

THE

Beacher™

Weekly Newspaper

911 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

Volume 41, Number 6 Thursday,
February 13, 2025



THE
Beacher

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Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

65 Years and Counting

by Kim Nowatzke



Mary and Don Grott are photographed in their LaPorte home. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

Mary Grott admits she doesn't know anyone who has been married as long as she and her husband, Don, have.

Last September, the LaPorte couple celebrated 65 years together. How they met is something they've never forgotten.

Don served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953-1957. When he returned home, he visited his cousin, Johnny Foldenauer, and his wife, Mickey, who it just so happened he once dated. While there, he found himself looking at their wedding album and saw Mary,

a bridesmaid, in one of the photos.

He was smitten.

"I thought, 'Uh-oh.' That's all it took."

Mary's recollection, she shares with a laugh, is that "it was a horrible photo."

"I can still visualize that picture," Don stressed. "It was just Mary on the church steps."

He subsequently got her phone number from Mickey and called to arrange to meet.

"Things just rolled along right after that," Don said.



The Grott Family around 1970. The front is Kristi with Don.
The back is Mary with Beth and Anne Marie.

First off, he picked her up from her job as a receptionist at Koontz-Wagner: an energy, electric and motor-repair business still in operation in South Bend. He also met her mother that day.

“It was pretty much a blind date – in today’s world, I’d be scared to do that,” Mary admits.

But, she trusted the recommendation of her friend, whom she met at Saint Mary’s College.

“I had dated a lot of creepy guys, and I was done with creepy guys. He sounded like a nice one. He’s a good guy,” she said, smiling at her husband.

“I made the right choice,” he replied, smiling back.

They recall next going to a movie for their “official” first date. Laughing, they said it may have been Don’s last trip to a movie theater. He’s not a movie fan.

Four months later, they became engaged at Christmas.

“I was not expecting at all for him to propose,” Mary said. “I was surprised.”

After a formal wedding at Our Lady of Hungary in South Bend, they celebrated with a reception attended by 500 at The LaPorte Armory.

“We had zip for money,” Don said. “In today’s day, we could never have pulled that off.”

Mary had turned 21 six days prior. Don was 25. They enjoyed a quick trip around Lake Michigan as their honeymoon. And, Don wasted no time purchasing their first home.

The day after returning from their trip, Don went with his father to look at a small white house a widow was selling on Kieffer Road in Michigan City.

Continued on Page 4

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65 Years and Counting

Continued from Page 3

"I bought the house right then and there," Don said. "I paid \$4,000 for 12 acres – the house, buildings on the property, everything."

Mary suggested the long driveway would look especially pretty lined with flowerbeds.

"He started working on making the flowerbeds right after I suggested it," Mary said. "You can't make a suggestion without him taking care of the situation. I have never known anyone like him. Most people, you can't get off the sofa, but him, you can't get on the sofa. He's the 'Energizer Bunny.'"

One big change for Mary was the size of her husband's family. Her own family consisted of her mother, sister, aunt, niece and two nephews. Don's large family included seven other siblings.

"It was mind-boggling to me," Mary said. "I embraced it and enjoyed having a large family. In fact, all I ever wanted was a family."

Don and Mary have three daughters: Beth (Smith) was born in 1960 and now lives in Muskegon, Mich.; Anne Marie (Wiltfong), who lives in Rolling Prairie, was born next in 1962; and Kristi (Chadderdon), a LaPorte resident, in 1968.

The Grotts have six grandchildren, plus an ad-



Don and Mary Grott are photographed celebrating their 25th anniversary.

ditional three from their nephew, Mike Grott, whom they consider their "bonus son." They have six great-grandchildren and three more through Mike.

"My mom and dad always showed us that family was important," Beth said. "We spent a LOT of time with extended family on both sides. And that practice still applies today."

Anne Marie said, "I'm so blessed to be part of this family they created."

Don fondly recalls hosting many family re-

unions at their homes over the years. He also is quick to credit Mary with being the family "glue," particularly since his work required plenty of travel.

"Mary worked hard all those years keeping the family together," he said.

When Don volunteered to serve his country, he started out in the electronics field, but soon entered pilot training. Realizing his stomach just couldn't adjust to flying demands, he went back to electronics, this time teaching the subject in Bavaria, Germany. His next assignment was France, where he worked on the F-86 fighter aircraft.

He was practicing his hobby of painting when a commanding officer discovered his talent. Soon, he was painting murals on the officers' quarters and other buildings on base. In fact, this became his regular job for the remaining time he was enlisted.

Today, at 91, he still dabbles in art. His paintings have won local awards and one in France while stationed there. The painting of a barn at the former LaPorte County Home is on display at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum. His work also has been featured in Queen of All Saints Catholic Church's Legacy Center Gallery. Over the years, his works could be seen in local businesses through Land of Lakes Art Alliance, and he donated many paintings to auctions by statewide organizations that benefit children.

As explained on his business card, "Don's love of nature is reflected in the soft skies and whimsical scenes so familiar to those who travel the back roads of our land. While his paintings have won awards in Europe and the U.S., the true importance of them to viewers are the warm memories of times gone by."

After Don fulfilled his military commitment, he initially planned on being a painter, working for his father's business. Instead, he joined the LaPorte County Sheriff's Office. At the time, he said, there were about eight officers, with one assigned as the jailor, another stationed at the courthouse and another being the sheriff, all to cover the entire county.

"I had a couple of close calls," he admitted. "One man actually shot himself in the foot while trying to shoot me. I ended up taking him to the hospital."

Another time, Don was nearly



stabbed in the back. His partner threw a chair at the man, knocking the knife from his hand.

“He has an awesome guardian angel who is phenomenal,” said Mary, explaining he lost his older sister, Irene, at age 7 due to a ruptured appendix. Don was just a baby at the time.

“I feel in my heart that she is looking out for her baby brother,” Mary said.

Don later began working as a salesman, then an adjustor, in the insurance industry. After working for a year for someone else, he began his own insurance adjusting business, Grott Adjusting. It served 37 companies and covered all of Indiana, into Illinois west to O’Hare International Airport, up about 50 miles into Michigan and over into Ohio. They employed five others.

Mary served as the “chief cook and bottle washer,” managing the office,” Don said. “She was always right there taking care of things. She managed the ‘hard stuff.’ She’s taken care of the home and business. It was something else.”

As an extra job, Don used his

talents to letter school buses, trucks and other vehicles on the weekends. For the last 10 years, he turned his entrepreneurial talents to another business, Northwest Indiana Process Servers.

“She put up with being alone an awful lot because I was traveling a lot,” Don said of his wife. “We didn’t see each other a whole lot, but we got

Continued on Page 6



The Grott family gathering last Christmas.



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65 Years and Counting

Continued from Page 5

along. We didn't have an opportunity to get angry with each other because we were taking care of everyone else and other outside interests."

Mary admitted she and her husband didn't have a lot of "downtime" like other couples. However, the two enjoyed traveling across the United States, Mexico, Canada and France. They were very involved in the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, a fraternal organization for those in the insurance-related industry. They enjoyed attending annual conventions, held each summer in a different city.

Their faith has played a major part in their marriage. The two are members of Sacred Heart Church – Holy Family Parish in LaPorte and, up until COVID, regularly attended services.

"God has always come first in our marriage, and He has blessed us every day," Mary said. "Let God be your leader – the head of your household. There's no other way to do it."

What other advice can the Grotts give others in their relationships?

Mary cited The Golden Rule.

"Don especially always goes the extra mile for everyone – living by The Golden Rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you," she said.



A portrait of Mary before her wedding remains a cherished keepsake of Don's.

Mary offered another piece of advice.

"In hindsight, I wished that I would have not sweated the small stuff so much," she said. "I worried over every little detail."

It's evident their love has grown stronger over the years. Kristi offered a recent example, when Mary was recovering in rehabilitation after knee-replacement surgery.

"He was so incredibly excited to be there and to see her," she said. "He told her how proud he was of her. It was a true testament to the 65 years of marriage that they have and have endured. It was just lovely."

Another touching example of Don's love for his wife is the large portrait of her that he sees each morning when he rises. The photographer took it before they were married, and it sat in his business' storefront for three years, until Don came up with the money to purchase it. Telling the story more than six decades later, one can sense the relief in Don's voice as he saved enough money to claim the portrait as his own – and the joy and pride it still brings him to this day.

To say that, after all these years, they are clearly in tune with each other – on the same page, so to speak – is an understatement.

"One of us will say something," Don said, "and the other one was thinking the same thing."

Mary agrees.

"That happens all the time."

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David Auburn's "Proof" in Final Weekend at Footlight

Theatergoers have one more weekend to see David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Proof" at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 13-15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.

In the play, Catherine is an enigmatic woman with a brilliant father and an unanticipated suitor. After the discovery of a groundbreaking proof, she is confronted with the question of how much of her mathematician father's brilliance she inherited, and is that the only thing he passed on to her?

Directed by Alexander Bonner, the cast includes Jillian Davison (Catherine), Auriel Lark Felsecker (Catherine, understudy), John Hutchinson (Robert), Cai McClure (Hal) and Lisa Mahaffa Thompson (Claire). Felsecker will play Catherine on Saturday. Lara West serves as assistant director and Bobbi Ann Lauritsen as producer.

Tickets, which are \$17, may be purchased at www.footlightplayers.org. If available, they may be




purchased at the box office starting two hours before each show. Call (219) 874-4035 for more details.



Auditions for Leslie Kimbell's dramedy "Packing Up Polly" are at 6:30 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Feb. 16-17, at the theater.

Director Declan Rice aims to cast four adult women. Visit www.footlightplayers.org for more details.



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Guided Autobiography Course

Writer-journalist Laurie Wink will lead a Guided Autobiography (GAB) course from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 19-April 9, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

GAB focuses on a creative way to surface memories of significant life events, and write 800-1,000 word stories on common themes. Experience is not required. Participants share stories in class and receive positive feedback.

Wink is a certified Guided Autobiography instructor through The Birren Center for Autobiographical Studies. Class size is limited to 10. Participants must commit to all sessions, complete written assignments and participate in group discussions.

Visit www.chestertonart.org or call (219) 926-4711 to enroll.

River Valley Garden Club

River Valley Garden Club will hold its first meeting of the year at noon EST Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The meeting begins with a Valentine potluck, followed by a showing of the movie "Greenfingers" starring Helen Mirren. The public is invited.

The two-day gardening school is March 28-29. Registration is limited to 60 and closes March 1. Visit www.migardenclubs.org to register. The plant sale is May 17.

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at evpalulis@yahoo.com or call (269) 362-4564 for more details.

Faith City Movie Night

Faith City Assembly of God, 1314 S. Woodland Ave., will host a free movie at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

The movie is "Ordinary Angels" starring Oscar-winner Hilary Swank. Free-will donations will be accepted and a concession stand available. Child care costs \$5 per child, with registration at tinyurl.com/fcmoviechildcare

All proceeds benefit Speed The Light Missions.



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“Hearts on Fire Sale” Fundraiser



The “Hearts on Fire Sale” fundraiser, an evening of art, food and drinks, is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The event features more than 80 works sold at below market prices. Pieces include paintings, jewelry, mixed media and photography. Journeyman Distillery will craft a signature cocktail, while Burn ‘Em Brewing will serve lite bites. Guitarist Marco Villarreal will provide soft background music.

“Some of the works are gems donated by homeowners in Beverly Shores and Long Beach,” LCA Executive Director Janet Bloch said in a press release. “One of our beloved donors owned an inn in Beverly Shores, and we are fortunate that she donated artworks in order to support the work LCA does in the community.

Proceeds benefit LCA’s educational programs.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. for VIP ticketholders only. All tickets are available at www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events or by calling (219) 874-4900.

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Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers walk the New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Study Trails during a 2023 winter hike.

Harbor Country Hikers will explore vernal pools at 1 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 15, at the New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Study Trails, 12291 Lubke Road.

Vernal pools are seasonal habitats essential to amphibians such as salamanders and frogs, and to other species as well. Since the pools are not connected to other water sources, they are largely free of predators.

The hike, rated moderate to difficult, lasts about 2 1/4 hours. Hike leaders are Amy Gillan, a HCH member and Berrien County coordinator for the Vernal Pool Patrol, and HCH President Pat Fisher.

The hike will include some off-trail excursions. The trail may be muddy or icy, depending on the weather. Those who attend should dress in layers, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and take water. Membership is encouraged; however, the community is welcome.

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or the group's Facebook page for more details.

David L. Bradley

Oct. 24, 1949-Jan. 27, 2025

David L. Bradley, 75, Michigan City, passed away at 6:52 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, in his home with his spouse, Joseph, by his side.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date and a complete obituary released. Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel is handling arrangements.

He was born Oct. 24, 1949, in South Bend to the late Harold and Patricia (Geoffroy) Bradley. Surviving is his spouse, Joseph Petti, Michigan City.

Visit <https://shorturl.at/NFsyv> to send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of David L. Bradley.



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Black History Month Exhibit



To celebrate Black History Month, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., is highlighting 12 local physicians and medical professionals. The exhibit runs through Feb. 28. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

Wolfpack Roundup at MCHS

Michigan City High School's annual Wolfpack Roundup is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the MCHS auditorium, 8466 W. Pahs Road.

The event is open to families of current eighth-graders: those who attend Michigan City Area Schools, a private school, charter school or are home-schooled. Families with older students who are considering a transfer to MCHS are welcome.

Prospective students can learn about individualized learning paths, including Honors College, Early College and career-tech certifications. Parents and students also can learn about different ways to earn college credits, such as AP and dual credits, as well as the Indiana College Core now offered at MCHS, one of the region's only schools to offer the program.

MCHS also offers more than 40 student clubs, a nationally recognized JROTC program, Career and Technical Education programs and graduation pathways.

More details are available at www.EducateMC.net/ MCHS, or by calling Danielle Reed, the MCHS school counseling department chair, at (219) 873-2044.

PechaKucha SJ/BH

PechaKucha SJ/BH Vol. 32, the art event that shows 20 images each for 20 seconds, is from 7-9:30 p.m. EST Thursday, Feb. 20, at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

PechaKucha means "chit chat" in Japanese. The art format means presenters get 400 seconds to tell their story, with visuals guiding the way.

Tickets cost \$5. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. EST, with the first presenter beginning promptly at 7 p.m. EST. A cash bar is planned. Limited tickets are available at the door. Visit <https://shorturl.at/scxgh> for reservations.



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“The Brutalist” Starts Bold and Strong...Then Collapses

by Andrew Tallackson



László Tóth (Adrien Brody, right) is reunited with his cousin, Attila (Alessandro Nivola), in “The Brutalist.”

Brady Corbet, the director, producer and co-writer of “The Brutalist,” is a man of many ideas, but his film is the 3-hour, 35-minute equivalent of a first draft. Ambitious, but shapeless. It is one thing to have all these thoughts swirling around in your brain. It is another to unpack them all at once without considering if they belong in the same film.

My first reaction to this Oscar heavyweight — 10 nominations, Best Picture included — was far more hostile. Unhappy with the tone of the review, I slept on it, allowing a day to pass. My feelings softened... slightly.

The extreme length has nothing to do with it. The test of any epic is not how long it is, but how long it *feels*. “Gone With the Wind,” “The Godfather: Part II,” “Schindler’s List,” “Gettysburg,” “Titanic,” “The Green Mile,” “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King,” “Avatar: The Way of Water” all exceed 180 minutes, but the hours often slip by unnoticed. You’re engrossed by the storytelling.

The early passages of “The Brutalist” have that promise. Immigrant sagas tend to slip into the same template: the promise of the American dream, fueled by grit and determination, followed by tragedy and triumph. Corbet, however, explores something darker: the anti-Semitism Holocaust survivors experienced in post World War II America.

★ ★ 1/2

“The Brutalist”

Running time: 215 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for strong sexual content, graphic nudity, rape, drug use, some language.

And in Adrien Brody — the Oscar winner for “The Pianist” (2002) — Corbet finds an actor who makes an astonishing transformation into Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor László Tóth. Yes, there is controversy that Corbet used AI to embellish his accent, but the performance transcends that. You do not see any acting mechanics. It feels effortless. The actor is gone, a character of flesh and blood in his place.

In 1947 Philadelphia, László is reunited with his cousin, Attila (Alessandro Nivola), and that one scene convinced me Brody stands at the doorstep of Oscar No. 2. László’s emotional collapse is so consuming, it’s like a rush of joy, sadness and relief.

László’s background in design and architecture leaves him admired and reviled, his confidence mistaken for ethnic ego by Philadelphia’s elite, including industrialist Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce). He’s initially furious that his son (a stiff Joe Alwyn) hired László to redesign his study as a surprise. Gradually, Harrison warms up to László,

admiring his intellectual prowess. The two form a tenuous partnership to conceive a more ambitious architectural undertaking.

There are passages in “The Brutalist” of László in his element, transforming spaces into striking literalizations of his own personality, that are mesmerizing. Insight into the mind of a visionary. And the anti-Semitism he experiences isn’t blatant, but the more subtle, condescending variety. Atila’s Catholic wife (Emma Laird, Paramount+’s “Mayor of Kingstown”) clearly detests him not by what she says, but by her apprehensive body language. Harrison, through Pearce’s tricky performance, has a way of dropping an aside whose hidden meaning, well, it ain’t that hidden.

The notion that for many Jews, America was *not* a safe haven from persecution is a bold topic for a film. That the intelligence, the drive, the creative inspiration of Jewish immigrants was mocked, condemned or exploited.

So when “The Brutalist” arrives at the halfway mark, complete with a self-imposed 15-minute intermission, we prepare for the arrival of László’s wife, Erzsébet (Felicity Jones). Long separated from her husband during the war, she endured the same atrocities as him, but believes that, now reunited, a better life awaits.

Then begins the second act...in all its bizarre, distracted, momentum-crushing reality.

By this point, you’ve largely forgiven Corbet for the arty, self-indulgent visuals, some of which border on student-film laughable, because he is exploring hefty topics: the immigrant experience, architecture, power and ego, and systemic hatred. But in the second half, Corbet loses sight of himself.

For one thing, this man should NOT be allowed near a sex scene. Each one is more awkward than the last, staged with leering, clumsy ineptness. The first red flag arrives early — about 10 minutes into the picture — through a bizarre, sexually graphic encounter in a New York sex club that adds nothing to the story. And poor Jones (the Oscar nominee for “The Theory of Everything”). She is dynamite. We only hear her in the first act through voice-overs, but Corbet for some reason betrays her in the second act, complete with uncomfortable full-frontal nudity. Erzsébet is a woman with a still healthy sexual appetite, but the moment she enjoys practically being suffocated during intimacy comes out of nowhere, souring the already sour tone. Why do that Jones when her dramatic moments are so potent? Her final scene, when she confronts the man she feels betrayed her husband, is a powerfully defiant act.

The ugliness doesn’t stop there. When László is sexually assaulted by a man, the act by the aggressor is not so much repressed homosexuality, but a symbolic act of anti-Semitic domination. The attacker, once on László’s side, shifts gears and is dis-



Felicity Jones is dynamite as Erzsébet, László’s wife.

gusted by him, feeling the need, as his words convey, to put him “in his place.” Did we really need that scene? One couple in the theater where I saw the film walked out then.

“The Brutalist” lost me there.

In interviews and especially his Golden Globe-winning speech, Corbet takes a self-congratulatory air, that his film’s length gave him the freedom to explore these characters. An editor, though, could have been his friend, not a foe. An editor might have sculpted a more cohesive whole that honors what Corbet really is trying to say.

My first draft of this review, begun about an hour after seeing the film, opened with the sentence, “It’d be a shame if ‘The Brutalist’ sweeps this year’s Academy Awards.” I stand by that sentiment. A movie that explores Holocaust survivors questioning life in America deserves to be made *and* warrants Oscar consideration.

“The Brutalist,” though, is not that movie.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Oscar Watch: “Black Box Diaries”

by Andrew Tallackson



Shiori Ito (right) documents her own fight against Japan’s legal system in “Black Box Diaries.”

In “Black Box Diaries,” a journalist waging a soul-crushing uphill battle finally catches a break. *The* break. But more so, the individual willing to help speaks words of tremendous empathy and kindness. The journalist breaks down, sobbing...and we weep with her.

The film, a leading Oscar contender for Best Documentary Feature Film, is now streaming on Paramount+. It is the most consuming examination of rape, and how the system treats victims like easily discarded trash, since Jodie Foster’s “The Accused” (1988). You’d hope we are better people since then, but “Black Box Diaries” confirms patriarchal society can maintain a death grip on the legal system.

The documentary is told in real time by the victim in her homeland of Japan. It is journalist Shiori Ito, who in 2015 met with Noriyuki Yamaguchi, at the time Tokyo Broadcasting System’s Washington, D.C., bureau chief. Her intention was to discuss potential work in Washington. Her police report states he plied her with drinks, took her to a hotel, where she realized his intentions, tried to escape, but was carried to his room and assaulted. His rebuttal: Nothing illegal happened.

The documentary begins in 2017 when Ito goes public with her lawsuit against Yamaguchi, and as she publishes a book detailing her side of the story. Victims of rape rarely reveal their names to the press, and stalwart journalists might not approve of what Ito has done: a journalist never *becomes* the story. But in Ito’s case, her goal is reclaim the power stolen from her, to inspire other women to come forward after they’ve been attacked. She also maintains she can take a “third party” approach, distancing herself from her own pain to tell the story. What she discovers, though, is shutting herself off from



“Black Box Diaries”

Running time: 103 minutes. Paramount+. Rated TV-MA.

emotion is impossible.

Ito’s journey sheds light on Japan’s legal system. The “black box” the film’s title refers to involves the initial police report that ultimately is buried and disregarded right as an arrest of Yamaguchi is imminent. Turns out, the prominent journalist has friends in high places, specifically then-prime minister Shinzo Abe. The investigating officer who filed the initial report refuses to testify, fearful of losing his job. That Ito’s case surfaces at the dawn of the #metoo movement is not lost on a few legislators who make passionate pleas for change.

Because we’re following Ito every step of the way, “Black Box Diaries” is devastating. How she moves forward, despite setback after setback, transforms the movie into celebrating perseverance amid the impossible.

Ito takes a good look at herself throughout the film, providing a balanced portrait of her strengths and weaknesses. When she does encounter support, it’s like a blinding light of hope. When she speaks before a group of women journalists, saying she often feels “naked” in public, condemning eyes everywhere, here, she feels like someone placed a warm blanket around her. And when that moment hits at the end, the moment I wrote about at the start of this review, it is impossible to remain composed watching it unfold.

It overwhelms you.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

And the Nominees Are...

PICTURE

- "Anora"
- "The Brutalist"
- "A Complete Unknown"
- "Conclave"
- "Dune: Part Two"
- "Emilia Pérez"
- "I'm Still Here"
- "Nickel Boys"
- "The Substance"
- "Wicked"

ACTRESS

- Cynthia Erivo, "Wicked"
- Karla Sofía Gascón, "Emilia Pérez"
- Mikey Madison, "Anora"
- Demi Moore, "The Substance"
- Fernanda Torres, "I'm Still Here"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Monica Barbaro, "A Complete Unknown"
- Ariana Grande, "Wicked"
- Felicity Jones, "The Brutalist"
- Isabella Rossellini, "Conclave"
- Zoe Saldña, "Emilia Pérez"

DIRECTOR

- Jacques Audiard, "Emilia Pérez"
- Sean Baker, "Anora"
- Brady Corbet, "The Brutalist"
- Coralie Fargeat, "The Substance"
- James Mangold, "A Complete Unknown"

ACTOR

- Adrien Brody, "The Brutalist"
- Timothée Chalamet, "A Complete Unknown"
- Colman Domingo, "Sing Sing"
- Ralph Fiennes, "Conclave"
- Sebastian Stan, "The Apprentice"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Yura Borisov, "Anora"
- Kieran Culkin, "A Real Pain"
- Edward Norton, "A Complete Unknown"
- Guy Pearce, "The Brutalist"
- Jeremy Strong, "The Apprentice"



Contest sponsor: Swingbellys!

Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by email to atallackson@gmail.com. **The deadline is noon Friday, Feb. 21.** Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the Feb. 27 edition, before the March 2 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. **First place receives a \$50 Swingbelly's gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass.** If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 13 edition.

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JROTC Competes at Drill Meet

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in a military drill meet Feb. 1 at Indianapolis Ben Davis High School.



The Color Guard executes
"Present, Colors."

Many of the top MCJROTC programs participated, some of which have qualified in the past for the national drill championship. Luke Wright, the MCJROTC director for MCHS's region, attended, while Purdue University ROTC midshipmen judged the meet.

"We represented MCHS well at this meet," Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor, said in a press release. "We do not have the depth that the larger schools have, which puts us at a disadvantage. Our cadets are still drilled with focus and discipline."

In another event, cadets finished second in the small-school category during the CyberPatriot state round.

CyberPatriot is a national high-school competition in which students act as security managers of an organization's virtual-information system. They must defend against, then counterattack, a cyber attack. Finalists compete in an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national championship. The MCHS team includes cadet sergeants Jordon Staples, Jhonathan Ruiz and Dante Rojas.

Next up is a meet at Concordia High School on Feb. 22 in Fort Wayne. They will continue to support MCHS winter sports, including set-up and teardown of the girls gymnastics meets and color guards for boys basketball games. In March, cadets will support the three Indiana High School Athletic Association boys basketball tournaments at MCHS: sectionals on March 4-8; regionals on March 15; and semi-state on March 22. Cadets will march in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade March 15.

Ted Perzanowski, M.Div., B.A.

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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:

- **3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17) at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.** Meet in the children's makerspace, with no experience necessary. Children 12 and younger must attend with an adult.
- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays.** 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.
- **Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.** Miltenberger can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record.
- **Dream Big & Engineer On! at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.** The free hands-on program is open to children ages 2-8 and accompanied by an adult.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 18 and 25.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays.** 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.
- **Reading Scavenger Hunt in February.** Find the pictures hiding in Youth Services and receive a prize. The theme is Articulated Animals.
- **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.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers needed.** Individuals are asked to help at least one day a week during tax season (February-April). The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are on-line. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

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



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MACU Makes \$5,000 Donation



Michelle Shirk (left) of Boys & Girls Club of LaPorte County is photographed with Dennis Fischer, Members Advantage Credit Union vice chairman, and Bob Havens, a MACU board member.

Members Advantage Credit Union donated \$5,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County, which will help fund programming and develop the new Michigan City facility.

The agency provides after-school and summer programs that foster academic success, character development and healthy lifestyles. It now operates 10 clubs across Michigan City, LaPorte, Westville, Kingsford Heights and Rolling Prairie. The new facility will serve more area children and families.

Dementia Program

Dr. Lisa Riemenschneider will discuss “How to Avoid Dementia: Simple Strategies to Dramatically Reduce Your Risk” from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Lakeshore Neuropsychology, 1411 S. Woodland Ave., Suite C.

Light refreshments will be provided. Call to reserve a seat at (219) 243-1912. Visit www.lakeshoreneuropsych.com for more details.

Barker Mansion

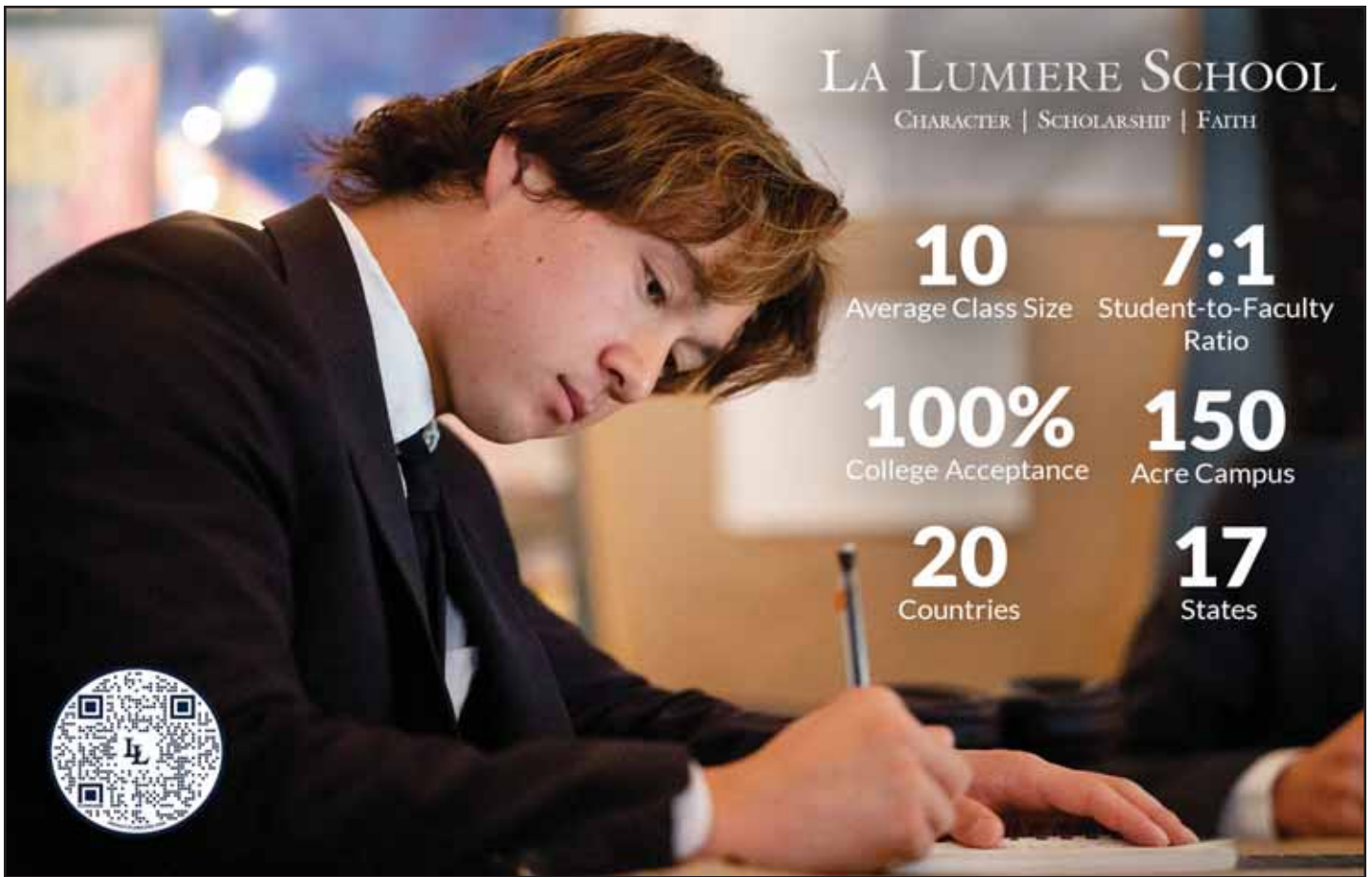
- **Yoga at The Barker Cottage with Sacred Dunes from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19.** Presented by Sacred Dunes Integrative Health of Michigan City, the session is open to all levels. Advance tickets are \$10. Take a yoga mat. *Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.barkermansion.org for more details.*

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

The following programs are planned:

- **All Things True Crime Book Club from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The group meets the second Thursday of each month. On Feb. 13, the focus is Truman Capote's In Cold Blood.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Cooking With Kids from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Coolspring Branch Library.** Youth learn about food and cooking techniques while sampling the latest creations.
- *The library is closed Monday, Feb. 17, for President's Day.*
- **Virtual Author Talk with Lee Hawkins from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18.** Hawkins will discuss I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free. Register online.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

New Buffalo Township Library

- The Giving Tree Donation Drive ends Feb. 15.
- 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.
- Pajama Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.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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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.



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.

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Care from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 15, at Baily Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Meet a ranger and fellow volunteers to care for the farm. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in February.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Winter Fun from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in February at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** If there is enough snow, visitors can borrow cross-country skis or snowshoes to explore Miller Woods. Guests also can help feed the center's resident turtles and fish, and explore the center's exhibits.
- **Dunes Theater from 2-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in February at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The schedule is: Feb. 16 — "The Tuskegee Airmen: Sacrifice and Triumph"; Feb. 22-23 (two short films) — "Dreams of Equality: Women's Rights National Historic Park" and "Steel and Steam: Steamtown National Historic Site."
- **Nature Photography in Winter: The How**

and the Why from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Nature photographer Mark Chantell will cover practical considerations, including what camera gear to use, macro photography tips and proper outdoor dress and safety.

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 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.

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Look Who's Having a Baby! at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.** A naturalist leads the program about animals that welcome new life in February.
- **Snow Days at noon Sunday, Feb. 16.** Meet at the Nature Center to learn facts about snow. Experiments and activities are planned.

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.

New Shelter Board

Kristy Hahn is the new board president for Nest Community Shelter, succeeding Emily Robbins

Shannon Walker takes the role of vice president, while Erica Boyd joined the board in late 2024.

The shelter serves individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout LaPorte County. The leadership transition coincides with the expansion of Nest's services into LaPorte in January, a collaboration bolstered by the City of LaPorte. The city, along with the Center Township Trustee Office and Nest Community Shelter, have united to provide support with the trustee and mayor's offices.



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Concours d'Elegance Applications

South Bend's Studebaker National Museum is accepting vehicle applications for the seventh annual Concours d'Elegance at Copshaholm.

The event, co-presented by LaVine Restorations & The JBS Collection, is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST Saturday, July 12. The Pass-In-Review and Awards Ceremony are at 2:30 p.m. EST.

The submission deadline is March 15. The selection committee will notify applicants after April 12. This year's featured marques are Rolls-Royce and Mercury. The full class list is:

- Inspired Greatness: Rolls-Royce automobiles of all years.
- Step Out With Mercury!: Mercury automobiles of all years.
- American Splendor: Open-bodied Full Classics.
- European Luxury: Full Classic European automobiles.
- Studebaker Sedans: Closed-bodied four-door Studebakers of all years.
- Kickin' Brass: Brass-era automobiles.
- The Roaring '20s: An open class for popular-priced 1920-1929 automobiles.
- Carrozeria Ghia: Ghia-bodied automobiles.
- Think Small: '60s Compacts.
- Think Smaller: Microcars.
- The Silent Knights: Knight sleeve-valve engined automobiles.

Awards are presented in all classes, as well as Best of Show and other special awards of distinction. The chief judge is automotive scholar-historian Matt Short. Judging is French Traditional. Automotive historian-raconteur Bill Rothermel will narrate the awards ceremony.

Visit <https://shorturl.at/npoSv> to register. The museum is located at 201 Chapin St.

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Chesterton Art Center

“Teen Takeover: An Open House for Teens,” a free event co-presented by Teen Arts Group, is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

A free monthly program, TAG offers professional arts experiences and opportunities to expand art practices. In preparation for the open house, TAG members have tested various projects, shared insights for improvements and prepped supplies.

The Feb. 15 focus is artmaking stations where participants explore a variety of mediums and techniques. They can draw their own comics, create a canvas tote bag using collagraph printmaking, compose elaborate collages and engage in a community textile project. They also can view the current exhibit “Polly and Her Dad: Billy + Polly Pozzo.”

The curatorial team Too Rad Comics will present their latest creation: a transportable display featuring Breena Nuñez’s comic “I Exist!” The display is supported by an Indiana Arts Commission’s On-Ramp Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Fellowship. It previews the upcoming exhibit “Borders, Bleeds, Margins, and Gutters (BBM&G)” in Texas.

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:

- Hamon Gray, American Legion Post 83, 228 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.
- LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.
- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.
- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

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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Feb. 4, 2025

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Spare Me	13	3
2. Diagonal Divas, Pin Ups	12	4
3. Gutter Busters	10	6

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. June Salmon	179
2. Mary Lou McFadden	154
3. Kathy Osborne	145
3. Kathy Russell	145
4. Mary McDonald	143
5. Shelly Dunleavy	140
6. Pat Collado (series)	399

SPLITS
 Dottie Brinckman — 5-6
 Jill Jankowski — 2-7
 Kathy Russell — 7-9
 Ginny Hogan — 4-6
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LaPorte County Parks



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

Drum Fit

The all-ages exercise program with music is from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 13 and 27, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

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

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In the Area

Feb. 13 – Drum Fit, 10-11 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

Feb. 13 — 3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17), 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 13 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 13 – All Things True Crime Book Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 13-16 — “Proof,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7 p.m. Feb. 13-15, 2 p.m. Feb. 16. Tickets: \$17. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Feb. 14 — VALENTINE’S DAY.

Feb. 14 — Display, vintage valentines, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Feb. 14 — Movie night, “Ordinary Angels,” 7 p.m., Faith City Assembly of God, 1314 S. Woodland Ave. Free-will offering. Child care: \$5 per child, registration at tinyurl.com/fcmoviechildcare

Feb. 15 — Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 15 — Cooking With Kids, 10-11 a.m., Cool-spring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 15 — “Hearts on Fire Sale” fundraiser, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Tickets: www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events, (219) 874-4900.

Feb. 19 — PRESIDENTS’ DAY

Feb. 17 — Dream Big & Engineer On!, 1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 18 — Virtual Author Talk with Lee Hawkins, 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 18, 25 — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 19 — Yoga at The Barker Cottage with Sacred Dunes, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631

Washington St. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: www.barkermansion.org

Through Feb. 28 — Black History Month exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through March — Lee Bauman, 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 — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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 Michigan City — Adult Children of Alcoholic and Family Dysfunction (ACA), 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$30 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Info: (219) 336-3099.

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 — 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

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

Feb. 13 — Valentine’s Open Mic Night with Shiny Shiny Black, 7 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

Feb. 14 — Colm & Laura Keegan: On The Road Again, 7 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$70 + \$9 conve-

nience fee, \$100 + \$9 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Feb. 15 — “Teen Takeover: An Open House for Teens,” 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Free. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Feb. 15 — Look Who’s Having a Baby!, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 15 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Study Trails, 12291 Lubke Road. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com, Facebook page.

Feb. 15 — Four Hearts Sound Journey, 4-6 p.m. EST, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$40. Reservations: www.ticketstripe.com/4heartssoundyoga

Feb. 15 — The Chicago Experience, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, reserved sold out. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Feb. 16 — Snow Days, noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 18 — River Valley Garden Club, noon EST, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: evpalulis@yahoo.com, (269) 362-4564.

Through Feb. 21 — South Bend Toy Co. exhibit, The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through Feb. 23 — 2025 Gallery Exhibition Series, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Exhibits: Michigan City fiber artist Laurel Izard; The Fun Squad’s “The Quickest Way to Zen”; Jennifer Hauser’s “Bunny Trails”; T.J. Schwartz’s “Mourning Bear”; Keith Pastrick abstract oil paintings; Jacob Baerwald’s “Forest Aura – Color Prime.” Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through March 1 — “Polly and Her Dad,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through March 21 — “Dr. Kuhn Hong: Lure of the Landscape,” Westchester Public Library Thomas Branch, 200 W. Indiana Ave. *Reception*: 5-6:30 p.m. March 6, Thomas Branch Meeting Room. Info: www.chestertonart.org

Through April 3 — Fine-arts photographer Paul Sommer, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Through April 6 — “From the Speedway Comes Their Stamina: Studebaker Racing & Record-Breakers,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults,

\$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through April 13 — “Through Fantastic Facial Hair,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Museum hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

Through April 19 — “The V&N: Porter County’s Electric Interurban Rail Line,” Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through April 20 — “A Beautiful Mess: Weavers & Knotters of the Vanguard,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: <https://krasl.org/>

Through May 4 — “Traditions and Progress: Italian Americans in Northern Indiana,” The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Museum hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

Through Aug. 10 — “Lifting the Roof: The World of Dollhouses,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Museum hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664, 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 February — Winter Fun, 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/indu

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

Saturdays-Sundays in February — Dunes Theater, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. *Feb. 16* — “The Tuskegee Airmen: Sacrifice and Triumph.” Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: “Gone With the Wind.” Rated G. Time: 6 p.m. Feb. 13. *Also*: Story Club featuring Live Music. Time: 7-9 p.m. Feb. 14. VIP experience: 5-6 p.m. *Also*: 2025 Oscar Nominated Short Films: Documentary. Times: 2:30 p.m. Feb. 15, 6 p.m. Feb. 16. *Also*: 2025 Oscar Nominated Short Films: Animation. Time: 6 p.m. Feb. 15. *Also*: 2025 Oscar Nominated Short Films: Live Action. Time: 3 p.m. Feb. 16, 6 p.m. Feb. 18. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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Health Foundation Grants

Health Foundation of LaPorte has changed its 2025 grant timeline, accepting applications on a rolling basis.

HFL will not have two separate grant cycles. The grants address strategic priorities (Healthy Children, Healthy Living and Healthy Minds) and Healthy LaPorte requests. The shift extends what has been referred to as Cycle 1, absorbing the grant-ee partners who planned to apply in Cycle 2.

Applications submitted by March 15 will be notified of a decision by June 15. Those submitted between March 16 and June 15 will be notified by Sept. 15. All requests of more than \$25,000 require a Letter of Inquiry. They will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, and applicants will be notified of LOI decision within seven days of submission.

All LOIs must be received by 11:59 p.m. May 15. The grant portal closes at 11:59 p.m. June 15.

The portal can be accessed at www.hflaportel.org/grant-opportunities.

Also, LaPorte County nonprofits and governmental entities can apply for automated external defibrillator (AED) grants through Feb. 14. Visit <https://shorturl.at/YBBMd> for more details.

Historical Society Museum

An extensive collection of vintage valentines can be viewed Friday, Feb. 14, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

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Calumet City by Charlie Newton (prices vary: available as hardback, paperback, ebook or audiobook, 388 pages)

Do you bite your fingernails? Reading this book just might make you start! Realistic and gritty, it gives you a feel for what being a cop is like in a large city. It's perfect for these dark days of winter.

Patti Black is a real person and a Chicago police officer. While her name is used, her real story remains hers alone to tell when she's ready. Author Charlie Newton comes up with a fictional account that will put you in the shoes of the most decorated cop in Chicago, one who has seen the best and worst of humanity. I was impressed that Newton rode along in the squad car with Black to gather information for his book. It lends authenticity and credibility to the story, so strap yourself into your favorite armchair and be prepared for a wild ride on the south side...

Black is our narrator: *"It's Monday in Chicago, which is actually worse than it sounds."* Worse because it's election eve, the Cubs and Sox are still alive making *"A planetary alignment so rare that today's Herald suggested biblical implications,"* and someone has tried to assassinate the mayor. Luckily, the high-caliber bullets missed him and his wife. Oh, did I forget to mention the Indian casino bid that caused a schism in Chicago's political world?

Black works for a Tactical Unit (TAC) in one of the toughest districts in the city. Her superior is Sgt. Sonny Barrett, a big Irishman with whom she has a love/hate relationship: *"Had he not saved my life on Seventy-ninth, over by St. Rita's, I would've shot him long ago."*

Her partner, Cisco Pike, *"has a speech impediment when he's flustered. I think it makes him semi-adorable, but not enough for what you're thinking."*

Our story begins with the TAC team going to a housing unit to serve a warrant. The felons run into one of the buildings, shots are fired and two young black men are killed. Black's partner is wounded. The building the police run into then bursts into flames in the basement and Black, without thought for her own safety, goes door to door getting residents out before the whole building is aflame.

Problems really start mounting up when angry citizens surround the area, media trucks roll in and the firemen, after putting out the fire, find the decomposed body of a woman who had been killed and buried in the basement wall.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Can it get any worse? Of course.

Patti knows that Internal Affairs Division (IAD) will call her in to go over what happened at the housing unit: *"My afternoon is eight hours of interviews at 111th and Cottage Grove, the Area 2 Detective Division, sometimes referred to as ADD by tired and shaken patrol officers who take issue with repeatedly answering the same question."*

Then word comes down that the assistant district attorney, Richard Rhodes, has been murdered...and soon the FBI is involved and investigating Black for the mayor's shooting, the death of ADA Rhodes and the dead woman in the basement. Why? Because all three point to her. Because the woman in the basement is identified as Annabelle Ganz, missing since 1987 from Calumet City. Because the FBI knows Black was a foster child in Calumet City around the same time. What the FBI doesn't know is that Ganz and her husband, Roland, were Black's foster parents. How long before they find out?

Black has been holding a terrible secret in her heart for years. No one knows, nor can she tell anyone what horrors that foster home held for her and the other three children.

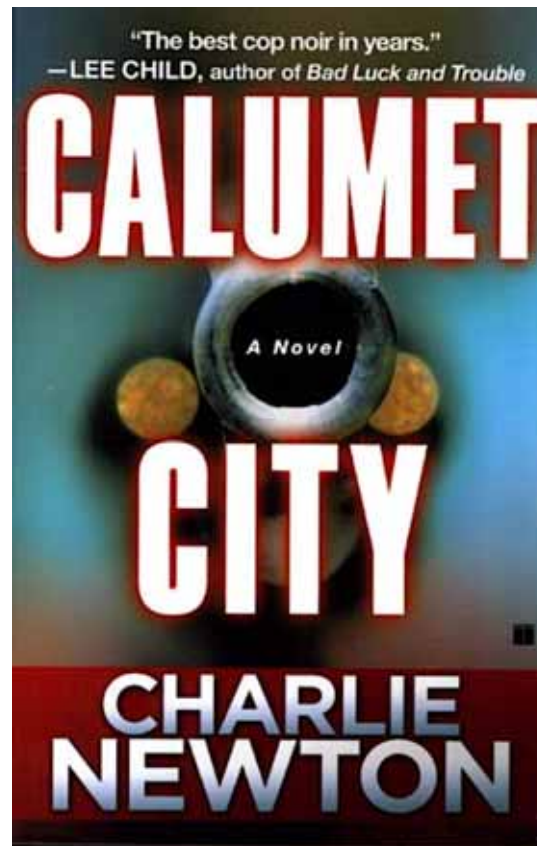
Horrors that haunt her day and night and have made her the tough street cop she is.

The climax is as good as it gets: heart-pumping action with mouth-wide-open excitement. I simply can't give away any more of this engrossing story. Newton knows how to get and keep your attention, no contest!

This book is as real and wicked as the Stevenson at rush hour. Black may have secrets to hide, but she also has loyal friends, both on and off the police force. As you follow her footsteps to clearing her name and finding out what really happened to Annabelle and Roland Ganz, you may gain a new perspective on a beat cop's life, and maybe even a little more respect for his job.

The final word: Two very enthusiastic thumbs up for this one! It's a keeper.

Till next time, happy reading!





Thank you to all my past and current clients! There are many options out there, I greatly thank you for putting your trust in me. Real Estate is such a relationship driven business and I truly appreciate you all.

Thank you to the Staff and support system at @properties Christie's International Real Estate. Your tools, systems, and guidance provide a true competitive advantage. To the Title Companies, Escrow Officers, Photographers, Inspectors, and service providers I work with, I literally couldn't do it without you.

Thank you Mom (Micky Gallas)! The best way to be successful is to learn from successful people. Thank you for teaching me this business, the right way. I learn something new from you each and every day. I am blessed to learn from the best.

Lastly, thank you to my wife, Bridgette, and daughter, Griffin. This is a long hour, impromptu schedule, 24/7/365 career. Your constant support, understanding, and encouragement means more than you'll ever know. I couldn't do this without you!

SUCCESS, HEALTH, AND HAPPINESS IN 2025!

- Jordan



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*Source: GNIAR MLS, based on closed sales and transaction data, 1/1/24-12/31/24.
**Source: GNIAR MLS, Market Share by Sales Volume, Beach Area (521), Michigan City Area (46360 Zipcode), and LaPorte County (521-527), 1/1/24 to 12/31/24.

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