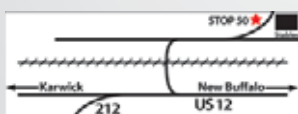
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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, May 19, 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 8-10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Heron Rookery east lot trailhead, 1336 County Road 600 East, 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.
- **Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in May.** Join a ranger for a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone. Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsors the program.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. daily in May at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](http://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for details.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m.-noon Sundays in May.** Tour the farmhouse and visit the animals, with rangers and volunteers sharing the area's history. The program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes. Chellberg Farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in May at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Sundays in May.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sundays in May.** 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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

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## Scholarship Contest

May 19 is the deadline for the Michigan City Human Rights Commission's Hawkins-Williams and Judi Huber educational scholarship awards.

The winner of the Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship receives \$1,000. The contest is open to any graduating high school senior within the Michigan City Area Schools boundaries. Entries must include an essay related to the stated theme, a certified copy of high school transcripts and three letters of recommendation.

The Judi Huber Educational Scholarship, also for graduating high school seniors, is for \$1,000. In addition to the required essay, the submission is judged on academics, community service and extra-curricular activities.

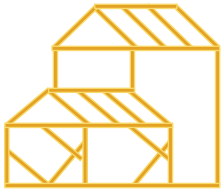
All applications are due by 4 p.m. Friday, May 19. Packets can be mailed, emailed, uploaded or brought into the office.

Applications, contest rules and the link to upload an entry are available at [tinyurl.com/2p98a73n](http://tinyurl.com/2p98a73n)

Those who mail the application or deliver it in person can do so to: Michigan City Human Rights Department, City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360. Email submissions can be sent to [dgonzales@emichigancity.com](mailto:dgonzales@emichigancity.com)

Call the Michigan City Human Rights Department at (219) 873-1429 for more details.

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Application information is available at [www.pnw.edu/leadership-institute](http://www.pnw.edu/leadership-institute) or by email at [leadershipinstitute@pnw.edu](mailto:leadershipinstitute@pnw.edu).

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**Whipped Feta**

whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, Kalamata olive

**Crab Cake**

lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinaigrette

**Steamed Mussels**

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**Lodge House Salad**

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**Beet Salad**

roasted beet, Gorgonzola crumble, candied walnuts, balsamic

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**Oysters Rockefeller**

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**Cavatappi Alfredo**

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## “The Diplomat” is One Wild, Hugely Entertaining Ride

by Andrew Tallackson



Kate Wyler (Keri Russell) gets an update from one of her key staffers, Stuart (Ato Essandoh), in “The Diplomat.”

“The Diplomat” has no patience for slackers. Drift off mentally for a second or two...and forget it. The show moves on without you.

The result? The most invigorating, wildly entertaining show so far this year. Writer-director Debra Cahn (Showtime’s similarly paced “Homeland”) insists viewers pay attention. She wants you alert because the show, like the characters, rarely stops for a breather. The tension is propelled almost entirely by dialogue, so you have to listen carefully. These are smart people skilled in the game of politics, a game whose rules change by the minute.

The average political thriller, mind you, takes a bit to rev up. Not “The Diplomat.” The characters are revved up from the word go, expecting you to keep up the pace.

It takes an adjustment, to be frank. Cahn’s show is very much in the spirit of “The West Wing,” Aaron Sorkin’s walking-talking show where the characters lead such hectic lives, they can’t sit still for more than five minutes. They update each other as they move from room to room, from conflict to conflict. And early in “The Diplomat”...I was lost. The characters speak as if every second counts, spitting out names, locations and political affiliations in rapid succession. At one point, I turned to my wife and said, “Who is this Ganon they keep talking about?”

But that’s the spirit of “The Diplomat,” the goal, to fully immerse you in the game of politics.

The game for Kate Wyler (Keri Russell), newly appointed U.S. diplomat to the United Kingdom, couldn’t arrive at a more inconvenient moment: a British aircraft carrier is bombed, resulting in 40 deaths. The British prime minister, Nicol Trowbridge (Rory Kinnear), wants swift retaliation, and the U.S. by its side. Tricky, when the U.S. president (Michael McKean) is a not-so-thinly-veiled substitute for Joe Biden: the show’s POTUS is derided in the press for his age and reports of incontinence in public meetings.

Every character is skilled in their field. They speak like people who’ve been playing the game for so long, nothing surprises them. But that’s where much of the humor of “The Diplomat” comes in. This isn’t a lame fish-out-of-water sitcom where Kate has to adapt to life on the other side of the pond. Having been married to Hal (Rufus Sewell), a former ambassador, and having forged a respected career in politics herself, Kate may be the most potent political mover and shaker on the planet. As colleagues panic with each new crisis, Kate thinks fast. She knows the key players, their strengths and weaknesses, and how to exploit them, especially in placating the male ego. The show is fascinating when

Kate is in the zone, playing political puppet master. It's like we're the proverbial fly on the wall, an observer to actual events.

The sly irony of "The Diplomat" is that Kate's professional life is a disaster. She and Hal are close to finalizing their divorce. Not because of any infidelity on his part, but because they're not on the same page. He's arrived in London more for appearance sake, struggling with having to play second fiddle.

Russell plays Kate like a human tsunami. She lives and breathes work, expecting everyone else to match her pace. And a good deal of the laughs comes from Kate's refusal to be "girly" for public appearances. She frequently storms into a room with rumpled suits, her hair in disarray. Dresses for social occasions lean toward the drab. Each subtle and not-so-subtle effort by her staff to push for a refined look gets ditched. I laughed, out loud, at the moment when Kate returns from a brief trip to the United States, her hair looking like it was attacked by birds. A female staffer sheepishly enters her office, drops a hairbrush on her desk, then bolts from the room.

For the 55-year-old Sewell ("Dark City"), this is a dream role. It's like watching a star reborn. Hal approaches life with a wicked detachment: the spectator to frazzled professionals. The love-hate relationship between Hal and Kate peppers the sidelines of each political crisis. And what irks Kate? Hal *is* the best. Sewell moves like a man who knows how to work a room. The performance is star wattage at every turn.

At the midpoint of the eight-episode series, you find yourself adjusted to, and integrated into, the crazy world of these people. You discover just how much you like them. Kate's colleagues are played by a wonderful batch of actors. Ato Essandoh as



Rufus Sewell is the scene-stealing secret weapon of the series.

Stuart, the U.S. embassy's deputy chief of mission, Ali Ahn as Eidra, the CIA station chief and Stuart's girlfriend in secret, and David Gyasi as Austin Dennison, the U.K. foreign secretary: These are extremely likable people. Sharp-witted, proving they can hold their own with Kate.

Neflix leveled a swift Season 2 renewal for "The Diplomat." Eleven days, no less, after it debuted. That's good, because the series ends with a shocking cliffhanger where lives hang in the balance. That we have to wait a year, possibly more because of the writer's strike, ain't gonna be easy. A rewatch may be in order just to scratch the itch, but more so to catch everything you potentially missed the first time.

□

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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# “Choose To Change” Radio Show Hits Milestone

by Andrew Tallackson

The inspiration for Betty Hoeffner to create the “Choose To Change” radio show took her by surprise...and not in a good way.

Hoeffner, co-founder and CEO of the anti-bullying non-profit Hey U.G.L.Y., was on a road trip with friends when, on three separate occasions, someone told a racist joke. Each time she complained, the response was, “I can’t help it. I was raised that way.” Hoeffner’s response: “Well, you could Choose To Change.”

If the mission of Hey U.G.L.Y. (Unique Gifted Lovable You), founded in 2002, is to fortify youth against bullying, substance abuse and suicide, then what Hoeffner had just experienced conveyed a simple truth: The work is nowhere near finished.

“We are not born hating anyone,” she said. “We are taught to hate this person for this reason or another. It hurts your soul. It hurts *my* soul.”

After the road trip, Hoeffner wrote down the “Choose To Change” saying and gave it to a friend, Brenda Crouch, director of marketing for the Dick’s Last Resort chain, saying, “Brenda, someday this is going to be something.”

So, in 2008, the “Choose To Change” radio show was born. On May 7, it reached a milestone, celebrating its 15th anniversary. Today, it is a cooperative effort between Hoeffner and Carrie Halliburton (co-host/producer), who has worked with a high school humanities department in Ann Arbor, Mich. Tony Pratscher is on board as a DJ.

The goal of the weekly broadcast, airing at 6 p.m. EDT Wednesdays through Radio Harbor Country (WRHC-FM), is empowering song lyrics, music that boosts self-esteem while combatting issues such as bullying, racism, suicide, school shootings and hate. Teens are invited onto the show where, after each song, the discussion zeroes in on the lyrics, and how they can inspire listeners.

The first song Hoeffner played? Carole King’s “Beautiful.” Browse through the “Choose To Change” page within the Hey U.G.L.Y. website ([tinyurl.com/3jd5e29p](http://tinyurl.com/3jd5e29p)), and you’ll see the lyrics posted to songs like Lauren Alaina’s “Road Less Traveled,” Ashley McBryde’s “Girl Goin’ Nowhere,” Diggy Simmons’ “Great Expectations,” Imagine Dragons’ “Believer” and “This is Me” from the Oscar-nominated film “The Greatest Showman” (2017).

“It’s all about seeking out music that makes kids and teens feel safe,” Hoeffner said. “When you feel good, you’re not going to hurt anybody.”

The experience of the show, especially in discussing positive lyrics, has a lasting impact on youth.

“I remember being at a grocery store in Michi-

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Radio Show

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Promotional material for “Choose To Change” showcases the various people who have appeared on the radio show.

gan City,” Hoeffner said, “and some of the students who are on the radio show came up to me and said when they hear a certain song, they say it’s good for ‘Choose To Change.’”

Hoeffner loves watching youth enter the studio before recording a show, and the change in their overall demeanor when they leave.

“The students come in, and they’re scared to death,” she said. “But after one show, they don’t want to leave, because it’s like sitting around and having a conversation. It’s like friends sitting around talking about important subject matters.”

Another “Choose To Change” effort is the ongoing process of compiling the Top 30 songs that deal with

ending racism, bullying and suicide prevention. Relationship breakup songs is another category. Whatever the category, the mission, as always, is to identify music with the right positive message.

Hoeffner says she has two dreams for schools to embody the “Choose To Change” spirit. One is to see more schools encourage students to share their opinions, particularly through music. Another is for school choral departments to present concerts solely of positive, uplifting music. The effect?

“Not only do you have kids being fed this beautiful message,” Hoeffner said, “but also the parents.”

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## “Lucky Hank” Takes a Darkly Comic Look at a Man in Crisis

by Andrew Tallackson



Hank (Bob Odenkirk) and his wife, Lilly (Mireille Enos) can't get on the same page in their marriage.

Bob Odenkirk plays a sad-sack loser better than anyone else.

As Saul Goodman, the proud-as-punch ambulance chaser of “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul,” sleaze oozed from every fiber of his being. In “Nobody” — honestly, my favorite film of 2021 — he played a former assassin emasculated by domesticity. Even in Steven Spielberg’s “The Post” (2017), he hilariously played journalist Ben Bagdikian as a man who can’t believe his own act of ballsy courage.

He’s never played a guy like Hank Devereaux Jr., though. To say he’s in a funk does not scratch the surface. He’s completely given up, and the comedic irony of this AMC series, based on Richard Russo’s 1997 novel “Straight Man,” is that he is surrounded by people who force him deeper into his shell.

The result is Odenkirk’s most textured performance. Yes, the name Saul Goodman likely will end up on his tombstone, but “Lucky Hank” is a clever, insightful look at the sketchy line between mid-life crisis and full-blown collapse.

By appearance, Hank is a blank slate. Reacting with little to no emotion. But through voiceover narration, we enter Hank’s head, and it’s a cynical, bitter mess. He is a professor at a middling Pennsylvania college and chair of the school’s English

department. With only one published book to his credit, he lives in the shadow of a more successful novelist father. He’s also so disconnected from everyone, his only act of subversion is to honestly critique a student’s writing as inept. An act, by the way, that gets published in the campus newspaper and prompts the student to seek a public apology.

It is through Hank that we are introduced to the great comic setting of “Lucky Hank”: the English department filled with eccentrics who are like buzzards circling a festering carcass. They hold themselves high, but to Hank, they are symbols of rampant mediocrity. You could spend an entire series in this setting, alone. These folk are hilariously out for blood. Like Gracie DuBois (Suzanne Cryer), who fancies herself a published poet. And the outrageously bitter Paul Roarke (Cedric Yarbrough), who wants answers from Hank about his job’s future... and can’t get them. He has the best line of the entire series, a “To Kill a Mockingbird” reference after Hank asks him to carry furniture up to his house. My favorite is Shannon DeVido in a game-changing depiction of people with disabilities. Her professor Emma Wheeler is in a wheelchair, but that’s not how the show sees her. In fact, not one single character mentions the wheelchair. Instead, Emma is

all snark: a woman who says the first thing that comes to mind, even if it flips social cues the bird. I laughed more from her character than anyone else in “Lucky Hank.”

The heart of the show is Hank’s relationship with his wife, Lilly, a vice principal experiencing her own share of work problems. She’s played by Mireille Enos in another reminder of why she is one of my favorite actresses. Not familiar with her? She made a name for herself as the work-driven police officer in AMC’s “The Killing,” then has popped up in things like “World War Z,” as Brad Pitt’s wife, and the Prime series “Good Omens,” playing an off-kilter contract killer. Here, as with every performance, you never catch her acting. There is not one false note. What makes her work in “Lucky Hank” so exciting is that Lilly has been with her husband long enough that she’s got his number. Every knowing smile suggests she’s onto Hank. In effect, she’s playing the smartest person in the room.

In Odenkirk, we get a sly performance. A man who realizes he’s at an age where a comeback, a chance at greatness, is no longer on the table. He realizes he’s a failure, but is terrified that such failure is the period to the end of the sentence that is his life.

So what can break this rudderless cycle for Hank? The show’s last episode involves forced staffing cuts and Lilly’s acceptance of a loftier post in New York. These two factors suggest it’s time for Hank to “get off the pot,” if you will. Decide what kind of man he wants to be.



The backstabbing staff in Hank’s English department provides some of the biggest laughs.

The final episode marks a crossroads for Hank and Lilly. They may, or may not, be on the same page. What might seem like a catharsis could be fuel for more fire. Thing is, the series just wrapped its first season, with no word yet if AMC has renewed it. It’d be a shame if this is it. The journey for Hank and Lilly is nowhere near finished. I, for one, am curious to see how things turn out.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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## LaPorte County Public Library

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

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

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

Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.

*The following programs are planned:*

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 19, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Courtney Summers (adults 19+) from 1-2 p.m. Saturday, May 20.** Summers is a *New York Times* bestselling YA author. Registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/26427>
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, May 22 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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.*



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### Award-Winning Author Visits MCHS

Paul Volponi, author of 15 popular books for young adults, visited Michigan City High School on April 21, meeting with several groups of students in the school library to discuss his novels and lead them in writing workshops.

During one session with Monica Handley's AP English Composition students, Volponi shared that while he was a good student in school, he was not a reader.

"I used to pretend to read books," he said, admitting he would participate in class discussions by rephrasing things others were saying. "I was wrong. I never came up with any solid ideas of my own."

Then, a teacher gave him a copy of a book based on the first James Bond movie: a movie he loved.

"That was my first book," he said. "I am so grateful to that teacher."

Volponi went on to become a successful writer, teacher and journalist living in New York City. From 1992-1998, he taught incarcerated teens on Rikers Island to read and write. That experience formed the basis of his ALA Award-winning novels Rikers High and Black and White. From 1999-2005, he taught teens in drug-treatment programs, inspiring his ALA Award-winning novel Rooftop.

During the MCHS workshop, Volponi urged stu-

dents to write about what they know and feel passionate about. He said his first book, Black and White, was rejected by one publisher because his protagonist was black, yet he is a white author.

"People are going to tell you what you can do and what you can't," he said. "Don't listen to them. Do what you want."

Volponi gave writing prompts based on a character named Jessup, who was wrongly accused of beating a corrections officer at a juvenile facility.

"Pick up Jessup's story...tell me what happens next," he said. "Write from any perspective - Jessup's, his mom, the guard, other students. Take it into the past or the future. Give him superpowers. There are no limits. What will you do with Jessup?"

After students wrote several sentences, Volponi encouraged several to read their passages aloud, offering tips and critiques.

"This is how you sharpen your skills," he said. "I am so impressed with the creativity here."

Volponi visits classes across the U.S., either in-person or via video conferencing, to discuss the novels and encourage students who wish to pursue their own writing. According to MCAS Library

Media Specialist Gwen Hudson, who arranged his visit, several of his books are available at MCHS and middle-school libraries.



Author Paul Volponi is photographed during his visit to Michigan City High School.

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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 library is changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will close while work is done.

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Mario Kart Tournament (ages 10-17) from 3-5 p.m. Friday, May 19.** Winners receive prizes. No registration is needed.
- **Student Poetry Showcase at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 20.** The Center for Creative Solutions will host its free seventh annual Student Juried Showcase of Poetry. Young poets will read their award-winning works. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 22.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues its 25th season. The focus is "Climate Migration." Reading material is available at the circulation

desk. Call 873-3049 for more details.

- **Angels Among Us from 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, May 23.** Ange Benz leads the program.
- **Stomp Rockets (kids and teens) from 10-11:30 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, May 25.** Make a paper rocket and watch it soar from a launch pad made with PVC pipe and two-liter plastic bottle. Take an empty two-liter plastic bottle for launch; however, supplies will be available.
- **Creative Tech Activities from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May.** 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.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in May.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **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. □

Volunteer genealogists can answer questions from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays (Pat Harris) and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month (Colleen Miltenberger).

*(Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.)*

## Harbor Country Film Group

Chicago director Kyle Leland Cullerton will present his film "Hammersmith" during the next Harbor Country Film Group at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, May 22, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

"Hammersmith" follows behind-the-scenes chaos of fictional filmmaker Bayou Straights as he directs, stars and does his own stunts for his action-packed film franchise. As the production spins out of control, the cast and crew try to bring Bayou's narcissism and delusions back to reality.

Cullerton's dark comedy evolved from a contest-winning short selected to screen at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018. Raised in Chicago, he spent summers in Harbor Country.

The screening is free, with popcorn served.

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SU June 4 • 5-7p  
St. James Band



TU June 6 • 5-7p  
Shane Lindeman



TU June 13 • 5-7p  
Steve & Mary

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Kasim Whiting

TU June 20 • 5-7p  
Frank Ruvoli

SU June 25 • 5-7p  
Kyla Web of "Skirt"

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## Mish-Mash Market

Mish-Mash Market, a two-day estate-level sale, complete with food trucks, tours, a cash bar and coffee, is Friday-Saturday, May 19-20, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

The first day, "Hidden Treasures," is from 4-8 p.m. EDT Friday, May 19, at a suggested \$5 donation. Guests have first access, and the opportunity to purchase large items, such as studio cabinets, tables, chairs and historic items. The Brick House's food truck and a cash bar are available. The sale is held not just at KAC, but also at the Yellow House Administration Building, 720 State St. The suggested donation includes one free drink.

The second day, "Free" For All, is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 20. The open-air market is on the Oval Lawn. Free Forté coffee will be available. Offerings move indoors if the weather is poor.

All funds raised support a capital campaign dedicated to studio updates. Visit [www.krasl.org/mish-mash-market](http://www.krasl.org/mish-mash-market) for more details. Call (269) 983-0271 or visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for more information.

## National Veterans Awareness Ride

The National Veterans Awareness Ride will include a stop in Michigan City on Tuesday, May 23.

NVAR's goal is to remember and honor past and current veterans, as well as Prisoners of War or those Missing in Action, and those Killed in Action.

The ride stops in Michigan City at about 4 p.m. May 23 for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Danny Bruce Memorial in Washington Park. St. Joseph Young Men's Society, 2001 Franklin St., will provide a welcome dinner that is open to the public.

On Wednesday, May 24, NVAR will leave Michigan City from the John Franklin Miller Post 37, 756 E U.S. 20. The breakfast is at 6 a.m., with the ceremony at 7 a.m. The ride leaves at 8 a.m. Anyone wanting to join the ride to the state veterans home in West Lafayette, Ind., is welcome.

## Coast Guard Station Open House

To promote National Safe Boating Week (May 20-26), Michigan City's U.S. Coast Guard Station, 10 On the Lake, will host open-house activities from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, May 22-26.

Events include tours of the station and USCG vessels, drive up boating safety inspections in front of the station, boater safety discussions and other activities. Active, reserve and auxiliary members will be involved. Anyone who would like a boat inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or station should call (219) 879-8371.

Visit [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) for additional information.

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### Historical Society Museum



A display with the Camp To-Pe-Ne-Bee Exhibit.

- **Camp To-Pe-Ne-Bee Exhibit.** The exhibit highlights the Michigan City Boy Scout camp, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this month. Learn about its history, and write down memories of the camp.
- **Ralph Fletcher Seymour Exhibit.** The Gallery Wall spotlights LaPorte High School graduate Ralph Seymour, who became a famous artist in Chicago at the turn of the 20th century. His works are in permanent collections of the Sorbonne in Paris, The Art Institute of Chicago and the National Arts Club in Washington, D.C.
- **To celebrate the Tucker's 75th anniversary,** visitors to LaPorte County Historical Society Museum can enter a raffle for a free 1/18 scale model Tucker through July 22. The winner will be announced at the 15th Annual Old Car Show.



*The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave., La Porte. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.*



Works in the Ralph Fletcher Seymour Exhibit.

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### Theater for Young Thespians

The six-session "Theater for Young Thespians" (ages 7-14) returns from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays, June 3-July 8, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The instructor is Lyn Knight. Students learn fundamental techniques and practices such as voice inflection, stage vocabulary and tools to engage an audience. They also work in groups and independently to perform several scripted works and choreographed routines.

The cost is \$95, or \$85 for LCA members. Visit [tinyurl.com/3x97jrkh](http://tinyurl.com/3x97jrkh) for details or reservations.

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

May 4, 2023

**CINDY LEVY: HOLE IN HOLE No. 5**

**A Flight Low Net**

- First — Sue Luegers.
- Second — Cindy Levy.
- Third — Jeannie Muldowney.

**B Flight Low Net**

- First — Jean Guerin.
- Second (tied) — Pat Bailey, Barb Hall.
- Low Putts (Tied) — Pat Bailey, Barb Hall.

**C Flight Low Net**

- First — Jude Stahmer.
- Second — Kathie Mole.
- Third — Ginny Hogan.
- Low Putts — Kathi Mole.

**D Flight Low Net**

- First — Jeanne St. Peter.
- Second — Alison Kolb.
- Third — Carrie Nolan.
- Low Putts (tied) — Sally McCarthy, Jeanne St. Peter.
- Birdie — Sally McCarthy, No. 2.

### Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

North Course, "Early Birdies,"  
May 8, 2023



**Event: Closest to the Pin Drive,  
Hole 6**

**A Flight**

- Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc.
- Low Net: Phyllis Roach.
- Low Putts: Linda Hirsch, Jane Shuger.

**B Flight**

- Low Gross: Paula Hutchinson.
- Low Net: Paula Hutchinson.
- Low Putts: Linda Wabshall.

**C Flight**

- Low Gross: Kathy Nelson.
- Low Net: Kathy Nelson.
- Low Putts: Sandra Provan, Mary Schlunz.

**D Flight**

- Low Gross: Tina Kintzele.
- Low Net: Tina Kintzele.
- Low Putts: Ann Batagianis, Pam Betcher,  
Cindee Schroll.

**Event:** Barb Rumbuc.

**Chip-Ins:** Linda Hirsch: No. 9; Linda Wabshall:  
No. 7; Ann Batagianis: No. 2

**Birdies:** Ann Batagianis: No. 2

### Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 18, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

### Chesterton Art Center



Doris Myers is pictured with her work, "Nier Barn Remembered."

Artists 18 and older are invited to register for the 71st Annual Art Show, held at Chesterton Art Center, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday, June 1.

A reception and awards ceremony is from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, June 8. Anyone wanting more information on show rules can contact co-chairs Deb Stipanovich at (219) 926-3840 or Jenny Gaff or (219) 926-4575 and leave name and phone number. Those interested also can call the center.

Doris Myers, who is 101, is the featured artist for the 2023 show catalog cover and posters with her painting, "Nier Barn Remembered," which she gave to CWC to raise money for the community. Raffle tickets are available through the CWC and art center.

*Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org) for more details.*

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### In the Area

**May 18** — Yoga in the Gardens with April Fallon, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

**May 19** — Mario Kart Tournament (ages 10-17), 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 20** — Spring Bazaar & Bake Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave. RSVP by May 18 to (219) 207-6869.

**May 20** — Student Poetry Showcase, 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 20** — Virtual Author Talk with Courtney Summers (adults 19+), 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/26427>

**May 22** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 22** — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 22-26** — Open-house activities (National Safe Boating Week), 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Michigan City's U.S. Coast Guard Station, 10 On the Lake. Info: [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)

**May 23** — Angels Among Us, 2-3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**May 23** — "What to do if You're Concerned a Family Member May Have Dementia" (speaker: Dr. Lisa Riemenschneider), 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.

**May 24** — National Veterans Awareness Ride, 4 p.m.(ish), Danny Bruce Memorial, Washington Park. Dinner open to public afterward at St. Joseph Young Men's Society, 2001 Franklin St.

**Through May** — Exhibits (Camp To-Pe-Ne-Bee, Ralph Fletcher Seymour), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. 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.

**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 May** — Creative Tech Activities, 3:30-5 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](http://www.emichigancity.com)

### In the Region

**May 18-21** — "Much Ado About Nothing," 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Ghostlight Theatre, 101 Hinkley St., Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets: \$12-\$28. Reservations/info: [www.GhostLightBH.com](http://www.GhostLightBH.com).

**May 19** — The Region of Three Oaks Museum expansion groundbreaking, noon EDT, the museum, 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks, Mich.

**May 19** — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**May 19** — Toronzo Cannon & Joanna Connor Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**May 19-20** — Mish-Mash Market, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours/costs: (269) 983-0271, [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**May 19-21** — "Steel Magnolias," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Indiana 120. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. May 19-20, 3 p.m. May 21. Tickets: seniors (62+)/\$23, adults/\$25, students/\$19. Info: [www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/hoppy](http://www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/hoppy), (574) 848-4116.

**May 20** — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Mount Tabor Trails. Details: [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**May 20** — River Valley Garden Club plant sale, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway. Info: (269) 426-3513, [www.rivervalleygardenclub.org](http://www.rivervalleygardenclub.org), [evpalulis@yahoo.com](mailto:evpalulis@yahoo.com)

**May 20** — Kray Van Kirk: A Live Album Recording Concert, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**May 22** — Harbor Country Film Group, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

**May 24** — Volunteer open house, 4-6 p.m. EDT, Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Reservations: smccunebell@historymuseumSB.org or (574) 235-9664, mdrevet@studebakermuseum.org or (574) 235-9002.

**Through May 18** — Stephanie Samaitis Carnell exhibit, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**Through May 19** — 29th Annual Juried Arts Exhibition, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: www.artbarnschool.org, (219) 462-9009.

**Through May 29** — “Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11 - adults, \$9.50 - seniors 60+, \$7 - youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, www.studebakermuseum.org

**Through May 30** — Exhibits, Matthew Berg’s “Lake Mill Club”/Abbie Parmele’s “An Invitation—Energy is Everything,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Reception: noon-2 p.m. May 20. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

**Through June 2** — “So Far: Nancy Hejna Artworks in Exhibit,” Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts, 540 S. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Artist talk/reading/book signing: 2-4 p.m. May 21. Info: (219) 885-9114.

**Through June 4** — Andy Sweet’s “South Beach,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org/andy-sweets-south-beach

**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 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

**Mondays** — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

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

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

**Sundays in May** — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9 a.m.-noon, Mineral Springs Road between

U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Sundays in May** — 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

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

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

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing*: “The Maltese Falcon.” Time: 7 p.m. May 18. *Also*: “Book Club: The Next Chapter.” Rated PG-13. Times: 4 p.m. May 19, 7 p.m. May 20, 4 p.m. May 21. *Also*: “BlackBerry.” Rated R. Times: 7 p.m. May 19, 4 p.m. May 20, 7 p.m. May 20. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

## Golden Age Postcards Exhibit

The new exhibit “Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age” runs through October at Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso.

Displayed in the Montague/Urschel Gallery, the collection features early 20th century postcards amassed by local residents, examining the history of the popular phenomenon that revolutionized personal communication.

Museum hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, with free admission. Visit www.pocomuse.org or @pocomuse on social media for more details.

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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**On May 18, 1836**, the Sloop Clarisa, the first large ship built in Chicago, was launched.

**On May 18, 1852**, Massachusetts became the first state to make school attendance mandatory for children between ages 8 and 14.

**On May 18, 1860**, at its Chicago convention, the Republican party nominated Abraham Lincoln as its presidential candidate.

**On May 18, 1910**, Halley's comet disappeared from earthly view as it moved across the face of the sun.

**On May 18, 1953**, American Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to travel faster than the speed of sound as she piloted a North American F-86 Canadair over Rogers Dry Lake, Calif.

**On May 19, 1536**, England's Queen Anne Boleyn, second of King Henry VIII's many wives and mother of Queen Elizabeth I, was beheaded after being convicted of the crime of adultery.

**On May 19, 1780**, in the early afternoon, much of New England, as well as parts of Canada, were enveloped in a sudden inexplicable darkness. What triggered this event has never been determined.

**On May 19, 1906**, the Federated Boys' Clubs, forerunner of the Boys' Clubs of America, was organized.

**On May 19, 1930**, playwright Lorraine Hansberry ("A Raisin in the Sun") was born in Chicago.

**On May 19, 1943**, in an address to the U.S. Congress, Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged full British support in the war against Japan.

**On May 20, 1830**, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad published the first railway timetable.

**On May 20, 1852**, the first Illinois Central train ran from Randolph Street to the depot at 12th Street and Roosevelt Road.

**On May 20, 1862**, President Lincoln signed the "Homestead Act," opening up millions of acres of western land to settlement.

**On May 20, 1868**, the Republican National Convention opened in Chicago's Crosby Opera House.

**On May 20, 1932**, Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland for Ireland, becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

**On May 21, 1832**, the Democratic party held its first national convention (in Baltimore), nominating President Andrew Jackson for a second term.

**On May 21, 1852**, the first train on the Michigan Central Railroad arrived in Chicago.

**On May 21, 1881**, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, also serving as its first president.

**On May 21, 1927**, Charles Lindberg landed his plane (The Spirit of St. Louis) outside Paris, completing the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He had been in the air for 33 1/2 hours, and covered 3,600 miles.

**On May 21, 1959**, the musical "Gypsy" opened on Broadway.

**On May 22, 1761**, the first life insurance policy in the United States was issued in Philadelphia.

**On May 22, 1807**, former Vice President Aaron Burr was ordered to stand trial for treason. He later was acquitted.

**On May 22, 1819**, the Savannah, the first steam propelled vessel to cross the Atlantic, departed from Savannah, Ga.

**On May 22, 1868**, the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in cash, gold and bonds in the Great Train Robbery near Seymour, Ind.

**On May 22, 1924**, the body of 13-year-old Bobby Franks was found in a ditch near Chicago. Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, University of Chicago students, were later arrested and convicted of the "thrill" murder.

**On May 23, 1430**, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to England.

**On May 23, 1785**, Benjamin Franklin mentioned in a letter he invented bifocals.

**On May 23, 1903**, Wisconsin became the first state to adopt a direct primary.

**On May 23, 1911**, President William Howard Taft dedicated the New York Public Library.

**On May 23, 1960**, Israel announced former Nazi Adolf Eichmann had been captured in Argentina.

**On May 23, 1984**, U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koop said "very solid evidence showed lung disease could result from nonsmokers' exposure to cigarette smoke."

**On May 24, 1830**, the first U.S. passenger railroad service, a 13-mile journey between Baltimore and Elliott's Mills, Md., began.

**On May 24, 1844**, Samuel Morse transmitted the first public message by telegraph, a short statement sent from Washington to Baltimore.

**On May 24, 1883**, the Brooklyn Bridge, a masterpiece of engineering linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, opened.

**On May 24, 1935**, the National League's Cincinnati Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies in the major league's first night baseball game.

**On May 24, 1958**, United Press International was formed through a merger of the United Press and International News Service.

**On May 24, 1962**, Scott Carpenter became the second U.S. astronaut launched into orbit.

**On May 24, 1976**, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde service to Washington.

**On May 24, 1979**, an agreement with the Machinists Union ended a 55-day strike against United Airlines.

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**The Trackers** by Charles Frazier (hardcover \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 320 pages.)

*“The caption on the front page of the Dawes Journal read, After Cheyenne trip, prominent rancher John Long and wife greet WPA painter.”*

Throughout the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration put people to work on public projects to give them jobs. In this case, it was actually the Section of Fine Arts idea to send artists to post offices around the country to paint murals in the lobbies, memorializing something in the city’s past history. **Fact:** some 1,400 murals were painted in more than 1,300 U.S. cities.

Frazier’s novel imagines a Virginia artist, Valentine Welch, who is sent to Dawes, Wyo., to paint such a mural.

A local well-to-do rancher and his wife, John and Eve Long, agree to house Valentine for the duration of his job. He’s a patron of the arts, but turns out, it’s not just public pride that leads John to host the artist. No, indeed. His ambition includes becoming the next senator from Wyoming.

His beautiful wife has a long and not so patrician background. She couldn’t care less if her husband becomes a senator. As a teen, she left home and rode the rails looking for work. She eventually got a job as a singer, joining a traveling cowboy band. Eve was finally happy with her life until she met John. So why did she agree to marry him? Good question. One maybe even she can’t answer.

She may, or may not, still be married to a guy she met on the road. Was the marriage legal? Did she ever file for divorce? A flash flood at their river camp washed him away, and Eve never found out if he was dead or alive.

The Long ranch is many acres of prime cattle and an old cowhand, Faro, is in charge of the cowboys, keeping them in line. He’s been associated with John for many years. The three of them make an interesting group — John evidently is in love with Eve, Faro might be in love with Eve and Eve doesn’t know what she wants.

Valentine isn’t sure about Eve, either. They spend time together, but nothing but conversation comes between them — so far.

Then, one day, total surprise to all, Eve disappears. The only thing she takes besides one suitcase is a small Renoir painting that was John’s favorite. Why would she take off now, and where would she go. The men think it’s because John found out about the missing boyfriend/husband, that he was pushing her to find him and get a proper divorce...or he could kiss his chances of being a senator goodbye.

John persuades Valentine to look for her, complete with a hefty wallet to cover his expenses. His

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



curiosity overcomes any common sense, and he agrees to do so.

Valentine’s travels take him from Wyoming to Washington state, Oregon, California and back across the country to Florida, where he finds the people living way back in the swamps are a breed unto themselves. His impression of Florida — “a state equivalent to a hot towel from somebody else’s bath flung sopping across your face.”

Valentine laments he hasn’t been threatened so many times in his life, but he does meet up with the family of Eve’s past (maybe) husband. I can’t even begin to describe them: They live in a world all their own.

While Frazier has Valentine talking about painting murals — techniques and such — most of the book follows him following Eve, both of whom are being followed by Faro and the ex-husband — yes, he does show up.

It’s almost a black comedy, except that no one (well, maybe one, we’re not sure) gets killed, but Valentine does take a beating or two.

Frazier takes this time to have Valentine philosophize a lot about the political atmosphere of 1937, as well as the physical landscape he finds himself traveling in. His description of being on a commercial plane is almost comical, with metal bowls under the seats for throwing up purposes.

Also, Frazier writes with no quotation marks. It makes cleaner pages that seem to free up the reading. And, his prose is not 2023, it’s 1937.

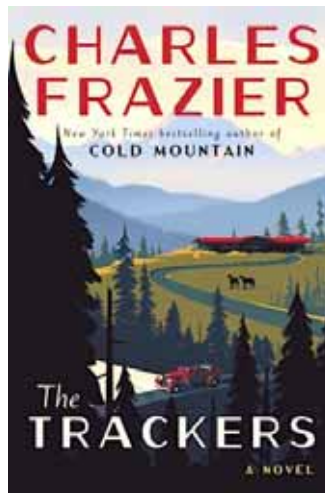
There’s lots to consider here with the Longs, Faro and Valentine on one side, and America deep in the throes of the Great Depression on the other. They all come together to cook up a hearty stew of Americana.

When Eve tries to explain to Valentine how her marriage with John is a matter of negotiation, he doesn’t understand, so she tells him — “Val, everything’s doing business. Every waking minute is a deal. If you don’t see that, you’re a lost soul.”

This is Frazier’s fifth book. His *Cold Mountain* won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1997 and was made into an Oscar-winning movie starring Nicole Kidman, Jude Law and Renee Zellweger.

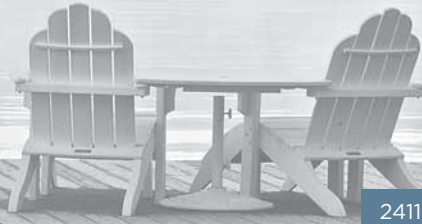
*The final word:* There is little rough language; pretty amazing given the places and era the book depicts. Love it or leave it — there’s no room for in-between.

Till next time, happy reading!



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