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Building a Common Bond

by Edmund Lawler

The Michiana Village Hall complex has long been the hub for the community's administrative offices, police department, monthly council meetings, public works garage, adjoining park and summer day camp.

But the rustic, nearly 80-year-old cypress wood-paneled hall featuring a fireplace and beamed cathedral ceiling has never been the heart of the community because the doors of the 40-by-50-foot hall, itself, are rarely open.

That's about to change as the hall with the vintage charm of an Adirondack lodge is being reimagined as a sort of "third place" for the lakefront community. So-called third places are neither the home nor the workplace, but a setting more typical of a café, bookstore, gym or library. They're comfortable, inviting and open.

According to the sociological concept of a third place, it plays host to more casual, spontaneous gatherings in a community. Even a gathering of one.

Timothy McCarthy, president of Michiana's Village Council, says an active, available gathering spot for residents is essential to the health and spirit of an engaged community.

"I built my home here and have lived in Michiana since 1992. But I didn't get to know any of my neighbors until I joined a council committee, then later as a member of the village council," McCarthy says while comfortably seated on a couch near the village hall's recently restored gas fireplace.

"Going to the grocery store used to be a 10-minute run for me, but now it's an hour because I am



Michiana Village Hall Renovation Committee members display some of the colorful posters being sold to raise money for the project. They are (from left) Chris Boothe, Holly Duran and Justin Lucas. Photo by Bryan Lawler.

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Building a Common Bond

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running into people all over the store,” he says. “We want to bring the community together, and the people love it. Our annual summer party gets bigger and more fun every year.”

Renovation of the village hall, he believes, will help bring together residents in the community of 388 homes in the rolling, forested dunelands along Lake Michigan’s southeastern shore. About 200 residents live full time in the resort community whose population more than doubles in the summer.

McCarthy’s sense that village residents want an attractive, accessible third place to engage with neighbors is borne out by last fall’s village hall survey. About 100 residents responded to the well-crafted, nine-question survey.

In response to the survey’s second question, “What activities would you like to see hosted in the Village Hall?,” residents weighed in with a variety of suggestions. In addition to community gatherings and social events, they suggested cultural and arts events like concerts, art classes and book clubs.

Residents also suggested: fitness and exercise classes; culinary events like wine tastings, coffee get-togethers and food nights with local restaurants; open-mic nights; movie nights; and holiday celebrations.

States the summary of responses to the second question: “It’s evident that the primary focus is on creating a community hub where residents can connect, socialize, and engage in various activities that cater to a wide range of interests and age groups.”

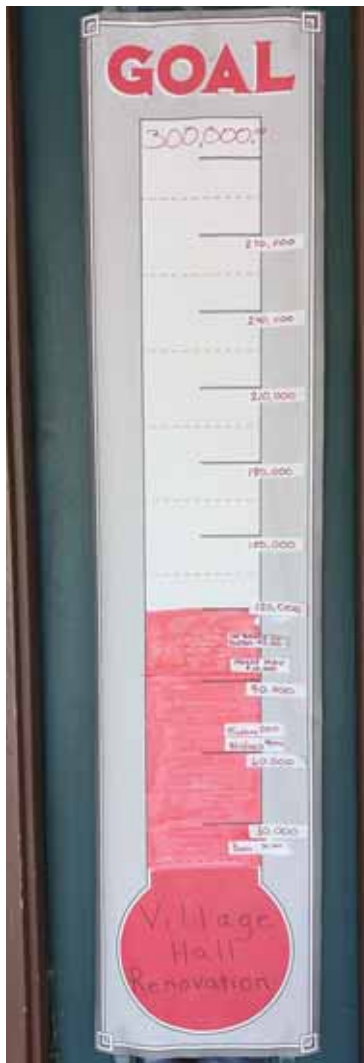
The response to the survey’s eighth question about current perceptions of the village hall produced a mixed bag:

- About a third (35.1 percent) of residents considered the current condition as good.
- Nearly half (46.5 percent) said the hall’s condition was fair, suggesting significant areas need improvement.
- About a fifth (18.4 percent) rated the current condition as poor, indicating they believe it needs significant improvements or renovations.

Chris Boothe, a Michiana resident and Chicago advertising executive who lent his expertise to the survey, says, “We saw a tremendous need expressed



Council President Timothy McCarthy and Holly Duran (on the left) and Justin Lucas and Chris Boothe (on the right) gather at the well-known map of Michiana. Photo by Bryan Lawler.



A fundraising thermometer outside the administrative offices charts the progress of the campaign. Photo by Bryan Lawler.

in the survey that people want a gathering space. People like a Starbucks vibe and want a place to go outside of their home.

“They want to meet other neighbors in a setting with great Wi-Fi, air conditioning, heat in the winter and a gas-fired fireplace,” he says. “A lot of people thought the hall is just a place for the village’s monthly meetings, or just a facility that could be rented out for weddings and private parties.”

He adds, “Awareness is our biggest challenge because a lot of residents have never been in the village hall, as we have so many new residents. We need to turn awareness into action and get people to say, ‘Yes, I would love to come here more often.’”

Boothe is a member of a three-person village hall renovation committee charged with incorporating resident feedback and

guiding the recently launched project, as well as raising funds for it. He pointed out that one of the first steps was to restore the fireplace to working order. A warm hearth is essential for an inviting gathering place.

The vision for the reimagined village hall began several years ago when Joann Fisher led the council, and it has continued under McCarthy’s leadership. In addition to the renovation committee, many other residents have contributed ideas, money and volunteer labor to restoring the hall and adjoining park. The projects are being driven from the grass-roots.

Carrying out the building renovation is David Konopacki, president of Kono Inc., a Valparaiso-based custom homebuilder whose task is to upgrade the somewhat dated hall and its infrastructure while maintaining its historic character. If all goes well, the transformation should be complete by late 2025.

The first phase is done. New glass doors and windows have been installed, and the fireplace was brought back to life.

Continued on Page 4

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Next up are: new and brighter lighting that echoes the original wagon wheel-style fixtures that illuminated the hall; new ceiling fans; new flooring; and other upgrades. The audio-visual equipment is getting a refresh, and more furnishings will be added to create a cozy, living room-like look and feel to the hall built in 1947.

However, its small stage – beloved by summer campers who performed plays and sang songs from the raised wooden platform – is slated for removal. It's been deemed a safety hazard.

Village funds primarily covered Phase 1 of the renovation. Funding the later phases are the residents themselves through events like a well-attended summer house walk in Michiana and neighboring Michiana Shores, the sale of 10 different customized posters that celebrate and showcase Michiana's charm and beauty, and individual donations. The renovation's projected final price tag is \$300,000.

"The posters have been a huge hit," says Justin Lucas, who became a resident in 2018 when he and his husband, Chris Boothe, bought a home in Michiana. He says Thomas Allen Pauly, a renowned equestrian artist in Three Oaks, Mich., was commissioned to create the set of 10 posters that feature iconic scenes from around the village, including a log cabin: a symbol of the community.

As Boothe explains, "We knew (Pauly) through some mutual contacts. He is very well-known and has started to do more Harbor Country poster work. We asked if he could do Michiana posters, and he loved the idea."

Each poster costs \$200; framed posters are \$400. A portion of the proceeds goes to the village hall

fund. According to the fundraising thermometer posted outside the hall's administrative offices, the campaign's total to date stands at \$120,000.

Holly Duran is the third member of the renovation committee. A resident since 1986, she notes fundraising really has just begun. Duran is confident the community will get behind the campaign to transform the hall.

"So many villagers have talked about all of the great times they've had in the hall over the years," Duran says.

Both the village's retirees and those nearing that plateau, as well as many younger newcomers to the community, will benefit from a regular place to get together, she says.

The village hall renovation comes on the heels of a \$500,000 upgrade of the community's park, including all-new equipment for the playground, the reseeded and now-irrigated great lawn, a new pavilion, new benches, new split-rail fences and the pickleball, tennis, basketball and bocce ball courts. The money was largely raised through resident donations and the sale of personalized \$500 bricks in-laid on a walkway at the park.

The renovated village hall will pay homage to a now-gone landmark tree at Ponchartrain and Michiana drives (the Michigan-Indiana state line).

Known as the Council Oak, the tree was at the center of a small amphitheater built by Long Beach Development Co. It began developing both the Village of Michiana and its sister community, Michiana Shores, beginning in the late 1920s.

The landmark Signal Oak and amphitheater primarily served as a unique, naturalistic venue for developers to pitch prospective homebuyers in the densely wooded resort communities. But the site also became an informal gathering place for resi-



The Michiana Village Hall, built in 1947, is undergoing restoration. Photo by Bryan Lawler.

dents of the village, which was incorporated in 1946.

Upon completion of the renovation project in 2025, the hall will be known as the Signal Oak Room.

“This hall has never been the community center that it has the potential to be,” Justin Lucas says. But the vision the renovation committee and residents have for the revitalized hall is already taking shape, he says, gesturing to a pair of recently added plush couches near the fireplace.

He calls Michiana a special place, which for some is like a sanctuary – a quiet, wooded retreat from residents’ workaday lives. Lucas prefers more engagement with his neighbors and involvement with the community at large. He says he can’t wait to enjoy Michiana nearly every weekend after a week of work in Chicago.

“As soon as I cross the tracks and see the horses at the stables,” he says, “my shoulders relax, and my blood pressure drops.”

And thanks to a soon-to-be-renovated village hall, Lucas’ special place will be graced with a vibrant third place he’s certain will become the heart of the community.

“Creating a space to bring people together can only help engender a sense of overall happiness and build a common bond,” he says.

(Visit www.michianavillage.org for more information about the project.)

Tree City Designation

Michiana has too many trees to count.

But thanks to an inventory of all the village’s trees in its public easements, Michiana recently qualified to become a Tree City USA community.

Council President Timothy McCarthy credited Council Member Nancy Thill for writing and landing grants to defray the cost of the inventory. He says Tree City USA signage soon will be posted around the community.

Michiana is a natural fit for Tree City USA, McCarthy says, adding, “We live in a forest.”

Other nearby Tree City USA communities include Michigan City, Chesterton, Valparaiso and Three Oaks, Mich. More than 3,600 communities in the United States have the designation.

An Arbor Day Foundation program, Tree City USA provides communities with a four-step framework to maintain and grow their tree canopy. It also gives communities an avenue to celebrate their work. Here are the four steps:

1. Maintaining a tree board or department.
2. Having a community tree ordinance.
3. Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry.
4. Celebrating Arbor Day. The next one is April 25, 2025.



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“Wolfs” is Fun, But Not as Funny As It Believes It Is

by Andrew Tallackson

Jon Watts, the writer-director of “Wolfs,” wants his film to ooze cool. The look is dark and moody, George Clooney and Brad Pitt snarl at each other like pros and the twisty premise is unusually clever.

Just not *amusingly* clever.

Watts, who directed Tom Holland’s three “Spider-Man” movies, is wearing his big boy pants here, aiming for a more mature action-comedy. Scene after scene, he carefully shifts gears, toying with where you think the movie is headed. But too often, you feel like you’re supposed to laugh...and you do not. The laughs arrive a beat behind where they should be.

The movie, which just debuted on Apple TV+, opens with a woman’s screams. It sounds like she is being attacked. Turns out, it is the district attorney, Margaret (Amy Ryan), who on impulse takes a young man to a hotel room, only for him to bounce up and down on the bed, then belly flop into a glass table. Convinced the guy is dead, she dials a number a colleague gave her to use in dire straits. And with that call comes Jack (Clooney), a “fixer” who will clean up the mess and make the body disappear. So far, so good...until Nick (Pitt) arrives. He’s the hotel’s fixer, ordered to keep tabs on Jack.

Then, there’s the more pressing problem. The young man believed dead, played by Austin Abrams (“The Walking Dead,” “This Is Us,” in full weasel mode), is very much alive, but zonked out on heroin, bricks of it concealed in his backpack.

We appreciate the way Watts piles on complication after complication. But his idea of wit is to have Clooney and Pitt bicker like childish alpha males, each trying to mark their territory first. Nick dishes snark in Jack’s direction and vice versa, and Watts stages the barbs like we’re supposed to be chuckling.

For the most part, we do not. Nor do gentle digs at the 60(ish) ages of Clooney and Pitt — back pain, reading glasses — land with solid impact. That is true yet again when Jack and Nick get trapped in an elaborate dance number at an Albanian wedding. You have the feeling you’re supposed to be laugh-



George Clooney and Brad Pitt star in “Wolfs.”

★ ★ 1/2

“Wolfs”

Running time: 108 minutes. Apple TV+. Rated R for language throughout and some violent content.

ing, but Watts can’t find anything inherently funny about the predicament. Why not have Pitt and Clooney bust out with bizarre dance moves. *Anything* to juice up the scene.

When the last act arrives, as Nick and Jack work as a team, Clooney and Pitt feel more invested in the characters. Thriving on exploring how these “lone wolfs” have more in common than they want to admit. They are so good, in fact, they make the “Butch and Sundance” finish far more agreeable than it should be.

What “Wolfs” needed was a rewrite. Punch up the dialogue, or ditch the comedy altogether. Because what exists now is pleasant enough without being memorable.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Musician Q&A, Interview

“An Evening with Drummer and Producer Martin Atkins” is from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Boasting more than 40 years in the music business, Atkins was a member of Public Image Ltd. and Killing Joke, founded industrial super group Pigface, The Damage Manual and Murder Inc., and contributed to Nine Inch Nails and Ministry during their most celebrated periods. He is the owner of Invisible Records, founder of the Museum of Post Punk and Industrial Music in Chicago, creator of GTFOOB coffee with Dark Matter Coffee, and the author of three books on the music business.



Atkins

The interviewer is his friend and colleague, Chicago rock n’ roll photographer Bobby Talamine. Atkins will offer insights into his career, discuss his creative process and the evolution of music production. A Q&A session is part of the program.

The program is free. Guests also can experience the exhibits “Wickryth” by Dane Hansen, “Center Points: Then...Now...Always” by Teresina Pavel and “KAPOW! Mighty Mythos.”

Visit <https://lubeznikcenter.org/> for more details.

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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

“NIPSCO Michigan City Site Reimagined” is the topic of the next Michigan City Green Drinks at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, through Facebook Live or Zoom.

The program centers on a proposed design idea for closing the plant that uses the framework of its industrial infrastructure and returns the land to ecological and community function.

The speaker is international landscape designer and researcher Dane Carlson, who will present his college thesis on his NIPSCO site redevelopment plan that won an American Landscape Design of Architects Student Honor Award.



Carlson

Visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85776858217> to join the Zoom meeting. Email Em Racine at em@savedunes.org for more details.

Dunebrook Documentary Premiere

Dunebrook will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a “Blue Carpet Documentary Premiere” from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

The event also features the Lester Radke Community Service Award, a live WIMS broadcast, auction, memorabilia sale and hors d’oeuvres. The recommended dress is cocktail attire.

Tickets are \$35, or \$75 for the anniversary VIP ticket. Doors open at 5 p.m. for a VIP reception, followed by general admission at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door, or visit <https://shorturl.at/qm2Zj>



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****ATTENTION LONG BEACH RESIDENTS****

It's election time again and even though we just did this last year, we need to do it again, and we want to make sure everyone understands why. In an effort to eliminate the issue of all five council seats becoming vacant at the same time, and possibly creating a scenario where all five members would be new, the previous Town Council passed a resolution to set up staggered terms for Town Council elected officials.

The transition will happen as follows:

- 2024 Election - top 2 vote getters will have four year terms through 2028
 - bottom 3 vote getters will have two year terms through 2026
- 2026 Election - 3 vacancies for four year terms through 2030
- 2028 Election - 2 vacancies for four year terms through 2032

HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS!

There are only five candidates running for Council and only one candidate running for Clerk-Treasurer. That means we will not be knocking on your doors, or asking you to put signs in your yards, or subjecting you to any gatherings while we all vie for your support.

We would, however, like to make ourselves available to anyone who would like to meet us, or if you have questions and concerns about town government, or any issues important to you.

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Animated Feature Film Debut

The free local premiere of the animated feature “Belle, The Murder Musical” is at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Dan Schaaf’s musical centers on the LaPorte County serial killer who lured mainly Norwegian bachelors with romantic letters, killing them to gain their wealth. After several previews this summer, the animated feature is ready for the public.

Two years in production, Schaaf used almost 2,000 animation files to complete the project. He also used artificial intelligence to create interior sets, and for the motion capture that animates the characters. The faces of the characters were generated from historical photos.

“Over the two years I worked on the film, the animation technology changed and evolved rapidly,” Schaaf said in a press release. “I went from 2-D line drawings to 3-D animation. But the hardest part wasn’t the technical issues, but in trying to build a coherent storyline. The basic story is that Belle literally gets away with murder — repeatedly. Then one day her house burns down and she disappears. No conflict. No story. Just horror.”

Many area actors provided voices for the production, with the music and songs by Schaaf and performed by the Dan Schaaf Ensemble.

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Pine Lake Cemetery Tours



Participants in one of the 2023 tours.

County Historian Bruce Johnson, Museum Director Danielle Adams and Assistant Museum Director Savannah Jackson will lead Pine Lake Cemetery tours at noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

The group will highlight the stories of 10 monuments and the people they commemorate, as well as new burials.

The tour is free for LaPorte County Historical Society members. Anyone who would like to become a member, or renew a membership, can pay \$20 and receive a free cemetery tour tote bag, a spot on the tour and free admission to the museum and society events for 2025.

Otherwise, tickets are \$5 per person, while children 18 and younger are free. The 2024 cemetery tour tote bags cost \$10. Pre-register for the tour by email to director@laportecountyhistory.org

The cemetery is located at 1367 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte.

Rural Morgan Twp. Cemetery Tours

Porter County Museum will offer a free guided tour of historic Adams Cemetery in Morgan Township at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

No reservations are required. Participants should meet at the cemetery's gates, county roads 150 East and 250 South, for an hour's walk highlighted by stories of the many early residents buried there.

"Adams Cemetery dates from the 1840s, and many of the most prominent Morgan Township families of the 19th and 20th centuries are represented here, often with impressive gravestone architecture," PoCo Muse Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour, who will lead the tour, said in a press release.

Pazour also is the Porter County historian. Assisting at the tour is Steve Mockler, a local historian and Civil War expert who is a member of the David D. Porter Camp No. 116 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Visit www.pocomuse.org or find @pocomuse on social media for more details.

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“Super/Man” Takes an Emotional Look at Christopher Reeve’s Legacy

by Andrew Tallackson



“Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story” includes many of the actor’s highlights early in his career.

I revisited “Superman II,” for the first time in some 15 years, shortly before experiencing the powerful new documentary “Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story.” What struck me about the actor, why he *owned* this role, is how playful he is, especially as Clark Kent. Other actors, like Brandon Routh and Henry Cavill, are so beholden to the duties of the cape, they forget to have fun. Reeve, though, gave Kent a nerdy bounce, an antsy eagerness to please that was a joy to witness.

There’s a good reason, too, why this documentary places a slash between “super” and “man” in the title. Reeve, forever linked to the character, was just that. A man. But a man who became an actual hero when he became paralyzed in 1995 after a horseback riding accident, finding strength, courage and purpose as an activist for people with disabilities.

The movie, now enjoying a limited release in theaters, hails from CNN Films, the industry’s best answer to investigative journalism. Their projects (“RGB,” “Three Identical Strangers,” “Little Richard: I Am Everything,” the Oscar-winning “Navalny”) are not solely hero worship, but probing explorations of complicated people.

We know Reeve’s story well, but it is how directors Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui wisely structure their film that gives it its impact. They begin with the days leading up to the 1995 horseback riding accident and proceed from there, flipping back



“Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story”

Running time: 104 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for some strong language and thematic elements.

in time to the actor’s early days, when he hit the career jackpot with “Superman.” By beginning with tragedy, the movie relieves some of that heartache by sprinkling in the joy of his early successes.

His three children, Matthew, Alexandra and Will, are the guiding forces of the documentary through insight into their father. It’s unusual, how candid they are, acknowledging his frailties: the effect of having an emotionally distant father, the failure of his first marriage, his inability to generate hits outside the “Superman” movies.

We appreciate too, more than ever, the reservoir of strength that was his second wife, Dana. We witness a marriage that takes “in sickness and in health” beyond the recognizable. She was the rock not just for her husband, but also for her children. Ditto Reeve’s longtime pal Robin Williams, who infused moments of laughter into a life now robbed of simple pleasures.

Again, as every CNN Films does, tough questions get asked. I am thinking of the criticism Reeve gar-



Christopher Reeve's three children, Matthew, Alexandra and Will, are the driving forces behind the many interviews in the film.

nered after a commercial used digital effects to suggest technology might one day help him walk again. Backlash from the disabilities community argued it offered false hope, that Reeve was more concentrated on himself, in getting out of that wheelchair. That Dana ultimately agreed, having the commercial pulled, is a testament to this woman's integrity.

As we know, Dana perished one year later from lung cancer. Here, you find yourself choked up with emotion. Seeing his children persevere, fighting the good fight in his absence, stirs something inside you.

Through Reeve's children, and now this film, his legacy is preserved, and lovingly so.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

Izard + Shelton Exhibit

Izard + Shelton will present their respective works, along with a collaborative sculpture through their House of Izwin, through Nov. 2 at Roti Roti Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, Mich.

Laurel Izard and Edwin Shelton met while working on their Master of Fine Arts degree at University of Wisconsin. They married in 1980. Izard and Shelton designed, marketed and fabricated whimsical Christmas ornaments, jewelry and dinnerware for about 20 years.

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United for the United Way

The Michigan City police and fire departments joined forces with Michigan City Area Schools for "United for the United Way," a car wash fundraiser Sept. 19 at the MCAS Plant Planning parking lot across from Ames Field. All photos by Bob Wellinski.



“His Three Daughters” Features Three of the Year’s Best Performances

by Andrew Tallackson



Starring in “His Three Daughters” are (clockwise from top, center) Elizabeth Olsen, Carrie Coon and Natasha Lyonne.

Here is a film that brings three women together to tear them down, and amid the final days of their ailing father, no less.

Sounds like a downer, but the beauty of “His Three Daughters” is that it’s about healing. About rebuilding these family bonds, so you actually leave the picture with bittersweet hope.

I was surprised to learn the new Netflix film was not adapted from a stage play. Writer-director Azazel Jacobs largely confines his characters to one location, allowing dialogue to propel the drama. Under less-skilled hands, this might have resembled a photographed stage play. But with three actresses delivering possibly the best performances of their careers, Jacobs’ camera quietly trailing them, “His Three Daughters” becomes a piercing exploration of how people brace for death’s inevitable arrival.

The movie, in fact, may hit close to home for a certain generation of moviegoers — say, 40 and older — that knows what’s it like caring for a sick parent, struggling to maintain any sense of quality of life for the cared and the caregiver.

The father, Vincent (veteran character actor Jay O. Sanders, seen only at the end), is at the close of his battle with cancer. With hospice in place, the goal is to make his last days comfortable.

For the longest time, middle daughter Rachel (Natasha Lyonne, the pint-sized dynamo from Peacock’s “Poker Face”), has stayed with him. But now,



“His Three Daughters”

Running time: 101 minutes. Netflix.

Rated R for language and drug use.

older sister Katie (Carrie Coon, HBO’s “The Gilded Age”) and younger sister Christina (Marvel veteran Elizabeth Olsen) have joined her, alternating who sits with their father while the others rest.

Each actress is a case study in keeping up appearances. Katie likes the idea of control, that by calling the shots, she’s blocked out any pain. Christina, with a 3-year-old daughter back home, tries to find positivity amid tragedy. Rachel smokes enough weed to exist in a perpetual “chill” state.

Save for Rachel “lighting up” outside to avoid Katie’s ire, Jacobs mostly confines these women to Vincent’s apartment. And that’s probably a good thing. These are three people who need to talk. Get out whatever resentment is gnawing at them.

The emotions run high, but the one stable presence is the main hospice representative, Angel (Rudy Galvan), whose no-nonsense approach spells out what the sisters should expect. Anyone who has made difficult decisions about a loved one will recognize the brutal sensibility in Angel’s words. Galvan’s performance is that of a health-care worker accustomed to every possible scenario.

What “His Three Daughters” ultimately explores is that there is no “right” way to grieve. Each individual copes with whatever tools are at their disposal. The rage, resentment and regret that pour out of Coon and Olsen are *very* real. Lyonne, in many ways, steals the movie. The “Poker Face” star, with that gravelly, 10-packs a day voice, has moments of great humor, the excessive weed use affording desired detachment, but we also get the sense of a woman at odds: acknowledging death’s presence, but craving more time with her father.

By the end of “His Three Daughters,” we forget we’re watching actresses. They become these characters. When they share a brief lucid moment with their father, it’s like watching young girls craving dad’s presence, not three grown women.

Lyonne, Coon and Olsen have never been better. Through them, we discover the hope inherent in “His Three Daughters.” That in loss, there is com-



Only on a few occasions does “His Three Daughters” venture outside the father’s apartment.

fort from the bonds of family. And we are deeply moved.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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Stare it Down

I exit the parking garage with my small gray suitcase in tow and begin the lengthy trek through the underground walkway toward the airport terminal. When I near the end, my lips curl into what passersby might view as an ugly snarl. The queue forming at the single elevator taking travelers up to the arrival and departure levels is thick with luggage carts, strollers and young families. As they crowd into the arriving carriage, I realize there isn't space for me.

Sighing, I know from experience the elevator moves slower than a bill before Congress. My mind runs through a decision matrix. I could wait by the elevator for another 10 minutes. Or, I scan the nearly empty escalator to my right. Another sigh, this one ragged like a dog's pant. If I choose that route — the moving staircase — then I'll face the same choice on the next landing. Escalators. Two of them. My temples throb as I berate myself.

Why is it we resort to childhood taunts like "Wimp" or "You're just an old scaredy cat" when pressed into an untenable position?

I haven't been on an escalator for months. Not since...

Late last spring. When I returned from wintering in Sarasota, I landed at O'Hare with two large pale-pink rollies. Both were so jam-packed with essential

That Girl,
This Life

Julie McGue



clothing and accessories for the summer season in Duneland Beach, the zippers stretched, their teeth bared as if in alarmed opposition.

Having booked my Uber the moment my second suitcase appeared on the baggage turnstile, I'd been in a rush. I plopped my backpack onto the bulging pink rollie in front of me and dragged the other one behind. As I marched out of the claim area, my crossbody handbag swung like a pendulum, beating my thigh.

Due at the Uber checkpoint within four minutes, I skipped the burgeoning line at the elevator and headed straight for the escalators. And while at some level I may have suspected my large suitcases would be difficult to secure on the moving staircase, my impatient spirit ignored the internal alarms.

Lips pressed into a firm line, I pushed the first fat pink rollie ahead of me and yanked the second one onto the stair step behind. In reliving the ensuing moments, I do thank all the angels and saints in Heaven for preventing others from following me onto the escalator. I shudder, literally, at the thought of what might have happened or who could have been harmed in the mayhem of what transpired.

One third of the way up, I felt bag No. 2, the one nestling behind, wobble. Gravity pulled it back to baggage claim, and because my hand gripped the handle, I was tipping in that direction, too. A what-if scene whizzed through my mind like a movie trailer. It depicted me, toppling down the escalator, bags crashing, pinning me, and my hands getting caught somewhere in the crevices of the moving staircase.

The horror of this imaginary flash film caused me to declare, "I'm not going to fall. I will not fall."

Once I made this vow, I released fatty roller No. 2. My hand flew to the railing. Grasping it, I righted myself and stared in alarm as my oversized suitcase tumbled one end over the other, unimpeded, down the escalator.

I glared at roller bag No. 1. "Don't even think about it. You're not taking me down either."

As bag No. 2 careened and crashed downward, it caused quite a commotion. A young man sitting on a bench at the bottom of the escalator whipped his head up. His startled expression took in my suitcases, then me. His hands flew up in alarm and his face lit with that universal look: what the heck?

I'll spare you the play-by-play. The gist of it is, I

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took the elevator down with bag No. 1 and retrieved bag No. 2, which the young man rescued. Thanking him profusely, I dashed to the elevator, threaded through the crowds to the Uber pick-up zone, muttering to myself all the while about what an idiot I was, and that I needed to “slow down and be more careful.” Advice I’m determined to follow, now, months later as I debate about hopping on another escalator in O’Hare with a different, smaller, roller board suitcase.

Once the stuffed elevator’s doors close, I stop, rooted in place, neither near the elevator nor the escalator. I glow with sweat and wallow in indecision. With the heckling of my inner child, “Scaredy cat! Scaredy cat!” reverberating in my ears, an oldie but goodie from dear ol’ Dad storms in.

“To get anywhere in life, Jules, you gotta stare down your fears.” Heaping on that positive nudge, I add a gem from my late husband, “Just get over yourself.”

So, with a smirk on my face and a giggle pressing at the back of my throat, I tug at the small gray wheelie and steer us toward the fearsome escalator. With each step, the boom-boom of my escalating heart rate resounds like a marching band between my ears.

As I step aboard, I roll the suitcase behind me — not in front — making certain that all four of its hard plastic wheels are secure on the floating metal steps. I give the gray suitcase a stern look like a parent does to a recalcitrant toddler, daring it to misbehave. Incapable of relaxing until I step off, unmarred, I regroup, then decide to chance my health and well-being on the second set of escalators awaiting me.

Twenty minutes later, I lift the small, gray hardcase onto the scale at the United check-in counter. I hand over my ID, my grin deliciously large. Two escalators. A fear stared down and conquered. Whatever happens the rest of the day, I reason — flight delays, mechanical issues, traffic — I’m ready. The future feels full of promise.

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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:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Technology One-on-One from 3-4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, and 4-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in the main library Study Cafe.** Individuals can book a one-hour session with a tech team member. Take a device, charger and list of questions. Registration is required.
- **Mural Celebration from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** The focus is Alex Ann Allen's mural on the side of the LPCPL Exchange. The program also includes remarks by: LaPorte Mayor Tom Dermody; Fonda Owens, LaPorte County Public Library executive director; Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center for the Arts executive director; and Eric DeWald, president of Health Foundation of LaPorte County, which funded the project. Light refreshments will be provided. The mural came about through public meetings by LCA, the library's staff and board, the artist and community members. Designed with the building's past and current use in mind, it was influenced by the architecture of the building, as well as broader themes of creativity and innovation.
- **Lights Out at the Library from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** Meet characters and watch scenes from books in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Activities are in the Reading Wi-Fi Garden while waiting for a guided, storybook tour throughout



The new mural at the LPCPL Exchange.

the library. Dress as a favorite book character.

- **Family Storytime from noon-12:30 p.m. at the Coolspring Branch and 6-7 p.m. at the main library, both Monday, Oct. 7.** The focus is stories, songs and other activities.
- **Teen Innovation and Creation from 3-4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in the main library Multi-purpose Room.** Teens are invited to the monthly crafting program.
- **Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the main library Meeting Room B.** The focus is Bich Minh Nguyen's Pioneer Girl.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Silvia Moreno-Garcia from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9.** Moreno-Garcia will discuss her novels, including Mexican Gothic. 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 programing through the Exchange building.

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**South Course, Par-Tee Women's
League, Sept. 18, 2024**
Event: Low Score on Odd # Holes

FLIGHT A

Low Gross: Pat Czizek, Barb Rumbuc.

Low Net: Pat Czizek.

Low Putts: Jane Shuger.

Event: Cindy Wolkowitz.

FLIGHT B

Low Gross: Patty Jercich.

Low Net: Patty Jercich, Paula Hutchinson.

Low Putts: Phyllis Roach.

Event: Phyllis Roach.

FLIGHT C

Low Gross: Sandy Baldwin.

Low Net: Sandy Baldwin.

Low Putts: S. Baldwin, Jill Mellen, Carol Tylisz.

Event: Sandy Baldwin, Sandra Provan.

FLIGHT D

Low Gross: Ev Cassin, Jane Spang.

Low Net: Nancy Ash, Ev Cassin.

Low Putts: Sheila Brackin, Ev Cassin, Jane Spang.

Event: Bev Szybala.



Pars: Barb Rumbuc, Paula Hutchinson, Linda
Komp, Jill Mellen.

Chip-In: Paula Hutchinson.

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

**North Course, "Early Birdies"
Sept. 23, 2024**
Event: End-of-Season Awards

A FLIGHT

Average Low Gross

First Place: Cindy Wolkowitz.

Second Place: Barb Rumbuc.

Third Place: Mary Beres.

Average Low Net:

First Place: Patricia Czizek.

Second Place: LuAnn Uremovich, Jane Shuger.

Third Place: Linda Hirsch.

B FLIGHT

Average Low Gross

First Place: Mary Lou Marshall.

Second Place: Sandy Baldwin, Jan Smith.

Third Place: Alice Wozniak.

Average Low Net

First Place: Linda Komp.

Second Place: Sandra Provan.

Third Place: Linda Wabshall.

C FLIGHT

Average Low Gross

First Place: Ann Batagianis.

Second Place: Kathy Nelson.

Third Place: Bev Szybala.

Average Low Net

First Place: Pat Collado, Wendy Shaver.

Second Place: Jane Spang.

Third Place: Nancy Wilhelm.

D FLIGHT

Average Low Gross

First Place: Kathy Grott.

Second Place: June Klaus.

Third Place: Charlotte Wozniak.

Average Low Net

First Place: Carol Bernier.

Second Place: Pam Betcher.

Third Place: Kathy Luetkemeyer.

SEASON TOTALS

Most Pars: Barb Rumbuc.

Most Chip-Ins: Patricia Czizek, LuAnn Uremovich.

Most Birdies: Mary Beres, LuAnn Uremovich.

Michigan City Municipal Golf Course

**North Course, "Early Birdies"
Sept. 23, 2024**
Event: Scramble Back Nine, 50/50

SCRAMBLE WINNERS

Patricia Czizek.

Jan Smith.

Bev Szybala.

Mary Knaup.

50/50 WINNERS

Pat Collado.

Jane Shuger.

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New Buffalo Township Library

- **Mobile Legal Aid-Tenant's Rights Workshop.** The program is from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3.

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.

Drag Show Fundraiser

LGBTQ Outreach of Porter County will host the fifth annual "I'm Coming Out Drag Show" fundraiser at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Elks Lodge, 157 W. Jefferson St., Valparaiso.

Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 18-and-older event that is the premier fundraiser for the non-profit group. Proceeds support outreach and educational programs, including monthly social groups, advocacy events and speaking engagements.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at www.lgbtqofpc.org. The benefit includes a cash bar, food truck, charity chance auction, dancing and drag performances by Monique Moyet, Angelique Munro, Miss Sassy Trade and Sophia Monet.

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LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



Sept. 17, 2024

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Lady Strikers, Pin Ups	6	2
2. Gutter Gals, Diagonal Divas	5	3

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Deb Frederick	181
2. Shelly Dunleavy	174
3. Mary Lou McFadden	171
4. Dottie Brinckman	162
5. Carolyn Wiggins	154
6. Lisa Albers (series)	404

SPLITS

Jean St. Peter	2-7
Mary Lou McFadden	3-9-10
Pat Collado	6-7

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Pat Collado



WEEK 1

Dottie Brinckman	169
Jill Jankowski	167
Pat Collado	155

SPLITS

Holly Dres	3-10
Debbie Novak	3-9-10

Sept. 24, 2024

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Lady Strikers	9	3
2. Gutter Gals, Spare Me	8	4

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Dottie Brinckman	184
2. Shelly Dunleavy (series)	398

SPLITS

June Salmon	5-6
Linda Sperling	7-9
Denise Conlon	4-7

The Legacy Center

Works by Michigan City Art League members are on display at The Legacy Center Gallery, with an artist reception to be announced soon.

Supporting area artists since 1932, the league offers affordable art classes to the community. Featured artists at The Legacy Center through December include: Bill Cavalier, Bunny Dimke, Pamela Hackett, Susan Hughes, Catherine Kissinger, Peggy Michaels, Kadie O'Connor, Linda Pinkepank, Sandra Stroud, Pamela Struebing, Sandi Terry and Betty Thomas.

The Legacy Center Gallery is located at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours are 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Email lucia@qas.org for more details.

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SPRJ55189



American Red Cross

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

- City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., La-Porte, 1-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Donors must be in good general health and feel 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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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.



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LaPorte Mission Quilters Annual Quilt Sale

The LaPorte Mission Quilters will host its 13th Annual Mission Quilt Sale from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 5, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St.

More than 200 quilts are available at \$60 each. A limited number of baby quilts are available for \$45 each.

The group holds the sale the first Saturday in October to raise funds for quilt batting, fabric, supplies and equipment. The goal is to make more quilts for people in need and help with missions. Since 2012, more than 3,000 Mission Quilts have gone to those in need locally and on state, national and global levels. Some have gone to: Worthy Women, People in Song and Lincoln Elementary School, all fire departments in LaPorte and throughout LaPorte County; Stepping Stone Shelter for Abused Women and Children and Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families in Michigan City; The Community Reserve in New Carlisle; The Caring Place for Abused Women and Children in Valparaiso; the Veterans Homeless Shelter in South Bend; disaster relief such as the tornados in Green-

wood, Ind., hurricanes in North Carolina, Florida, Texas and the East Coast; internationally to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Togo, West Africa, and the Children's Hospital Zinga, Tanzania, East Africa.



Since 2012, more than 3,000 Mission Quilts have gone to those in need.

Clean cotton and cotton blend fabrics and clean cotton/cotton blend flat sheets sizes double bed, queen and king may be donated at the church.

Anyone interested in helping make Mission Quilts is invited. No sewing skills are needed. The group meets from 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the church's lower-level fellowship fall (an elevator is available). Women and men can participate.

Volunteering also can be a community service project for home-schoolers and public-schoolers 12 and older. All equipment is supplied. People can sit or stand, haul boxes, cut, sort, count and match fabrics, tie knots or iron.



Call the church at (219) 362-1133 and leave a message if interested in helping.

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10 classes beginning Thursday, Oct. 10, 2-4 p.m.
Limit: 6 students. \$120

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neilkienitz.com, paintingsbyneil.com, nkienitz@comcast.net



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In the Area

Oct. 3 — 3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 3 — Michigan City Green Drinks, “NIPSCO Michigan City Site Reimagined,” 6:30 p.m., Facebook Live or Zoom. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85776858217>

Oct. 4 — Mural Celebration, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 4 — “An Evening with Drummer and Producer Martin Atkins,” 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: <https://lubeznikcenter.org/>

Oct. 5 — The LaPorte Mission Quilters 13th Annual Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. Info: (219) 362-1133.

Oct. 5 — Pine Lake Cemetery tours, noon, 2 & 4 p.m., 1367 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte. Tickets: \$5, youth 18 & younger/free. Reservations: director@laportecountyhistory.org

Oct. 5 — Free local premiere, “Belle, The Murder Musical,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: www.Belle.SuddenProductions.com

Oct. 5 — Dunebrook “Blue Carpet Documentary Premiere,” 5-8 p.m., The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Tickets: \$35, \$75/anniversary VIP ticket. Available at door or online: <https://shorturl.at/qm2Zj>

Oct. 5 — Lights Out at the Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 5 — Dunes Arts Foundation annual gala, 6-10 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Tickets: dunesarts.org/annual-gala-2024

Oct. 7 — Family Storytime, noon-12:30 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North/6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 7 — Teen Innovation and Creation, 3-4 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 8 — Nature’s Tiny Tots, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Oct. 8 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 8 — Board Game Night for Adults, 5-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 9 — Virtual Author Talk with Silvia Moreno-Garcia, 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Oct. 19 — “KAPOW! Mighty Mythos,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Through Oct. 20 — “Following Light” plein-air exhibit, The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.org

Through Nov. 2 — “Illuminations: Glass Artists of Chesterton Art Center,” The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

Through Nov. 7 — Traveling exhibit, “Lost Landmarks of Indianapolis,” LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Nov. 27 — “Lost Cemeteries of LaPorte County” exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through December — Work by Michigan City Art League, 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@gas.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 October — 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 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, 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.

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

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

Thursdays in October — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m.,

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

Saturdays 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

Oct. 4 — The Cactus Blossoms with Lou Hazel, 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

Oct. 5 — Porter County Museum free guided tour, 2 p.m., Adams Cemetery (county roads 150 East and 250 South), Morgan Township. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Oct. 5 — Reception, Frank Kurland's "The Many Moods" (paintings), 2-5 p.m. EDT, Courtyard Gallery, 813 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Info: (269) 469-4110.

Oct. 5 — LGBTQ Outreach of Porter County fifth annual "I'm Coming Out Drag Show" fundraiser, 8 p.m., Elks Lodge, 157 W. Jefferson St., Valparaiso. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: www.lgbtqofpc.org

Oct. 5 — Neighbor by Neighbor fall fundraiser, "Do It With Love" with Meagan McNeal, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 5 — Ruth and Max Bloomquist, 7-9 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$12/general admission, \$15/cabaret seating, walk-in tickets/\$15, 12 & younger/free. Reservations: https://shorturl.at/JFkQn

Oct. 9 — New Buffalo Service League monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m. CDT/6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Yacht Club, 500 W. Water St., New Buffalo, Mich. Buffet dinner/\$25. Guests welcome. Info: nbpinkladies@msn.com

Through Oct. 6 — "Against the Grain," Montague/Urschel Gallery at Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Also: "Building Memory: Artistic Interpretations of Notable Landmarks." Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through Oct. 20 — "Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Studebaker-Packard Corporation," 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 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.

Through Oct. 17 — Photographer Deb Potis, The Village Gallery, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through Oct. 30 — "Of Giants and Warriors" (local artists Diane Grams/Tim Lace), Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. *Fresco painting demonstration*: noon Oct. 19/RSVP to gallery@chestertonart.org. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through Nov. 2 — Izard + Shelton exhibit, Roti Roti Art Center, 117 W. Front St., Buchanan, Mich.

Through Nov. 10 — "Language as Form: Calligraphy & Sculpture by Gwen Yen Chiu"/Nick Colvard's "Forest," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org

Through April 6, 2025 — "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

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "The Big Sleep." Not Rated. Time: 7 p.m. Oct. 3. Also: "Manhattan Short Film Festival." Times: 3:30 p.m. Oct. 4 & 6. Also: "Daaaaaali!" Not Rated. French with English subtitles. Times: 7 p.m. Oct. 4, 6 & 8. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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The Beacher seeks a driver to deliver Beachers from Shoreland Hills to Grand Beach, as well as a few businesses. Must provide own vehicle. We will train you, and we have a detailed written description of the route. Call Editor Andrew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or email atallackson@gmail.com

Part-time Code Enforcement Officer for Michiana Shores

The Town of Michiana Shores seeks a part-time Code Enforcement Officer/Assistant Building Commissioner to work with the town council and clerk-treasurer to help the town enforce rules and regulations related to short term rentals, noise and nuisance ordinances, etc. This role also assists community residents with applying for and obtaining permits for new construction or remodeling projects. Town residency preferred, but not required. Proficiency with Microsoft Office and/or Google Docs is required. Send your resume to: COBCjobs@townofmichianashores.org

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One Deadly Eye by Randy Wayne White
(hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 349 pages.)

This summer has provided harrowing stories to keep you reading all night. With Eruption, James Patterson finished the late Michael Crichton's manuscript about a volcanic eruption in Hawaii. T.J. Newman's Worst Case Scenario explored a commercial airplane crashing into a nuclear plant. And there was Peter Heller's post-apocalyptic Burn.

This week, it's hurricane time in Florida from *New York Times* bestselling author Randy Wayne White. His wildly popular character, Doc Ford, is a marine biologist...but is that all he does? Not by a long shot.

He has a home/lab off the west coast of Florida, on one of the many islands scattered there. He's just returned from South Africa, where he was tagging sharks — was that all? His lab, as he describes it: “collecting, preserving and selling marine specimens to schools and research labs is what I do.” But government work seems to be what he does, too.

The Russians are missing a diplomat from the same place at the same time as Doc is in South Africa. A Russian criminal brotherhood called the Bratva is soon on its way to Florida, maybe with several lines of business.

Bratva is lead by a vicious, sadistic criminal called The Vulture Monk. He has a taste for blood, torture and sex that even makes his fellow “brothers” sick.

Besides taking out Doc, they hope to take advantage of a hurricane headed for Florida by stealing jewelry, money, artwork — anything of great value while the owners are still in Georgia waiting for the OK to return to their homes.

Doc is supposed to marry his girlfriend, Hannah, in three weeks. They have a toddler, Isaak. Getting her to head to Georgia and wait out the hurricane takes a lot of persuasion, but Hannah finally agrees to leave. Their relationship seems strained, but isn't explored deeply in this book, but it's obvious that Doc's “job” gets in the way, leaving Hannah alone more than she would like, especially since he can't really tell her where his trips sometimes take him.

There are other interesting characters on the island: Tomlinson owns a sailboat and is described as a “Zen Buddhist hipster” and a close friend. There's Mack, who runs the marina and has lived on the island many years.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Then there's the strange Brit named Weatherby, who lives close by. Doc is sure he is more than he projects — probably MI6 back in London — even though he presents himself as a physician and inventor.

Doc spends the next day helping people board up their homes while trying to persuade property owners to leave, knowing how dangerous it is to stay, not to mention the horrific damage that is sure to happen. But these people also know about looters who will swoop in and take whatever they can before people return.

There are three distinct parts to this story:

1. The hours leading up to the Category 5 hurricane.
2. The hurricane itself, and the destruction it causes.
3. Post-hurricane and looking for friends and family, and assessing the widespread destruction that will lead to the long clean-up.

My jaw hurt from dropping so often in this story. It's obvious White knows Florida, the western coast and nearby islands.

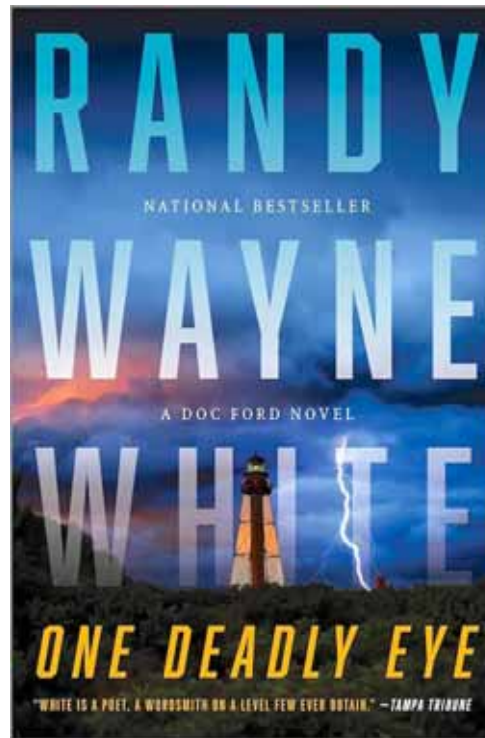
With this being hurricane season, One Deadly Eye is a historical and scientific lesson in what residents have to worry about and prepare for before the storm hits. There also are insights into the types of people who have called this part of Florida home for many generations.

From the page the storm hits, there is nonstop action as Doc and Weatherby battle the elements, as well as the Russians looking for priceless items in the section of the island known as Millionaires Row. And when they play cat and mouse with Doc and Weatherby, all hell breaks loose.

White knows how to amp up the action and show how Mother Nature's wrath can bring out the best and worst in humanity. He proves his worth on and off the waters of Florida, as Florida Heritage Society named him a Florida Literary Legend and, in years past, he was a light-tackle fishing guide. If you're ever in Fort Myers, you might want to visit his Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grille.

The final word: This is another top thriller of the year and probably White's best book to date. You won't be disappointed.

Till next time, happy reading!

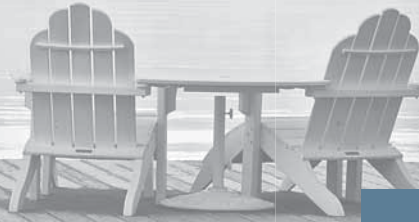


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Listed by: Mike Liberatore 219-363-2944 and Hailee Hills 219-363-7840

169 W. McClung Rd. #301 La Porte \$699,900

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