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Bowling for Fun

by Kim Nowatzke

It may be called Bowling For Fun, but that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all the benefits this program has for people with intellectual disabilities.

What appears simply as a few games of bowling each week at City Lanes, 1901 S. Woodland Ave., is so much more to those involved. That includes Cheryl Adney, 72, and Andie Wolfensohn, 71, who have been friends for more than three decades and volunteer as Bowling For Fun "coaches."

The two met and bonded through their own family members with intellectual disabilities. Adney and her husband, Daniel, were caretakers for Cheryl's sister, Carmen Donahue, who lived with them before she passed away five years ago. While benefitting from services for people with disabilities at Michiana Resources (now Paladin Inc.), 4315 E. Michigan Blvd., Donahue became involved with Special Olympics, which includes bowling as one of its events.

Wolfensohn and her husband, Steve, also became involved with Special Olympics through their daughter, Stacey, now 46, who has an intellectual disability. Andie Wolfensohn learned how to bowl as a child and previously bowled recreationally, so it was a natural fit for Stacey to get involved.

In the past, the bowling component of Special Olympics was held at the former Suburban Lanes on Michigan Boulevard near Johnson Road before moving to City Lanes. After the COVID-19 pandemic,



Continued on Page 2

Jeff Skwiat shows off his excitement after his turn to bowl. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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Bowling for Fun

Continued from Page 1

bowlers faced a different day, time and location in LaPorte. That was when Adney and Wolfensohn decided to organize Bowling For Fun.

“Change is hard anyway for our bowlers,” Wolfensohn explained. “We felt like we needed to do something. So, we came up with Bowling For Fun. Paladin, too, wanted something for the individuals they serve.”

About 20 to 25 adult bowlers from the Michigan City, LaPorte and New Buffalo areas meet Wednesday afternoons at City Lanes for Bowling For Fun.

“It’s my all-time favorite league,” said Cheryl Hale, a City Lanes employee who previously worked at Rose Bowl Lanes before it closed. She has racked up 48 years in her positions.

“They have fun. They have a good time even if they don’t get a strike,” Hale said of the Bowling For

Fun participants. “They do not show tempers down here. You’re around friends – they meet friends. They are God’s angels – that’s what they are.”

Stacey Wolfensohn, who is employed at Al’s Karwick, took a few moments out of her bowling time to speak about Bowling For Fun.

“It’s an awesome program, and I just enjoy being around everybody and enjoying ourselves,” she said. “That’s an awesome thing. You make friends, too. It’s fun. It’s a joy.”

Andie Wolfensohn admitted that sometimes, the bowlers would rather socialize than actually bowl.

“A key component is socialization,” she said. “Sometimes, we tweak the lanes so they can be with different bowlers and make new friends. That’s important to us.”

Bowling For Fun bowler Eric Moelker said, “I always try to get better each time. I always like it because there’s someone I know.”



Photographed during a Bowling For Fun event are (from left) Coach Andie Wolfensohn, Cheryl Hale of City Lanes and Coach Cheryl Adney.
Photo by Kim Nowatzke



Bowlers Eric Fleming and Chris Rader are all smiles at City Lanes as they participate in Bowling For Fun. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

It's this reason – and more – why Carol Rowley, brings her 27-year-old-son Kevin, who has an intellectual disability, to Bowling For Fun.

“It’s a place where our kids can socialize and be with friends,” she explained. “People that started out as acquaintances have become friends. It’s low-key, not competitive, friendly – it’s a good thing. Everybody can do it. It’s fun and cheap. It’s close for most people.”

She also appreciates that Bowling For Fun is an activity Kevin can do independently.

“It can just be his thing,” she added.

Another bowler is Chris Rader, who was eager to be interviewed and share his excitement.

“I love it because it’s fun,” he said. “I have fun and hang out with friends. I like to celebrate birthdays here.”

Continued on Page 4



Stacey Wolfinsohn and Kevin Rowley are two participants in Bowling For Fun. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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 A photograph showing a collection of modern side tables in a living room setting. There are three tables: a round white top table with a black base, a square black top table with a black base, and a square black top table with a black base. A bowl and a small dish are on the round table.

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Bowling for Fun Continued from Page 3

Hale said the City Lanes owner, Jane Johnston, often brings treats and other goodies for Bowling For Fun participants. The coaches also distribute special medals as Christmas gifts for bowlers.

Another active Bowling For Fun participant is Eric Fleming. In terms of Special Olympics, he still participates in the bowling component, as well as track and field.

"It's really just a fun thing to do and worthwhile," he shared. "I've been bowling for a long time. It's a way to get your stress and anger out. It's an education. Our coaches teach us a lot of discipline, like not swearing and cussing, getting along with the other bowlers, not fighting – stuff like that."

Fleming is keenly aware of the commitment to the program made by Coach Cheryl and Coach Andie, and the impact it has on bowlers.

"I love them," he continued. "They are the reason that I'm bowling. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be bowling."

Tammy Brown told *The Beacher* participants choose Bowling For Fun over other activities because of the coaches. Her 35-year-old daughter, Stephanie Brown, 57-year-old sister, Robin Kloss, and 75-year-old aunt, Barbara

Brown, are all bowlers in the program.

Help at Home Caregiver Hope Santos describes the coaches as "great people," having known Wolfinsohn for 20 years and Adney for 17.

"I love this bowling alley," she said. "It's clean. The people are great. All the clients love it. They love interacting with each other."

One mother whose 42-year-old son participates in Bowling For Fun shared her appreciation for the program.

"It's wonderful that it is a relaxed atmosphere and it's just fun bowling," she said. "It's very generous of the dear ladies who are allowing this to take place. It's great for socializing and trying to improve his game. He enjoys it immensely."

The coaches' love, dedication and service to the community of individuals with intellectual disabilities is evident. Adney recalled how she cooked hot dogs, held pizza parties and tended flower beds, with "one thing leading to another," at Michiana Resources. When it was necessary for her sister, who developed Parkinson's disease, to move into a nursing home, Adney volunteered there for 10 years, helping out with activities such as crafts. She still visits the residents there.

"I love it," she said. "I really do."



Eric Fleming strikes a playful pose as he bowls during Bowling For Fun. Photo by Kim Nowatzke



Eric Moelker shows off his skills during Bowling For Fun at City Lanes. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

For many years, Wolfensohn served on the Michigan Resources board of directors and currently does the same with Paladin.

With Bowling For Fun, one bowler enjoys making hats, dolls, pumpkins and other gifts out of yarn and presenting them to Hale, Adney and Wolfensohn.

That's not the only rewards they receive, though, for their efforts.

"Just being around them" and "all the hugs" are a few Adney mentions.

"That is better than anything else," Wolfensohn agreed. "...Just the joy of listening to their giggling and conversations, high-fiving each other. We're having a good time. That's all that matters."

Adney added, "Why wouldn't you love it?"



Contact Andie Wolfensohn at (219) 871-0642 or (219) 561-1337 for more information on Bowling For Fun.



Eric Moelker gets ready to bowl at City Lanes during Bowling For Fun. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

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Jewish Mini Film Festival

A documentary about an iconic Middle Eastern food and a drama about the occupation of France during World War II highlight this year's Jewish Mini Film Festival.

The event, held from 1-4:45 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., is sponsored by the library and Blossom and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple.

The two films are:

- "Life and Hummus" (documentary, Not Rated) follows a Jewish-American filmmaker traveling through Israel and Palestine to find "the world's best" hummus. His search also introduces him to Arabic and Israeli people with a common love for the cuisine. Upon entering the festival, attendees can try hummus (chickpea spread) and *baba ganoush* (roasted eggplant spread) with pita bread.

- "Farewell Mr. Haffmann" (2021, Rated R). Set in occupied France during World War II, Parisian jeweler Joseph Haffmann plans to flee after his family does, but his plans are thwarted. He must seek his assistant's pro-



tection, which turns out to be a risky proposition. The drama won 18 international film awards. (Coffee cake will be served at the festival.)

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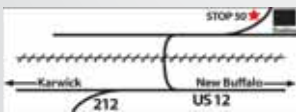
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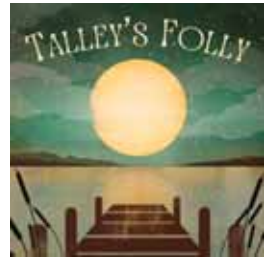
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Beverly Shores Depot

Two exhibits — “Whimsical Warhol: Pop Portraits by Exceptional Learners of Chesterton High School” and “How the Depot was Saved and How it Survives Today” — are on display at The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

“Whimsical Warhol” runs April 5-21, with an opening reception with light refreshments from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 5.

CHS’ Applied Skills program serves students ages 15-22 with special needs in the Duneland community. They learn skills ranging from self-care to workplace training. The Applied Arts class, taught by CHS Art Teacher Colin May, offers students an opportunity to express themselves and get messy. The exhibit highlights the class’ Warhol exploration.

“How the Depot was Saved” runs April 5-28. The depot, built in 1929, fell into disrepair decades later and by 1988 had boarded-up windows, a broken neon sign, overgrown grass and cracked sidewalks. Longtime Beverly Shores resident Carol Ruzic and other townspeople launched a fundraiser to restore the depot and turn it into a museum (the art gallery and gift shop came later).

Hours for the gallery, open April-October, are 1-4 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 30 and noon-4 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. Visit www.bsdepot.org for details.

Artist Talk

Exhibiting artists Kelly Daisy, Shirley Guay and Rosalie Koldan will discuss their exhibits, “Collective Perception” and “Collaboration,” during an artist talk at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Coinciding with Women’s History Month, “Collaboration” features Guay and Koldan. Guay creates abstract realism, combining patterns, colors and textures with symbolic images of Black American life. Koldan creates assemblage art influenced by her research into various cultures, and political, social and environmental issues.

Daisy’s work in “Collective Perception” explores society’s perception of women and the perceptions they have of themselves through abstract expressionism.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org/events for additional information.

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Harbor Country Film Group

Award-winning Chicago film director Matthew Brdlik will introduce, screen and discuss six of his independently produced short films at the next Harbor Country Film Group.

The program is at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 6, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. One film scheduled is "Dissidence," which screened at 13 festivals internationally, won two awards and was nominated for five others. Film Group leader Eve Moran calls the program "a chance to experience the originality of independent cinema," according to a press release.



Brdlik

Brdlik studied at DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts and recently completed a term as artist-in-residence at The Cliff Dwellers.

Friends of the New Buffalo Library sponsors the free program. Free popcorn is served.

South Shore: Long-Term Busing Done

South Shore Line officials announced temporary busing between Gary Metro Center and Dune Park stations ends April 9.

The busing substitution started in February 2022 to accommodate the Double Track NWI Project. Now, full revenue train service returns to all stations. Train service will operate using the schedule implemented last October. All previously relocated station pick-up areas will be returned to their permanent locations, including the newly built Portage/Ogden Dunes and Miller stations.

Updates regarding the train schedule and addition of new trains are forthcoming.

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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Family Movie: "Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken" at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 4.** The film is Rated PG.
- **Sun and Moon Painting Party for Kids & Families from 3-4 p.m. Friday, April 5.** Celebrate the upcoming eclipse with space-themed art. All supplies are provided, including canvases, paintable figures and rainbow scratch cards. Available supplies are on a first-come, first-served basis. Dress to get messy.
- **Jewish Mini Film Festival: "Love & Hummus" and "Farewell, Mr. Haffmann" from 1-4:45 p.m. Saturday, April 6.** The program is sponsored by the library and Blossom and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund of Sinai Temple.
- **Solar Eclipse Fun from noon-3 p.m. Monday, April 8.** If it's overcast, the library will broadcast the event. Snacks will be available, along with free solar glasses on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 8.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues its 26th season. The focus is "NATO's future." Reading material is available at the circulation desk. Call 873-3049 for more details.
- **Board Game Night for Adults from 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9.** A variety of board and card games will be available.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in April.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record

- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in April.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in April.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **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.
- **Frogs Scavenger Hunt in April.** Find the characters hidden in Youth Services for a prize. Locations change each week.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance aid needed.** Volunteers help at least one day a week during tax season. The IRS provides some training, and passing the VITA test through the intermediate level is required. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

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Family of Elmo Gonzalez Remembers Him as a Humble Public Servant

by Andrew Tallackson

His life was one of public service. A sincere, steadfast devotion to family and community.

But to hear the children of Elmo Gonzalez tell it, he was not a man to toot his own horn. He preferred not to live that way. Helping make a difference was enough for him.

“He was humble,” his daughter, Laura Gonzalez-Escoto, told *The Beacher*, especially when it came to his military service. “He did not want to be recognized as any sort of a hero, but we considered him a full hero.”

Two years shy of turning 100, Gonzalez, whose many accomplishments included serving as mayor of LaPorte, died March 8 in his Arlington Heights (Ill.) home. The 98-year-old was surrounded by his wife, Paula, and his family.

Gonzalez had been battling cancer. Prior to that, it appeared he’d beat it, his daughter, Cindi Gonzalez-Walus told *The Beacher*. When it returned, even up to the last few weeks before his death, he remained incredibly sharp.

“He was alert and on top of everything in the world,” she said. “He was still talking about social issues. And, he was at home, where he wanted to be. We were lucky to spend a lot of time with him his last week.”

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, on June 26, 1925, Gonzalez forged a life defined by duty and honor. Even as a child, he assisted his grandparents with their tailoring business, took on odd jobs throughout the neighborhood and performed with a trio at fairs and nightclubs.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served as a radioman aboard the USS Bunker Hill aircraft carrier. According to his obituary, “he demonstrated immense courage and resilience when his ship was struck by two kamikaze pilots in the Pacific.”

Gonzalez-Escoto said after leaving the military, her father did not receive his medals for serving.

“In his late 80s, we got all his medals and gave them to him,” she said. “He was so happy to get them, yet his first words were, ‘I don’t deserve these,’

and we were all like, ‘Yes, you do, Dad.’”

After the war, Gonzalez moved to Indiana to work in the steel mills. Later, he was a door-to-door vacuum salesman before moving into retail with Montgomery Ward. In Michigan City, he managed, and later owned, Alan Furniture Mart. In LaPorte, he owned E.S. Kessler’s.

Gonzalez served as two-time mayor of LaPorte from 1988-1996. His obituary stated, “He noted his biggest accomplishments as starting the citywide recycling program and bringing the government to the people.

“He began Saturday morning open door hours, where the public was encouraged to come see him and share their concerns.”

At 85, Gonzalez retired as director of customer service from the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Over the years, he coached baseball, volunteered in organizations and clubs and at one point became the New Buffalo School Board president.

Even at the end of his life, Gonzalez-Walus said, he always remain positive.

“He never complained,” she said. “He always said,

‘Every day is a good day.’”

Elmo’s son, Steve, echoed that sentiment

“He always had a smile, was always positive, never sounding down,” he said.

And what did Steve admire most about his father?

“His non-judgmental acceptance of everyone he met,” he said. “Every person he’d met, he’d talk with them on equal ground. He looked into their soul, as you say. He never became judgmental.

“He was the epitome of public service: ‘What can we do for you?’ ‘How can we make your world better?’ That is what he believed.”

□

(Elmo’s survivors include his wife of 51 years, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Hines Veterans Hospital at tinyurl.com/4dr3ctxw)



Elmo Gonzalez (bottom) is photographed with his children in 2017: Steve Gonzalez (from left), Melissa Donaldson, Cindi Gonzalez-Walus, Ed Gonzalez and Laura Gonzalez-Escoto.

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The Rule of Threes

When I was a young girl, my Grandma Mimi, who lived a few miles from us in Chicago's western suburbs, was a frequent dinner guest. Widowed and living alone, she seemed to crave the camaraderie our chaotic household of eight provided.

I have vivid memories of her kibitzing with my mother in our kitchen while Mom prepared supper. In a cheerful voice, Grandma Mimi would update my mom about what our cousins were up to, offer tales about her elderly friends' mishaps and maladies, and comment on the local news and gossip.

On a particularly newsworthy day, my grandmother's lilting voice wafted into the family room where my twin sister and I labored over our multiplication tables.

"You know what they say?" Grandma said, pausing. "Bad news always comes in threes."

I picture my mother turning away from the stove, frowning. "Mimi, that's just an old wives' tale."

Nonplussed, Grandma recounted the two events that proved her point. "Mark my words," she clucked. "Something else is about to happen."

Does bad news come in threes? I have always been curious about this notion.

Several days ago, I zipped my bulging suitcase and deposited it by the front door of my Florida condo. I checked my watch. Ten minutes to go be-



fore the limo driver was scheduled to take me to the Sarasota airport. I puzzled why he wasn't a few minutes early, which had always been the case, but I waited until our agreed-upon pickup time before phoning the booking agent.

"Hmmm. Let me contact the driver." My heart rate surged when I heard him mumble something about "problems with this guy before." Then, "I'll call you right back."

When the masses haven't descended upon Sarasota for Spring Break, the trip to the airport is 30 minutes. On that day, I knew I needed every bit of 45 minutes.

I groaned when the agent called back. "So sorry, but the driver canceled. The soonest I can have someone there is 20-30 minutes."

Sighing, I opened the Uber app on my phone. "Don't bother, Uber will be here well before then."

At this point, Grandma Mimi's rule of threes hadn't re-entered my conscious mind. Why would it? The limo company screwed up, but I'd gotten lucky with Uber. My new ride dropped me at the airport with enough time to check my bag, clear security, grab a coffee and settle into the boarding area with my computer.

Opening my laptop, I scrolled through my emails and clicked on an interesting article. All of a sudden, my screen froze and a ransomware message consumed the screen. Then, the speakers on my MacBook blared into the waiting area.

"Wah-a-wah-a. Danger. Your IP address has accessed an insecure area. Don't reboot your system. Call 1-800-xxx-xxxx ..."

For the second time in an hour, my blood pressure skyrocketed. Mistrustful of the guy who answered the phone number displayed on my screen, I called Apple directly. Thirty minutes later, I had regained control of my computer, but the coffee I paid dearly

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for had grown cold.

That is when my internal voice quizzed, "What's next?"

After that, Grandma Mimi's gloomy prophecy, "bad news always comes in threes," stormed in, and I considered whether Grandma's cautionary phrase had merit. As I boarded the plane, I felt wary. On edge. When our B737 rattled and rolled during its ascent, and the flight attendants were told to remain in their jump seats, I confirmed the internal voice.

"That's it. The third one. We're done."

Confident in the accuracy of my grandmother's wisdom, I closed my eyes for a well-earned nap and resolved to put the trying day behind me. The knots in my neck eased the closer I got to Michigan City. That night, I laid my weary, unsuspecting head on the pillow and slept soundly.

After morning coffee, I made the rounds in the lake house, inspecting every room. All was as it should be except for odd white splotches here and there in a few rooms. I puzzled why the cleaning service neglected those areas. What were they from? As I moved closer to the powder room, I smelled a faint, foul odor. Since nothing appeared out of the ordinary, I opened the window and aired out the room.

Flipping back the shutters, I saw the source of the stink. A dead bird, belly up, stuck to the window ledge. The evidence of its struggle to escape the slatted, wooden prison lay everywhere. I ran for household cleaner, paper towels and the trash can. As I did so, my mind blared, much like the computer malware did in the airport: Rule of threes. Beware of me.

And so, I leave you with this puzzle, one I still ponder. How do we know when an event qualifies to be part of the cycle of threes, and how can we be sure when one cycle begins and another ends?

Perhaps my mother was right in chastising Grandma with, "That's just an old wives' tale." And maybe instead of making ourselves crazy keeping track of cycles of threes and finding false confidence in the beginning and ending of such, we should resign ourselves to reality. It's a given that frustrations and challenges will filter into every day. Some will be big irritants, but most will be minor inconveniences. Counting and tallying gives all of them too much importance.

Better to focus on a different rule of thumb: good news comes in waves of three. It's healthier and easier on the system. Stay safe out there.

King is Oscar Worthy in Powerful “Shirley”

by Andrew Tallackson



Regina King stars as the congresswoman turned presidential candidate in “Shirley.”

It says something about race and gender in America that it’s taken the past four years for Hollywood to *finally* take notice of Shirley Chisholm.

“Mrs. America,” the frequently brilliant 2020 Hulu miniseries, explored the cold shoulder Chisholm’s 1972 presidential bid endured from the feminist movement. Some of that exists in the new Netflix film “Shirley,” but writer-director John Ridley is a storyteller who places the black experience under a microscope. Not just with “12 Years a Slave” (2013), which won him a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, but also Apple TV+’s devastating 2022 Hurricane Katrina miniseries “Five Days at Memorial.”

Ridley may frame Chisholm’s presidential campaign conventionally, but its power is undeniable. We tend to slam old-school approaches these days as playing it safe. But to me, there is something comforting about a film that makes its point through a great performance by a great actress. Regina King, the Oscar winner for 2018’s “If Beale Street Could Talk,” is a galvanizing force as the congresswoman turned presidential hopeful. A performance of steely determination.

The first black woman elected to Congress, Chisholm was frequently derided as “crazy” for contemplating a presidential run in 1972. That is one of the film’s most bruising messages: Why must a black woman live in a world where she’s denigrated for believing change is possible through politics?

Credit Ridley for navigating such tricky waters,



“Shirley”

Running time: 117 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for strong language, including racial slurs, brief violence and some smoking.

what with all the key players and political side-shows. I suppose the “conventional” angle of “Shirley” is that it treats Chisholm as a classic underdog. King creates a woman of relentless good cheer who won’t take no for an answer. Things do have a way of going her way. But when a frustrated Chisholm asks where the feminist support is for her campaign, flashes of anger and resentment emerge.

(“Mrs. America” took the feminist movement to task for deciding it could only focus on one hot button topic at the time: gender, not race.)

As Chisholm’s presidential campaign navigates uncharted waters, Ridley reveals a political landscape muddied by men, of all races, seeking personal gain. Also, the heated internal conflicts within Chisholm’s camp — Terrence Howard, Lucas Black, Brian Stokes Mitchell and especially the late, great Lance Reddick — are fascinating. A powder keg of 1970s optimism and cynicism.

In the film’s last act, King’s performance is remarkably controlled in scenes where her outrage is obvious, but her desire to maintain composure subdues her. Twice in the film, I choked up. Not because Ridley goes for easy tears, but from the power of



One of the most powerful scenes in the film: Shirley Chisholm (Regina King) visits staunch segregationist George Wallace (W. Earl Brown) in the hospital after an attempted assassination on him.

Chisholm's strength of character.

Take, for instance, a deeply moving scene where Chisholm meets her opponent, staunch segregationist George Wallace (W. Earl Brown of "Deadwood" fame), in the hospital after an attempted assassination on him. Believing it's the Christian thing to visit him, the conversation between the two starts on edge, but by the end, his intolerance dissolves. It is a rare instance captured on film where grace is achieved through an act of kindness.

At the end, when Chisholm's campaign forces out its last breath, King's ability to convey hope, of Chisholm laying the groundwork for future generations, well, maintaining any sense of composure, for me at least, became a lost cause.

The humanity on display, the perseverance amid perceived failure, what King achieves is Oscar worthy. As is the film itself.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Crafternoon



Parents and their toddlers stopped by the Coolspring Library on March 21 for the “Family Crafternoon” program. The children created a paper flower garden and listened to a spring story, Jessica Kulekhian’s First Notes of Spring. All photos by Andrew Tallackson

Surprise! The “Roadhouse” Remake is Entertaining

by Andrew Tallackson



Conor McGregor (left) brings a crazy energy to “Roadhouse,” whereas Jake Gyllenhaal never deviates from the same flat approach.

Definitely falling into the they-remade-this-be-cause-why? category, the surprise of Doug Liman’s “Roadhouse” is that it isn’t half-bad.

In fact, his remake of the 1989 cult hit is entertaining, almost effortlessly so. I say *almost* because its star, for all the publicity about him getting shredded for the role, is underwhelming.

Weird, isn’t it? Jake Gyllenhaal is a good actor. An Oscar nominee, no less. But he spends a good chunk of “Roadhouse” shirtless, as if his sole responsibility is to prove money spent on a trainer was well-spent. That’s not enough to erase the memory of Patrick Swayze in the same role.

The result is a fun good-bad movie, now streaming on Prime, that could have been better had Gyllenhaal kicked it up a notch.

Liman (“Edge of Tomorrow,” “The Bourne Identity”) began his career with indie pictures like “Swingers” and “Go,” and he’s carried that sensibility into big-budget popcorn flicks. That may be why his “Roadhouse” movie delivers: He isn’t worried about being respectable, just a rowdy good time.

Liman, working from a screenplay by Anthony



“Roadhouse”

Running time: 121 minutes. Prime. Rated R for violence throughout, pervasive language and some nudity.

Bagarozzi and Chuck Mondry, respects the original while tweaking it here and there. This time, Elwood Dalton (Gyllenhaal) is a disgraced UFC middleweight fighter reduced to wandering Jack Reacher style when he attracts the attention of roadhouse owner Frankie (a lively Jessica Williams, Apple TV+’s “Shrinking”). She wants him to be the head bouncer at her Florida Keys bar. Seems the mafia wants her land to erect pricey real estate.

The screenplay surrounds Gyllenhaal with colorful characters. Like the love interest, Ellie (Daniela Melchior, James Gunn’s “The Suicide Squad”), who is more realistic than Swayze’s Van Halen video Barbie doll girlfriend in the original. I also appreciated Billy (Lukas Cage), the bouncer with a constant black eye from giving bad customers the heave-ho. Ditto Hannah Lanier and Kevin Carroll

as the teen girl and her father, respectively, at the local bookstore. They're good people who help Dalton at every turn.

Everything about this world feels low-key compared to the original. Even Billy Magnussen ("Into the Woods") doesn't push his evil Ben Brandt into camp.

Then, former Ultimate Fighting Championship favorite Conor McGregor turns up a vicious thug... and all bets are off. When we meet his character, Knox, he's fleeing a prostitute, barreling through the streets naked like it's not one iota of awkward. McGregor is so wildly unstable, he juices up the picture. Preps you for what clearly will be a showdown between him and Gyllenhaal.

Which gets us to Gyllenhaal, himself. The actor plays Dalton as the polite anti-hero. Pleasantly chatting with his attackers before pummeling them. But the performance stays at that casual level, never escalating anywhere. Swayze, in the original, looked like he was having fun. That, while preaching patience before violence, Dalton secretly enjoyed delivering a good ass kicking. The actor's energy level was so high, it was like watching a movie star in full movie star mode. Gyllenhaal, though, plays Dalton like a nice guy trapped with a case of the blahs.

It's also puzzling as to why Limon uses CGI in the fight sequences. The way the camera speeds up, accelerates the actors amid punches — it's weird. Did



Billy Magnussen (right), seen here with Conor McGregor, makes for a fairly low-key villain.

he not have enough confidence in his actors? Heck, he's got McGregor in his film. *What more does he need?*

I enjoyed the movie, though. It's dumb fun done right. Limon gives you what you want from a movie titled "Roadhouse." Just not enough from Gyllenhaal to make it triumph.

□

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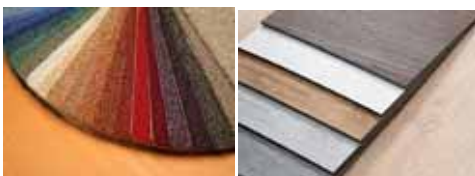
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Rittenhouse Resident Turns 100

Rittenhouse Village resident Eloise Blint celebrated her 100th birthday, the first in her family to reach that major milestone.

She was born on March 21, 1924, to Frank and Clara Oshinski Wagner. A 1941 St. Mary's High School graduate, she wed Gordon Blint on Nov. 19, 1949, and they were married for 57 years. She worked many years for Enyeart Chevrolet and Bassett Lincoln Mercury as the office manager. She also volunteered at St. Mary's Resale Shop for many years, right until 94 years old.



Eloise and her husband of 57 years, Gordon.

She enjoyed cooking, gardening, bird watching, baking, quilting, sewing and traveling. She would still sew if she could see to do it, she said in a press release. Macular degeneration in both eyes makes her unable to do so.

In a Rittenhouse press release, when people describe Eloise, "They say she is a good friend, good sense of humor, classy, well-dressed lady and the most independent and strong-willed person they know! Everyone gets a kick out of her rolling her eyes with an 'oh come on already!' statement to follow."

Asked what her secret is to reaching 100, she replied, "I don't have a secret. I guess my secret is, eat what you want. I did!"

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Thursday, May 2, is the deadline for students to submit scholarship applications to First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The church awards scholarships annually to students entering an accredited college or trade school, and those continuing or resuming their education, regardless of age. They are:

- The Richard Presser Scholarship, named for the late local educator, traditionally goes to a graduating senior from Michigan City or Marquette Catholic high schools.
- The Timberlake Scholarship, given in memory of Joan Thomas Timberlake and Diane Fike Timberlake, is open to non-traditional students. The applicant must be a mother, at least 18 and an active member of any recognized church, synagogue or mosque. Residents of LaPorte, Porter and Berrien counties are eligible.
- The Drs. M.D. and Russell Gardner Scholarship is available to students majoring in medicine or related allied sciences. Proceeds from the sale of the doctors' former medical offices at 801 Washington St. established the endowment fund.
- The Jean Kruse Scholarship goes to a student pursuing a degree in elementary education. Kruse was a longtime primary grade teacher in Michigan City.
- Nursing students may apply for the Mabel Rhoades Scholarship in memory of the registered nurse and nursing instructor who established the first post-op recovery room in Indiana.
- The Swinehart/Bartholomew Scholarship for an arts major living in LaPorte County. Applicants must have completed at least one year, studying vocal or instrumental music, theater or visual arts. The Swinehart and Bartholomew families have been active in local music and community theater for three generations.

Contact Higher Education Committee Chair Sue Cassler to obtain an application at susan.cassler@comcast.net, or visit uflc.net/scholarships/

Insights in History

Archivist Travis Childs will explore the lives of people from the community's past, including William Kizer, Henry Christman and Thelus Bissell, during the next Insights in History.

The program is at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, April 3, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. A tour of "The New Century of Progress" exhibit is included. It highlights the area from 1920 through the present.

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The nonprofit provides an equine-assisted learning program on horse behavior, horse care and riding to local, under-resourced children, adults and families. Volunteers, who must be adults with horse experience, are trained to work with children while they learn to groom, tack and ride a horse. Children attend three-hour classes on Saturdays in the spring and fall.

Text Alison at (269) 756-3894 or email info@springcreekhorsehelp.org to register. Visit www.springcreekhorsehelp.org/be-a-volunteer for additional information.

Poetry Slam

Expect a new format to Lubeznik Center for the Arts' Poetry Slam, which is from 5-8 p.m. Friday, April 5.

Marc Kelly Smith, the Poetry Slam movement founder, is the host. The night begins with an open mic inviting performers to share original poetry or perform favorite poems by other authors. Next, audience members can become poets with a fill-in-the-blank poem themed for the occasion. The slam concludes with the Dumb Rhyming Word Game made famous at The Green Mill. The winner will be crowned this year's LCA Poetry Slam Champion.

Admission is free, with a cash bar and free light refreshments planed.

Participating poets should prepare pieces under three minutes for the open mic. Spots have been filled, but interested poets can be added to the wait list by emailing jsexton@lubeznikcenter.org, or call (219) 874-4900, Ext. 107.

LCA is located at 101 W. Second St.

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NW Regional Indiana Envirothon



The members of LaPorte High School Team Bison.

Michigan City High School was among 13 teams from six Indiana high schools that competed March 14 in the Northwest Regional Indiana Envirothon, placing third in the event.

The LaPorte County Soil & Water Conservation District coordinated the contest held at Red Mill County Park, LaPorte.

Teams of five students collaborated on tests covering environmental topics, including Forestry, Aquatic Ecology, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and the Current Issue theme of Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future. Students also participated in interactive presentations with professionals in each discipline.

Teams placing in the Top 3 head to the Indiana State Envirothon, which is April 24 at Purdue University. Placing first was LaPorte High School Team Bison with members Cooper Scroggin, Lindsey Osborn, Michael St. Arnud, Brayden Sobeki and Logan Higley.

Placing second was Westville High School Team Orange with members Becca Boots, Aiden Kaiser, John Kelly, Maverick Markos and Zoe Crofton. Placing third was MCHS Team Insane Caterpillar Posse with members Bailey Chavis, Brooke Lakin, Julia Zerbes, Ashley Sparks and Tatiana Miller.

“Once Upon A Time Tea”

After decades of presenting plays for area school-children, LaPorte Service League will turn its talents to hosting “Once Upon a Time Tea” from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte.

Children, who are invited to dress up, may take an adult to meet princess and fairy tale characters. Interactive entertainment includes photo ops, crafts, games and food. The cost is \$15 per person. Attendance is limited, and pre-registration is required at tinyurl.com/yyef97c5

Visit the group’s Facebook page for more details.

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Chesterton Art Center

Two annual exhibits — “Duneland Weavers’ Guild’s Fiber Art ’24” and “Expressive Minds: the CAC Youth Art Exhibition” — return this month to Chesterton Art Center.

“Fiber Art ’24” runs April 6-29 in the front (upper) gallery space. An opening reception featuring the artists, sale items and prize drawings is from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 7.

Members will present various free weaving demonstrations throughout the exhibit. The schedule is: Chris Acton, 1-3 p.m. April 19; Sue Degnan and Margaret Jones, noon-2 p.m. April 20; and Roz Potter, 10 a.m.-noon April 27.

The guild has met monthly (September-May) for more than 70 years. Visit www.dunelandweaversguild.org for details on membership and meetings.

“Expressive Minds” also runs April 6-29 in the lower gallery space. An opening reception is from 5-6:30 p.m. April 12. The exhibit highlights CAC’s in-house and outreach youth/teens ages 5-18 from last September through March.

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 for more details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Spring Break Program, Potawatomi Zoo.** The program is from 3-4 p.m. Thursday, April 4.
- **Tech 101 for Seniors: Apple iPads.** The program is at 10 a.m. Friday, April 5.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran: Matthew Brdlik, film shorts.** The program is at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6.

Weekly programs:

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- Yoga from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays.

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

Dunes Arts Foundation

Dunes Arts Foundation will welcome its 2024 cast and crew during the next Michiana Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 11, at Sonny D’s, 1 N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, Mich.

A cash bar and appetizers are planned. RSVP by email at contact@dunesarts.org

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 6.** Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear will be provided. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in April at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Participate in a nature-themed craft, visit the live animal room or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone. The program is sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in April.** Rangers and volunteers share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse/garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Migration Birding Hike from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, April 7, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** A Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society expert leads the program that heads by carpool to the birding spot. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in April at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Solar Eclipse Viewing from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, at the West Beach Parking Lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary.** Meet at the contact station. A limited number of safety glasses will be available, so prepare to take a pair.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor 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.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

- **Garlic Mustard Pulling Party from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 20.** Part of National Volunteer Week, join other volunteers to remove invasive garlic mustard. Long pants and garden gloves are recommended. The Friends of Indiana Dunes provides snacks and water.

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

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2. Mary Lou McFadden		169
3. Ann Bogart		166
3. June Salmon		166
4. Tammy Vouri		155
5. Nancy Kubath (series)		424
SPLITS		
Barb Macudzinski		5-7
Dottie Brinckman		4-5
Nancy Klausner		5-7
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The Talk of the South Shore

Call for Artists

May 1 is the deadline for artists to submit entries in the South Shore “Just Around the Corner” poster series sponsored by South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority and South Shore Arts.

The curated series began in 1997 to promote Northwest Indiana while instilling pride through the region’s story. It continues the poster series that adorned train stations from Chicago to South Bend throughout the mid-1920s.

Visit www.southshoreartsonline.org/call for details and to submit an application.



Sail & Power Squadron Classes

Michigan City Sail and Power Squadron will host its Basic Boating Course from 6:30-8:40 p.m. Tuesdays, April 9-May 14.

Registration is at 6 p.m. the first night at B&E Marine, 31 Lake Shore Drive. The cost for the text and materials is \$40. Families are welcome, and the program meets state-specific and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators requirements.

Also planned is the Electronic Navigation Course from 6:30-8:40 p.m. Wednesdays, April 10-May 15. Registration is at 6 p.m. the first night at B&E Marine. The cost for the text and materials is \$50.

Email Larry Fleck at ecklj@gmail.com for details.

LaPorte County Parks



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

A Brush with Madness

The all-ages program is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 4, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Participants follow easy painting directions, with all supplies provided. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$8 per person.

Solar Eclipse Viewing

Stop by Luhr County Park or Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, to view the partial solar eclipse between 12:52-2:08 p.m. Monday, April 8.

No registration is required. Activities and snacks will be provided. The program is jointly presented with LaPorte County Public Library.

Drum Fit for Boomers

The all-ages exercise program with music is from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Red Mill County Park.

Drum on yoga balls to the beat of the music. Instruction, drum sticks and yoga balls provided.

Field Trips

Educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park.

The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

Call (219) 324-5855, visit www.laportecountyparks.org or email natureniki@csinet.net for details.



American Red Cross

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

- IBEW 531, 2751 N. Indiana 39, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, April 8.
- La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, LaPorte, 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 9.

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

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In the Area

April 4 — Family Movie: “Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 4 — A Brush with Madness, 6-8 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Cost: \$8. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

April 5 — Sun and Moon Painting Party for Kids & Families, 3-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 5 — Poetry Slam, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Poet wait list: (219) 874-4900, Ext. 107, jsexton@lubeznikcenter.org

April 5 — Opening reception, “Whimsical Warhol: Pop Portraits by Exceptional Learners of Chesterton High School”/“How the Depot was Saved and How it Survives Today,” 5-7 p.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. “Whimsical Warhol” runs April 5-21/“How the Depot was Saved” runs April 5-28. Info: www.bsdepot.org

April 6 — Family Book Tasting, 10-11 a.m., Cool-spring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 6 — Jewish Mini Film Festival: “Love & Hummus” and “Farewell, Mr. Haffmann,” 1-4:45 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 7 — Artist talk (Kelly Daisy, Shirley Guay, Rosalie Koldan), 1 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org/events

April 8 — Solar Eclipse Fun, noon-3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 8 — Solar Eclipse Viewing, 12:52-2:08 p.m., Luhr County Park (3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte), Creek Ridge County Park (7943 W. County Road 400 North). Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

April 8 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 9 — Drum Fit for Boomers, 9-10 a.m., Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

April 9 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Focus: Ruth Ware’s *Zero Days*. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

April 9 — Virtual Author Talk with Colum McCann, 1-2 p.m., through LP County Public Library. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

April 9 — Board Game Night for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through June — Work by Julie Kasniunas, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. *Reception*: after 10:30 a.m. Mass on May 5. Info: lucia@qas.org

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

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — 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 April — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays in April — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays in April — 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.

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

Saturdays in LaPorte — Guided tours, 2-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Second Tuesday of the Month — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org

In the Region

April 4 — Spring Break Program, Potawatomi Zoo, 3-4 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 5 — Miles Nielsen & The Rusted Hearts, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks. Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55

+ \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

April 6 — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9-11 a.m., parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20. Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

April 6 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, 1 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 6 — “Richard Hunt: Remembering an Icon,” 4:30-7 p.m. EDT, Richard Hunt Studio, 258 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, Mich.

April 6 — Billy Elton — Tribute to Billy Joel & Elton John, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks. Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$85 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

April 6-27 — “Duneland Weavers’ Guild’s Fiber Art ’24,” “Expressive Minds: the CAC Youth Art Exhibition,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Receptions:* “Fiber Art ’24” — 1-4 p.m. April 7/“Expressive Minds” — 5-6:30 p.m. April 12. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

April 7 — Migration Birding Hike, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 7 — Matthew Sweet with Abe Partridge, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks. Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

April 8 — Solar Eclipse Viewing, 12:30-3:30 p.m., West Beach Parking Lot, 376 N. County Line Road, Gary. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Through April 28 — Kevin Firme, “Sculpture and Drawings,” Midwest Museum of Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Through May 2 — Peter Wise exhibit (oil paintings/mixed media/montages), Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through May 5 — Community Student Art Exhibition, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Hours: noon-4 p.m. EDT Thur.-Sun. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>

Through May 5 — “Radiator Mascots: Art, Style & Story,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. 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, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 12 — “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.

Through May 12 — Photo exhibit of 1926 Valparaiso fire, Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours:

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 12 — “Facing the Giant: 3 Decades of Dissent,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. *Also on display:* Aaron Martin’s “Nébwakat Mshiké: Wise Turtle,” through 2024. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Through May 31 — “Birds, Butterflies & the Beauty That Surrounds Them” (Pamela Kirkham’s original acrylic paintings), Fernwood Botanical Garden Clark Gallery, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.pamkirkham.com

Through July 28 — “Family Haulers: The American Station Wagon,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. 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, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.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 April — Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Saturdays-Sundays in April — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* “National Lampoon’s Animal House.” Rated R. Time: 7 p.m. April 4. *Also:* “Remembering Gene Wilder.” Not Rated. Times: 4 p.m. April 5, 7 p.m. April 6. *Also:* “Golden Years.” Not Rated. In Swiss German with English subtitles. Times: 7 p.m. April 5, 4 p.m. April 6, 7 p.m. April 7. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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April 4



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On April 4, 1818, Congress decreed the U.S. flag should consist of 13 red-and-white stripes and 20 stars, and that a new star should be added for each new state admitted to the Union.

On April 4, 1832, Cook County's first financial statement showed taxes on real and personal property totaled \$148.29.

On April 4, 1841, one month after taking the oath of office, President William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia, achieving the dubious distinction of becoming the first chief executive to die while in office.

On April 4, 1864, Abraham Lincoln said, "*I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.*"

On April 4, 1887, Susanna Medora Salter was elected mayor of Argonia, Kan., the first woman chosen to head a U.S. town.

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death while standing on the balcony of his Memphis motel.

On April 5, 1792, President George Washington used his veto power for the first time, refusing to sign a bill affecting state representation.

On April 5, 1841, Henry David Thoreau proclaimed, "*The lament for a golden age is only a lament for golden men.*"

On April 5, 1955, Winston Churchill submitted his resignation as British prime minister.

On April 5, 1980, the world's most precious stamp, an 1856 British Guiana 1 cent magenta, was auctioned for \$850,000.

On April 5, 1987, Fox Broadcasting Co. made its prime-time TV debut.

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic Games formally opened in Athens.

On April 6, 1906, a copyright was granted for the first animated cartoon. The film, by James Blackton, consisted of drawings of a man rolling his eyes.

On April 6, 1965, the United States launched the "Early Bird" communications satellite.

On April 6, 1978, President Carter signed legislation extending the mandatory retirement age for most private employees from 65 to 70.

On April 6, 1984, the space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral to recover and repair a damaged orbiting satellite.

On April 7, 1927, the first successful long-distance television program was broadcast. Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, in Washington, was heard and seen clearly by viewers in New York.

On April 7, 1947, a nationwide telephone strike that would last 23 days began in the United States.

On April 7, 1949, "South Pacific," a musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein, opened on Broadway.

On April 7, 1957, the last of New York's electric street cars completed its final run from Queens to Manhattan.

On April 7, 1987, Harold Washington easily won a second term as mayor of Chicago.

On April 8, 1730, in New York City, the first Jewish congregation in the United States consecrated its synagogue.

On April 8, 1935, Congress approved the Works Progress Administration.

On April 8, 1952, to avert a nationwide steel strike, President Harry S. Truman seized the steel industry.

On April 8, 1974, Atlanta Braves outfielder Hank Aaron, in a home game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, hit his 715th career home run. The homer came off pitcher Al Downing, and broke the record set by legendary Babe Ruth.

On April 9, 1833, the first tax-supported library in the United States debuted in Peterborough, N.H.

On April 9, 1928, Mae West made her New York debut in a play called "Diamond Lil." Critics described the play as "shocking," "suggestive" and in "questionable taste." Such reviews, naturally, made the play a huge success.

On April 9, 1959, NASA announced America's first seven astronauts. They were: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton.

On April 9, 1965, the newly built Houston Astrodome hosted its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and New York Yankees.

On April 9, 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

On April 10, 1849, New York's Walter Hunt received a patent for the safety pin.

On April 10, 1912, the luxury liner Titanic, on its ill-fated maiden voyage to New York, set sail from the English port of Southampton with 2,224 people aboard.

On April 10, 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby was published.

On April 10, 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey announced he purchased the minor league contract of Jackie Robinson, who would become the first black player in Major League Baseball.

On April 10, 1953, the first feature length color 3-D movie "House of Wax," premiered in New York.

On April 10, 1960, the Senate passed the Civil Rights Bill, providing for the appointment of referees to help blacks register to vote.

On April 10, 2003, Air France and British Airways announced they were retiring their Concorde supersonic jetliners.

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Must have USA ID

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Ability to work with children of all ages, understand their interests, and apply that to how you relate to each camper

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Assists with camp activities and events as assigned by the On-Site Program Director.

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Ensures camper safety

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Murder at la Villette by Cara Black (*hardcover, \$27.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 278 pages.*)

Aimée Leduc. Even her name is endearing. A 30ish, fashionably dressed woman (she only shops at vintage clothing stores), yet her life has more danger and intrigue than any one person needs. She's no shrinking violet! Maybe it's in her genes. Here's why...

Aimée runs a computer consulting and security business in Paris. Her father and grandfather were policemen in the city. When her grandfather retired, he started up a detective agency that Aimée changed to computer security after both men died. Now, she's gotten mixed up with an undercover contract for the Ministry which, quite frankly, has gotten on her nerves — also too much overtime. After all, Aimée has a daughter, 5-year-old Chloe, by Melac, a policeman she met years ago.

She and Melac have since parted ways, but he is still hounding her to move with Chloe to his new home in Brittany. "*Melac also wanted to get back together, but that train had left the station long ago.*"

Aimée has the help of two computer and security experts; well, not so traditional looking. Her best friend, holder of a black belt in karate, is a 4-foot dwarf named René. Her other friend and computer savant is 6-foot Saj with his blond dreadlocks. Both men would move mountains for Aimée.

Lately, Melac has become more insistent in trying to persuade Aimée that Brittany is the best place for Chloe. His phone calls turn annoying, almost threatening. Now is the time, she decides, to confront him and put an end to all this bickering.

One night, she keeps ignoring his calls, not realizing he is nearby keeping watch on her. She finally listens to the voicemail he leaves. His last message says he has "*seen a ghost.*" The background noise has her worried something happened to him.

Crossing a drawbridge, she hears him moaning and sees him floating in the water.

"Melac's frigid, wet hand slipped from her grip. The water sucked at him, the pull too strong. The next thing she knew, a whack sent her staggering against the bridge rail..."

A familiar voice says he can kill two birds with one stone before positioning a bloody knife in her hand.

The police immediately come to the conclusion that Aimée had enough of her ex and decided to kill him. She realizes she can't solve who actually killed Melac from behind bars, so she runs away to her

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



friendly Isabelle and the biker gang she calls family. Sometimes, it helps to have friends in low places.

Mobier is a semi-retired cop and Aimée's godfather, but does he buy her story that someone else killed Melac? Questionable. But he knows her better than anyone, so why would he be so unsure of her innocence? Maybe there is more to Melac's death than Morbier is willing to share with Aimée?

Now begins a harrowing search for the truth, and we all know that truth can be elusive. The only clue that might have something to do with wanting Melac killed has to do with a serial killer from some years back when he was new on the police force. The individual was responsible for the deaths of six women before the killings suddenly stopped.

Aimée can't put her finger on it, but something about those killings has to do with Melac's death. After all, her father taught her there is no such thing as coincidence, yet they seem to be piling up like autumn leaves. Time to discover how much of her father's teachings she remembers.

Each Aimée Leduc mystery takes place in a neighborhood or arrondissement of Paris. This one unfolds in the 19th arrondissement

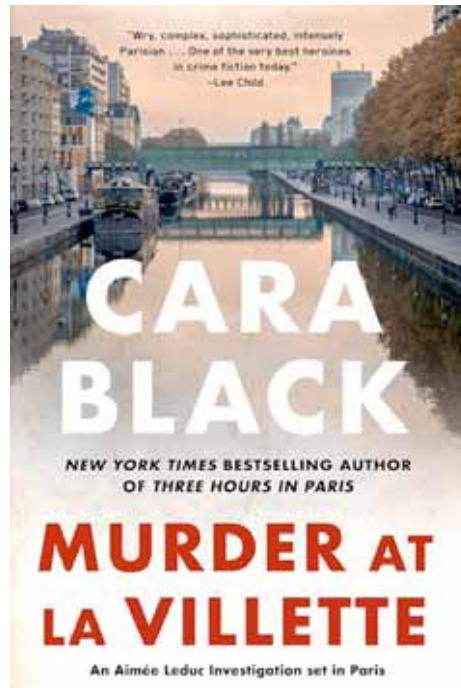
known as la Villette. Black visits Paris often and knows the city as well as any resident. It's a treat to walk the streets and alleys, visit the bistros and learn of the many cultures present.

Characters abound in this story, which is stronger and scarier than previous ones. From biker bars to a tattoo parlor to a Jewish temple, you will be out of breath trying to keep up with Aimée physically and mentally — she is a force to be reckoned with. Aimée doesn't need a fainting couch to wait around for her knight in shining armor. No, indeed. She follows her instincts and makes her own decisions. And each book is a standalone with enough information provided to keep you up to date with Aimée's life.

The final word: This is book 22 in the series, and it's obvious there will be 23 as a phone call from the Ministry reminds her she has not finished her assignment for them: "*Remember our deal? It's still April in Paris and time to get back in the saddle.*"

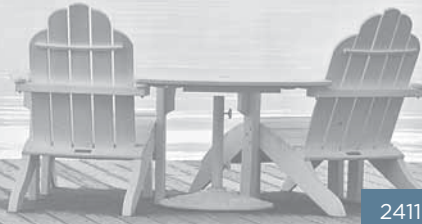
Mon dieu! Let her catch her breath.

Till next time, happy reading!



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