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ARTS & CULTURE



PHOTOS BY MIKE ELLIS

Christine Banks of La Grange, author of the *Adventures of Beanie the Spider*, hosted a meet-the-author event at Sips & Sweets Cafe in Riverside on March 22.

LG children's author hosts meet-and-greet

Mike Ellis

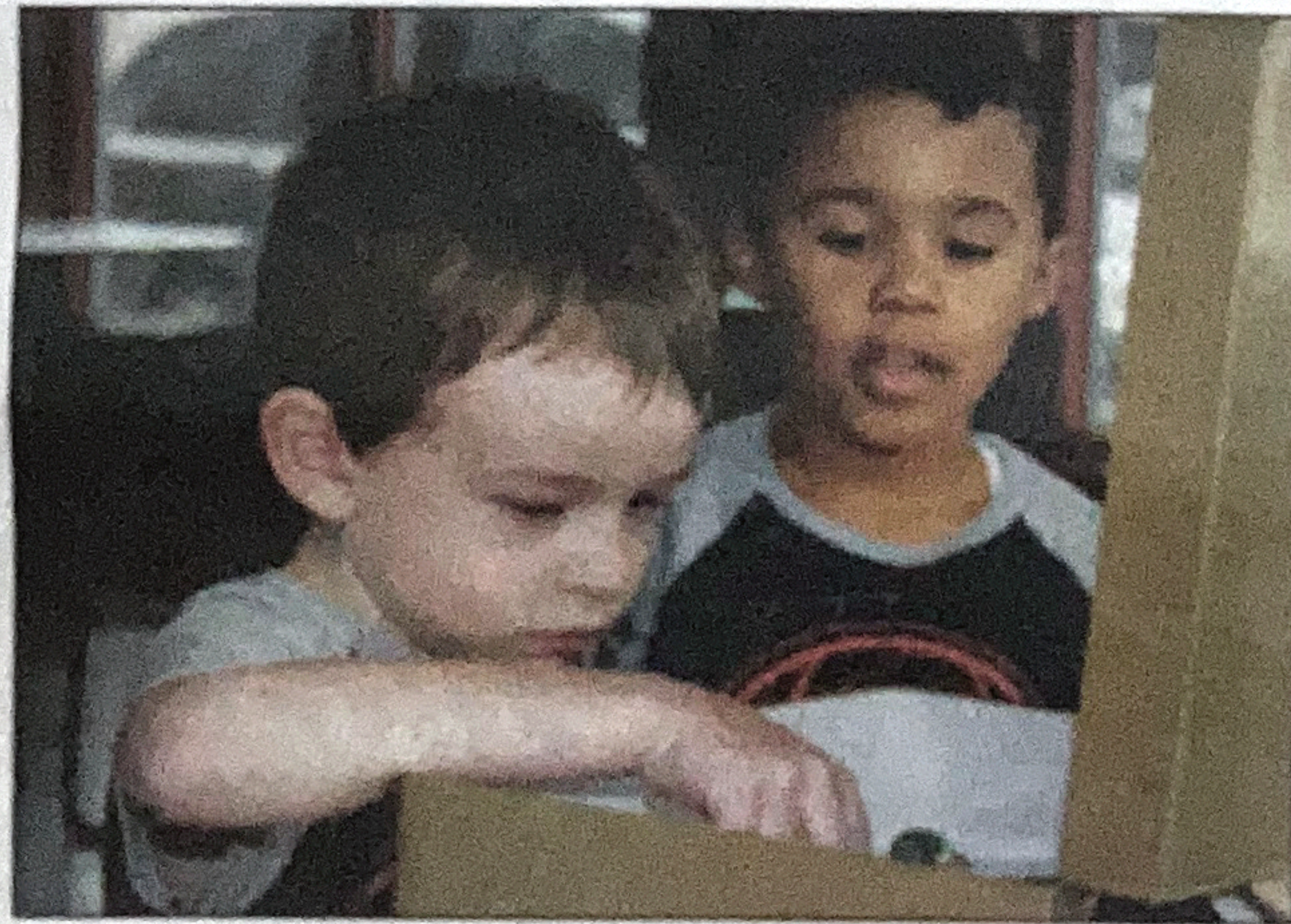
RIVERSIDE—A La Grange children's author hosted a meet-the-author event at Sips & Sweets Cafe on March 22.

Christine Banks, author of the *Adventures of Beanie the Spider* illustrated children's book series, met with readers, drew a raffle winner, and unveiled her second book in the series, which will be available for sale beginning April 22.

Banks introduced her first book in 2021, and plans to continue the series in the years ahead.

According to Banks, who is also an artist, the children's book series was inspired by a spider dwelling on one of her paintings, and takes place in an art gallery.

"It's a sweet story about imagination, adventure and friendship," she said. "Written in rhyme, it's fun for adults to read to children, and for young independent readers alike."



The Beanie series is geared towards children in preschool and kindergarten, and is both written and illustrated by Banks.

Banks encourages young readers to join Beanie as she "floats, flies and sales the seas of imagination in her fine art gallery."

"In this story, Beanie helps a new friend find their identity, while going on a desert journey through make-believe," she said.

While some spiders can

spur paroxysms of fear and terror, Banks stressed that Beanie is a friendly as opposed to a frightening arachnid.

The books may be purchased online through Amazon.

Banks will be holding upcoming meet-the-author events at the La Grange Public Library on April 19 and June 14. She is also planning a visit to Highland Queen in La Grange Highlands for a coloring contest this summer.



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