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# Inspiration, Joy & Meaning

by *Connie Kuzydym*



Bill Browne (center) performs earlier this year with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. *Beacher* file photo by Bob Wellinski.

**B**ill Browne is a professional horn player, educator and beekeeper, and those passions have led to three fulfilling and successful careers.

As an educator, he has impacted the lives of countless students. As an independent business owner, he protects honeybees and educates the public about them. As a musician, his career has spanned the full spectrum, including professional performances, conducting, ensemble coaching and private teaching.

A Culver resident, Bill became acquainted with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra through his involvement with Michiana Brass Quintet. A few years back, they performed at LCSO's Holiday at

the Pops; shortly thereafter, a horn position became available. He auditioned and was hired.

"What I appreciate about LaPorte is the fact that it's so many local people. That's one of the strongest points about it," Bill said. "The musicians seem to really appreciate each other. They seem to like each other and root for one another. So, you have this wonderful family type feeling, which is what these musical groups need to have."

Bill acknowledges the considerable talent in LCSO, viewing his role as one of support.

Music has always been a part of Bill's family. His great-grandfather played bass drum for the Aller-

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ton Iowa Municipal Band. His grandmother accompanied silent movies on piano at the local theater. Bill's grandfather led a jazz dance band, the resident band for radio station WHO in Des Moines, gaining enough popularity to play throughout the country. His father was a guitarist in the band. His mother, brother and sister all were musicians.

Without the music flowing through his childhood home, his life would feel empty.

"I must have somehow grasped early on the power of music to shape human beings," Bill said. "But what is required to achieve true musical excellence took a bit longer to understand, and that has been a lifelong effort. That pursuit was guided by an expanding world view, and by learning how good leadership could accomplish great things. Over time, my life became, mostly through music, a mission to create for others inspiration, joy and meaning."

High school was a joyous time for him. He fully embraced those four years, not only in the classroom, but also through band activities. Enjoying being with his peers was pivotal in his career choice.

Bill pursued a double major in music performance and education at Ball State University, studying horn with Professor Robert Marsh. A kind, yet demanding teacher, he elicited the best from his stu-

dents. Marsh was one of his finest teachers.

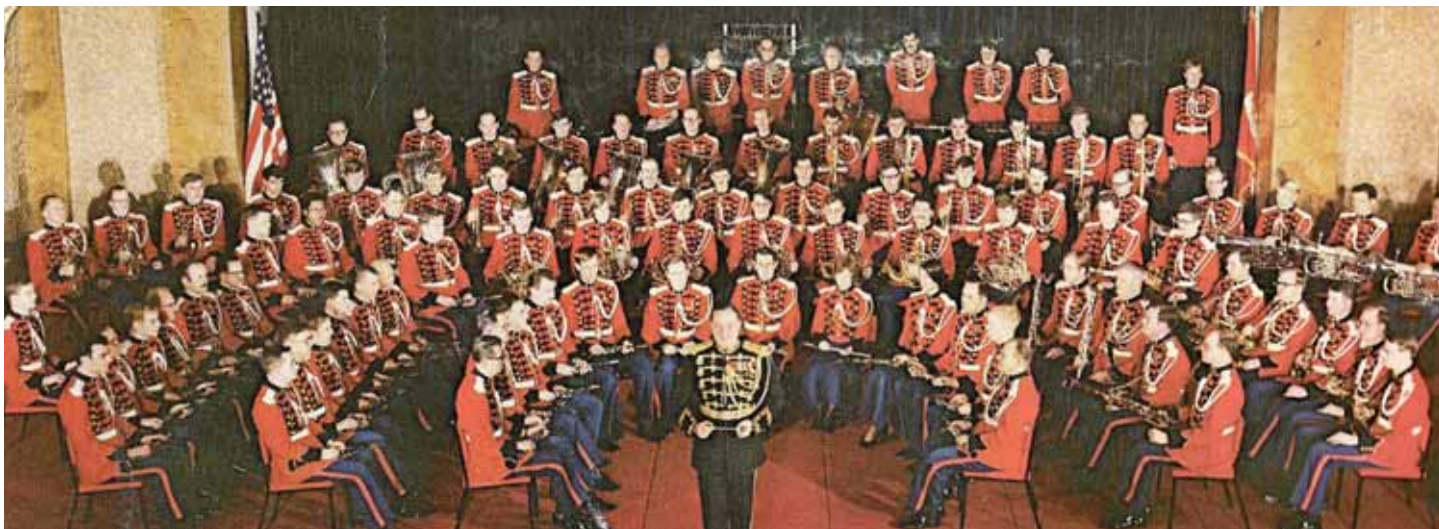
"Having had him as a judge in the ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) contest as a high school player, I knew there was something there," he said. "He was the kind of person that would fill the judging sheet with comments and then turn it over and fill the back with comments. I figured somebody who was going to do that must be a good person to study with. He was phenomenal."

The Vietnam War loomed in the background of his university years. He knew a student deferment did not guarantee exemption from the draft. Aware of his draft number, military service was likely. In January 1972, amid his senior year, the notice arrived.

Exploring his options, he decided to apply to the military bands.

"The premier bands announced their openings mostly through the union newspaper, and only the Air Force and Marine bands had openings," Bill said. "I auditioned for both on the same day..."

Auditions were similar to those of major orchestras around the country. Bill was immediately offered a position in "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in Washington, D.C. According to its website, the band was established by an Act of Congress in 1798 and is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Thomas Jefferson is credited with giving the Marine Band its title, "The President's Own." The mission is unique: provide music for the U.S. presi-



This photo of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band was taken in 1974.





This 1972 photo shows Bill Browne in uniform with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

dent and Commandant of the Marine Corps, perform for State Dinners, South Lawn arrivals, events of national significance or receptions. Marine Band musicians appear at the White House an average of 200 times a year. These performances range from small ensembles, from a solo pianist, jazz combo or brass quintet to a country band, dance band or full concert band.

Bill enlisted for duty with the U.S. Marine Corps Marine Band, attaining the rank of gunnery sergeant upon entry. The three months after the audition and acceptance were a flurry of activity. He exchanged vows with his high school sweetheart, Linda, in June, completed his final undergraduate class in July, secured a residence in Alexandria, Va., and reported to the Marine Barracks, the prestigious honor post of the Marines located at 8th and I (also referred to as EYE by the Marines) in Washington D.C., in August.

Playing in this prestigious band was an unforgettable experience involving rigorous practice and dedication.

"My first couple of weeks were eye-opening. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I kept wondering why I was there," Bill said. "These people were unbelievably good players."

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# Inspiration, Joy & Meaning

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Many of these musicians later joined ensembles such as Boston Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

“All these different people I played with were some of the finest musicians you can find,” Bill said. “A number of people went to teach at the major universities. That’s the caliber of person that I was surrounded by.”

Bill had the option to pursue a career in the Marine Band. However, he followed his instincts and decided against raising a family in the D.C. area.

Asked about the thrill of performing for the president and other dignitaries, he calmly and humbly stated, that was his job.

“There’s a lot of pressure, but it’s just what you do,” Bill said. “That’s the job you auditioned for, the one you signed up for, and that’s what you do. It’s no different than any other military assignment really.”

The experience, indeed, was awe-inspiring.

“I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time when my draft notice came due,” he said, “and my military experience was one I could never have chosen from a list, had there been a list.”

During his four-year tenure with the Marine Band, he pursued a Master of Music in horn performance at Catholic University of America. His studies were guided by the likes of Joseph Singer (New York Philharmonic) and Richard Moore (Metropolitan Opera).

Upon completing his four-year enlistment, Bill changed direction, accepting a role teaching competitive high school marching band in South Carolina. Knowing the 14-to-18 age group would be enjoyable to teach, and also is a crucial time when teens establish their values and ethics.

“Even with all their angst, I believed those years might be the last chance we could have to shape young people’s capacity to make wise decisions,” Bill said. “Music has the power to help alleviate many of the crises of character and issues of self.”

The students were outstanding, and the experience was wonderful; however, the program’s focus unfortunately centered on winning competitions and collecting trophies, concepts that were not part of his upbringing.

So, Bill made a complete career change. He contemplated embarking on a Master of Science in in-

structional technology, which would open opportunities in curriculum and development.

That summer, however, Culver Academies invited him to join one of its summer band programs.

“It left such a lasting impression on me that I realized it aligned more with my interests than teaching competitive marching band,” Bill said.

They offered him the role of assistant band director. He accepted, thinking he would complete his master’s degree, then move on to something else. As life goes, one event led to another, and he ended up staying an extra year, then longer. He then took on the role of band director. During the next 35 years, he developed an array of programs, applying knowledge from his Master of Science degree to teaching.

When Bill joined the Culver faculty in 1981, the commandant requested he adopt a military title and don a uniform as band director. The Indiana National Guard appointed him as an Army ING officer, granting him the authority to wear the corresponding uniform and insignia while teaching.

In search of additional income, Bill auditioned for, and became a member of, the 566th Air Force Band of the Illinois Air National Guard in Chicago. He attained the rank of master sergeant and took on the role of band manager.

“My 15-year adventure with the...Air Guard...included active duty in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and it ended in 1999 with the closing of the reserve base at O’Hare,” Bill said.

“I would probably say that

was one of the highlights of my life because of the people I worked with and the whole aspect of leadership, the people that I met and all the things we did.”

The Air Guard convened monthly at O’Hare International Airport. Most of their duties were for the State of Illinois and ILANG. During summer tours, their duties could be part of the overall Department of Defense mission home and abroad. At times, they embarked on overseas assignments, allowing the Europe Band to take a collective vacation.

“This was a little-known group, but these people were wonderful players. I had the honor of working with skilled, diverse professionals and some of the finest leaders...” Bill said. “Several of these were second or third generation in the same branch, or even the same unit...Where many active-duty people change locales every few years, being personally accountable to each other over time made the difference. My experience became an advanced degree in leadership.

Continued on Page 6



Bill’s great-grandfather, Burris Elonzo, who played bass drum, is photographed in 1897 with the Allerton Iowa Municipal Band.



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“For someone who never attended basic training, my closet held a distinct collection of uniforms from the Marine Corps, the Air Force, the Army and the Culver Summer Naval School.”

Even though Bill had not done basic training, among those hangers standing side by side, each uniform bore its own legacy and insignia. If the fabric could whisper, it would say Bill had fulfilled the intent: discipline, camaraderie and duty.

□

While at Culver Military Academy, Bill employed a young assistant. One day, the assistant came to Bill, inquiring whether he would be interested in beekeeping. His response: “Sure, why not!”

They purchased hives from another beekeeper. In 2006-2007, honeybee populations experienced a significant decline, a phenomenon later identified as Colony Collapse Disorder. Bill wanted to do whatever he could to help keep the bees alive. During this period, beekeepers encountered numerous challenges, such as colony collapse, emerging bee diseases, mites and other factors decimating bee populations.

When his partner decided to open an organic farm, Bill chose to incorporate and start his own beekeeping business on the outskirts of Culver, aptly naming it The Horn & The Honeybee.

Beekeeping requires a year-round commitment, with certain times being more demanding. While honey bees reduce their activity during the chilly winter months, they do not hibernate. They survive by consuming the stored pollen and honey in their hive. To prevent food shortages, Bill provides pollen patties.

The bee season in this region usually spans March-November. Throughout these months, the

time spent at the hives fluctuates. During his visits, Bill monitors the hives, assesses mite levels and ensures the bees are healthy, active and performing their expected roles.

Beekeepers encounter several challenges, including overcrowding in a hive, which can lead to swarming. In such instances, the hive must be split. If a hive has an insufficient number of bees, the beekeeper must investigate the cause.

Even clad in a bee suit, Bill still gets stung.

“It just happens,” he said. “That’s where the bee smoker comes in that helps discourage them.”

Membership in Michiana Beekeepers Association has been an invaluable resource.

“What these old folks know, you can learn by going to the meeting and listening to them...and then it’s a lot of hands-on,” Bill said.

He currently maintains five hives, which yield between 400 to 600 pounds of honey annually. While the work isn’t overly strenuous, a full hive box can weigh up to 90 pounds.

The dedicated educator, Bill has used his apiary as a teaching place for children and their parents. He also gives talks on bees to area organizations.

On the paths Bill has traversed, Linda has been there every step of the way. He attributes his accomplishments to her unwavering support.

Bill and Linda mark the beginning of their relationship from their first date 57 years ago. They have been married 53 years. They have a son, Michael, and a daughter, Amy, and are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

Their story unfolded in high school, where they met through band. Linda was its favored accompanist. It was clear they were destined to be together.

Attending different colleges, Linda obtained her degree and eventually embarked on a career in primary education. Later, she joined Culver Academies, starting in the library, then dedicating 30 years to teaching high school students.

“She is absolutely the reason that I have been able to do anything,” Bill said. “She has been able to help me do all these things, and she’s the one that’s made sure that everything worked, and had her career on top of that.”

In his leisure, Bill delights in outdoor pursuits like hiking and camping. His passion for adventure led him to complete a month-long course with the National Outdoor Leadership School



Beekeeping became a passion of Bill's thanks to a young assistant he met at Culver Military Academy.  
Photo by Bob Wellinski





Bill is photographed with his wife, Linda.

in the remote regions of Alaska. He also loves cycling. A century rider, he has not done a back-packing cycling trip, which remains on his to-do list. When not cycling in an organized event, he enjoys riding with a group. He also finds special pleasure riding alongside Linda.

“The most important part of all of this, whether it’s playing in the symphony, teaching

outdoor education, teaching music, beekeeping, whatever it is, is relationships with people,” he said. “To me, that’s the most important thing one can do is to build relationships with people. Positive, constructive ones...because it seems to me that if you’re not learning from other people, where’s the joy?”

(Visit [www.marineband.marine.mil](http://www.marineband.marine.mil) for more information on “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band.)

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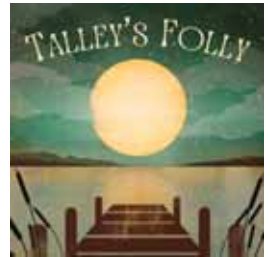
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The festivities kick off with "Art Attack Launch Party: Faces of Harbor Country" at 7 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 27, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. A portion of the proceeds directly benefits Art Attack. Live portrait creation with Harbor Country models is planned, along with appetizers, cash bar and live music with Patti Shaffner and Buddy Pearson. Tickets are \$25 in advance, while reserved seating is \$50. A \$4.50 convenience fee applies to both costs. Visit [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org) for reservations.

Art Attack's website, [www.michiganartattack.com](http://www.michiganartattack.com), provides a complete schedule for each location, along with phone numbers and websites.

The locations include

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- A Drawing Room, 9 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.
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The LaPorte Community Concert Association will present the Carlson Quartet at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at LaPorte High School’s Performing Arts Center, 602 F St.

Noted for covering a broad range of music from all genres and styles, the program includes favorites from Baroque/Classical/Romantic masters such as Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart and Strauss. The program also will include alternative style selections by Argentine tango composer Astor Piazzolla, Scott Joplin and George Gershwin.

Carrie Ann Carlson and Denise Kuehner founded the quartet in 1977 during their initial years teaching instrumental music in Porter County, then expanded when they pursued their Master of Music degrees in Sonata Literature at The University of Notre Dame. The quartet continued to thrive over the years and recently rekindled with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra’s 50th anniversary activities, incorporating Lewis Stahl (violin) and Anna Anderson (Viola) into the ensemble.

All quartet members are experienced musicians, having earned advanced degrees in music performance, and including Northwestern University and Indiana University-South Bend.

The concert is included with the 2023-2024 season. The public may purchase tickets at the door.



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Three Lyric Opera of Chicago tenors, Matthew Daniel, Joseph Fosselman and Cameo Humes, will present the next free family concert hosted by School of American Music.

The program, which features hits from opera to Broadway and includes accompaniment by pianist Lisa Kristina, is at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 28, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.



Daniel



Fosselman



Humes



Kristina

The performers have extensive experience in opera and other musical genres. Daniel also is a SAM voice instructor.

At the concert, a food-item donation is requested for Neighbor by Neighbor, a nonprofit providing resources and services to southwest Berrien County residents. Donations can include pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti or anything easy to heat.

Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or [schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com), or visit <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com> or School of American Music on Facebook for more details.

**Young Artists Expo**

Youth between ages 7-18 are encouraged to submit artwork for the annual Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Young Artists Expo.

Quality artwork of any style and media is welcome. It does not have to be framed or mounted; LCA will provide that service.

All artists must schedule an informal portfolio review before submitting artwork with Education Director Nelsy Marcano by Friday, May 3. Contact her at [nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org](mailto:nmarcano@lubeznikcenter.org) or call (219) 874-4900.

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### Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers member Katha Kissman will share her experiences hiking the *Camino de Santiago* at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 30, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Until seeing the Martin Sheen-Emilio Estevez film "The Way," Kissman had never heard of the *Camino de Santiago*. A year later, she watched the film again and decided she had to walk the ancient route. COVID restrictions and hip replacement forced her to postpone the trek, but last September, she began her walk in western France, completing it Oct. 6.



Katha Kissman stands in front of the cathedral of *Santiago de Compostela* at the end of her five-week hike.

The *Camino de Santiago* is a group of pilgrimage routes that leads to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain, traditional home of the bones of St. James the Apostle. Pilgrims have been traveling the routes since the 10th century.

In 1985, just 690 pilgrims completed the walk. In 2022, the number was 437,507.

### New Buffalo Township Library

- **Harbor Country Book Club at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25.** The focus is Angeline Boulley's *Firekeeper's Daughter*.
- **NBTL Book Club at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 30.** The focus is Geraldine Brooks' *Horse*.

### 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.



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### Native Plant Sale

April 26 is the deadline to submit pre-sale order forms through the 28th Annual Friends of Indiana Dunes Native Plant Sale.

The event is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Friends office, 1000 W. Oak Hill Road, Porter.

Pre-sale ordering is recommended because a limited quantity of each species is available. Every year, several varieties sell out through pre-sales, which are filled as received. Individuals will be notified of any unavailable species.

Order forms are available at [www.dunefriends.org](http://www.dunefriends.org) or through a link on the Facebook page. Paper copies are available at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center and Indiana Dunes Tourism visitor center. Email [nativeplants@dunefriends.org](mailto:nativeplants@dunefriends.org) or call (219) 707-3617 for more details.

Open shopping is available the day of the sale, which features more than 80 native species, including: woodland flowering plants and ferns; dry, medium and wet prairie flowering plants; grasses, shrubs, and trees. Varieties come in pots and are native to Northwest Indiana, Northeast Illinois and Southwest Michigan. Consultants can answer all questions. All profits support the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

### Play for Jake Foundation Benefit

The non-profit Play for Jake Foundation is the beneficiary of the outdoor Red Door Beer & Wine Tasting from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Monroe Street and Lincolnway in LaPorte.

Attendees, who must be 21 and older, can sample more than 50 wines and craft beers.

The foundation's mission is to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest in youth. It partners with schools to provide screenings, and raises funds and awareness about the importance of automated external defibrillators.

Tickets, which cost \$50, include a personal charcuterie box, unlimited sampling, live music, local vendors and food. Search the benefit on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) for more details.


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### Three Oaks Flag Day Fundraiser

The annual Three Oaks Flag Day Hog Roast, with all proceeds supporting the Three Oaks Flag Day Parade, is from 5-8 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 27, at Three Oaks American Legion, 204 W. Linden St.

The meal includes pork, baked beans, mac 'n cheese, cole slaw and dessert. Live music by The Resurrection Blues Band is at 6 p.m. EDT. The newly crowned Flag Day Prince and Princess, and Three Oaks/River Valley Royalty, will attend.

“We are also excited to share that Flag Day is going to be part of a documentary, and all the events leading up, to and during the Flag Day Parade could be part of it!” Festival President Heather Whitlow said in a press release.

The parade is supported by sponsorships and the hog roast. Donations from surrounding businesses fill the silent auction. The live auction includes dinner at Granor Farms.

Tickets, which are \$25, are available at the door. Participation in the silent auction is on an individual basis, with only cash and check accepted. Anyone wishing to donate to the silent auction can contact Whitlow at (269) 612-1960.

Three Oaks Flag Day sponsors are American Legion Post 204 and Journeyman Distillery.

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## Long Beach's New Public Safety Building Elevates Town Into the Future

by Andrew Tallackson



Photographed in the Public Safety Building's mezzanine space, which overlooks the bay area, are (from left) Town Council Vice President Anita Remijas, Chief Marshal Mark Swistek and longtime volunteer firefighter-former council member John Wall. All photos by Andrew Tallackson

Finishing touches awaited, but their absence could not detract from how impressive Long Beach's new Public Safety Building is.

Chief Marshal Mark Swistek, Town Council Vice President Anita Remijas and longtime volunteer firefighter-former council member John Wall offered *The Beacher* a tour of the 10,000-square-foot, nearly \$3.2 million project April 16, with Wall stressing how the facility will take the town through the next 50 to 75 years.

"I just think it's forward progress," Remijas said. "It was a group of people coming together and really coming up with the design that will work for the town, as John Wall said, for the next 50 to 75 years. It's such a positive for a volunteer fire department."

The multiuse building behind town hall replaces the fire station and police garage erected in the early 1970s. Gone are the cramped, outdated structures and in their place a modern, spacious facility thanks to contractor Holladay Construction Group. Visitors to the building are greeted by a roughly 1,500 square foot training/meeting area, complete with a kitchenette, available not only to the town's

police and fire departments, but also community groups when available. To the left is space lined with offices for everything from fire administration to accounting.

The vast bay area is spectacular, the first three spots accommodating vehicles, the fourth for storage and washing vehicles, complete with a power washer. And speaking of storage, the mezzanine area above, embellished by material salvaged from the former police garage, contains plenty of additional storage space.

"It's probably a little larger for what we need immediately," Wall said, "but in the future, if they have to change the configuration or we need bigger equipment, we have the space."

"What happens with the fire service is...the amount of equipment you need every year multiplies, so in a 10-year plan, it's exponential how much stuff you have to add to your complement."

Wall reiterated how frequently industry standards change, and how fire departments must adapt with the times.

"A lot of motivation on the fire side was to come



up to the current technology on cancer-causing agents,” Wall explained. “Our people used to keep their equipment in their cars. The cancer agents in the current building materials and furnishings get attached to that gear and off-gas into that vehicle while you drive. Now, we’ve got a great locker room. You can come here, throw your gear on and go. It is much safer for our fire personnel and their families.”

Another example of safety, he highlighted, is space to offer better configuration of the department’s self-contained breathing apparatus.

Elsewhere in the building, and in the works, is a fitness room for police and fire staff, the departments having applied for a Health Foundation of LaPorte grant for the project, Swistek said.

Walking through the building, Wall and Swistek frequently mentioned how behind the times the former buildings were.

“The square footage we had in there, and the amount of stuff we had in there, was almost dangerous,” Wall said. “You couldn’t get around the trucks adequately to do maintenance. The space considerations, the health considerations, those kind of things, we had to address.”

Swistek agreed.

“It’s now a state-of-the-art facility,” he said. “The fire department was in such cramped quarters when I first came into town. Our police garage was in horrible shape. Single-pane windows that were all cracked. The roof was deteriorating. We couldn’t really store much in there because everything would get damaged every time it would rain.

“Now, this is gonna take the town through the next 50 to 75 years.”

Plans are under way for residents to tour the facility, likely in early June, Swistek said. The icing on the cake for him?

“Outside, it’s a beautiful building,” he said. “Ever



John Wall stands by space designated for the fire department’s self-contained breathing apparatus.



Kemp’s Office City employees prepare tables and other furniture for the new training-meeting space.

since construction started...so many residents would walk by when we were out back complimenting it, saying it’s such a beautiful building and it fits the town well. We’re very happy to have it as the premier facility for the town.”

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



The exterior of the new Public Safety Building.



# EXTRA, EXTRA!

April 14 was a big day for Dan Meyer's "Bulls" as extras arrived to appear in the film's climactic darts tournament. All photos by Andrew Tallackson







## Helena Bonham Carter is at Her Best in “Nolly”

by Andrew Tallackson

“Nolly” may be set in 1981, its real-life characters populating a British TV soap opera, but the harsh reality it explores is just as painfully relevant today.

Actresses aren’t allowed to get older.

The industry likes ‘em young and perky. When the wrinkles emerge or, worse, they are a tad demanding on set, simply discard them like yesterday’s trash.

And in this three-episode biographical PBS mini-series, Helena Bonham Carter achieves what I would argue is her best work. A performance that begins by neatly chewing every corner of the scenery, then evolves through real pain and hurt to reveal an exceedingly complicated individual, culminating in scenes that, well, if Carter doesn’t receive an Emmy nod, let alone win, then something has gone wrong.

The soap opera in “Nolly” is “Crossroads,” whose initial run spanned more than two decades, from 1964-1988. In 1981, though, the show is changing with the times. The first black actress (Bethany Antonia), for instance, has joined the cast.

The “Nolly” in the title refers to Noele Gordon (Carter), the venerable actress who plays Meg Mortimer, a longtime favorite on the show.

In the first episode, we see Nolly testing the patience not of the cast, but of director Jack Barton. He’s played by “Our Flag Means Death” scene-stealer Con O’Neill as a man so numbed by BS, it almost doesn’t surprise him anymore. And to him, Nolly is a petulant diva. She disregards his direction in favor

of her own take on scenes. And at a mere 62 years of age, such behavior makes her, in Jack’s eyes and that of the studio head, disposable.

Nolly learns she’s about to get sacked, written off the show, so she retaliates by alerting the press. Doesn’t impact her firing, but it reinserts her into the public eye.

Carter has charted a career for herself playing larger-than-life women, from her eccentric work with then-partner Tim Burton (“Planet of the Apes,” “Big Fish,” “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”) to appearing as a middle-aged Princess Margaret on Netflix’s “The Crown.” She likes theatrical embellishments, and we get that early. Hand constantly cradling a cigarette. Icy glares. Nostrils flared.

But by the second episode, when Nolly reverts back to her theater background, appearing as Mama Rose in a London revival of “Gypsy,” Carter’s performance takes on a richer tone. The message about her vitality in the eyes of the industry is loud and clear: It’s time to step aside for the next generation.

The third and final episode is where Carter’s performance blooms full. With ratings for “Crossroads” declining in the wake of her absence, Barton comes crawling, eager for her return. That leads to the single best written and acted scene on television so far this year. Nolly asks Jack why, the two having worked together for decades, he lacked the common courtesy to speak with her before her firing. Voice concerns about her being difficult, rather



In a superbly written and acted scene, Nolly grills her former director, Jack Barton (Con O'Neill), as to why he behaved as he did.

than humiliate her through a public firing. Carter's voice has no trace of diva left in her. Instead, she's a humbled woman demanding the degree of respect Jack would afford a male actor.

That scene, alone, is Carter's defining moment. But her return to "Crossroads" requires her to conjure a multitude of emotions. The look on Carter's face is one of bittersweet triumph. Of a life lived well, even with darkness looming on the horizon.

We tend to take great performers for granted because they consistently do strong work. Carter is one of those people. She tends to get dismissed here and there as "quirky." Thing is, she always finds the humanity in the women she plays.

In "Nolly," she is heartbreakingly good.

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



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## Floating Down the Nile(s)

Some years ago, we desperately needed to get away from all the friendly folks who get away to our side of Lake Michigan.

They were too much for us after a long, loud season of sun on the beach, so we sought sanctuary, a day-cation, if you will, in — drum roll — Niles, Mich.

That's right, the "City of Four Flags" on the banks of the mighty St. Joseph River, here in Berrien County, Mich.

Why Niles?

Well, we discovered the somewhat-gritty city in 1988 after forming Dunery Press to publish our own fiction. We were seeking local outlets for our work, and our pre-Internet search directed us to a certain Casperson Books on the west edge of town. We headed on over and met no less an antiquarian bookseller than Ralph A. Casperson himself.

(I wrote all about him for my very first *Beacher* story, way back at the start of the Third Millennium.)

We found a kindred spirit in the cantankerous veteran of the Italian campaign in World War II, returning to trade books with him for the decades leading up to his death in 2009 at age 89.

Ralph encouraged us to head east a short ways into downtown Niles itself, and we gladly did. We fell in love with Wonderland Cinema for its quirky offerings at prices we could afford. And what was not to love about the always tempting display of their very own chocolates at Veni's Chocolates?

So, we began the long-running Labor Day tradition of stepping out to Niles for a funky movie and a walk along the St. Joseph River.

In no time flat, we were setting foot all over Niles, all four seasons.

I ran some Thanksgiving races over there back when I was youthful and spry, even going so far as a 10K, which took me on a fascinating foot tour of "suburban Niles."

In the course of time, we came to have as our dentists a practice right near the river. So now, when we are due for cleanings, we double-book: one goes for a walk along the St. Joseph — floating down the Nile(s), we call it.

Now, thanks to the city's endless striving to offer more places for pedestrians to explore, we can walk as far as we want along the river on the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail. It connects directly



A must stop on your walking tour of Niles: the Ring Lardner House on Bond Street. The house, itself, it is not open to the public.

## Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



with a bike path that takes you to nearby South Bend, Ind., and environs. We haven't been so bold as to try that trip, but we do have it on our to-do list.

Meanwhile, back to our pleasant diversions in Niles, which we were happy to discover is a city of sidewalks. We have thus walked all over town, marveling at the rich array of architectural styles. None more so than the home of Ring Lardner, which is marked as a historical site. Ringgold Wilmer Lardner was born in Niles in 1885 and adopted the pen name of Ring Lardner, as he cranked out short stories and satirical writings on sports, theater and marriage.

He influenced Ernest Hemingway, Virginia Woolf, F. Scott Fitzgerald and that couple who started the Dunery Press in 1988. So, naturally, we often take a walk past his house when floating down the Nile(s).

While the house is in private hands and, thus, not open to the public, you are certainly welcome to peruse the Michigan Historic Site sign across Bond Street that proclaims, in part: *"A Sportswriter, humorist and sardonic observer of the American scene, Ring Lardner, born on March 6, 1885, was raised in the house across the street."*

The sign says that Lardner was *"one of the best-known American authors in the 1920s"* who *"began his career writing sketches of sporting events for the South Bend News Times and later worked for papers in Chicago and New York, where he wrote several popular syndicated columns."*

I, for one, am a big fan of his work. I know many in Niles are also because they named one of their learning institutions the Ring Lardner Middle School.

No wonder we like to wander about Niles all four seasons and in all kinds of weather.

Nothing better than a show at the Wonderland in climate-controlled comfort, then a walk along what Niles calls the Riverfront Trail. (That's the stretch of the aforementioned Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail. I do plan to ride the entire trail, from Niles to Mishawaka and back, and report back to you, gentle readers.)

We love walking along the St. Joseph River in spring, summer, fall and winter, and always see a whole lot of Canada geese and mallards. Some migrating waterfowl do turn up in Niles in spring and fall, so do take your binoculars. And, yes, there are folks in town who regularly feed the regular contingent of geese and ducks and, of course, gulls.

As the die-hard writers we are, we always salute another regular along the river in Niles, the French Paper Co. Ring a bell?

If you are into fine color paper, colored card stock and colored envelopes, then you surely know and perhaps patronize the French Paper Co., which has 150 years of experience making paper in Niles. And, they are all about sustainability as they employ hydroelectric generators in their paper production.

Santa always lands his sleigh on the St. Joseph River at Christmas time, presumably to give the reindeer a chance to hydrate. They are best seen from the Riverfront Trail.



Santa makes a watery visit to Niles at Christmas.

Not so long ago, we saw that Casperson Books is very much alive, well and doing brisk business in "old used books and paper items" just up from the river at 302 Broadway. Ralph's son, Al, is the captain of the Casperson ship. He has lined his shelves with must-buy books. We caught up on Casperson lore with Al during our recent visit and plan to return many times during our many visits to Niles.

Hours, by the way, are 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday through Sunday. The phone number is (269) 362-1978. I know the hour or so we spent catching up with Al was one of the best spent in recent memory.

Well, that's enough out of me about the many wonders of Niles. It's there, year-round for you to explore. Hope to see you some fine day "floating down the Nile(s)."

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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:

- **Scratch Club (ages 7-17) at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25.** Learn to code with Scratch — a platform to create stories, games and animations — by working through projects and sharing ideas. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- **Build-a-Button (kids and teens) at 4 p.m. Friday, April 26.** Create wearable art by turning art into buttons or making a button with pre-made designs.
- **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 records.
- **Let's Go to the Races Party for Adults at 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 30.** Wear a favorite derby hat (optional), sip a mint julep mocktail, take photos with friends at the photo booth and play the vintage "Let's Go to the Races" VCR horse-racing game (1987).
- **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.
- **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](http://www.mclib.org) or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

## LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



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3. Dottie Brinckman		158
4. Barb Macudzinski		154
5. Kim Stokes		151
6. June Salmon		150
7. Kathy Osborne (series)		401
SPLITS		
Ellie Parkerson		1-7-10
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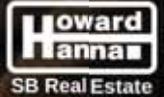
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## Monday Musicale Student Concert

Winners of Monday Musicale's annual Student Awards Competition will present a free concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Nineteen musicians in grades 4-10 participated in auditions held April 14 at the church. Judges Sue Cassler, Betsy Kohn, Steven Mast, Dan McNabb and Stan Shepard heard selections for piano, organ, violin, cello, clarinet, flute and voice.

The following students were recognized:

### Junior Division

#### Piano I

- Finley Romine — first.
- Moiraey Bair — second.
- Katherine Burden — third.

#### Piano II

- Samuel Burden — first.
- Aiden Desormeaux — second.
- Amy Carpenter — third.
- Maren Rishaug — honorable mention.

#### Organ

- Maren Rishaug — first.

#### Instrumental

- Samuel Burden, clarinet — first.
- Valerie Kuiper, violin — second.
- Maren Rishaug, cello — third.

#### Voice

- Annabelle Kilbourne — first.
- Natt Parkinson-Kilbourne — second.
- Theodora Karst — third.

#### Organ Lesson Grant for Pianists

Maren Rishaug.

#### Joy Carson Memorial Award

Samuel Burden, piano.

### Senior Division

#### Mildred Bowman Memorial Award

Ella Crane, voice.

#### First Congregational Church Award

Jacob Wireman, piano.

#### George Maslankowski Memorial Award

Mya Moore, flute.

#### Past Presidents Award

Younha Seppyys, voice.

#### Marilyn Whiten Memorial Award

Mazy Redhead, flute.

Senior Division honorees, plus first-place Junior Division winners, will perform their qualifying selections. Certificates, engraved plaques and scholarships totaling \$2,200 will be presented. Donations to the club's scholarship fund will be accepted. Contact Sue Cassler at (219) 362-142 for more details.

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## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Woodland Wildflower Hike from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through April 30 at Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City.** Join a ranger to view woodland flowers. The Heron Rookery trail runs along the Little Calumet River, with the hike starting at the east parking lot. Passes are required.
- **Native Plant Talks from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Regional botanists Nathanael Pilla and Steve Sass will explore the ecology, history and physiology of their favorite Indiana Dunes plants, focusing on species offered by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes' upcoming native plant sale.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Community Park-wide Cleanup for Earth Day from 9 a.m.-noon Monday, April 22, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes, Mermaid Straw and the park's volunteer office, guests work with staff to pick up trash. Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear are provided. Temporary passes are available.
- **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](http://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.



April 30 is the deadline for teens to apply for five positions with Youth Conservation Corps), a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds.

Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour week June 2-Aug. 10, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire program length. Teens are part of a crew that does manual labor tasks, normally outdoors. No experience is necessary. Participants are selected by random draw from the applicant pool. To be eligible, teens must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 2, but not turn 19 before Aug. 10. The application is available through high school guidance offices, the IDNP Office at (219) 395-1777 or online at [www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/parkmgmt/jobs.htm)



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

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

- **Wildflower Wander at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 27.** Meet at the Nature Center for the easy discovery walk to see which woodland spring wildflowers are blooming.
- **The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27.** Meet at the Nature Center for a 1.5-mile flat walk to the beach and back.
- **Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 28.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to help fill bird feeders and play the game.
- **Arbor Day: The Mighty Stature & Ecology of Oaks from 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28.** In celebration of Arbor Day (April 26), Dr. Spencer Cortwright, Indiana University Northwest biology professor, will discuss the ecological importance of oaks, how they became widespread in the United States and what problems they face today. *Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs.*

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### Lending a Hand



Michigan City Elks Lodge 432, along with lodge members from South Bend, Highland, Whiting and Plymouth, helped prepare Camp Millhouse for the summer on April 13. Camp Millhouse is a non-profit residential summer camp for children and adults with disabilities in South Bend. Exalted Ruler Catherine Dickerhoff said in a press release Elks members cleaned the pool, raked leaves, pulled weeds and various other jobs, all in about two hours. So far this year, Indiana Elks Association Inc. has donated more than \$12,750 to Camp Millhouse.

### Bootlegger's Bash

The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum will host the first Bootlegger's Bash from 6-10 p.m. EDT Friday, April 26, at both South Bend museums.

Guests 21 and older can dance, drink and eat during the Roaring Twenties event. Truth in Jazz and Gramophone DJ Jack Shellac will provide live music. Food and drinks will be available for sale.

Period attire is encouraged, and those interested may enter a costume contest. No type of replica weapon is permitted.

All galleries in both museums will be open.

Bee's Knees tickets (general admission), which are \$30 (\$40 at the door), include access to all programming. Mob Boss tickets (VIP), which are \$100, include access to all programming, an open bar, private VIP lounge and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org)

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. The Studebaker Museum is located at 201 Chapin St. Contact the Studebaker National Museum at (574) 235-9714 and The History Museum at (574) 235-9664 for more details.

### Dunes Summer Theatre Volunteer Day

Dunes Summer Theatre will host a volunteer prep day from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

The goal is to get the theater ready for the season. Each volunteer receives free pizza and two complimentary tickets (\$70 value).

Visit [www.dunesarts.org/volunteer](http://www.dunesarts.org/volunteer) to register.



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## Lubeznik Center Summer Offerings

Classes, camps and workshops are available this summer through Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Young artist classes include: "Coastal Creations," which centers on nautical-themed mixed-media art; "Theater," which entails fundamental techniques and practices used by stage actors; and "Character Design," which involves creating characters through sketches and concept design.

Workshops include: "The Psychology of Colors," where exploring schools of thought and cultural interpretations of color help create a paper collage; and "Printmaking," where techniques and safety tips build to creating a stamp from linoleum tile.

Camps include: "Fashion Week" (July 15-19), which involves the design process from start to finish; "Campers in Wonderland" (July 22-26), where youth use natural materials and designs to make art inspired by the children's tale; and "Boats, Buildings & Bridges" (Aug. 5-9) where participants sketch local architectural monuments, build 3-D models and use perspective to create a realistic drawing.

Adult classes include: "Abstract Painting I & II"; "Nature Photography"; "Acting for Adults"; "The Spiritual in Contemporary Art"; and "Fashion Camp for Adults."

Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) for full details.



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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](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more details.

### All About Flowers

The educational night that includes a craft and a story is from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at Red Mill County Park.

The program, co-presented by LaPorte County Public Library, is geared toward elementary age children.

### Hoosier Riverwatch Training

Learn how to monitor Indiana's local streams, and learn more about water quality issues, during the program on Monday-Tuesday, April 29-30.

Times are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 29 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 30 at the Environmental Education Center.

## Food Pantry, Retailer Unite

Sacred Heart Food Pantry at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, 326 W. 10th St., has partnered with Meijer to aid local families through the retailer's hunger-relief program, Simply Give.

The campaign replenishes more than 260 food pantries in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Wisconsin. It encourages customers to add a \$10 Simply Give donation card to their cart, which is converted into a Meijer food-only gift card and given to a local food pantry. Sacred Heart Food Pantry will benefit from donation cards at the Michigan City store through June 29.

In addition, Meijer will double match all customer cards Saturday, June 15. Customers shopping online using Meijer Pickup or home delivery can include Simply Give donation cards as an add-on to orders.

## Krasl Art Fair Jury

The staff at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., have announced the jury for the 62nd Annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff.

It is:

- Jennifer Marcussen, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi archivist and curator.
- Jaylen Lanier, Witkindness founder and creative director.
- Vaughn Sims, fashion designer.
- Alan Corkhill, art collector and Krasl Art Center board member.
- Sara Fahlin, digital studio coordinator at The University of Notre Dame for the Department of Art, Art History and Design.

Art Fair Jury Day was held in February. The fair, itself, is July 13-14. Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for details.



# American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, April 28.
- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, May 3.

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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more details.

## Shirley Heinze Spring Benefit

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its annual spring benefit, "Branching into New Waters," from 5:30-10 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Valparaiso's William E. Urschel Pavilion on Lincolnway.

Dale and Nancy Nichols, Leslie Shad and Joseph Brennan, Mary Ann Tittle, Anne and Tim Walsh, along with corporate sponsors Cleveland-Cliffs and NIPSCO, committed to match all pre-event donations up to \$100,000.

The event includes champagne service, jazz music, a live auction and dinner. New is a young professional ticket price of \$50. Other tickets start at \$150. All proceeds benefit the trust's mission to preserve and restore natural lands and waters in Northwest Indiana.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://heinzetrust.org/springbenefit2024/>

## Hands for Hope Luncheon

The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St., will host a Hands for Hope volunteer-appreciation luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, April 26.

Special awards include Volunteers of the Year, Bell Ringer of the Year and Exceptional Advisory Board Member.

RSVP to [jessica.obrien@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jessica.obrien@usc.salvationarmy.org) or call (219) 874-6885, Ext. 1003.

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### In the Area

**April 25** — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

**April 25** — All About Flowers, 5-6:30 p.m., Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**April 26** — Hands for Hope volunteer-appreciation luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St. RSVP: (219) 874-6885, Ext. 1003, [jessica.obrien@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jessica.obrien@usc.salvationarmy.org)

**April 26** — Build-a-Button (kids & teens), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 27** — Red Door Beer & Wine Tasting (Play for Jake Foundation benefit), 1-4 p.m., Monroe Street/Lincolnway, LaPorte. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: search event on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

**April 27-28** — Woodland Wildflower Hike, 9-11 a.m./1-3 p.m., Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**April 28** — LaPorte Community Concert Association, Carlson Quartet, 2 p.m., LaPorte High School's Performing Arts Center, 602 F St. Cost: \$20/adults, \$5/students ages 6-18. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

**April 30** — Let's Go to the Races Party for Adults, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 30** — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 1** — Virtual Author Talk with Douglas Brunt, 2-3 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**May 1** — Creative Kids: Wind, 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Through April 28** — "How the Depot was Saved and How it Survives Today," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

**Through April 30** — "Towns of LaPorte County Pop-Up" display (Rolling Prairie), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.,

LaPorte. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Through May 6** — Works by Jane Cowley, Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

**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](mailto: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.

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

**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](http://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](mailto:kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org)

### In the Region

**April 25** — Harbor Country Book Club, 1:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**April 25** — "Art Attack Launch Party: Faces of Harbor Country," 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 (\$4.50 convenience fee), reserved \$50 (\$4.50 convenience fee). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**April 26** — An Evening with Patricia Barber: A

Benefit for School of American Music, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$100 (\$11 convenience fee), reserved \$125 (\$4.50 convenience fee). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**April 26-28** — Art Attack 30th annual celebration. Info: [www.michiganartattack.com](http://www.michiganartattack.com)

**April 27** — Wildflower Wander, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 27** — Native Plant Talk, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**April 27** — Three Oaks Flag Day Hog Roast, 5-8 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks American Legion, 204 W. Linden St. Tickets at door: \$25. Info: (269) 612-1960.

**April 27** — The J.D. Marshall Shipwreck History Stroll, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 27** — Sousa Tribute Concert, 4 p.m., Valparaiso University Chapel of the Resurrection, 1600 Chapel Drive. Free.

**April 27** — The Music of Dolly Parton, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 (\$5.50 convenience fee), reserved \$60 (\$5.50 convenience fee). Info: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**April 28** — Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 28** — School of American Music free family concert, 3 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Suggested food item donation. Info: (269) 409-1191, [schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com)

**April 28** — Arbor Day: The Mighty Stature & Ecology of Oaks, 3-4:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 30** — New Buffalo Township Library Book Club, 10 a.m. EDT, library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

**April 30** — Harbor Country Hikers program, 6 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St

**Through April 27** — “Duneland Weavers’ Guild’s Fiber Art ‘24,” “Expressive Minds: the CAC Youth Art Exhibition,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chesterton-art.org](http://www.chesterton-art.org)

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

**Through May 2** — Peter Wise exhibit (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.nps.gov/), (219) 395-1882.

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing:* “The Wizard of Oz.” Time: 7 p.m. April 25. *Also:* “Wicked Little Letters.” Rated R. Times: 4 p.m. April 26, 7 p.m. April 27, 4 p.m. April 28. *Also:* “The Old Oak.” Not Rated. Times: 7 p.m. April 26, 4 p.m. April 27, 7 p.m. April 28. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.





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**On April 25, 1719, Robinson Crusoe**, a novel by Daniel Defoe, was first published.

**On April 25, 1859**, Chicago’s first horse-drawn street railway begin operation on State Street between Lake and 12th streets (Roosevelt Road).

**On April 25, 1901**, New York became the first state requiring automobile owners to have license plates for their vehicles; the fee was \$1. The plates, for all 954 registered cars, carried their owners’ initials.

**On April 25, 1983**, the Pioneer 10 spacecraft crossed Pluto’s orbit, speeding on its endless voyage through the Milky Way.

**On April 26, 1865**, John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was found dead in a Virginia barn.

**On April 26, 1954**, an announcement was made that 900,000 American children would receive the Salk anti-polio vaccine.

**On April 26, 1961**, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of a record 61 home runs in a single season.

**On April 26, 1962**, the first true international satellite, a United States-British venture, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

**On April 26, 1989**, actress-comedian Lucille Ball died in Los Angeles at age 77.

**On April 27, 1875**, New York’s Roman Catholic Archbishop John McCloskey was installed as the first American cardinal.

**On April 27, 1906**, U.S. Steel broke ground for their new steel mills, and a city named Gary was born on the shores of Lake Michigan.

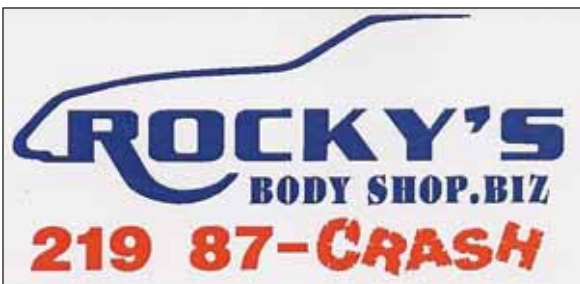
**On April 27, 1937**, the nation’s first Social Security checks were distributed.

**On April 27, 1972**, after an exploratory mission to the moon, Apollo astronauts John Young, Thomas Mattingly and Charles Duke made a safe splash-down in the Pacific.

**On April 27, 2002**, South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth arrived at the International Space Station for an eight-day, seven-night cruise that cost him \$20 million.

**On April 28, 1789**, while sailing in the South Pacific, the crew of HMS Bounty took over the ship, casting Captain Bligh and 18 sailors adrift in a lifeboat.

**On April 28, 1947**, a six-man expedition sailed from Peru aboard a balsa wood raft named the Kon-Tiki, the beginning of a 101-day journey that would take them across the Pacific Ocean to Polynesia.



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**On April 28, 1967**, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali (Cassias Clay) refused induction into the U.S. Army.

**On April 28, 1982**, the U.S. registered an official protest regarding the censoring of President Ronald Reagan's remarks broadcast on Chinese television.

**On April 28, 1986**, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

**On April 29, 1492**, Joan of Arc entered Orleans to lead the French to victory over the English.

**On April 29, 1913**, Gideon Sundback, of Hoboken, N.J., received a patent for a "separable fastener." It is now known as the zipper.

**On April 29, 1974**, President Richard Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

**On April 29, 1983**, Harold Washington took the oath of office as Chicago's first black mayor.

**On April 29, 1993**, to raise funds to repair fire-damaged Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth announced that, for the first time, Buckingham Palace would be opened to tourists.

**On April 30, 1789**, George Washington was inaugurated as the first U.S. president.

**On April 30, 1803**, the size of the nation more than doubled as the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase price was \$15 million, or about 4 cents an acre.

**On April 30, 1939**, television was first publicly broadcast from New York's Empire State Building.

**On April 30, 1947**, President Harry Truman signed a measure changing the name of Boulder Dam to Hoover Dam.

**On April 30, 1973**, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean.

**On May 1, 1786**, "The Marriage of Figaro," an opera by Mozart, premiered in Vienna.

**On May 1, 1847**, the cornerstone was laid for Washington's world-famous Smithsonian Institute.

**On May 1, 1863**, the First National Bank of Chicago, with capital just in excess of \$100,000, received a charter by the state of Illinois.

**On May 1, 1867**, thousands marched through Chicago's streets in support of the state's new law requiring an eight-hour work day.

**On May 1, 1884**, construction began in Chicago on the first "skyscraper." It was a 10-story structure (on the corner of La Salle and Adams Streets) built by New York's Home Insurance Co.

**On May 1, 1893**, President Grover Cleveland opened the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

**On May 1, 1951**, Minnie Minoso made his White Sox debut as the team's first black player.

**On May 1, 1960**, American pilot Francis Gary Powers was captured by the Soviets after his U-2 reconnaissance plane was shot down near Sverdlovsk.



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**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**  
(Never known to fail.)

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



**Out of Nowhere by Sandra Brown** (hardcover, \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 403 pages.)

*“Out of Nowhere isn’t a story about death. It’s a story about survival.”*

Sandra Brown feels it’s imperative you understand this because the mass shooting described here is not the whole story. It is only an introduction — what follows next is the real story.

God knows, we have been inundated with the horrors of these senseless killings, but Brown offers a different take on the victims and their loved ones in the days and months following such an incident. What happens then? How do you go back to a normal life when nothing will ever be normal again?

It’s a story of perseverance and survival, and a chance meeting between two people that wasn’t meant to be. That’s what caught my attention.

A county fair in Texas one warm summer night begins this emotional roller coaster. Everyone having a good time, eating, drinking, playing the silly games and riding all the fun rides...It’s a place for fun and happiness, not death and destruction. When shots ring out, no one thinks of a gun going off. Most think it is fireworks. But it doesn’t take long to realize someone is shooting a gun. It all ends very quickly, and along with the five dead, there are 12 wounded in various ways, but alive.

There are two principal characters among the survivors, and what they decide that fateful morning they headed to the fair will change their lives forever.

First is Calder Hudson. He’s not at all likable at first. A corporate consultant living with Shauna Calloway, an energetic, ambitious news reporter for a local TV station, they are the perfect 21st century power couple whose egos outpace each other. She has the chance to interview a hot, new country western singer at the fair and wants Calder with her to enjoy the coup. Calder just picked up a six-figure check for his last job and wants only booze and sex. Later, he has a twinge of conscience, surprising her by meeting her at the fair.

The other main player is Elle Portman and her 2-year-old son, Charlie. She writes children’s books, and her best friend is Glenda Foster: Marilyn Monroe blond and very hot Realtor. Elle knows Charlie would like the fair and makes the worst decision of

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



her life.

After the shooting starts and the running begins, Elle has a hard time holding on to Charlie in his stroller. A man falls dead into her, causing her to lose control of the stroller. Calder tries to reach the boy, but a bullet slams into him as he nears, making the stroller roll over, Calder on top...Charlie is dead, but Calder is hailed as a hero for trying to save the boy. Funny, he doesn’t feel like a hero...

Do you go to therapy meetings to ease the pain and guilt? Do you try to move on with your broken life? Elle and Calder meet at the police station. They decide the shooter must be found, and they will do whatever it takes to bring him to justice. And that leads to the rest of the story and a whole lot of guessing, researching and frustration. Also, a chance to get to know each other — the attraction is electric when they are together — but both are afraid the shadow of Charlie will always cloud their relationship. Not to mention that Calder’s ex, Shauna, is bent on revenge after Calder moves out of their condo and she knows why. The sex scenes between Calder and Elle may be a little much. I admit, I was surprised by them.

One of the survivors, Dawn Whitley, receives a death threat, causing the police to move her, Calder and Elle into a safe house. Safe house? Is that a contradiction in terms?

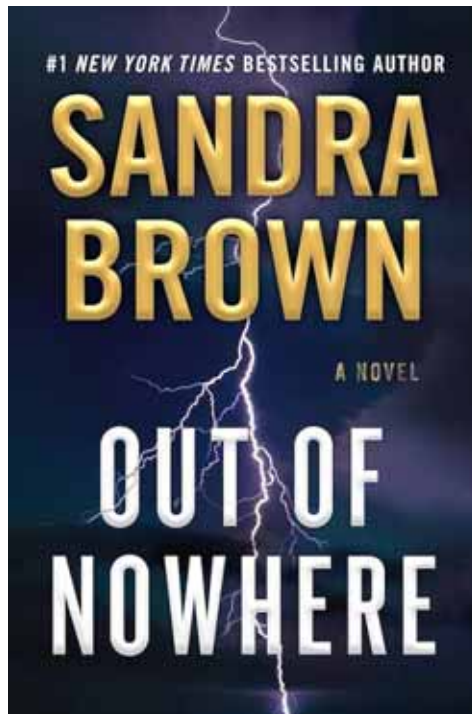
We also are left with the burning question of why the shooter is threatening these survivors? Is there unfinished business? And, no, the actual killer is not obvious. His reveal will probably shock, as is the reason for the killing in the first place —

*“To do such a thing as what I’m planning, one doesn’t have to be mentally stable. I’m quite sane. I’m rational. I don’t appear or act like a crazed individual, because I’m not.”*

*“Irate is what I am...And the best part? No one will suspect me.”*

I have read Brown’s books Overkill and Blind Tiger and was impressed with her characterizations, her handling of people in unusual situations. There’s always some new topic with one of her books. She can be followed on Facebook at *Author-SandraBrown*.

Till next time, happy reading!



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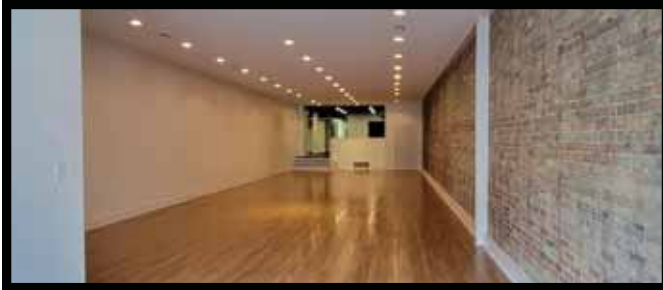






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