



Volume 40, Number 14 Thursday, April 11, 2024

The Invincible Oboist

by Edmund Lawler

Jennet Ingle is an accomplished oboist. But, she is more than just her instrument. Much more.

Ingle is an author, an artisan, an entrepreneur, a performer, a podcaster, a teacher, a career coach. She's a communicator, a marketer, a master of e-commerce.

In short, she's a professional musician who's built a diversified career around the oboe, a woodwind instrument known for its rich, romantic sound. Ingle's primary role is principal oboist for South Bend Symphony Orchestra, led by Grammy-nominated conductor Alastair Willis. She's also a familiar face among Michigan City Chamber Music Festival's roster of extraordinary talent.

While Ingle considers herself primarily a performer, it's just one of several music-related roles she orchestrates.

Carving out a career in classical music, much less making ends meet, is enormously challenging.

"This field is not an easy one to make a living," Ingle says. "There are only a handful of orchestras across the country that pay a full-time salary with benefits.

"Those jobs do exist, but only in the five or 10 big orchestras," she says, citing Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic as the leading examples. "There are three oboe positions in each of the biggest orchestras totaling 15 to 30 jobs for the entire oboe field. That is how many jobs there are across the country that provide a single, livable paycheck."

But that's not to say oboists in less-renowned regional orchestras aren't extraordinarily talented. They just might need a side hustle – or two – to more fully enjoy a creative lifestyle. Although many musicians consider themselves artists, they also need to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset, Ingle believes.



Jennet Ingle works on her oboe reeds in an office at her South Bend home. Photo by Ash Ingle.

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The Invincible Oboist

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Beginning in 1998, Ingle began crafting and selling oboe reeds, which are mouthpieces for the instrument. They are formed by two blades of high-quality bamboo cane bound with fine thread. Through a small opening at the tip, the oboist exhales, creating vibrations in the blades that produce the raw sound.

Crafting and shaping the double reeds with a set of specialized tools is a delicate art. In time, Ingle's artisanal handiwork became a lucrative line of business to which she devotes 12-15 hours a week.

Her eponymously named business, Jennet Ingle Reeds (www.jennetingle.com), produces and sells through her smartly designed e-commerce site more than 200 handmade reeds every month all over the world. She also makes reeds for the English horn and oboe d'amore – two similar instruments to the oboe that also use a double reed. Her finished reeds are priced from \$31-\$35.

Shipping responsibilities are handled by her husband, Steve Ingle, a professional bassoonist who has performed with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago and many regional symphonies throughout the Midwest and South. He also serves as the audio engineer for her podcast "Crushing Classical" that features interviews with musicians, conductors and others in the field of classical music.

He and Jennet perform together with the South Bend Symphony Wind Quintet and share a home on South Bend's northwest side with their teenage child.

The couple met at the distinguished Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where they both studied music. Prior to moving to South Bend, they lived in Chicago for about 10 years, where they taught and performed, and continue to do so, on a freelance

basis. Chicago also is where Jennet Ingle launched her reed business.

Before any reed is shipped, Ingle pre-tests it to exacting standards on her own instruments. Oboists, oboe teachers who buy reeds to sell to their students and music retailers also can buy other products on her website, such as reed cases or reed-making kits. There's also cane, tools, even sheet music.

Oboists who choose to make their own reeds can learn Ingle's well-honed techniques by watching her video channel for a weekly program called "The Five-Minute Reedmaker." Or, they can attend one of her annual three-day oboe reed-making boot camps. Her next one begins Aug. 9 at St. Mary's College across the highway from The University of Notre Dame.

In the tight-knit community of the oboe, and those who play the notoriously difficult instrument, Ingle is kind of a big deal. Or, as she more modestly puts it, "I'm a little bit oboe famous. I try to keep myself very visible," she says, referring to her video channel, a blog, a book she self-published in 2022 and the reed business, itself.

Her book, [The Happy Musician: How to Thrive in Your Creative Career](#), describes how musicians can strike a balance between creativity and financial security while pursuing success in their field.

The book, available on Amazon, targets people just entering the field, as well as more veteran musicians who need to grow beyond a mid-career plateau. The themes she describes in the book serve as the basis of the coaching lessons she shares with her music-industry clients.

"I'm trying to help other musicians find their way into portfolio careers that enrich them in that way that my career has done," she said.

The book arose from spare time Ingle suddenly found on her hands during the lockdown days of the



Jennet Ingle balances a career as an oboist with other ventures to create a successful life for herself.
Photo by Atomic Dolls Photography.

COVID-19 pandemic. Those were trying times, especially for someone who makes a large portion of her living through live performances.

But Ingle's well-established reed business proved a godsend when the world shut down in March 2020 and live performances vanished for the next 12 to 18 months.

"Honestly, it's what got us through the pandemic," Ingle says over coffee at Carlisle Coffee and Sweets in New Carlisle. "It was terrifying when all the performances went away just like that. In one afternoon of emailing, about \$18,000 to \$20,000 of projected income just went up in smoke. It was not work that Steve and I were hoping for, but it was work that we were actually contracted for."

Fortunately, she says, "I already had the business structure and the social media base on which to easily pivot. I turned up the heat on some of the other things I was doing."

It's the beauty of what Ingle calls a "portfolio career."

"It's a little of this and a little of that," she says. "It is diversified and balanced, and at any point, I can say, 'I need a little bit more of this and less of that.' I can lean into it because I am in control of all these elements."

Almost serendipitously, not long before the pandemic, Ingle decided to stop teaching in-person classes. On a part-time basis, she had been traveling over the years to teach oboe at various colleges and universities in the Michiana region: Notre Dame, St. Mary's, Valparaiso University, Goshen College and Andrews University. She also was teaching in-person private lessons.



An example of one of the more than 200 oboe reeds Ingle crafts and ships worldwide every month. Photo by Atomic Dolls Photography.

"In the spring of 2019, I found myself so burned out from that model of private-lesson teaching and college adjunct (part-time) teaching at multiple locations that I quit the adjunct teaching and dropped my private students," Ingle says.

"I was able to do that because of my reed business, and because of the various arms of my business were enough to cushion the loss of that much monthly income."

In fall 2019, on the cusp of the global pandemic, Ingle had a vision: "I realized that the right amount of teaching for me was not zero because I love being able to reach hearts and minds that way. I love being able to use my brain and my communication skills in that way. But I did not want to go back to what I had been doing."

Instead, she formed a group program she could teach online.

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The Invincible Oboist

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“It’s specifically for adult amateur oboists,” she explained. “The initial program was called the Invincible Oboist, and I’m very proud of it. I have run six cohorts of that and numerous spinoff programs.”

And thanks to the wonders of Zoom, her students hail from all over the world.

“That is what the pandemic made possible,” she said. “It opened up the world for this kind of program.”

The latest iteration, now called “Oboist Flow,” provides nine months of support, group master classes, reed-making skills and individualized small group support. The 12 students include teachers and oboists in their community orchestras.

“I’m so passionate about it,” Ingle says. “I love doing this.”

Conducting the online program for her students generates a different kind of energy than performing in an orchestra, she says.

“Playing in an orchestra is magical. There’s the swoosh of sound, the 80 people all pulling together toward a single goal,” she said. “I adore the performing I get to do.

“But when I’m sitting in the orchestra, I’m basically interchangeable and doing a job for someone



Jennet Ingle is photographed with her book, *The Happy Musician: How to Thrive in Your Creative Career*, published in 2022. Photo by Atomic Dolls Photography.

else. Whereas in the business part of my portfolio — my reed business, my teaching business, my coaching business, my podcast, promoting my book — those are all things I’m doing for me. I’m leaning into what interests me and my artistry.”

She adds, “There is something magical about working for yourself and using a different part of your brain than only the part of it

that is looking for precision in a performance.”

Ingle’s advice for aspiring musicians of any stripe is tempered by reality: “Your artistry matters. It is worth pursuing the thing you are passionate about. But know that you are going to need some version of a portfolio. And the more intentional you are about that, the more fun you will have in your career.”

Ingle Savors the Musical Support in Michigan City

Jennet Ingle is a familiar presence in Michigan City.

In February, she performed a free recital in the sanctuary of Trinity Episcopal Church titled “Sensations” with music by English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Ruth Gipps and Jeffrey Agrell and accompanied by pianist Ellis Anderson.

She regularly performs during the weeklong Michigan City Chamber Music Festival every August. But she first came to the festival as an attendee, not as a featured artist.

“When I attended as an audience member, I was blown away by the level of musicianship, the size of the audiences and the level of community support,” Ingle says. “It’s really impressive what Nic has built up over the years. He brings in fantastic musicians who perform very high-level chamber music concerts.”

She was referring to Grammy-nominated violinist Nic Orbovich, who co-founded the festival with Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, his wife and fellow musician, in 2002.

Orbovich recalls Ingle approaching him after one of the festival performances to express her delight.

“I was so honored that she wanted to come and just listen to us,” he says. “She was just so kind in expressing how impressed she was with the festival.”

Orbovich describes Ingle as “a world-class artist. I’m just so impressed with her artistry.”

He and Ingle were longtime colleagues as members of South Bend Symphony Orchestra until his recent retirement as principal second violin.

He recruited Ingle to become a Michigan City Chamber Music Festival board member.

“I’m very proud to have Jennet on the board,” he said. “I find her just indispensable.”

He says Ingle’s performances “are always a highlight of the festival. She always brings new pieces of music.”

Ingle, along with her husband, are scheduled to return to the festival at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16. They will perform Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s piece “Nonet” for woodwinds, strings and piano.



Ingle performs her “Sensations” recital in the sanctuary of Michigan City’s Trinity Episcopal Church in February.



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World Creativity and Innovation Week

The Center for Creative Solutions Inc. will host Northwest Indiana’s World Creativity & Innovative Week on April 15-21, the theme being “Inspire! Celebrate Your Creativity Every Day.”

This is the 15th year the center has sponsored the event, with more than 140 countries hosting programs as well. In addition, the United Nations has designated April 21 as the International Day of Creativity.

The celebration officially begins with the annual “Community Kick-Off Breakfast” at 8 a.m. Friday, April 12, at the A.K. Smith Career Center and Technical Education Center, 317 Detroit St. The guest speaker is Auzi Mahmood of Pakistan, a Purdue University Northwest junior and center intern. Also during the breakfast, the center will present the Tej Ram Gupta Scholarships and Student Innovation Awards. Underwriting the awards are the B.R. Foundation of Michigan City and Morgan Family Foundation respectively.

Another highlight is the 8th Annual Poetry Showcase. Area K-12 students and adults already have submitted poems. Judging the youth entries is Dr. William Allegrezza of Indiana University-Northwest and a poet, fiction writer, translator, critic and professor. Student winners will read their work from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Other free events include:

- April 10: LaPorte County Public Library Exchange will unveil new cutting-edge equipment, including 3-D printers, a CNC router, mini lathe and embroidery machine. Guests also can tour the Makerspace. The ribbon cutting is from 4-6 p.m. at 807 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Howmet Aerospace Foundation funded the new additions.
- April 11: Marci Segal, World Creativity & Innovation Week founder, will be featured on WIMS radio (95.1 FM/AM 1420) at 9 a.m. The “Quarterly Creativity Show” is sponsored by the center and funded by the Bethany Church Foundation, LaPorte.
- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.,



Carnes



Navarro



Vasilko

“Women’s Voices in Poetry”



Wallace



Wendt

will host two youth creativity activities. The first, “Mario Kart in Real Life,” is from 4-6 p.m. Monday, April 15. Children (ages 9-17) will race RC cars as Mario, Luigi, Yoshi or Princess Peach. Also, children (ages 6-17) will create with LEGO Spike, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, April 16. Anyone 12 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

- April 17: Five published poets, Carnessa Carnes, Carmen Navarro, Kayla Vasilko, Valerie Wallace and Jamie Wendt will present “Women’s Voices in Poetry.” The evening begins with a light dinner at 5:30 p.m. The poets then read their selected work, followed by a Q&A and meet and greet. Books and materials will be available. The event is funded by the Bud Ruby Special Projects Fund and Blossom and Irving Levin Jewish Cultural Fund, both of Sinai Temple in Michigan City.
- Throughout April, the center will announce this year’s recipient of the CREO!, an honor encouraging a community culture of creativity.

Contact Cynthia Hedge at the www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com, email creativity52@comcast.net or call (219) 326-7259 for more details.

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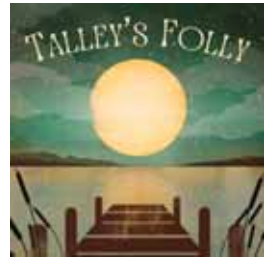
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Harbor Country Hikers



Love Creek Park is considered a good place to find spring wildflowers, like these milkweed flowers.

Harbor Country Hikers will check out ephemeral spring wildflowers during a hike at 1 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 13, at Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich.

The park commonly displays a variety of wildflowers by mid-April, including trillium, hepatica, Dutchman’s breeches and toothwort. Hike leader Derek Pelc, Berrien County’s chief naturalist, will lead the 2 1/4 hour program, revealing how many of these flowers were thought — almost always erroneously — to heal various maladies.

The trail is rated physically moderate to difficult, with some stairs and hills. Attendees should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots and a cap, and take water.

Love Creek Park includes some 200 acres of meadows, forests, marshes and creeks. In addition to hiking trails, it offers bicycle, cross-country skiing and fat tire bike trails.

HCH membership is preferred; however, the public is invited. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the HCH facebook page for more details.

LaPorte County Trivia Night

LaPorte County Trivia Night, which tests knowledge of local history and information, is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Teams of six people max are allowed because space is limited. Those who don’t have teams can be paired with other groups.

Email info@laportecountyhistory.org by April 15 to reserve a spot. Include the number of people expected to attend. Spots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

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MCAS Student Art Exhibit

An opening reception for the Michigan City Area Schools Student Art Exhibit is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The display of art and fine crafts, which runs through May 15, includes 2-D and 3-D pieces by kindergarten through sixth-graders, including paint, clay, chalk pastels and paper.

To alleviate crowding in the Hyndman Gallery, families are asked to attend at the following times:

- 4:30 p.m. — Lake Hills and Marsh.
- 5 p.m. — Edgewood and Springfield.
- 5:30 p.m. — Knapp and Pine.
- 6 p.m. — Coolspring and Joy.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.

Spring Fling Open Art Studios

The first Spring Fling Open Art Studio of the year is from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13, on the second floor at St. Mary's Art Studios, 326 W. 10th St.

The event includes: Edwin Shelton, sculpture; landscape and portrait painting in oil by Jane Cowley and Kuhn Hong; landscape painting and handmade soaps by Sunny Gardner-Orbovich; violin lessons by Nic Orbovich; abstract painting by Brady Vanes; gallery by Somersault Studio; photography by Timothy Lace; fresco and oil painting by Diane Grams; painting and apparel by Margaret Sullivan; fiber art by Amber Galloway; and podcasts and fiber art by Suzy Vance.

Buchanan Annual Chili Walk

The 16th Annual Chili Walk, sponsored by the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce and Sturgis Bank-Niles Banking Center, is from 5-6:45 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 11, in Buchanan, Mich.

This year's event again follows a progressive fashion, with Lehman's Farmhouse being the start and endpoint. Spoon sales begin at 4:45 p.m. EDT, with the awards presentation at 7:30 p.m. EDT, both at Lehman's. The cost is \$5 per person/spoon. A portion of the money goes to a local non-profit, The Tin Shop Theater. The three award categories are: Judges' Choice, People's Choice and Spirit Award.

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Box Factory Spring Rummage Sale

The Box Factory for the Arts seeks donations of gently used items for its Spring Rummage Sale on April 18-20.

Donations can be dropped off between noon-4 p.m. EDT Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14, at the Box Factory's main entrance, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Accepted items include art-and-craft supplies and books, books of any type, magazines, household goods, glass items and furniture; no clothes or appliances. Email Jane at gallery@boxfactoryforthearts.org to make other arrangements.

Rummage sale hours are (all times Eastern) noon-6 p.m. Thursday, April 18, noon-4 p.m. Friday, April 19, and noon-2 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

All proceeds support Box Factory exhibits, concerts, classes and outreach. Visit www.boxfactory-forthearts.org or facebook.com/boxfactoryarts for more details.

Chesterton Art Center

Chesterton Art Center will host "Art After Dark," its annual fundraising gala, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Sand Creek Country Club, Chesterton.

This year's theme is "Flourish" and includes dinner, a silent auction, cash bar and dancing. Proceeds support CAC's education and outreach programs, such as Youth Arts Outreach and Teen Arts Group, as well as CAC's free public programs.

Tickets, which are \$125, can be purchased individually or by tables at tinyurl.com/2jzfcbu2 or by calling (219) 926-4711.

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.



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Commission Changes

Back in the 1980s, all real-estate brokers worked for and got paid by the seller. Nobody had a fiduciary to the buyer. Nobody "represented" the buyer, just the seller.

We decided around 1994 the broker bringing a buyer to a transaction really was working for the buyer, and that was fine. The seller continued to pay the buyer broker (now determined to have a fiduciary responsibility to the buyer) because it was already set up in the MLS, and the buyer usually could not afford to pay the buyer broker directly on top of making a down payment on the house.

Some attorneys and 6 sellers in Missouri decided they were duped by brokers because they did not understand how much commission the agents were earning to sell their houses. A group of buyers in Illinois claimed they did not know how much their agents were being paid. The buyer group claimed they did not determine how much their agents would be paid, so they were paying more for the house than they would if they got a chance to bargain directly with their buyer agent.

The seller group created a class-action lawsuit, and a jury agreed they had been duped about how much their seller brokers got paid, and the sellers never got a chance to bargain the commission down. The plaintiffs won, and the jury awarded a \$1.78 billion settlement against the National Association of Realtors (NAR) to be paid to the class-action group that would (it is guesstimated) give each class-action person about \$10.

NAR settled that and other cases for a penalty of \$418 million, and agreed to make changes in how the commission is determined by the seller and buyer. It now must be determined by each party separately in writing.

So now (based on the proposed settlement, the judge still has to approve the agreement), the seller has to decide when listing a house (as they have been since 1994) just how much they are going to pay the listing broker for their work. They also must decide whether they will pay the buyer broker and how much they will pay the buyer broker if they agree to do so. No

automatic payment of the buyer agent by the seller agent, as has been the custom since the MLS started.

The buyer also must decide in writing how much the broker will be paid and whether they will ask the seller to pay their buyer broker.

Everybody must sign a statement that the commission of the seller and buyer agents is not set by law. It is negotiated.

Nobody has a clear idea what will happen when these changes are made, probably this summer.

I think the buyer will ask the seller to pay the buyer broker the amount agreed in writing that the buyer broker should get paid when they present their offer. The seller will agree, and the deal will go forward with the only difference being that the buyer and seller both more clearly understand what the agent for each side is being paid. That is an improvement in disclosure on both sides.

The plaintiffs think the seller and buyer now will dramatically reduce the amount their agent is being paid, thus reducing the price of the house by that amount.

We shall see. I do not see that happening.

Discount brokers, who offer to do the job for less, may come back. They have been here before and failed because brokers work on a "contingency basis." That means brokers work on many deals where they get paid nothing because the sale did not close. It is similar to attorneys working on a contingency of getting 33% of the settlement if they win.

For years, I have altered my commission based on the price of the house and needs of the parties. I start at 7 apples and go down to as low as 4 bananas for higher-priced properties to be shared 50/50 with the buyer broker.

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And So It Begins

The wait is over. Dan Meyer's offbeat comedy "Bulls" commenced Wednesday, April 3, with dinner and a table read of the script. The cast was already in character, laughter circulating throughout the evening. Filming will continue through the month's end. All photos by Andrew Tallackson





“The Beautiful Game” is Soft and Predictable, But You Fall for it Regardless

by Andrew Tallackson

“The Beautiful Game” is cuddly British comfort food. It derives inspiration from an actual event, one I wasn’t aware of, and the truth is, a grittier, more powerful film likely exists here.

But this new Netflix movie isn’t concerned with messy realities. Instead, it packages itself as an instantly recognizable feel-good comedy: the misfit sports underdog tale. You’ve seen this plot enough times to fill the pages of “War and Peace”... but darn those Brits. They make it work. You can feel the movie tugging at you, and because it’s so well done, resistance, as they say in “Star Trek,” is futile.

The central event of “The Beautiful Game” is the Homeless World Cup, begun in 2001 to raise awareness of the global homeless crisis. Teams of homeless people from all over the world compete in association football, or soccer, as we call it here. And since 2010, men and women have competed.

Every tale like this needs an unlikely coach, and here, it is the great Bill Nighy, last year’s Oscar nominee for the quietly affecting “Living.” Most of us discovered him as the roguish, rock ‘n’ roll burnout in “Love Actually” (2003). He thrives off playing the scoundrel amid saints.

In “The Beautiful Game,” his Mal is a retired pro-soccer coach who takes residents of a local homeless shelter each year to the Homeless World Cup. His new team, well, it ain’t impressive, but like any plucky British comedy, they’ve got heart. And heart, as we know, can go a long way. With the intense Vinny (Micheal Ward, a galvanizing lit fuse of an actor) on board — he’s one heck of a player — Mal’s team has a shot at winning.

The tournament this time is in Rome, and director Thea Sharrock, whose wonderful Disney+ adaptation of “The One and Only Ivan” (2020) got lost in the streaming surge of COVID-19, achieves a sun-baked glow for the city. The movie is as much a travelogue as it is the backdrop to the Homeless World Cup.

The screenplay by novelist Frank Cottrell-Boyce (“Millions”) extends beyond Mal’s crew to other teams. Like the South African group led by a nun, Sister Protasia. She is played by winning character

actress Susan Wokoma. She may not be a household name here, but in the short-lived Prime comedy “Truthseekers,” she was a game changer, playing an agoraphobe who comes out of her shell thanks to her brother’s paranormal-obsessed pals. In “The



Oscar-nominee Bill Nighy (right), seen here with Micheal Ward, stars as the coach of a soccer team whose players are homeless in “The Beautiful Game.”



“The Beautiful Game”

Running time: 125 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for some language, a suggestive reference, brief partial nudity and drug references.

Beautiful Game,” she plays a woman of enormous good cheer, who has a way of turning every roadblock into an exercise in determination.

I also liked Aoi Okuyama as Mika, leader of the Japanese team, the members of which are significantly older than her. Mistaking youthful optimism for legit motivation, she comes to appreciate how simply scoring a point or two is enough for these downtrodden men.

There is a dark underbelly to Mal’s team: Nathan



Bill Nighy is a treat as always as the team's coach.

(Callum Scott Howells), who reacts with childlike awe at Vinnny's talent. Nathan also is a recovering heroin addict, and when he forgets to take his prescribed treatment, he lapses into a mental fog during a key game.

His story rings with truth: the reality of addiction. More of that, more human stories that show how far these people have come, and still have to go, would have forced us to make a greater investment in the film. Put us through the ringer, with more at stake for these characters.

We never quite get that. "The Beautiful Game" adheres to that British philosophy in comedies that, the happier audiences are, the better. Thing is, you can go dark in a comedy and still have the desired uplift by the end.

Give "The Beautiful Game" credit, though, for not heading along an obvious path in the last act. Ultimately, the film isn't concerned with whether Mal's team wins the whole thing. More, it is what they take away from the experience. We appreciate that. Having the English team triumph like it came at no cost would have been lazy. Instead, we leave these characters confident they are on the cusp of better lives. And we witness it all with a smile on our face.

For the Brits behind "The Beautiful Game," that's mission accomplished.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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An Egg-celent Time

The Michigan City Easter Egg Hunt gave families ample opportunity to collect tasty treats, and *The Beacher's* Bob Wellinski was there to cover all the fun. The annual event was held Saturday, March 30, at Fedder's Alley in Washington Park.



Here is a Case Where Independent Filmmaking Takes a Turn for the Worse

by Andrew Tallackson



Julianne Moore and Finn Wolfhard star as mother and son, at war with each other, in “When You Finish Saving the World.”

With Hollywood’s elite still thumbing its nose at Marvel and other box-office spectacles, “When You Finish Saving the World” is proof not all independent pictures are the ideal antidote.

Some, in fact, are a hot mess.

It’s been a rocky road for the micro-budgeted “When You Finish Saving the World.” The writing-directing debut of eccentric actor Jesse Eisenberg (“The Social Network,” “Zombieland”), it debuted two years ago at Sundance Film Festival, experienced the most limited of limited theatrical releases one year later, then landed on Netflix in late March.

Word that Eisenberg set his tale in Bloomington, Ind., nudged it onto my radar, me being an Indiana University grad and all. That it was filmed in New Mexico is the least of its disappointments.

The movie suggests a need for independent film to re-evaluate itself. To stop lapsing into two tired tropes: Either the prodigal son returns home, or dysfunctional families wage war against each other.

“When You Finish Saving the World” falls into the second category, and while Eisenberg assembled a fine cast — “Stranger Things” star Finn Wolfhard has never been better — he fails to grasp the beating heart of any dysfunctional family drama.



“When You Finish Saving the World”

Running time: 88 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language.

It’s not enough to parade these families about like freak shows. We need insight into the “why” behind the dysfunction, to understand these people so they don’t quickly become annoying...because, *boy*, the characters in “When You Finish Saving the World” are like fingernails on a chalkboard.

Dysfunctional families, I suppose, are tailor-made for extremely low-budget filmmaking. Movies made on the cheap lack Hollywood gloss, so concentrating on real people with real problems complements the gritty indie aesthetic.

But here, there is no rhyme or reason to this family’s disconnect. All that binds them are the walls of their house. Nothing else. Evelyn (Oscar-winner Julianne Moore) runs a shelter for families victimized by domestic abuse. The husband, Roger (Jay O. Sanders), is an academic more with his eyes in a book than anything else. Their son, Ziggy (Wolf

hard), has zero clue how to function in the real world. He's at home getting paid for live streams where he performs original music to adoring fans in Japan, China and South Korea.

What went wrong? We never learn. No insight. *Nada*. Instead, Eisenberg has Wolfhard scream at Moore, who in turn mocks her son's very existence in the most defensively juvenile way possible. She's pretty hateful, but give Wolfhard credit. His crushing hurt, his exasperation, ring with truth.

I suppose Eisenberg is commenting on our inability to communicate with each other in the digital age, that we are more comfortable interacting through computers than in person. The introduction of a smart, sensitive teen at the shelter (Billy Bryk) suggests Evelyn accepts her own failure as a parent, that through this kid, she's been given a window to reboot her own maternal instincts. But her obsessive persistence in seeing him apply to college teeters into being uncomfortable to watch. Like she's slipping into madness.

Why is Evelyn this way? Moore dials down any Hollywood glamor to create someone who clearly has retreated from life. She feels small, inert. But again...*why*? What happened to her? The fatal mistake of Eisenberg's film is that he doesn't understand Evelyn, never gets inside her brain.

Ironically, Eisenberg delivers the kind of ending I enjoy. It isn't so much a happy ending, but the prelude to one. Unfortunately, the movie, itself, has not earned the payoff it delivers.

There is one beautifully executed moment, though. As Ziggy plays a song for a girl he likes (Alisha Boe) using her original poetry as the lyrics, the look on Boe's face — acknowledging his crush on her, yet not feeling the same way about him — is delicately heartbreaking.

For the past five years or so, people like Martin Scorsese, one of our finest directors, and James



The film's best scene: Ziggy (Finn Wolfhard) plays a song he wrote for a girl he likes, played by Alisha Boe.

Cameron, one of our most commercially successful, have derided popcorn flicks like Marvel movies, dismissing them as nothing more than cinematic amusement park rides. They seem to have forgotten, though, that movies are designed as escapism. A brief retreat from reality.

"When You Finish Saving the World," by comparison, is so unfocused and dreary, we feel fortunate to escape its mere presence. By the end, we are just glad it's over.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Three Stages of Travel

Once upon a time, in a lush land along the southern rim of a really big lake, we traveled to Chicago in three stages.

Stages?

As in stagecoaches?

Not quite, but a wild dash through the dunes on a vintage stagecoach would have been just the cherry on top of the banana split the South Shore Line served up in the closing months of its ambitious, double-track project between Michigan City and Gary.

What the South Shore did, you see, was transport passengers by train from Carroll Avenue to Dune Park, then bus them to Gary Metro Center, where another train took them into Chicago, with popular stops at Museum Campus/11th Street, Van Buren and, of course, Millennium Station at Randolph and Michigan.

We were none too thrilled by such a troika of transport, but we were encouraged by an intrepid friend to enter the train/bus/train triathlon. She and her hubby had gladly done so on numerous occasions, and she said it was simply “easy-peasy.”

She wondered where my spirit of adventure was, my reply being I seem to have lost it the first time I boarded a roller coaster.

But “easy-peasy” was pleasing to the ears, so on a clear day, Natalie and I decided to give the South Shore’s train/bus/train scheme a go. We picked a weekday, and off we went to Carroll Avenue to begin our adventure on westbound train 116, with a posted departure at 10:40 a.m. CST.

We expected big changes at Carroll Avenue, and saw immediately there did not seem to be any. But we were pleasantly surprised to find a parking spot in the big lot by the station, and delighted to find a friendly ticket agent waiting to sell us senior-discount tickets. We voted for keeping the ticket window open going forward, then we went to the platform to see what, if any changes, had been made to Carroll Avenue. None as far as we could see. We soon realized that Carroll could continue to be a bottleneck with its continuing one-track configuration.

As in an announcement from our conductor that our departure would be delayed as we waited on an eastbound train from Chicago to make its station stop at Carroll, then continue to South Bend.

(Somehow, I had it in my dim brain that the South Shore had miraculously fixed that problem in

the course of its double-track project, but what was soon clear was that it had not.)

So, we were late in departing Carroll, and didn’t really get rolling at speed until after we collected more passengers at the spiffy new 11th Street station, complete with platform boarding through the center doors. We then rolled through Michigan City at a heady clip, glad to see stout iron fences protecting the right-of-way.

Boarding at Carroll Avenue.



Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



There was no traffic at Beverly Shores so, owing to computer and equipment problems, we lumbered on to Dune Park, where our crew made it abundantly clear how we were to affect the train-to-bus transfer, from the station platform to two buses awaiting our convenience. And, I should add, these were the kind of buses one expects to ride on a fancy, chartered-bus tour. Yes, been there, done that, even in Russia, so we settled in for a pleasant journey west on U.S. 12, with intermediate stops at Portage/Ogden Dunes and Miller. We pitied the poor bus driver who had to thread her massive vehicle around some really tight turns at those temporary stations, but we were glad to see there was plenty of room to “land” a bus at Gary Metro Center.

As for Gary Metro Center, itself, well, suffice it to

say you might want to work out on a StairMaster at the gym before you go there. Yes, there was an elevator, but we wanted to stay with our herd, so we hoofed up a flight or two of truly mountainous stairways. If there were directional signs at the top, we didn't see them, so we stayed with our school of Chicago-bound fish and soon found ourselves flowing down a long ramp, then up what can only be described as a fish ladder of a stairway.

And then, EUREKA, the third stage of our journey: an actual South Shore train awaited our convenience. Well, there were two trains there, but our crew deftly guided us to the right one, and bid us climb the stairs at the end of the car and find our seats.

Yes, plenty of good seats, and off we went on our westward course with stops at Gary/Chicago Airport (well, kind of close to the airport), East Chicago, Hammond and Hegewisch. Speaking of the latter, which is actually a Chicago neighborhood, we remembered the long-ago day when a group of rather colorful commuters would dash off the east-bound rush-hour train to a nearby tavern, secure a six pack of adult beverages, reboard the train, then basically turn the vestibule into their personal "bar car."

Ah, the good old days, right?

Anyway, I digress, when we need to get to Chicago close to the posted arrival time at Millennium Station of 12:39 p.m. CST.

We might have been close to an on-time arrival, or least only 20 or so minutes late, but when we entered the ever-busy, multi-track raceway at Kensington, we were slotted in behind a local Metra train that was making each and every stop known to Metra. Or, perhaps, it was the milk train from days of yore, delivering milk on its milk run. Our conductor apologized profusely, saying we might be more than a tad late in arriving at Millennium — more than 40 minutes actually. That didn't seem to bother most of the elderly clientele, but a student with an art portfolio was upset because she was going to be seriously late for class.

Oh well.

We completed the South Shore's train/bus/train triathlon, but we were too worn out to do much if any sightseeing in Chicago. So we boarded the last train before rush hour, No. 209, and were headed home at the posted 3:15 p.m. departure time. We made much better time heading east, and handled the train-bus transfer at Gary Metro like a pair of seasoned commuters. Bada-bing, bada-bing, and we were back at Carroll Avenue well before dark.

Are we glad we did it?

Yes. (Natalie says, speak for yourself.)

But we are even happier that the double-track project is one for the books. Now, we can book many a happy passage on the South Shore, one train at a time.

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In Memoriam

Glory Glasscott McAneny, 91, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2024, at the home of her daughter, Tracy Ray (John), Louisville, Ky.

The body will be cremated, with private burial of her ashes in the Glasscott family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Michigan City. Her family will gather in June to celebrate her life, share memories and drink champagne in her honor.



McAneny

Glory was born on Aug. 8, 1932, the first beloved child to Robert E. Glasscott and Dorothy O. Glasscott, Michigan City.

She is survived by her children: Michael Brown, Paoha, Hawaii; Kevin Brown (Elizabeth), LaPorte; Tracy Ray (John), Louisville; Gregory Brown, Tampa, Fla.; Allyson Miller, St. Louis Park, Minn.; and Meghan McAneny, Atlanta, Ga.

Also surviving are her sister, Gay Glasscott, Cincinnati; nieces Jen Lawson and Kate (Meredith) Lawson, both of Cincinnati; nephews, Michael Glasscott (Joana), Bloomington, Ind., and Brian Glasscott (Kristen), Carmel, Ind.

Surviving are four cherished grandchildren: Robert Ray, Kevin Brown Jr., Maxwell Miller (Lane) and Lauren Soumpholphakdy (Cody); and three adored great-grandchildren: Cassius and Kendall Miller, and Zoey Soumpholphakdy; and great-nephews and great niece: Miles and Ellis Klump-Lawson, Maria and Mikey Glasscott.

Preceding her in death were Jack McAneny, Michael O. Glasscott, Geraldine Glasscott, Carol Brown and James Miller.

Memorial donations in Glory's name may be made to: Hosparus Health of Louisville. Visit www.hosparushealth.org, then click "Donate," then "Donate Now."

The family is very grateful for their guidance and assistance.

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River Valley Garden Club

Lynea Hinchman, birding expert and lifelong Indiana Dunes resident, will speak at the April 16 River Valley Garden Club meeting at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The meeting starts at 1 p.m. EDT, with the program at 2 p.m. EDT. Hinchman has been a birder for more than 40 years. She has birded on all seven continents; however, the Dunes remains her favorite location.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 362-4564, email evpalulis@yahoo.com or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org for more details.

Pancake Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of LaPorte pancake breakfast is from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at the LaPorte National Guard Armory, 2391 W. Indiana 2.

The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links and drinks. All donations benefit the LaPorte County Family YMCA Summer Camp Program and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program at LaPorte County Public Library.



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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.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The next free program is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Corny's Birthday Celebration

Celebrate "Corny the Corn Snake's" 23rd birthday, and her new enclosure, from 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Luhr County Park.

The program includes activities, snacks and a presentation on snakes. No registration required.

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.

Franciscan WorkingWell Luncheon

April 15 is the registration deadline for Franciscan WorkingWell's free luncheon on employer-based health and wellness programs.

Franciscan representatives can explain how the HEALTHeACCESS model can improve employee health and a company's bottom line. Topics include advanced primary care/employer-sponsored clinics and cost-saving medical models.

The luncheon is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton. Attendees should check in between 11 a.m.-noon. Lunch is served from noon-1 p.m.

Register by contacting Melissa Wood, Franciscan Health employee health specialist, at (219) 877-2143 or melissa.olsch@franciscanalliance.org

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 13, at Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton.

Annie MacHale will give a presentation on Inkle Band Weaving. Visit www.dunelandweaversguild.org for more details.

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Great Lakes Grand Prix Schedule

VIP tickets are on sale for the XINSURANCE Great Lakes Grand Prix, which returns Tuesday, July 30, through Sunday, Aug. 4.

The full schedule is available at <https://greatlakesgrandprix.com/>

"We are happy to announce that we have commitments from all 12 race classes to come to Michigan City and join us for this year's race," Jack Arnett, LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau CEO, said in a press release.

Rick Lindsey, XINSURANCE president and CEO, said Double Prize Money will be awarded for all classes. In addition to public events, a reception for teams and their families is Friday, Aug. 1. Another highlight is the Block Party and Boat Parade.

Pruning Workshop

A pruning workshop taught by professional gardener Joyce Thomason is from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12.

Thomason is the lead estate gardener for Hamstra Gardens, Wheatfield. She will share her extensive experience, and the best means to prune home gardens. The cost is \$40.

Visit www.FriendshipBotanicGardens.org to register. Call (219) 878-9885 or email info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org for more details.

Spring Artisan Fair

LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host its annual Spring Artisan Fair from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

More than 25 artisans will sell their pieces. Museum admission is by donation. Some vendors don't take cards, so visitors are encouraged to take cash.

Also, LaPorte County Draft Horse Association will present its annual Plow Day in the field between the museum and Door Prairie barn.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

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“Redlining in American Cities”

The lecture “Redlining in American Cities” is at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 14, at South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The speakers are Dianne Pinderhughes, Notre Dame presidential faculty fellow, and the Rev. Edmund Joyce, professor of Africana studies and political science. Redlining was a practice used to deny predominantly black families from building and buying homes in certain neighborhoods, essentially segregating areas throughout the country, including South Bend. Before and after the lecture, guests can tour the exhibit “Undesign the Red Line” and visit the Worker’s Home, now interpreted as a 1950s black residence.

Admission is \$5, or \$3 for members. Seating is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended at www.historymuseumSB.org. Call (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, for more details.

Ellen Firme Gallery

A show featuring works by Jane Cowley runs April 12-May 6, with an opening reception from 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 12, at Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

Cowley creates portraits and landscapes.

New Buffalo Railroad Museum

New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., is open for the 2024 season.

Admission is free. Email ask@new-buffalo-railroad-museum.org or call (269) 820-1504 for more details.

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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the ‘Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



In the Area

April 11 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 11 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

April 12 — World Creativity & Innovative Week kickoff, 8 a.m., A.K. Smith Career Center and Technical Education Center, 317 Detroit St.

April 12-May 6 — Works by Jane Cowley, Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. *Opening reception*: 4-7 p.m. April 12.

April 13 — Spring Fling Open Art Studio, 1:30-4:30 p.m., second floor at St. Mary's Art Studios, 326 W. 10th St.

April 14 — Kiwanis Club of LaPorte pancake breakfast, 7:30-11:30 a.m., LaPorte National Guard Armory, 2391 W. Indiana 2. Donations accepted.

April 14 — Spring Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Admission: donation. *Also*: LaPorte County Draft Horse Association annual Plow Day.

April 15 — Mario Kart in Real Life (ages 9-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 15 — Macrame Gnome Craft, 4-5 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 16 — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 16 — LaPorte County Trivia Night, 7 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Reservations: info@laportecountyhistory.org

April 17 — Opening reception, Michigan City Area Schools Student Art Exhibit, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

April 17 — Stretch and Refresh Yoga, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 17 — Women in Poetry, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 17 — Corny's Birthday Celebration, 5-6:30

p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

April 17 — Virtual Author Talk with Xochitl Gonzalez, 7-8 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

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

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 11 — Chili Walk, 5-6:45 p.m. EDT, downtown Buchanan, Mich. Cost: \$5. Info: kzelmer@moveyourhorizon.com, call/text (574) 302-7111.

April 12 — Kruger Brothers, 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

April 13 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m.-noon, Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: www.dunelandweaversguild.org

April 13 — Who Goes Where?, 10 a.m. & noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 13 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EDT, Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Road, Berrien Center, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

April 13 — Walk & Talk With the Timberdoodles, 7-8:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 13 — The Fortunate Sons: A Tribute To Creedence Clearwater Revival, 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

April 13 — Stargazing, 8-10 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

April 14 — Salamander Gander, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 14 — Lecture, “Redlining in American Cities,” 2 p.m. EDT, South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$5, \$3/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org

April 14 — Open Mic Night-Youth Night!, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer signup: openmic@acornlive.org

April 16 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: evpalulis@yahoo.com, (269) 362-4564.

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

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*: “2001: A Space Odyssey.” Rated G. Time: 7 p.m. April 11. Also: “Remembering Gene Wilder.” Not Rated. Times: 7 p.m. April 12, 4 p.m. April 13, 7 p.m. April 14. Also: “Golden Years.” Not Rated. In Swiss German with English subtitles. Times: 4 p.m. April 12, 7 p.m. April 13, 4 p.m. April 14. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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CST. Occasional nights 7-9 p.m.

Duties Responsibilities & Qualifications

Must be 16 years of age

Must have USA ID

Will get Michigan child care fingerprint/background check. Must have current

Ability to lead and oversee an assigned group of campers.

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

Maintains camp discipline. Refers incidents of misbehavior, as necessary, to the camp director.

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

Promotes high camper morale.

Ensures camper safety

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Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange (*hardcover \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 315 pages.*)

Here's a question for you: What is America's longest lasting war? Your obvious answer probably is the war in Afghanistan, but that is wrong. America's longest-running war is the one perpetrated on the indigenous people who lived here for thousands of years before white men set foot on this continent.

Tommy Orange is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho nations. His first novel, *There, There*, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2018. It follows a group of native people in Oakland, Calif., before a huge powwow, telling the daily battles living in the white man's world while trying to remember and honor their ancestors.

This novel first takes us back to the Sand Creek Massacre where a surprise attack on a peaceful tribe of Indians took place early one morning in 1864. Indiscriminate killing took the lives of men, women, children — even their horses.

The narrator, a preteen named Jude Star, is put on a horse by his grandmother and told to run and not look back. The grandmother follows until she is shot and killed.

Jude finds he cannot speak after the massacre. Will he ever speak again? Or is this psychosomatic condition so severe, speech will elude him the rest of his life?

Jude meets up with another Indian, Bear Shield. Rather than trying to write a sweeping story of the Indian experience throughout the western United States, Orange settles on these two men and their future generations up to the present.

For now, starving and weak, the pair is told to go to Fort Reno for food and shelter. They turn themselves in, are sent to Fort Sill as prisoners of war, then put on a train with other Indians and sent to another prison in Florida.

In Florida, their jailer is Richard Henry Pratt, a real person who later founds the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, where he tries to prove he can turn "savages" into productive members of the workforce. He even lets Jude learn to be a baker and later a sort of policeman who, along with other Indians, are to act as guards over the other prisoners. Pratt really thinks he has it all worked out. Not.

Of course, this means cut their hair, put on white man's clothes, do not speak Cheyenne or any other language but English, and forget all about your ancestors and culture. But at what price? "Assimilate" if you want to survive or die simply for being an Indian. What do you even remember of being Indian? What exactly is a Cheyenne?

But to many people, assimilation really meant

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



annihilation — if you can't get the Indians to completely accept white man's ways, then destroy them. "*Kill the Indian to save the man.*"

Jude learns English from reading the Bible, a book he comes to love, his first name coming from the book before Revelations in the New Testament. Bear Shield takes the first name Victor from the doctor in the book, *Frankenstein*.

Jude becomes a drunk by chance, finding three barrels of liquor at a robbery gone wrong. Drunk, you can forget, even for a short time, all the horrors you don't want to remember.

He starts attending a white man's church and meets his future wife, a white woman named Hannah who speaks in tongues. He finds his voice again at a church service where Hannah and the minister are praying over the afflicted — him included.

Bear Shield later introduces Jude to the peyote church, another way to deal with their lives. "*Bear Shield told me the medicine helped him let go of all he didn't want to keep holding on to.*"

Jude and Hannah marry the next year and have a son, Charles, who grows up to marry Opal, daughter of Victor Bear Shield, also a child, half-Indian, half-white. Charles picks up another habit besides drinking — he discovers laudanum and robbing grocery stores. He also wants to know about his ancestors. How can Jude speak of memories all but beaten out of him for years?

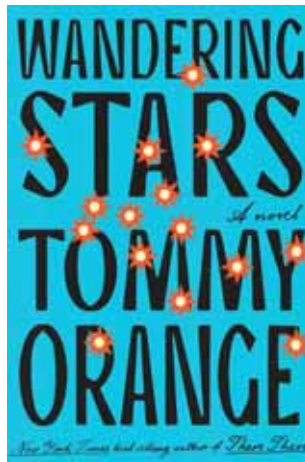
Several more generations are explored, and the last is Orvil Red Feather, the high school freshman who takes a stray bullet at the powwow in *There, There*. He also finds it painful, but mostly impossible, for his great-aunt to explain his Cheyenne history.

Tommy Orange has powerful words for the reader — words that cut and hurt. And also words that explain and reflect deep sorrow. They show why remembering is not a bad thing, but mostly a cleansing thing.

The final word: Other native authors like Angeline Boulley (*Firekeepers Daughter*), David Heska Wanbli Weiden (*Winter Count*), Morgan Talty (*Night of the Living Rez*) and others have strong voices that need to be heard, to remind us of the terrible injustices brought down.

This book is best summed up by the thoughts of Jude Star: "*But I didn't think stories were made to comfort. I believed what my father told me. Stories do more than comfort. They take you away and bring you back better made.*"

Till next time, happy reading!



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2.5 Bathrooms

Home is 2 years old

Modern Open Floor Plan

Finished Basement

New Prairie School District

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