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## Putting Public Safety First

by Andrew Tallackson

Matthew Disbrow is the first to describe his career with the U.S. Coast Guard as a "wild ride," one with a fair share of twists and turns. Right now, though, he is exactly where he should be, where he can have a considerable impact.

Disbrow, a LaPorte County native who joined Long Beach Police Department as a deputy marshal Feb. 26, is the new Marine patrol commander of the department's Lakefront Marine Unit. Working with Mark Swistek, the town's chief marshal and town administrator, they've spent the past few months starting from scratch, from drafting policies and operating procedures to creating a training manual for the unit.

Now, Rob and Angie Hugley, owners of H&S Services Inc., and Dan Healy, owner of Healy's Landscaping, will host a fundraiser for the Lakefront Marine Unit from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at H&S,



Deputy Marshal Matthew Disbrow, Marine patrol commander of the Long Beach Police Department Lakefront Marine Unit, is photographed by the department's current boat by *The Beacher's* Andrew Tallackson.

2621 E. U.S. 12. Long Beach police will grill hot dogs and hamburgers, while radio station WEFM will broadcast live from the event from noon-2 p.m.

"Every good thing starts with fundraising," Disbrow said. "This is our way of getting the word out there about the Marine patrol unit. I hope it becomes a well-respected unit not just through local communities, but through first responder agencies and not just in LaPorte County, but from Berrien Country to far west as Lake County."

If anyone was destined to boost Long Beach's maritime presence, it is Disbrow. You could not ask for a more qualified individual.

The 2013 New Prairie High School graduate — he attended Notre Dame Catholic School through eighth grade — studied to become a police officer for one semester at Southwest Michigan College, Dowagiac, but quickly realized it wasn't for him. Granted, it seemed like a logical choice. His father, Michael, forged a respected 35-year career with LaPorte County Sheriff's Office, retiring in 2014. Among his duties over the years, he commanded the department's Emergency Response Team. In fact, it was Michael, his son says, who recommended he try the U.S. Coast Guard when studies at Southwest Michigan College failed to interest him.



Matt Disbrow, photographed at his 2014 U.S. Coast Guard graduation.

So, in August 2014, Matt Disbrow headed to an eight-week boot camp in Cape May, N.J. The comprehensive preparation entailed learning about the Coast Guard itself (everything from history and operations to command structure), as well as seamanship, fire arms training and physical fitness.



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## Putting Public Safety First

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Disbrow graduated in November 2014, subsequently heading to his first unit, USCGC Forward, which is situated at the Integraded Support Command in Portsmouth, Va. Primarily a deckhand, his duties entailed small-boat operations, from driving boats and providing lookout to serving on the boarding team, which in some cases involved counternarcotics and immigration.

In 2015, he left the unit for training as part of pre-deployment to Bahrain for a year. From 2016-2017, he was stationed on USCGC Maui, serving as a deckhand on the island-class patrol boat in Manama, Bahrain. Incidentally, the boat was decommissioned last year.



Matt Disbrow prepares for boardings while stationed in Manama, Bahrain.

Photo provided.

In 2017, Disbrow attended his rating school to become a maritime enforcement specialist.

"They're basically the cops of the Coast Guard," he said.

Learning about maritime law enforcement, students define with even greater precision their intended career paths. Instructors represent all possibilities within the field, from fisheries to counterterrorism to small-boat operations. Growing up around his father, Disbrow knew he wanted to follow a similar trajectory within the Coast Guard.

After rating school, Disbrow received orders sending him in 2018 to a maritime security response team in Chesapeake, Va. Considerable training bol-

stered the overall experience.

Then, in 2020...COVID-19.

Everything changed for Disbrow. He left the Coast Guard and came home, working in the security division for Franciscan Health Michigan City until 2022. That was when he was hired by the La-Porte County Sheriff's Office and, after training, worked midnight shifts until earlier this year, when Long Beach police hired him.

So, yeah, to say Disbrow's life has been "one wild ride," as he puts it, is an understatement.

"I've met a lot of people, done a lot of things that not many people can say they've done," he said. "I've done a lot of schooling and been instructed by people with vast experience.

"So, I decided to just go where the road takes me." And the road led him to Long Beach.

During his interview, Swistek explained how the has department deputies who've patrolled by boat, but no formalized unit within department. Would he be interested in taking command of a Marine Lakefront Unit? Disbrow's reply: absolutely.

The decision could not be timelier as U.S. Coast Guard Station Michigan City, as part of the U.S.



Mark Swistek, Long Beach chief marshal and town administrator. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

Coast Guard Force Alignment Initiative, adjusts when a crew staffs it.

(See the story at the end of this article for more details on Michigan City's Coast Guard Station.)

Swistek calls the Marine Unit a priority for the department.

"Lakefront safety is huge for all of us. We need to be out more than what we've been out in the past," he told *The Beacher*. "We could get out every couple of weekends, for special events, and the July 4th weekend, we're out all weekend. But June and August, not as much...and I think we can now accomplish that, especially with having Matt Disbrow on board with his Coast Guard experience. He's 110 percent all in."

What is Swistek's vision now that Disbrow is heading the Marine Unit?

"I want to have more visibility on the lakefront for not only our residents, but for the visitors who come to Lake Michigan," he said.



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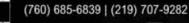
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## Putting Public Safety First

Continued from Page 4

Long Beach is not the only community served by the department. Duneland Beach and Michiana Shores, Swistek said, also benefit from its services, with some overlap with assisting in Michigan City.

So, in terms of coverage, he continued, "My vision is from the park marina to the Indiana-Michigan line. That whole stretch of Lake Michigan. I want to be able to have a boat out there that is available if there's any public safety need, for any medical attention on the beach, or a drowning, or a boat in distress, or a Jet Ski that is dead in the water and needs assistance.

"Public safety comes first," he continued. "If we can be out on that lakefront and save a child's life, or a person's life that's in distress out there, it's worth every penny. You can't put a price on that."

How will the Marine Unit achieve that vision?

First, Swistek and Disbrow say, it needs a new boat. The one now used by the department is a 1997 Boston Whaler, one Disbrow says has "definitely served its lifetime." It is about 19-20 feet in length. The preference is slightly longer, between 25-29 feet.

Swistek says the department is pursuing grant possibilities to finance a new boat. The costs, he says, can range anywhere from \$150,000-\$300,000,

"I don't think we need to be on the high end of that," Swistek said. "We definitely need more state of the art, with better electronics. The engines on the boat now are over 20 years old."

For Disbrow, training will involve assembling a crew where everyone is on the same page, where it can hit the ground running.

"So, once we get the boat in the water," he stressed, "everyone knows what their job is and how to do it."

The ideal game plan, Disbrow says, is never to send out only one person. The minimum requirement would be two individuals.

"Just one guy, it's not safe. It won't do any good," he said. "Of course, the more, the merrier. But the

#### More About the Fundraiser

Each year, Robert and Angie Hugley, through H&S Services Inc., host a fundraiser to benefit the community.

In the past, groups they've supported range from Meals on Wheels to Swanson Center. CO-VID put everything on hold, so this year marks the first fundraiser since the pandemic.

The Hugleys chose Long Beach Police Department's Marine Unit as this year's beneficiary because Robert and his son, Brandon, are reserve officers with the department. Dan Healy's involvement, they say, helps bolster awareness of the event.



Matt Disbrow officially joined Long Beach Police Department on Feb. 26.

Photo by Andrew Tallackson

ideal situation is for me to drive the boat, then have a partner. If he needs to do any life-saving measure, then he can. If you end up doing a rescue out of the water, with two people, one person can be the medical person. I can drive the boat to shore while lifesaving measures are in effect."

As everything falls into place, Disbrow, who turns 30 this year and lives in Trail Creek with his wife, Alison, wants Long Beach's Marine Unit to be a source of pride not just in the community, but in the region as well.

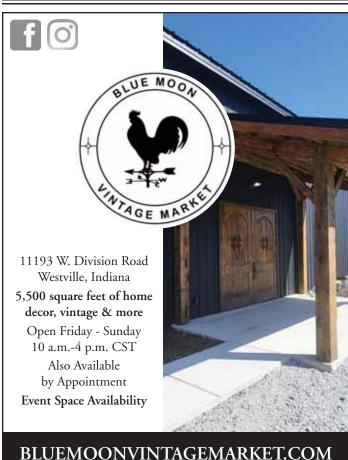
"A lot of people, when they hear Long Beach police, they think it's just a small department," he said. "I want everyone to go, 'Wow, this Marine unit is well put together and it's well-trained.'

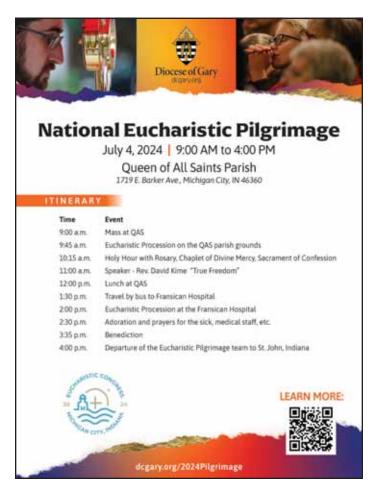
"Some people say to me, 'That's just a big dream for you.' I don't think it is. It might not happen this year, but it will be happen in the next few years."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com

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#### Coast Guard Adjusts How and When It Staffs Michigan City Station

by Andrew Tallackson

As officer in charge at U.S. Coast Guard Station Michigan City, BMC Steven Klika has heard the rumors about the future of Indiana's sole Lake Michigan unit. To that effect, his response is simple. No, it isn't closing, and no, it's not turning over complete duties to other units. Most importantly, no loss of Search and Rescue capabilities.

Due to historical staffing and recruiting shortages for the U.S. Coast Guard, the Michigan City station is adjusting when a crew staffs it. Units from

Chicago and St. Joseph, Mich., will share the responsibility of providing coverage.

"There shouldn't be the issue of *if* the Coast Guard is coming," Klika told *The Beacher*, "just *when* the Coast Guard is coming."

What does he mean by that? First, some context.

Last fall, the U.S. Coast Guard released its Force Alignment Initiative in response to projected staffing shortfalls in 2024. According to a post made in October 2023 on the U.S. Coast Guard website, "The Coast Guard is short nearly 10% of the entire enlisted workforce and cannot continue to operate as we have historically with fewer people."

Klika noted that fewer people are pursuing careers with the

U.S. Coast Guard, which falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Plus, many people who joined the Armed Forces in 2001 are entering what Klika calls "that retirement window."

Today, Klika says the Coast Guard is the smallest of all military branches, with fewer than 50,000 people worldwide.

The Coast Guard has tried to combat projected shortages with methods such as enlistment bonuses, or new bonus structures, Klika said.

What the Force Alignment Initiative will do is make temporary changes to staffing. In some cases, he said, members will be in areas requiring more specific responses, like units in Florida and Texas where matters of immigration and drug enforcement are a priority.

The Michigan City unit is a Scheduled Mission Station, which Klika says in the past has staffed 20 active duty members For the past 11 months, it's been operating between 11-13 people to cover some 67 miles of shoreline.

"That's 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year for waters from Warren Dunes (State Park) in Michigan all the way to the Indiana-Illinois border."

Klika's unit has studied years of historical Search and Rescue Data to predict the best staffing times.

"The initiative (FAI) helps units like mine have our neighboring units share the burden," he said. "It allows us still to be active in the community, to still operate out of Michigan City and support it. It's just that we don't have the ability to keep a 24-hour, 365-day live watch."

When vessel traffic is historically heavy on Lake Michigan, expect a Coast Guard presence, Klika



says. That applies as well to Great Lakes Grand Prix, fireworks displays and other key times.

"Obviously, it's not going to be perfect," he said. "We're going to do our best to minimize the need for station St. Joseph or Chicago to come over and support Michigan City. But they are 100 percent on board to come and help us. The Coast Guard is still absolutely responding to emergencies on the water in Michigan City. Now, if it's in a time where Michigan City station is not manned, or we don't have a scheduled mission, that support could come from St. Joe or Chicago."

Klika's time with the Michigan City unit, by the way, is nearing its end. Having been with the station since 2022, he transfers to a Texas unit at the end of June. It is a promotion, one he's excited about; however, he stresses Michigan City's unit will remain a vital presence in the community.

"We will still be supporting the community," he said. "We're working with the mayor's office and a lot of the school districts with our recruiting efforts, hopefully sending people out of the station to have a presence in the public schools and community events."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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#### **Chamber Music Festival to Present "ViolinMania!"**

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will host "ViolinMania!" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at St. Mary's the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St.

The free program spotlights MCCMF violinists

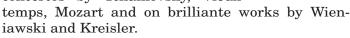
Nic Orbovich and Zosia Glashauser, and Jameson Cooper and Aviva Hakanoglu from the Euclid String Quartet in residence at Indiana University-South Bend. Cooper and Glashauser are the current and former concertmasters, respectively, of South Bend Symphony Orchestra, while Hakanoglu and Orbovich are SBSO's current and former principal second violins, respectively.

The program will include violin duos and quartets by G.P. Telemann, J.M. LeClaire, Miklos Rozsa and Charles Dancla.

An artists reception with light refreshments follows in the St. Mary's Artists Studios.

Orbovich is the co-founder (with his wife, Sunny) of the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival. He has appeared on stage with some of classical music's biggest names, including Itzhak Perlman, Yo Yo Ma, Gidon Kremer, Joshua Bell, Andre Watts, Hilary Hahn, Lang Lang, Garrick Ohlson, Shlomo Mintz, Daniel Barenboim, Lorin Maazel, Leonard Slatkin and Sir Georg Solti.

Glashauser has been concertmaster not only of SBSO, but also Lira Orchestra of Chicago. With these orchestras, she has soloed on violin concertos by Tchaikovsky, Vieux-



Cooper, who was born in Sheffield, England, rose



Glashauser



Cooper



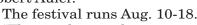
Hakanoglu

#### **Festival Preview Concert**

Due to limited seating, May 25 is the deadline to purchase tickets for "A Special Afternoon of Cham-

ber Music," a preview performance to this year's Michigan City Chamber Music Festival.

The program is from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Barbara Bankoff's Edgewood home. Tickets are \$100. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments are planned, with dessert after the concert. This year's performers include violinist/festival artistic director Nic Orbovich and pianist Robert Auler.



"This is the 200th year anniversary of Beethoven's '9th Symphony' and the 100th year of George Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue,' so both the house concert and this year's August festival will be filled with superb selections of many noted composers, classical and contemporary," Orbovich said in a press release.



Orbovich



Auler

Contact Judy Jacobi at (219) 873-4560 for ticket information. Visit www.mccmf.org for more details.

to national attention when he was selected as concertmaster of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra for its debut performance at the BBC Proms. Following graduation from the Royal Northern College of Music, he came to the U.S. to continue his violin studies. As a founding member of the Euclid Quartet, he has won numerous competition prizes

Hakanoglu, a violinist with the Euclid Quartet, is on the IUSB faculty. She has held positions with the Owensboro and Terre Haute orchestras, and performed with ensembles around the country. She also has collaborated with artists such as Lawrence Dutton, Paul Watkins, Atar Arad and Peter Stumpf.





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#### **Canterbury Summer Theatre Gears up for 56th Season**



Tony Morell (from left), Reid Graham, Victoria Hickman Cantrelle, Sarah Donofrio, Jeremiah Mitchell and Jack Gordon appear in the 2023 production of "Dames at Sea."

Drawing on talent from throughout the country, Canterbury Summer Theatre will load its 56th season with plenty of comedy, music and drama.

Performances start June 12 and conclude Aug. 3 at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Ray Scott Crawford, director of theater at Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana, returns for his 39th season as artistic director, joined again by Associate Artistic Director David Graham.

The schedule is:

- "The Lifespan of a Fact" (June 12-15) by Jeremy Kareken, David Murrell and Gordon Farrel, based on the book by Jim Fingal and John D'Agata. Fingal is a fresh-out-of-Harvard fact-checker for a prominent, but sinking New York magazine. John D'Agata is a talented writer with a transcendent essay about the suicide of a teenage boy in Las Vegas, an essay that could save the magazine from collapse. When Jim is assigned to fact-check D'Agata's essay, the two come head to head.
- "Love is a Many Splintered Thing" (June 19-29) by Dorothy Marcic with Hinton Battle. The musical about relationships as propelled by Top 40 hits from the past four decades, including songs by Neil Diamond, Cher, Connie Francis, Elton John, Liza Minnelli and India.Arie.
- "Starting Here, Starting Now" (July 3-13, with no July 4 show, with music by David Shire and lyrics by Richard Maltby Jr. A musical revue using songs by Broadway veterans Maltby Jr. and Shire ("Big, Baby," "Closer Than Ever").

- "Country Is: The Music of Main Street in Concert" (July 17-27), conceived by Rick Seeber. A showcase of uniquely American music featuring the work of George Strait, Tim McGraw, Alan Jackson, Miranda Lambert, John Denver and Willie Nelson.
- "Murder at the Howard Johnson's" by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick (Aug. 1-3, with no show Wednesday and Saturday being a matinee only). The comic suspense tale centers on a love triangle in a Howard Johnson Motor Inn.

Graham will helm "The Lifespan of a Fact," while Crawford will direct "Love is a Many Splintered Thing" and "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," the latter premiering at Canterbury before performances shift to Louisiana. Canterbury veteran Victoria Hickman Cantrelle will direct and choreograph "Starting Here, Starting Now," while John Berst returns for his fifth season as music director. He also will stage "Country Is: The Music of Main Street in Concert."

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. Seating is by general admission, while season ticketholders may reserve seating if notifying the box office in advance. Tickets and season discount cards can be reserved by calling (219) 874-4269 or by email at info@ canterburytheatre.org.

Reduced ticket prices are available for seniors, groups and students. Visit www.canterburytheatre. org for more details.



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#### **MCHS Honors Cadets During Awards Ceremony**

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps held an awards ceremony May 8 at the high school.

Cadets were recognized for academic achievement, service to the community and school and performance in JROTC and extracurricular activities. Many representatives from veterans and civic organizations attended to present their awards.

Cadet Capt. Marcus Mantel earned the American Legion Military medal for his performance on the Drill Team, as he commanded four different units, memorizing four different drill cards. He plans to serve in the Marine Corps, specifically in Force Reconnaissance.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Alexandra Reed earned the Sons of the American Revolution medal as the top female cadet, an award accompanied with a \$1,000 check. Reed plans to attend college on an ROTC scholarship (worth \$180,000) and serve as a cyber security officer.

Cadet Staff Sgt. Daniel Kohn earned the Marine Corps League medal as the best sophomore cadet. A key presence on the Raider team, he plans to attend the U.S. Naval Academy (an education valued at \$350,000) and serving as a Navy SEAL officer.

Other individual awardees were:

- Cadet Cpl. Aiden Gorden, who earned the Veterans of Foreign Wars medal as the best male cadet.
- Cadet Cpl. Peyton Downs, who earned the Daughters of the American Revolution medal as the top female sophomore cadet.
- Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Ann Sawyer, who earned the Women Marine medal for extraordinary extracurricular activities. Sawyer is the top hitter in the Duneland Athletic Conference softball league.
- · Cadet Staff Sgt. Jaiden Sledd, who earned the



Cadet 2nd Lt. Alexandra Reed earned the Sons of the American Revolution medal as the top female cadet.

American Legion Scholastic medal for having the best grade-point average.

- Cadet Staff Sgt. Savannah Timm, who earned the Daughters of 1812 award for working the most community service hours.
- Cadet 2nd Lt. Matthew Wilson, who earned the Military Officers Association of America award for endurance and overcoming adversity. Wilson was in a serious car accident during the winter, making a fast recovery, returning to school and catching up on missed school work.





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Any questions email longbeachsummercamp@gmail.com.

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#### **Reins of Life Training**

Reins of Life, the therapeutic horseback riding center, will hold new volunteer training from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, at the Michigan City facility, 9375 W. County Road 300 North.

Volunteers don't need horse experience, but must be at least 13 and wear closed-toe shoes. Help is needed with: feeding the herd; working with special-education school programs; hitching a horse for therapeutic carriage driving class; or side walking during horseback riding lessons.

Each rider requires between one and three volunteers for a lesson. Volunteers are asked to commit about two hours per week. They learn how to handle horses, and groom and tack. Driving volunteers also learn how to tack and hitch horses to carriages.

Reins of Life also will offer Therapeutic Carriage Driving training from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30. Its fastest-growing program, new volunteer training is a prerequisite.

Call (219) 874-7519 to register. If no one answers, leave a message, including an email address. Visit www.reinsoflife.org for more details.

#### Music in the Gardens

The Grace Scott Band will perform during "Music in the Gardens" from 5-9 p.m. EDT Friday, May 31, in the Oliver Gardens at South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The country and classic rock band features country music hits and original songs. Formed in 2017, it has performed throughout the Midwest.

Tickets cost \$10 at the gate or online at www. historymuseumSB.org. VIP tables, which cost \$350, include tickets, coupons, special seating and recognition from the stage.

Guests can take lawn chairs or blankets; no chairs are provided. Food and drinks will be sold; no carry-ins are allowed. Visitors also can browse the museum's exhibits, including "Indiana Lore" and "Turning Point: The Battle of Gettysburg, 1863."

Call (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, for more details.

#### **Duneland Photography Club Exhibit**

"Summertime!," the new Duneland Photography Club exhibit, runs May 28-June 27 at Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East.

An artists reception is from 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 7, with refreshments provided.

The club helps members improve photography skills through classes, photo shoots, meetings, individual mentoring and community service.

Art Barn hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact Dina Heijselaar at dina@artbarnschool.org or call (219) 462-9009 for more details.

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#### "Force of Nature" is Another Dynamite Adaptation of a Jane Harper Thriller

by Andrew Tallackson



A corporate retreat goes terribly wrong in "Force of Nature: The Dry 2."

"Force of Nature: The Dry 2" is proof you don't need a six- to eight-episode streaming series to faithfully adapt a book into a feature-length film.

Then again, that's our post-pandemic climate. A binge-worthy TV series became our go-to respite from the tedium of COVID self-isolation. We could stretch out our entertainment beyond a mere two hours or so. Movies subsequently took a hit.

And what does it say about the movie industry that it's so skittish these days, it is promoting "Force of Nature" as "The Dry 2." True, the film marks the second collaboration between writer-director Robert Connolly and author Jane Harper after his 2021 adaptation of "The Dry," her debut novel. Harper, for the unfamiliar, is Australia's answer to U.K. mystery novelist Ruth Ware ("In a Dark, Dark Wood," "The Woman in Cabin 10"). "Force of Nature," however, her second novel, is not a sequel. It is a new tale that includes investigator Aaron Falk, hero of "The Dry" and played by Eric Bana in the film. That Falk's presence in "Force of Nature" has been beefed up, Bana marketed as the selling point, is more proof the movie industry will do whatever it takes to attract an audience.

Having said that, Connolly not only is true to



#### "Force of Nature: The Dry 2"

Running time: 112 minutes. On Demand. Rated R for language.

Harper's vision, but he unexpectedly deepens it.

What I love about Harper is the way sins of the past gnaw at the present. Her thrillers open with tragedy, the subsequent investigations picking at all the scabs to arrive at the truth.

In "Force of Nature," the setting is a corporate retreat designed more for team-building exercises than an exotic getaway. For the latest arrival, the men are sent on one designated path, the women on another. The women take center stage...and they're a mess. Connolly, who efficiently lets details slip in just a scene or two, has assembled a dynamite cast that makes one thing apparent: whatever resentment exists between them is about to erupt.

Harper's novel was more about the women than the investigation, but that's how Connolly amps up Bana's presence. Falk has been investigating the company for, among other things, money laundering. He's secretly turned to a key employee, Alice

Russell (Anna Torv, "The Last of Us"), hoping she can leak key evidence to put the company's head honcho, Daniel Bailey (Richard Roxburgh, "Moulin Rouge"), away for good.

We know from the opening scene, lifted directly from the book, that things went south for the retreat... quickly. Daniel's wife, Jill (Deborra-Lee Furness, Hugh Jackman's soon-to-be sisters Beth (Sisi Stringer) and Bree (Lucy Ansell), and Alice's childhood friend, Lauren (Robin McLeavy), return to the retreat headquarters in hysterics, having been lost for days. Bree is suffering from a spider bite. Alice is not among them. She's missing.

Is she dead, or still out there somewhere? That's the mystery Falk and his

colleague, Carmen (Jacqueline McKenzie), have to solve. Harper wisely sidestepped dated, sexist workplace stereotypes, that these female colleagues are engaged in catty warfare. The more we learn about the company through flashbacks, the more we understand the toxicity suffocating it. Connolly has a brilliant way of tightly editing the interactions between characters so what's not said — knowing glances, tense body language — suggests these women know more than they share. A lot more. Maybe, too, Alice burned her share of bridges. I especially like Furness, whose Jill, the self-imposed group leader, smirks like she enjoys Alice's absence a little too well. Another intriguing presence is Stringer, whose Beth has a troubled past, but shows considerable toughness by the end.

Connolly introduces a hefty backstory for Aaron, one I do not recall from the book (it arrived in 2017,



The presence of Eric Bana, seen here with Jacqueline McKenzie, has been beefed up to create a greater link to 2021's "The Dry."

so forgive me), but it carefully links him to the same forest in which Alice has gone missing. By fleshing out Aaron's past, something unexpected happens. Connolly makes Aaron's journey equally as compelling. Bana has a dynamite scene, crushingly acted, where the film pauses so Aaron can process what he's discovered. "Force of Nature" thus becomes two parallel narratives: one in which simmering resentment turns unfortunate, another in which the right side of the law has to live with itself for its actions.

I actually prefer "Force of Nature" to "The Dry." It has more weight. Connolly clearly is the right guy to adapt Harper's works. Her latest, by the way, "Exiles," is another Aaron Falk mystery and possibly the best. Connolly and Harper are on a roll. Why stop here? Let's keep going.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com

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#### Second Half of "The Idea of You" Works the Best

by Andrew Tallackson

Even by fairy tale rom-com logic, "The Idea of You" insists on a sizable stretch of credibility to orchestrate the "meet-cute" of its stars.

It asks that we accept still youthfully chic Anne Hathaway as a frumpy divorcee. It then assumes her character, a hip art gallery owner, would mis-

take a Coachella trailer for a public toilet, the trailer conveniently housing her daughter's once-favorite Boy Band member (Nicholas Galitzine).

You can feel the wheels churning, the "plot" grinding away to hurl these two together, even if the story is lifted from Robinne Lee's 2017 novel.

Where "The Idea of You," now streaming on Prime, becomes interesting, and reminds us how good of an actress Hathaway is, is the second half. When it explores the meaning behind its title, when the "idea" of someone, the allure of them, wears off and reality takes over.

Hathaway's Solène Marchand, content with being newly single and owning a Los Angeles art gallery, preps for a weekend of camping by herself when her ex-husband, Daniel (Reid Scott, playing another arrested development oaf after "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"), cancels Coachella plans at the last minute with their 16-yearold daughter, Izzy (Ella Rubin). Relenting, she chaperones Izzy and her pals to the music fest where, as described earlier, she ends up in the trailer of August Moon member Hayes Campbell (Galitzine).

Having Hayes be in a Boy Band is, well, like the movie's arriving late to a party that ended 20 years ago. True, these groups are still around, but the music industry has shifted more toward individual performers (Taylor Swift) than boy groups spewing bubble gum pop for swooning teen girls.

In any event, the attraction between Solène and Hayes is unmistakable. He arrives at her gallery, paparazzi swarming outside. They spend the afternoon getting to know each other, then when he makes the moves, she backs off, uncomfortable that this guy is 16 years younger.

But do they eventually hook up? Are there stars in the sky? And does Solène also have a rom-com prerequisite, a semi-sassy pal (Annie Mumolo) who realizes something is up with her best friend? Of course, she does.

None of this surprises you, but thank goodness



Anne Hathaway and Nicholas Galitzine star in "The Idea of You."

the director/co-writer is Michael Showalter, a former cast member of MTV's "The State" who moved on to directing "The Lovebirds" (2020), "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" (2021), which won Jessica Chastain an Oscar, and my personal favorite, the Oscarnominated "The Big Sick" (2017), in which Kumail Nanjiani, in telling his backstory, elevated himself to leading-man status. "The Idea of You" is not the first time Showalter has explored a May-December affair, the first being the charming "Hello, My Name is Doris" (2015) in which Sally Field pines for a much younger co-worker (Max Greenfield). But by treating all of his films as indie flicks, they emerge



#### "The Idea of You"

Running time: 115 minutes. Prime. Rated R for some language and sexual content

as less sensational, more real.

When Solène opens up to Hayes about her divorce, the betrayal that came with it, Hathaway feels *very* real. There is not one false note: the anger, the resentment, it's coming from genuine hurt.

Ditto Solène's crash-and-burn reality check when the tabloids find out about her and Hayes. It is then "The Idea of You" is exceedingly wise in how Internet trolls spew bile, and how society "slut-shames" older women for relationships with younger men. That double standard lends a timely weight to the film

The script also dodges weary clichés for Hayes. No scenes of him slipping up, caught with younger women. He's fearless in his devotion to Solène. Willing to fight for her.

Was I moved by the film's conclusion? Not really. You know it's coming, but, again, Hathaway and Galitzine ground it in real emotion. It feels right... and in this rom-com universe, that's good enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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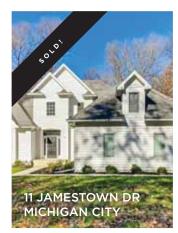
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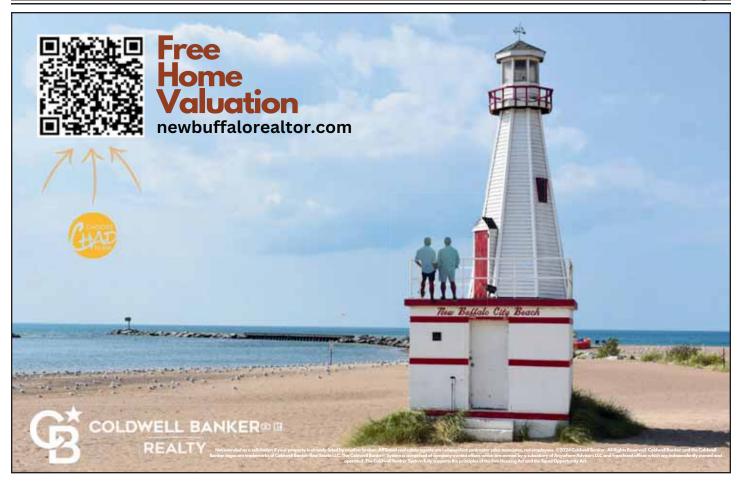
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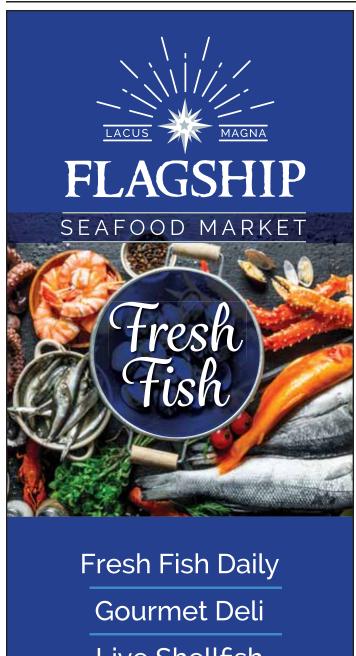












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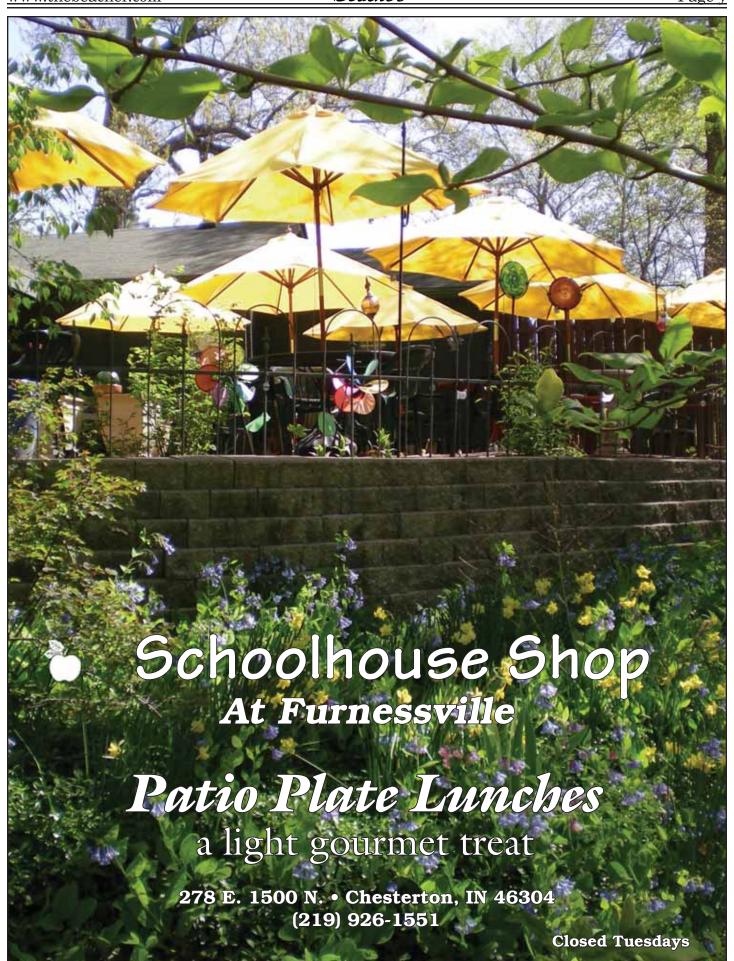
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Interested in playing volleyball with other volleyball athletes with skills to compete against other park teams? Then our Volleyball Pro will develop a team and bring parity to the weekly instruction to prepare match-PLAY. The coaches' lesson plan will guide the team in weekly training for 90 minutes. This is a 4-week program that meets once per week for 90 minutes. Each athlete receives EVP Volley Series t-shirt.

Age: 11-14 years Location: LBCC Grass

Instructor: EVP Academy			Min/Max: 8/24		
Day	Date	Time	R/NR		
W	6/5-6/26	5-630pm	\$99		
W	7/10-7/31	5-630pm	\$99	volley kide	
W	8/7-8/28	5-630pm	\$99		

# **EVP - GRASS VOLLEYBALL CAMPS**

EVP Academy coaches deliver an introductory and challenging lesson plan on the grass volleyball courts at the MMAC. Lots of contests and games too, with fun and active instructors! The lesson plan develops passing, setting, overhand serving and spiking. VolleyKidz athletes will be divided by age and level.

Age: 8-10 years Location: LBCC Grass

Day	Date	Time	R/NR	
Tu-Fri	6/11-6/14	1-230p	\$99	
Tu-Fri	7/9-7/12	1-230p	\$99	
Tu-Fri	7/28-8/2	1-230p	\$99	THE WIPS
Tu-Fri	8/6-8/9	1-230p	\$99	

Age: 11-14 years Location: LBCC Grass

Day	Date	Time	R/NR	
Tu-Fri	6/11-6/14	230-4p	\$99	
Tu-Fri	7/9-7/12	230-4p	\$99	Terroun
Tu-Fri	7/28-8/2	230-4p	\$99	GAMPS
Tu-Fri	8/6-8/9	230-4p	\$99	

# J'Dreams Basketball **YOUTH & JUNIOR PROGRAMS** Long Beach, IN



# CLASSES (4-weeks)

# Basketball 101 Kidz (8yrs-10yrs) Catch, Dribble, Pass, Cut, Screen-Roll!

This program will introduce your child to the game of basketball if they are beginners. Basic skills of dribbling, catching, passing, shooting, and defense will be taught. New individual challenges will be presented to develop the importance of reaching goals. Lesson plan also incorporates pivoting, closeouts and jump-stops.

(4-Weeks) INSTR: EVP Academies PROS STAFF: 312-287-5988

Day	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	R/NR
MO	6/3-6/24	1-2:30p	\$99
MO	7/8-7/29	1-230p	\$99



# Jr. Basketballin 201(11-14 yrs)

Pass and cut, screen and roll & move without the ball! This program will advance your children into "game situation" drills. Advanced skills include drills of dribbling, passing, finishing, shooting, and defense. Pairing games will be played to show the importance of counter-moves! Lesson plan also incorporates reverse pivoting, closeouts and jump-stops.

MIN/MAX: 8/28 PER CLASS

(4-Weeks) INSTR: EVP Academies STAFF - 312-287-5988

Day	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	R/NR
MO	6/3-6/24	230-4p	\$99
MO	7/8-7/29	230-4p	\$99



# CAMPS (4-days)

# Basketball 101 Kidz (8yrs-10yrs) Catch, Dribble, Pass, Cut, Screen-Roll!

Introductory level camp: Basic skills of dribbling, catching, passing, shooting, and defense will be taught. Lesson plan also incorporates pivoting, closeouts and jump-stops.

(4-DAY CAMP)INSTR: EVP Academies STAFF:312-287-5988

Day	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	R/NR
Tu-Fri	6/11-6/14	1-230p	\$99
Tu-Fri	7/9-7/12	1-230p	\$99
Tu-Fri	7/28-8/2	1-230p	\$99



# Jr. Basketballin 201(11-14 yrs)

Pass and cut, screen and roll & move without the ball!

This program will advance your children into "game situation" drills and continue to build basketball fundamentals on an individual basis. Advanced skills include drills of dribbling, passing, finishing, shooting, and defense. Pairing games will be played to show the importance of counter-moves! Lesson plan also incorporates reverse pivoting, closeouts and jump-stops. (4-DAY CAMP)INSTR: EVP Academies STAFF:312-287-5988

Day	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	R/NR
Tu-Fri	6/11-6/14	230-4p	\$99
Tu-Fri	7/9-7/12	230-4p	\$99
Tu-Fri	7/28-8/2	230-4p	\$99



# They Will Not Be Forgotten

For the past nine years, Joanne Janisch has been gathering the names of LaPorte County veterans who died during the past year. Janisch is a member of Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 1130 in LaPorte. Her sister-in-law, Jean Chlupacek, assembled the lists before her. The mission is to ensure these individuals, and how they served their country, are not forgotten.

Dr. Donald Bortz	2/23/23	Army	Thomas Osowski	7/29/23	Army
Robert Miller	3/23/23	Korea	Robert Boyce	7/29/23	Army
Francis Murth	5/3/23	Army	Paul Konieczny	8/2/23	Marine
Paul Beebe	5/11/23	Vietnam	Frank Howe	8/5/23	WWII
David Levenhagen	5/15/23	Army	Edward Wojasinski	8/6/23	Army
James Brashear	5/15/23	Korea	William Weber	8/8/23	Navy
James Feece	5/16/23	Army	Richard Smith	8/13/23	Air Force
Maj. Patricia Metcalf	7/17/23	IN Nat.Guard	Fred Kless	8/14/23	Vietnam
Joe Solomos	5/18/23	Army	Robert Lasater	8/16/23	Coast Guard
Robert Dove	5/21/23	Air Force	Leonard Foldenauer	8/16/23	Air Force
Rolland Lawrenz	5/21/23	Army	Richard Coburn	8/19/23	Navy
Richard Lidgard	5/22/23	Air Force	LeRoy Rauschenbach	8/22/23	Army
LeRoy Langford	5/23/23	Ala. N. Guard	Zane Elkins	8/26/23	Army
Gene Gielow	5/24/23	Korea	James Herbst	8/28/23	Army
John McDaniel	5/26/23	Navy	Donald Borcherding	8/28/23	Air Force
Alfred "Ted" Dolohery	5/27/23	Army	Paul Hackl	8/30/23	Navy
Brother Ronald Quire	5/28/23	Navy	Donald Westphal	9/6/23	Korea
Raymond Downey	5/28/23	Marine	Steven Griffin	9/9/23	Iraq
Frank "Leo" Gibertini	6/2/23	WWII	Gaelen Lehker	9/10/23	Army
Dennis Arndt	6/6/23	Army	Richard Clough	9/10/23	Army
James Daly	6/6/23	Air Force	Richard Kowalczyk	9/19/23	Air Force
Timmen Roan	6/8/23	Army	William Woodke	9/24/23	Army
Charles Parrish	6/8/23	Army	Gerald Hill	9/25/23	A/R Vietnam
Robert "Rocky" Friend	6/9/23	Army	Robert Kooyenga	9/25/23	Army
David Hastings	6/9/23	Marine	Angelo Corley	9/25/23	Marine
Steve Gray	6/9/23	Army	Donald Sawyer	10/1/23	Vietnam
William Johnson	6/11/23	Air Force	Allan Hale	10/1/23	Vietnam
Gary Reeb	6/13/23	Army	Cecil Daniels	10/1/23	Army
Dr.Richard Plank	6/17/23	Air Force	Bret Bailey	10/3/23	Navy
Eben Fisher	6/19/23	Korea	John White	10/4/23	Army
Thomas Block	6/21/23	Navy	Phillip Scurlock	10/7/23	Marine
Charles Nebelung	6/22/23	Army	John Noveroske	10/7/23	N. Res., Army
Christopher Mathis	6/23/23	Army	Jerome Bleck	10/7/23	Army
James Bologna	6/27/23	Air Force	Joseph Martorano	10/9/23	A. Reserves
Edward Gustum	6/29/23	Air N. Guard	Andrew Daniel	10/10/23	Army
Louis Kozlowski	6/30/23	Korea	Kevin Luchene	10/11/23	Korea
Mathias Zeller	6/30/23	IN N. Guard	James McKinney	10/11/23	Army
Ronald Januchowski	7/6/23	Navy	Ronald Buckland	10/12/23	Army
Lee Winer	7/6/23	Army & Navy	Chester Zubler	10/12/23	Korea
Charles McConnell	7/7/23	Vietnam	Stuart Welham	10/13/23	A. Reserves
Louis Jacobucci	7/9/23	Korea	Ronald Hampton	10/17/23	Vietnam
John Wegiel	7/11/23	Navy	Barry Reed	10/18/23	Navy Seal
Iris Curbelo	7/12/23	Iraq	Raymond Miller	10/18/23	Army
Kenneth Schrimsher	7/13/23	Navy	Julius "Inky" Schoof	10/19/23	A. Active Res.
Michael Meer	7/19/23	Vietnam	Jed Saunders	10/22/23	Army
David Anderson	7/19/23	Air Force	Jack Kraus	10/23/23	Marine
Ronald Cmiel	7/19/23	Army	Dr. David Kesling	10/23/23	Korea
James Leston	7/22/23	WWII, Korea	Daniel Knoll	10/24/23	Army
Patrick Dougherty	7/23/23	Army	Robert Neville	10/25/23	Army
Harry McClaran	7/23/23	Marines	Ronald Sherman	10/28/23	AF Reservist
Johnny Schrimsher Sr.	7/24/23	Marine	Elmo "Red" Elliott	10/29/23	Korea
Lorraine Bear	7/25/23	Navy	Paul Pavot	10/30/23	Vietnam
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Stephen Hand	10/31/23	Army	Herman Jonushaitis	2/8/24	Navy
Alfred Fulkerson	10/31/23	Army	Rexald McDougal	2/18/24	Army
Worth R. Anderson	11/1/23	Army	Roy Briggs	2/18/24	Army
Leon Keller	11/1/23	Army	John Wendt	2/19/24	Army Res.
Dennis Christensen	11/5/23	Army	Gary Kalil	2/22/24	Vietnam
John Crim	11/12/23	Army NG	Ronald Chudzynski	2/22/24	Korea
William Bechinske	11/16/23	Korea	Edward Nilson	2/23/24	Korea, Viet.
Albert "Dale" Kettring	11/16/23	WWII	Thomas Howe	2/24/24	Vietnam
Tommie Reid	11/19/23	Navy	Daniel Wheatbrook	2/24/24	Navy Res.
Thomas Travis	11/21/23	Navy	Carl Wagner	2/24/24	Air Force
Thomas Young	11/24/23	Korea	Franklin Wampler	2/25/24	Vietnam
Dennis Leslie	11/25/23	Navy	Robert Mitchell	2/26/24	Army
John Boone Sr.	11/28/23	Vietnam	James Wiedenhoft	3/1/24	Korea
Van Herold Willis	11/29/23	Army	Robert Shaw	3/3/24	Vietnam
David Pietz	11/29/23	Navy	Willie Moore	3/3/24	Army
Donald Grote	11/30/23	Army	David Fischbacher	3/4/24	Vietnam
Anthony Pishkur	12/3/23	Army	William Garner	3/6/24	WWII
Stanley Harenzo	12/4/23	Army Res.	Nora Scherf	3/7/24	US Army Res.
Earnest Wheeler	12/4/23	Air Force	Elmo Gonzalez	3/8/24	WWII
Malakai Siuda	12/4/23	N. Guard	Eugene Davis	3/9/24	Army
Carlos Arce	12/5/23	Vietnam	Robert Scott	3/10/24	Vietnam
John Lindenmeyer	12/6/23	Navy	Nichilas Bubalo	3/10/24	Vietnam
Bernard Patla	12/8/23	WWII	William Kietzman	3/10/24	WWII
Charles Link Sr.	12/10/23	WWII	Damon Sanders	3/13/24	Vietnam
Stephen Purcell	12/12/23	Vietnam	Edward Ryba	3/16/24	Navy
Donald Blaze	12/13/23	Navy	Terry Shelton	3/17/24	Army
Henry Lachowin	12/15/23	Korea	William Wampler	3/20/24	Air Force
Donald Tonsoni	12/18/23	Air Force	Albert Killips Kim Ausemus	3/21/24 $3/22/24$	Michigan NG
Terrry Boguslawski	12/20/23	Air Force	Richard Cerajewski	3/22/24	Army Vietnam
Jack Litke	12/21/23	Army	Troy Harrison	3/24/24	
Charles Morgan	12/22/23	Vietnam	Julius Bauer	3/24/24 3/27/24	Army Air Force
Clarence Walker	12/23/23	Air Force	David James	3/2/7/24 4/2/24	Air Force
Rodger LaGard	12/24/23	Vietnam	Terry Snyder	4/8/24	Army
William Edlen	12/29/23	Army	Wallace Gayheart	4/11/24	Air Force
John "Bill" Franks	1/3/24	Korea	Alfurd Risner	4/14/24	Marine
Ronald Bussie	1/3/24	Air Force	George Kirkpatrick	$\frac{4}{14}/24$	Marine
Edward Werner Herman Lehman	1/5/24 $1/6/24$	Korea Marine	C. Baczkiewicz Jr.	4/15/24	Army
Charles Lindsley	1/6/24 1/9/24		Thomas Hooper	4/16/24	Korea
•	1/9/24	Army NG	Robert Kendick	4/16/24	Korea
Alan Kroening Todd Harshman	1/9/24	Army Navy	John Baird	4/16/24	Army
Brent Miller	1/9/24 $1/12/24$	Army	Robert Lower	4/17/24	Air Force
Paul Tobalt	1/12/24 1/13/24	Army	Edwin Bigda	4/17/24	Army
David Baughman	1/13/24 $1/14/24$	Army	Gary Hampton	4/17/24	Vietnam
Lauren Bauer	1/14/24 $1/15/24$	Army	Dennis Strieter	4/24/24	Air Force
Russell Cavinder	1/13/24 $1/17/24$	Air Force	Christopher Kitzke	4/25/24	Navy
Kenneth Peting	1/18/24	WWII	David Santana	5/1/24	Army
Terry Jones	1/10/24 $1/20/24$	Army Res.	Bobby Looney	5/1/24	Air Force
Donn Haefner	1/24/24	Army Res.	Rodger Coker	5/6/24	Navy
Rovbert Swaby	1/25/24	AF, A.N.Res.	Gerald Marshall	5/9/24	IN NG
Harold Coffman	1/26/24	Army	Richard Humphrey	5/10/24	Air Force
Robert Goethals	1/26/24	Marine	George Biederstadt	5/10/24	US Army Res.
Lee Davis	1/29/24	Vietnam	* * * * *		
Waldron Pratt	2/1/24	WWII	^*^*^*^*^*		
Peter Stesiak	2/4/24	Vietnam	*_*_*_*_*		
Edward "Buck" Stacy	2/7/24	Air Force	*^*^* <del></del> *^****		
James Whelan	2/7/24	Marine	* * * * *		
James Rodman	2/8/24	Vietnam	******		
Carl Purcell	2/8/24	Army	********		
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# Quake Coho Classic Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

by Edmund Lawler



Tony Hamm and his crew of Hammbone from Luddington, Mich., won first place in the pro division of the 50th annual Quake Coho Classic.

Lured by a record purse of more than \$60,000 and the thrill of the big catch, 70 captains and their crews launched from Washington Park Marina on the weekend of May 4-5 to compete in the 50th annual Quake Coho Classic.

The event is said to be the oldest salmon-fishing tournament on the Great Lakes. It is named in memory of Steve "Quake" Kreighbaum, a founder of the Hoosier Coho Club, which created the tournament in 1974. Kreighbaum was a retired Michigan City firefighter and captain of a charter boat based in Michigan City. He died in 2020 at age 67.

"We did everything we could to celebrate the 50th anniversary, so we paid out more than we normally do," says Bruce Brown, Hoosier Coho Club president. "This was the biggest turnout we've had in recent years."

In the professional category, Capt. Tony Hamm and his crew aboard the Ludington, Mich.-based "Hammbone" won first place and \$20,000 by compiling 376 points over the two-day tournament, edging out a team aboard the "Wild Card" captained by Anna Shaw, which tallied 371 points.

In the amateur category, first place and \$7,500 went to Capt. Tina Lamer and her crew aboard the boat "Some Girls Do," also based in Luddington. Lamer's team compiled 201 points to edge a crew captained by Sean Coffer and his boat "Angler Issues," which earned 195 points.

Conditions on Lake Michigan were favorable for fishing on Saturday, May 4, Brown says, "but things got a little rough on the second day, although it was still fishable."

Brown, captain of the boat "Colorblind" and his crew, did not finish in the money. He concedes he was preoccupied by helping direct the tournament that attracted boats and their crews from every Lake Michigan state.

"We did well on Day 1," he said, "but we just couldn't get our fish the second day."

Despite its name, the tournament's biggest catch was a 21.2-pound lake trout reeled in by the Hammbone crew, earning them the event's Big Fish crown. Both king and coho salmon, of course, were caught by all crews, according to Brown.

Points in the pro division were based on a maximum of 10 legal fish caught per day of the tourney, with one point per pound total weight. Salmon and lake trout greater than 14 inches in length were considered to be legal fish for the event. All crews were required to abide by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations. Points in the amateur division were based on a maximum of five salmon or lake trout weighed in the marina.

Crews were required to fish a minimum of three hours over the two-day tournament and between 6 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day.

The event was capped off with a first-ever Hall of Fame presentation in the marina for members who played important roles in the tournament and Hoosier Coho Club over these past 50 years.

"We thought it would be a great idea to honor



The tournament had dozens of corporate sponsors and attracted crews from all over Lake Michigan.

some of the people who did a lot for the club over the years," Brown said. "We inducted 35 people into the Hall of Fame, including some past and deceased members, who helped make the club what it is today."

Based in Michigan City, the club's mission is the preservation and conservation of Lake Michigan sport fishing. It encourages strict observance of the sport's fishing laws.

"We do a lot of different things for the community," Brown says. "For example, we sponsor a couple of scholarships every year, and we donate to the DNR to help them maintain the fishery."

In addition to the annual Quake Coho Classic, the club puts on a variety of tournaments during the fishing season. On June 8, the club sponsors the annual Port-to-Port Challenge that pits crews from Michigan City against those from Portage to claim cross-region bragging rights. June 22 is the Powderpuff Tournament for women who fish, and June 29 is the Youth Tournament.







Jim Eriksson, Agent 405 Johnson Road Michigan City, IN 46360 Bus: 219-874-6360 jim.eriksson.gyxq@statefarm.com

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# **Acorn Concert Series**

The Acorn Concert Series, which presents live entertainment in an outdoor setting, returns to Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, 444 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso.

Individual tickets cost \$20 in advance, then \$25 the week-of for non-members. Series tickets cost \$105 for members and \$115 for non-members. Children 12 and younger are free, but need a ticket.

The schedule is:

- Gone 2 Paradise on Friday, May 24. The group describes itself as the "ultimate Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band."
- Elton Jeff & The Honky Cats on Friday, June 21. The group celebrates everything Elton John.
- The Cream of Clapton Band on Sunday, July 21. The tribute band features lead guitarist-vocalist Will Johns (Clapton's nephew) and Grammy winning drummer Steve Ferrone, who played in Clapton's band between 1986-1992.
- Trippin' Billies on Friday, Aug. 23. The band describes itself as providing "the ultimate Dave Matthews Band experience."
- The Fortunate Sons on Saturday, Aug. 31. The group is a nationally and internationally touring Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute band.
- Hyryder on Friday, Sept. 20. The band celebrates the music of The Grateful Dead.

Visit www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum for reservations or more details.

# **SAM Music, Literacy Classes**

Registration is under way for two sessions of early childhood music and literacy education held on Tuesdays, July 2-Aug. 6, at School of American Music's Arts and Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich.

The first course, "Music Makers and Learning Lovers" for 3- to 5-year-olds, meets at 10 a.m. EDT for 40 minutes. Students sing and engage in book reading and activities centered on a new theme each week as presented by the theme in the chosen book.

The second course, "Reading, Writing, Rockin' and Rhyming" for 6- to 8-years-olds, includes similar activities, with the addition of a writing prompt. Music, games, crafts and movement fill out the 60-minute classes that begin at 11 a.m. EDT.

Leading the classes are Kendra Job and Madison Kutch, both Michigan City Area Schools elementary teachers. Job is a classroom teacher and Kutch an elementary music educator. She also is a SAM instructor as a brass specialist.

The cost is \$60 per student for all six sessions payable at the first class. A scholarship program is available for families in need. Call the school at (269) 409-1191 or email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com for more details.

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# **Picture This**

I've become so fond of watercolor painting, it's far outpaced the available space on our walls. In our home gallery, if you will.

Good thing for Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph, Mich., because I actually sold a framed painting, "Typewriter," for 40 big ones in their gift shop. Who knew, right?

I certainly didn't, but I now know there is a market for my watercolor painting. Not always a paying

market, but a viable outlet for my water works.

Case in point: my partner in restoring old typewriters, Jim Roe, was doing so much excellent work for me as I grew (and continue to grow) my typewriter collection, I was hard-pressed to pay him in coin of the realm.

So Jim, good-old Jim, says to me, "You're a starving artist, so how about you pay me with a painting of a typewriter?"

And that's what I did: Gave Jim Roe my framed watercolor, "QWERTY," that I'd just shown in Box Factory's annual member show. (QWERTY is the arrangement of letters on the top line of keys on old typewriters and even modern keyboards.)

Despite the ridiculously low price of \$50, "QWERTY" didn't attract a buyer, so I gladly gave

it to Jim in exchange for typewriter services early this year.

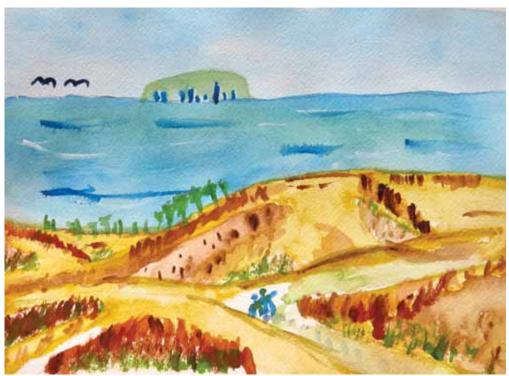
Then, there was my other piece in the member show: a framed watercolor titled "Dragon Flies." That elegant, airborne insect wasn't flying off the walls at Box Factory despite the low, low sales price. So, I bestowed it upon my ace physical therapist, Hilary Mancik, in gratitude for guiding me back to full range of motion after my shoulder-replacement surgery on April 3, 2023. Hilary gladly accepted the painting, mounting it prominently in Mancik manor in Southwest Michigan.

But what about all the other watercolor paintings I found myself spewing out almost daily? (OK, OK, when I like something, I can like it *too* much, but I have yet to see the harmful side effects of watercolor painting.)

Well, I do have quite the human interest story, and it's a doozy, so pour yourself another cup of herb tea and settle in for the long haul:

Seems that some summer neighbors were no longer going to come up from Florida to spend summer and fall at their beloved strand of Lake Michigan.





My watercolor painting of our Florida friends on their beloved beach in Michigan.

All owing, I am sad to report, to the wife's deteriorating medical condition. (We all know too well, don't we?)

We have been dear friends with these folks since we moved to Michigan in 1987. I knew the odds of seeing them both again were next to none. One of life's griefs, right? I knew there had to be some way or other to stay in touch.

That was a no-brainer because our Florida/Michigan friends actually are older than we are, so they were raised on the old-fashioned communications method of actual, written correspondence. Largely a lost art in the age of the ever-glowing smartphone, but there are still a few old codgers out there who understand the rewards of exchanging letters.

So, I fired off a letter, written, of course, on one of my trusty old typewriters. I enjoyed typing the letter and envelope, slapping a stamp on it, then delivering it to the post office by bicycle. (How old-school is that?)

I suspected a return letter might arrive from Florida, and I did. And then some more... and more... and more. The husband, professor emeritus from a

small Midwest college, taught geography and took a special interest in the Great Lakes region in which we so happily live.

So, I sent him a draft of a Beacher article about Niles, Mich. I thought it pretty well covered the "City of Four Flags" inside and out. Well, not really, because my old friend fired back a handwritten letter, in elegant cursive no less. He offered these thoughts: "Niles (under other names) was once one of the most important places in North America. It was the gateway to South Bend. That's pretty much what it still is. Three-hundred-and-fifty years ago the French dominated the European presence in North America. The English were still hugging the Atlantic Coast. The French were in the Rockies. Niles had a major role in that."

Noting the French were looking for furs to sell in the European markets, my friend said the explorers used canoes to transport their furs from the west all the way to Montreal, where they were loaded on ships bound for France. "Up the Mississippi to the Illinois and then the Kankakee to South Bend. Everyone who went to and from the Rockies went by way of Niles and rested there," my friend wrote.

As our correspondence blossomed, he has written so many interesting comments about the history and geography of the Great Lakes region.

Alas, the only person missing in this old-fashioned form of communication is his lovely wife of many happy years on the beaches of Michigan and Florida.

Her condition has deteriorated to such an extent that she can no longer read and write. We are saddened by this and wished there was a way in which to communicate with her.

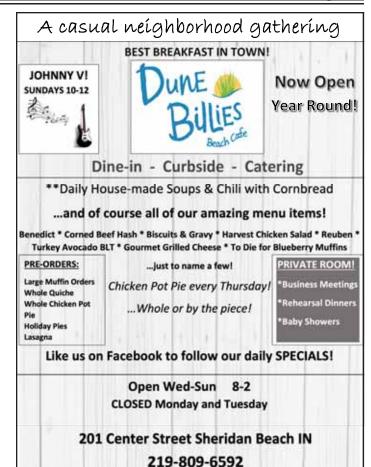
Then, I remembered an experience when my mother was still with us. A friend of hers at the care home where she lived was close to death and had stopped all movement and speech, except for breathing. It was close to Christmas, and my mother said, "Why don't you play 'Silent Night' for her on your clarinet?"

I was skeptical, but I obeyed my mother, good son that I was trying to be. And so, I played the Christmas classic. Lo and behold, the dying woman gently moved her feet to the 3/4 beat. It was a beautiful moment, and it caused me to remember articles I had read about how basic music is to the development of the human brain. After all, we hear the beat of our mothers' hearts before we are even born.

Hmmm, I wondered. Could art have the same effect? So I gave it a try and enclosed a watercolor painting, or two, in the next dispatch to our friends in Florida. No word at first, then my friend and faithful correspondent wrote to say his wife was taking such great delight in my watery works, he couldn't get her to put them down and eat dinner.

Who knew?

Indeed, who knew?





# **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, May 23. 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.
- Mario Kart Tournament (ages 10-17) from 3-5 p.m. Friday, May 24. Winners receive prizes. No registration is needed.
- Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in May. Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, crossstitch, 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.
- The library is closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.
- Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4
   p.m. Tuesdays in May. Harris can offer tips and
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- advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in May. 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.
- Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. The foreign-policy discussion program continues its 26th season. The focus is "Pandemic Preparedness." Reading material is available at the circulation desk. Call 873-3049 for more details.
- 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.
- Coffee & Canvas for Adults at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29. Learn how to paint a summer beach scene. Hot and iced coffee, snacks and water are provided. Register in advance. Call (219) 873-3044 or (219) 873-3042 for more details.
- "Star Wars" Scavenger Hunt in May. 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 or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

# **New Buffalo Township Library**

- The library is closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.
- NBTL Book Club, <u>Hidden Power: Presidential Marriages That Shaped Our History</u>. The program is at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 28.

# 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.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- Spanish Story Time: 10 a.m. May 24 and 31. 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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# **Senior Choir Organizational Meeting**

The School of American Music and River Valley Senior Center will hold an organizational meeting for a senior choir at 11 a.m. EDT Tuesday, June 4, at River Valley Senior Center, 13321 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Choir members need to live in the center's service area and be 60 or older. The purpose is to see who is interested in joining, and discuss ideas and suggestions for how to proceed.

The choir leader is Tom Fischer, a recently retired Lutheran pastor currently teaching piano at SAM in Three Oaks. He has more than 50-years experience as an organist,



Fischer

choir director and accompanist, handbell choir director and guitarist. His Beyond the Walls choir has performed concerts in eight independent and assisted living facilities in Buchanan, Bridgman, St. Joseph, Stevensville and other cities.

Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, or River Valley Senior Center at (269) 469-4556 or director@rvseniorcenter.org

# **Cemetery Twilight Tour**

South Bend's The History Museum will offer a twilight tour of Sacred Heart Hungarian Cemetery at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 30, by the museum, 808 W. Washington St.

The cost is \$2, or free for members. Led by the museum's archivist/St. Joseph County Historian Travis Childs, participants view historic gravesites and learn about people from the Michiana community. Participants should meet at the Pine Road entrance. They also should be prepared to walk on uneven terrain. No food or pets are allowed, and the tour is canceled if the weather is poor.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, for more details.

# **Vendors Sought for French Market**

Applications are available for the annual French Market from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT Saturday, July 6, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The event features local artisans, antiques, collectables, baked goods and refreshments. Vendors can have 12' x 12' booth spaces on the lawn area or inside the building. Each booth space costs \$20. Tables are available for an additional \$10 each.

Contact Candice in the church office for an application at office@mediatorharbert.com or (269) 469-1441. Contact Marilee Roth at mjrothfarm@gmail. com for additional details.



# Brewery Lodge & Supper Club Menu

# Soup Du Jour

**Bread Board** 

Choice of butter or herbed olive oil add Pimiento cheese

### **Blistered Shishito**

Shishito peppers, toasted gartic, balsamic glaze, lemon wedge

### Goat Cheese Polenta & Kale

Sauteed kale, polenta, goat cheese, cherry tomato, balsamic

# Whipped Feta

Whipped feta, warm pita, cucumber, Kalamata olive

### Crab Cake

Lump crab, house remoulade, fresh spring mix, lemon vinalgrette

### Steamed Mussels

Chilean mussels, fennel broth, fresh baguette

## Lodge House Salad

Spring mix, cherry tomato, red onion, cucumber, creamy basil, croutons, cheese

### Beet Salad

Roasted beet, Gorgonzola crumble, candied walnuts, balsamic

# Oysters On the Half Shell

Choice of Raw or Steamed - House cocktail sauce, lemon wedge, Tabasco

### Oysters Rockefeller

Creamed spinach, prosciutto, garlic, shallots

### Pan-Roasted Chicken

Chicken breast, garlic, mushrooms, shallots, capers, pan sauce, roasted potators

# The Elk Burger

1/2 lb elk patty, smoked cheddar, tousemade bacon jam, mayo, roasted potatoes

### Cavatappi Alfredo

Cavatappi prosciutto, cream, imported Pecorino cheese, shallot - add chicken, 6 oz flat iron steak

### Tapenade Salmon

Olive-crusted salmon, fresh springmix, red pepper aloli, goat cheese, asparages

# Bone-In Pork Chop

Frenched double bone pork chop, carrots, maple bourbon glaze, roasted potatoes

### \*Filet & Caesar

6 oz black Angus filet, artisan romaine, cherry tomato, cheese, house Caesar

### \*Filet

6 oz black Angus filet, Chef's seaschal vegetable

# \*Ribeye

16 oz black Angus ribeye, asparagus, roasted potatoes

# 56 oz Tomahawk Steak

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6/7 P.T. and The Cruisers

6/14 Run Forrest Run



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# LBCC Women's Golf Leagues 18-Hole League

May 14, 2024

# **A Flight**

First: Jeannie Muldowney.

Second: Cindy Levy.

Third: Claudia Brennan, Melanie Davis.

**B** Flight

First: Janet Andreotti. Second: Katy Lee. Third: Vicky Krop.

C Flight

First: Joanne Dodd. Second: Teresa Curi. Third: Anne Robson.

# **Birdies**

Claudia Brennan: No. 16. Katy Lee: No. 1 and 5. **Sunken Approaches** Katy Lee, No. 11. Cindy Levy, No. 17.

# **Art Barn Premier Fundraiser**

Art Barn School of Art will host "One To Grow On: Seeds of Inspiration," its premier fundraiser, from 6-10 p.m. Friday, May 31, at The Great Hall Events and Conference Center at Purdue University Northwest, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville.

Tickets are \$135, while a table for eight costs \$1,000. Visit www.artbarnschool.org for details.

The non-profit Art Barn, located in Valparaiso, provides art-education classes for children, teens and adults of all abilities, as well as exhibits and cultural programs.



# 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.

# **Michigan City Municipal Golf Course**



North Course, "Early Birdies" May 13, 2024 Event: Subtract 2 Worst Holes From Net Score

# A Flight

Low Gross: Barb Rumbuc. Low Net: Barb Rumbuc. Event: Pat Czizek.

**B** Flight

Low Gross: Paula Hutchinson. Low Net: Paula Hutchinson. Event: Sandy Baldwin.

C Flight

Low Gross: Kathy Nelson, Alice Wozniak.

Low Net: K. Nelson, Sandra Provan, Alice Wozniak.

Event: Ann Batagianis.

D Flight

Low Gross: Linda Sperling. Low Net: Linda Sperling. Event: Linda Sperling. Birdies: Cindy Wolkowitz.

# South Course, Par-Tee Women's League, May 8, 2024 Event: Subtract Two Worst Holes From

Event: Subtract Two Worst Holes From Gross

# Flight A

Low Gross: Tina St. Germain, 47. Low Net: Tina St. Germain, 34.

Low Putts: Tina St. Germain, Linda Hirsch, 18.

Event: Tina St. Germain, 33.

Flight B

Low Gross: Carol Tylisz, 54. Low Net: Carol Tylisz, 41. Low Putts: Sandy Baldwin, 17.

Event: Carol Tylisz, 44.

# Flight C

Low Gross: Mary Lou Marshall, 54. Low Net: Mary Lou Marshall, 30. Low Putts: Alice Wozniak, 15. Event: Mary Lou Marshall, 38.

Flight D

Low Gross: Sandra Provan, 65.

Low Net: Sandra Provan, Pam Jaracz, 39. Low Putts: Sheila Bracken, Pam Jaracz, 18.

Event: Sandra Provan, 47.

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# **LaPorte County Parks**



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

# A Brush with Madness

The all-ages program is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Participants follow easy painting directions, with all supplies provided. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$8 per person.

# **Drum Fit for Boomers**

The all-ages exercise program with music is from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, May 28, at Red Mill County Park.

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

# **Naturalist Guided Programs**

"Beautiful Birds" is from 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 29, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Learn about birds while watching them eat at the feeders. Then, go on a hike looking for birds with provided binoculars.

# Walk With a Doc

Franciscan Health's free Walk With A Doc program, a combination of information and exercise, steps off Wednesday, May 29, in Michigan City.

Through July 3, the 5K walks begin at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., at 6 p.m. each Wednesday with a brief health talk by a physician or clinical staff member, followed by stretching and walking through Washington Park.

Registration is on site only at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Individuals don't have to complete the 5K walk to participate, with the walk canceled if the weather is poor.

Contact Nila Williams, Franciscan Health Michigan City community health improvement coordinator, at nila.williams@franciscanalliance.org or (219) 283-9649 for more details.





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# **Chesterton Art Center**

Chesterton Art Center will offer a newly expanded, seven-week series of summer art camps and teen studio intensives.

The series for ages 5-18 highlights art techniques and media, and involves discussions on modern artists. All programs follow a theme that directs the fine-art projects students take home at the end of the week. The new studio intensives for teens 13 and older focus on a specific media.

The schedule is:

# **Summer Camps**

- June 3-7: "FUNdamentals of Clay" (ages 9-12) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Liz Cowan.
- June 10-14: "All About Architecture" (ages 9-12) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Mindy Milan.
- June 10-14: "Printmakers at Play" (ages 9-12) from noon-2:30 p.m., instructed by Ida Short.
- June 17-21: "In My Artist Era" (ages 5-9) from 8:30-11 a.m. Ages 10+ go from noon-2:30 p.m. Jen Aitchison is the instructor.
- June 24-28: "Creatures of the Rainforest" (ages 5-9) from 8:30-11 a.m. Ages 10+ go from noon-2:30 p.m. Aitchison is the instructor.
- July 8-12: "Fun with Fiber Arts" (ages 9-12) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Mary Ann Martin.
- July 15-19: "Local Landscapes" (ages 5-9) from 8:30-11 a.m. Ages 10+ go from noon-2:30 p.m. Aitchison is the instructor.
- July 15-19: "STEAM: Art and Ecosystems" (ages 9-12) from noon-2:30 p.m., instructed by Emily Casella.
- July 22-26: "Myths + Magic" (ages 5-9) from 8:30-11 a.m. Ages 10+ go from noon-2:30 p.m., instructed by Aitchison.

# **Teen Studio Intensives**

- June 3-7: "Ceramics + Sculpture" (ages 13+) from noon-2:30 p.m., instructed by Cowan.
- June 10-14: "Printmaking" (ages 13+) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Short.
- June 24-28: "Video Production" (ages 13+) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Kyle Murphey.
- July 8-12: "Sewing + Stitching" (ages 13+) from noon-2:30 p.m., instructed by Martin.
- July 15-19: "Drawing with Colored Pencils" (ages 13+) from 8:30-11 a.m., instructed by Casella.

Tuition per five-day camp is \$150 for non-members and \$135 for family members. Scholarships are available for students of all ages, the application available at www.chestertonart.org/scholarships. Contact Education Director Jillian Bridgeman at programs@chestertonart.org for more details.

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.



# American Red Cross

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

- Converge Community Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, noon-5 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 23.
- Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave., 1-6 p.m. Friday, May 24.
- Northwest Health Heart/Vascular Bldg., 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 25. Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

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# In the Area

May 23 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

May 23 — A Brush with Madness, 6-8 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Cost: \$8. Registration: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

May 24 — Oasis Splash Park opening day, Washington Park. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily. Free admission. Open through Sept. 2. Info: (219) 873-1506, www.emichigancity.com/315/Oasis-Splash-Park

May 24 — Mario Kart Tournament (ages 10-17), 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 24 — "Reading Trackers: What They Are and How to Use Them," 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary. org

May 25 — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-9:30 a.m., Pinhook Bog, 946 N. Wozniak Road, LaPorte. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**May 25** — Chair Yoga, 9:30-10:30 a.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

May 25 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, "VionlinMania!," 7 p.m., St. Mary's the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St. Free.

# May 27 — MEMORIAL DAY.

**May 28** — Veteran Free Day, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info (219) 324-6767.

May 28 — Drum Fit for Boomers, 9-10 a.m., Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 28 — Readers Corner-Book Club, Ann Patchett's <u>The Dutch House</u>, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

**May 28** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

**May 29** — Coffee & Canvas for Adults, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3044, (219) 873-3042.

May 29 — Naturalist Guided Program, "Beautiful Birds," 5-6:30 p.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

May 29-July 3 — Walk With A Doc, 6 p.m. Wednesdays, City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. Free. Registration: 5:30 p.m. Contact: (219) 283-9649, nila.williams@franciscanalliance.org

**Through May 31** — "Wanatah History Pop-Up Exhibit," LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Through June 3** — Drawings by Michele Corazzo, The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 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. 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 May** — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Tuesdays in May** — 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.

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

Saturdays through Oct. 26 in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Franklin streets. Info: tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr

Saturdays in LaPorte — Farmed & Forged Market, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe, LaPorte

**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

May 24 — Brooklyn Charmers: The Music of Steely Dan, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

**May 25** – The Acorn Tree House presents Mr. Dave, noon EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10 + \$3 convenience fee, \$5 + \$2 convenience fee (children). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 25 — Northwest Indiana Rusty Strings Community Orchestra concerts. *First*: 2 p.m., Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. *Second*: 6 p.m., Anderson Winery and Vineyard, 430 E. U.S. 6, Valparaiso. Free. Info: NWIRustystrings@gmail.com

**May 25** – Mr. Blotto, 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

May 26 — Feeding at the Farm, 4:30-5 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps. gov/indu

**May 27** — Memorial Day movie, "Vietnam Nurses," 1 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps. gov/indu

May 27 — Valparaiso Community/University Concert Band, 18th annual Valparaiso Memorial Day Concert, 3 p.m., Valparaiso University Chapel of the Resurrection, 1600 Chapel Drive. Free.

May 28 — New Buffalo Township Library Book Club, <u>Hidden Power: Presidential Marriages That Shaped Our History</u>, 10 a.m. EDT, NB Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

May 28-June 27 — Duneland Photography Club exhibit, "Summertime!," Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East. *Reception: 5-7 p.m. June 7*. Info: dina@artbarnschool.org, (219) 462-9009.

**Through May 29** — "Birds of the Hudson: Block Prints by the late Stephen Rengstorf," "Prairies Big and Small: Photographs by Susan Kirt," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

**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 June 27** — Artist Nathan Biancardi, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**Through July 7** — Michiana Annual Art Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St.,

St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org/maac/

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

**Through Aug. 25** — "Traditional Echo: Contemporary Pokagon Artists & The Ones Who Came Before," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

**Through Oct. 13** — "Resist!" exhibit, Beutter-Kernan Hall, Community Learning Center, St. Joe County Public Library, 305 S. Michigan St. Info: www. historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

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

Saturdays in Chesterton — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw

**Saturdays in May** — Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

**Saturdays-Sundays in May** — 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 May** — 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: "Nowhere Special." Not Rated. Times: 4 & 7 p.m. May 24-26. Also: "The Shawshank Redemption." Rated R. Time: 7 p.m. May 23. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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A Game of Lies by Clare Mackintosh (hard-cover \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 350 pages.)

"Reality TV is the modern-day equivalent of taking your knitting to an execution."

Truer words were never spoken. New reality shows pop up every week, from survival in the wilds (naked, of course) to finding love on an island or a farm, to shenanigans in a house of young people seemingly lacking common sense, to "real housewives" (seem more fake to me). And that's just the tip of the iceberg. They have absolutely no merit,

yet garner huge ratings each week. I guess we just like mindless entertainment and seeing other people make total fools of themselves.

This story offers an interesting behind-the-scenes look at one of these crazy shows, and how greed leads some to prove how far they will go for the big payoff. Add murder and a twisty psychological plot, and you have an addictive read.

First off is the location. It's set in Wales in the western part of the United Kingdom: a wild and mountainous area. Not a surprising choice as the author lives in North Wales.

The reality show is called "Exposure," supposedly a survival show. Well, that's what the contestants are told, but the producer, Miles Young, hides the real premise until the first day of filming.

Before I go into Miles' crazy idea, I must introduce Detective Ffion Morgan, a resident of the nearby town of Cam Coed and member of the local police force. She solved a murder mystery in the first book of this series, <u>The Last Party</u>. Not to worry, this is a standalone book. Ffion lives with her mother and younger sister, Seren, who is dating Caleb Northcote, who has a job on "Exposure" as Miles' runner.

Ffion gets a call that they have found bones partially buried on the filming site. She is sent out to make sure they are human before calling out the coroner. They aren't. They turn out to be dog bones. Before she leaves, Ffion learns of a missing contestant — probably because he learned the real reason the seven contestants were picked, not for a nature survival test, but something more personal and self-destructive.

The show's real premise is revealed. Each of the seven contestants has a secret from their past. The only way to prevent viewers from learning said se-

# Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



cret is to reveal another contestant's secret. If the guess is correct, the secret is revealed and that contestant is eliminated. If that guess is wrong, the guesser is put in a "confession pod" filled with something they are deathly afraid of, like snakes, rats or spiders. If that person cannot stay in the pod a prearranged time, they will be eliminated. Win or lose, let's face it, the whole premise of "Exposure" is

unacceptable.

No surprise these seven people were carefully selected after much research on their past lives. If one of them can outguess the others, that person will walk away with £100,000.

What follows is a fascinating look at how far people will go to keep their secrets and win the money. All seven seem like just regular people: Ryan, software engineer; Henry, accountant; Jason, firefighter; Aliyah, child care; Pam, head teacher; Lucas, minister; and the only local contestant, Ceri, letter carrier. A pretty innocuous group, right? Maybe not as innocent as they first appear.

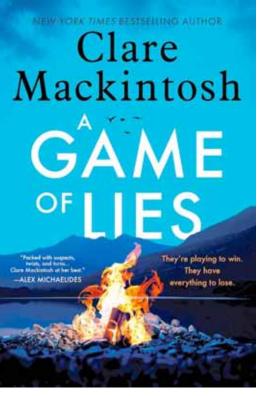
Even after the missing contestant goes all mental and attacks someone, Miles refuses to stop filming, claiming ratings have never been so high and no one is going to get hurt...until there's a

murder. There's any number of possible victims and possible murderers.

There's another part of the story that involves Ffion and her ex-boyfriend, Leo, a detective across the border in England. Seems like neither one of them can confess their true feelings for each other, but Ffion goes dead silent when Leo is put in charge of the murder investigation instead of her. Hell hath no fury and all that?

The final word: Mackintosh does an admirable job of exploring secrets — just how damaging can they become? And what lengths would someone go to in order to protect them? Then, there's the question of how far should a reality show be allowed to go. How many lives have been damaged because of a show that may have paid them well, but at what price to their physical and psychological being? It's a wild ride and one you're sure not to forget. It's entertainment with a capital E.

Till next time, happy reading!



















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