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Back to "Our Town"

by Edmund Lawler

In what promises to be a lovely full-circle moment, many of the cast and crew in Marquette Catholic High School's 1998 production of "Our Town" will take a bow from the same stage on which they performed the iconic play two decades ago.

At Saturday's show, the alumni will be introduced while sharing the stage of Marquette's 400-seat Rudy Hart Theatre with a 40-member cast and crew currently performing Thornton Wilder's play that's a microcosm of the cycle of human life in early 20th century small-town America.

The current cast and crew weren't even born when "Our Town" was last performed at Marquette, but the director of the 1998 and 2018 productions is the same — Amy Crane, who's credited with revitalizing the school's drama program.

"Our Town" was her first production shortly after arriving at Marquette in 1998 with a newly minted theater degree from the University of Indianapolis. Since then, she has directed some 40 productions with a collective cast and crew of 993 students.

A teacher and director known for her rigor, boundless energy and vibrant personality, she explains that "Our Town," with its minimalist set, was the perfect play for her maiden theatrical voyage at Marquette. There was no budget for an elaborate set.



Amy Crane displays the poster for the school's production of "Our Town," with the cast visible on the stage behind her. All photos by Bob Wellinski



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Prior to her arrival, productions consisted of an annual Christmas play and a spring fling.

"In 'Our Town,' everything is pantomime," Crane explains. "The show is not necessarily a larger technical challenge than other shows. But it is more unique because you must be more creative when you eliminate all the props on an unadorned stage with nothing more than a few chairs and tables. But we're going for a bigger aesthetic this time."

That approach will take the form of a giant 15-by 15-foot frame of multiple antique photographs that will serve as a backdrop to the performance. The set piece, with 53 frames — 19 of them featuring photographs — was crafted by her husband, Andy Crane, who helps design sets for all her shows. The frames with photos are of some of the students' ancestors to epitomize life in "Our Town."

Gibbs, the lead role. The play itself is such a piece for everyone. A day doesn't go by that it's not performed somewhere. Because of its minimalist set, 'Our Town' relies so heavily on the actors to deliver the story."

Kubath, who studied acting and comedy at Chicago's Second City and later moved to Los Angeles, where he landed several film roles, says Crane was a marvelous mentor and teacher.

"I tested my boundaries every day with her," he says. "She brought out some really good things in me by igniting my passion for performing. It's never going away, and she had a hand in that. The fire was always inside me — she just helped me discover it."

Joanna Cate, who played Emily's mother — Mrs. Webb — in the 1998 production will be on hand Saturday as well, although she's not traveling nearly as far as Kubath. She is an English/language arts teacher at Notre Dame Catholic School.



Amy Crane has worked with the cast to calm any nerves about performing before alumni.

The "Our Town" Amy Crane directed 20 years ago was deemed a hit that played to full houses.

"For me, it was the best thing ever," says Neil Kubath, who is traveling from Seattle to attend the show. "It was my first play, and I got to play George "Amy took such an enthusiastic interest in all of us," Cate says. "She was caring and with so much energy. You always wanted to rise to her level."

Cate followed in Crane's footsteps by majoring in theater at the University of Indianapolis. After college, she acted in Chicago before earning her master's degree in education from Valparaiso University and launching a teaching career.

"I've had some directors who would just sit in the chair and tell you what you have done wrong," Cate says. "Not so with Amy. She is always up and moving and letting you know what you have done right. And when she puts on a play, she feels a strong connection to it. She is always 100 percent committed to it."



Jenna McGrath as Emily Webb and Neil Kubath as George Gibbs in the 1998 production. Photo provided by Amy Crane

Kubath and Cate were both thrilled when Crane contacted them and other members of the cast and crew to gauge interest in returning for a latter-day performance of "Our Town" at Marquette.



Scott Nelson as Howie Newsome and Joanna Cate as Mrs. Webb in the 1998 production. Photo provided by Amy Crane.

"I couldn't believe she broke her steadfast rule about never repeating a play at Marquette," Kubath says with a laugh.

School President Jim White praises the drama department, saying its shows provide students with an outlet not only to get involved, but also express themselves.

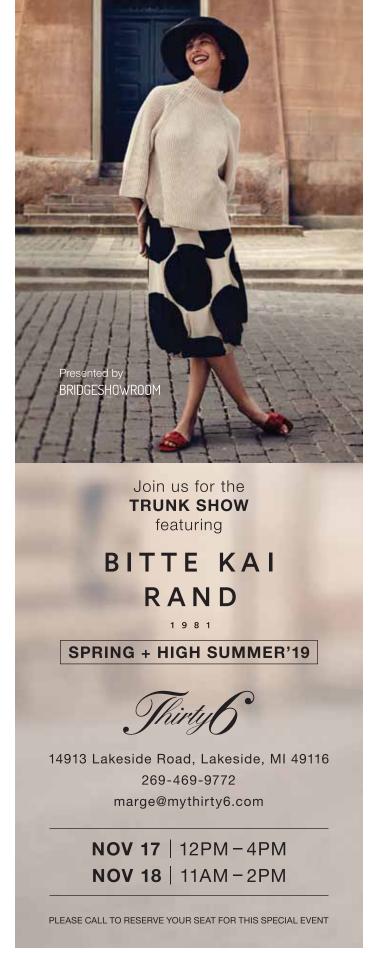
"When kids can feel important,"

he said, "that's what it's all about."

The productions — a drama in the fall and a large-scale musical in the spring — are a huge piece of Marquette's arts program, White says.

"As a teacher, Amy is rigorous, and she is fair," he says. "She is very well-versed at what she does. The students trust her, and they know she will steer them in the right direction."

White says Crane "has never complained about Continued on Page 4



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all the additional work she has to put in on the shows, as well as the chorus performances she handles. Her passion speaks for itself."

Parental support of the program probably is the best among all the activities and groups at Marquette, he says. Equally impressive is the level of support the drama program enjoys



Jim White

in the local theater community.

"Amy has worked in the city for many years, and that creates great opportunities for our program and for the students," White says.

ing for high-schoolers to understand," Crane says. "Because of the students' limited life experiences, they have to grapple with some of the play's universal themes that they will encounter in their own relationships, lives: children, marriage, death. It's the circle of life play."

The play, for which Wilder won the 1938 Pulitzer Prize for drama, is set in the early



Amy Crane talks with cast members during a recent rehearsal.

20th century in the fictional town of Grover's Cor-

Once they've digested the script, her students past and present — have reacted well to the play.



The cast rehearses a scene from "Our Town."

Crane says she was thinking of ways to engage alumni who'd performed in shows when they were Marquette students. She figured a reprise of "Our Town," with a big cast, was just the ticket.

And, she was right.

"As soon as I started getting some responses," Crane recalled, "I said, 'We're going to do this.' They were very excited."

As it was for students in the 1998 production, the current students are being challenged by some of "Our Town's" content.

"There are some themes that can be challeng-

"Every time I give them a new nugget about the show, they react with amazement," she says. "It's kind of fun to see that."

The play's assistant director is Zoe Olesker, and the stage manager is Caitie Gately.

"I could not do all this without either one of them," Crane says.

Stepping out on stage is empowering for the students, Crane says. She knows that from personal experience. She began acting at Elston High School, where she was the only freshman to earn a speaking role in "A Christmas Carol."

Marquette will present "Our

Town" on Nov. 9-11 in the Rudy Hart

Theatre, 306 W. 10th St. Times are 7

p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m.

Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults

and \$5 for students and seniors.

"You can make people laugh, you can make people cry. You can get them to applaud," she says. "It feels good to take people out of their everyday world and have a shared emotional experience. I love that I can show young people that they can have that kind of impact on an audience.

"But students often don't feel that way," Crane continued. "They say, 'Oh, I'm only a high school

If You Go

student, and what can I do?' But I tell them that for two to three hours, you can help someone forget all their cares and be thoroughly entertained."

Sophomore Aurora Grott, who plays a school boy and a baseball player in the show, says Crane is "very motivating. She's stern, but loving at the same time. She tries to get the best out of everybody."

No cast member knows Crane better than her son William, a freshman, who's performing in his first play as a Marquette student. A choirmaster in "Our Town," he has played a variety of roles in local community theater. But already, he has found that performing at Marquette is a special experience.

"When we struggle with our lines or struggle in rehearsal, we know that we always have each other," he says. "We are like a family. And once you have been in a show at Marquette, you are part of that family forever."

Junior Quinn Larkin has performed in shows at Marquette since she was a freshman. She is currently playing Mrs. Gibbs.

"I'm excited, but I'm a little extra nervous about this play," she says. "I hope the alums don't think I'm doing a bad job."

Crane has addressed those concerns about the pres-

sure of having former cast members at the show, reassuring them that the alumni "were high school students like you when they did the show. They weren't superstars. They're not coming here to judge you, but to enjoy the show."

The school will host a reception for the alumni and take them on a tour of the school. The two casts

will have the chance to meet and share stories.

"The students are excited to talk with the alums and find out what they have done with their lives," Crane says. "The alums and the student will be able to learn something together."

To dial down the cast's stage fright, and to further motivate them to put their best foot forward, Crane has asked them to use their imaginations and peer into the future: "Wouldn't it be cool if you guys came back in 20 years and put on 'Our Town'"? After all, life seems to come full circle in "Our Town."



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First Conductor Candidate Kicks Off LCSO Season

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra opens its highly anticipated series, "Bravo, Maestro! The Search Begins!," with the Pops Classique concert "Whirlwind Tour of Europe."

The concert, which is Saturday, Nov. 10, at La-Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., features classical favorites such as Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," Johann Strauss' "On the Beautiful Blue

Danube" and the Neapolitan Italian selection, "O Sole Mio," which features LCSO tenor Tim King.

The concert serves as the venue to introduce LCSO's first conductor candidate, Russell Ger, an Australian native now working in New York.

Winner of the Brian Stacey Memorial Trust Award for **Emerging** Australian Conductors in 2014, Ger's repertoire spans orchestral, operatic and choral music. In September 2016, he began his tenure as music director of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra in the Hudson Valley, where he conducts six subscription concerts each season, in addition to family and Pops concerts. He also toured North America with violinist Itzhak Perlman, promoting a record-

ing for Sony of Jewish art-music made in 2012. Performances took place at the Hollywood Bowl with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic before an audience of 10,000, and at the Barclays Center arena in New York for an audience of 6,000. The tour also drew capacity houses at the Boca Raton Arts Festival, Boston Celebrity Series at Symphony Hall, Ravinia Festival in Chicago, Long Island and Toronto. A PBS Special aired in 2014.

During his stay the week of the concert, Ger is

scheduled to visit LaPorte High School orchestra students and first-through third-graders at Renaissance Academy, attend a Friends of the Symphony luncheon, serenade guests at a VIP cocktail party at Councilman Timothy Stabosz's home, mingle with guests at Portofino Grill for a special A La Carte event, and tour LaPorte Civic Auditorium, Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, LaPorte and Michi-

gan City.

Conductor candidates were chosen after longtime LCSO Music Director Philip Bauman's stepped down from the position in May. Since then, the LCSO Selec-Committee tion has reviewed 32applications from conductors throughout the United States and abroad. This past August, the committee narrowed the search to 10 and in September chose the final six, which LCSO patrons will experience over the next two seasons.

Audience members also can provide feedback on Ger's program and performance by survey after the concert.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for appetizers provided by Ivy Tech Culinary College, sweets by

Little Chocolates and a cash bar courtesy of LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Tickets are available at Roxy Music Shop and the Civic box office, or at www.LCSO. net. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$30 for table seats. General admission tickets for children and students with ID are free, but not including table seating. Call the office at (219) 362-9020 for details.



Russell Ger.

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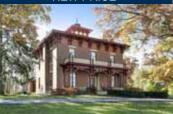
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Arts Community Gives Salvation Army Kettles Festive Makeovers

by Kayla Weiss

Every year, as the holidays near, The Salvation Army brings out its red kettles to collect donations from the community.

This year, Salvation Army Development Director Jessica O'Brien wanted to spice things up a bit. Working closely with Maj. Becky Simmons of The Salvation Army and Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center for the Arts executive director, they came up with a fun, creative idea to unite the arts community and make the city's kettles one of a kind.

"I'm friends with Jessica (O'Brien), and we're in Rotary Club together, which is very active in ringing the bells for The Salvation Army," Bloch said. "She messaged me because she

had seen that another chapter of The Salvation Army had redesigned their kettles and wanted to get the arts community here involved in a similar project."

Around a month ago, The Salvation Army offered up six kettles for artists and schools to adopt. As luck would have it, all six were adopted and taken on either as club/class projects or personal goals.

Bloch sent the info to art teacher Holly Beadles at Pine Elementary School: A Magnet School for the Arts, who got the ball rolling. The other kettles subsequently were adopted by: Michigan City High School, Dorothy Graden, Dori Huber, Dale Cooper and Bloch, who took one home and painted it while on vacation.



The red kettle designed by Janet Bloch.

Cooper is the Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau curator and a Lubeznik Center board member. Huber teaches art classes at the Lubeznik

Center and throughout the county. Graden, for more than 30 years, has traveled through the American west to photograph and draw prehistoric rock art. Beadles is active with Michigan City Art League and Duneland Plein Air Painters.

"We know that The Salvation Army does great, much-needed work here in the community," Bloch said. "I wanted to get their project moving as quickly as possible so we could have this done for them by the beginning of their bell-ringing season."

This year, The Salvation Army will have 12 locations

for bell-ringers. The decorated kettles will rotate through them so everyone will have a chance to see them.

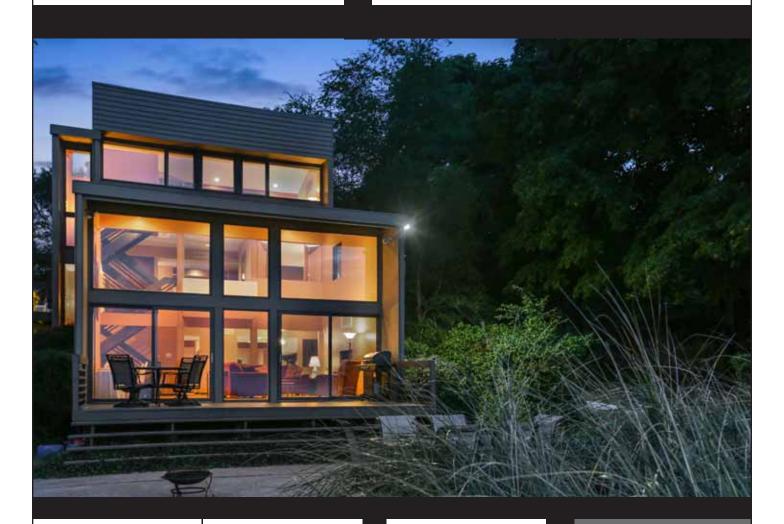
"Our goal is to raise \$160,000, which goes to supporting the programs in the community all year round," Simmons said. "It's not just our Christmas program. It's big, and we want to make sure we can serve the people of the community all year round."

The Red Kettle Kickoff

The 2018 Red Kettle Kickoff is from 7 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at McDonald's, 3507 Franklin St. The event marks the first time the public can view the kettles.



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Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 8, 15 and 29.

Membership to the group 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.

• Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8.

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

• "Dr. Who": The Next Chapter at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Celebrate the show's new season by testing your knowledge about it, and make a sonic screwdriver.

• Pokemon Go Community Day from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Staff will place a lure on the library pokestop, with giveaways planned while supplies last.

• The Syrian Refugee Crisis: The Northwest Indiana Connection at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Tony Burrell, executive director of Hammond's Immigrant Welcome Network, will give a presentation on the Syrian Crisis, relief trips and refugee resettlement in Northwest Indiana. He also will answer questions. The Welcome Network is a faith-



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• Story Time at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at the LAC, 101 W. Second St.

This is the corrected date for the program. The Story Time Crew entertains families with stories and songs, and guides a craft project. The interactive program is appropriate for infants through age 5 and their parents or guardians.

• CoderDojo at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12.

The free coding club for ages 8-18 explores programming such as Ozobots, Spheros, Chibi Chips and 3-D modeling. Children 12 and younger must have a parent attend. Visit the library's CoderDojo page or email jlovett@mclib.org for details.

• Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 13 and 20, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 14 and 21.

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• Attitudes of Gratitude: Our Thankful Angels at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 for details.

• Intro to 3-D Modeling: Tinkercad at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The introductory workshop is aimed at youth 12-18. Space is limited, so advance registration is required at the Youth Services desk. Call (219) 873-3045 and ask for Dave or Jonathan.

Contact (219) 873-3049 for more information.







This touching ceremony will begin with prayers and Christmas carols and culminates with the lighting of the Love Lights.

Please gather in the Hospital front lobby on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 4:45 p.m.

Refreshments will be served by the Guild of Volunteers following the lighting ceremony.

Love Lights is sponsored by the Guild of Volunteers.

To honor a loved one, donations will be accepted at \$3.00 per person.

Proceeds will benefit the Guild of Volunteers Scholarship Fund at Franciscan Health Michigan City.

Additional donations to the Scholarship Fund are accepted.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE SECTION COMPLETELY Your Name (Donor)_ Address_ City/State/Zip_ _Daytime Telephone Number __ PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR PREFERENCE: Do you want the following name(s) published in our "Love Lights" Tree Presentation which will appear in the Michigan City News Dispatch on a Sunday before Christmas? Make checks payable to Guild of Volunteers Love Lights Please send blank acknowledgement cards to the address listed above: ___ # needed____ In Honor (Living) In Memory **Pets** Child-Boy Child-Girl Adult Adult Child Love Lights Name(s) orange

If you wish to have names printed in the News Dispatch, please complete this form and mail or return by **December 2, 2018** to Franciscan Health, 301 W. Homer Street, Michigan City, IN 46360.



"Miracle on 34th Street" to Open at Theatre at the Center

"Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical" kicks off with previews Nov. 15, then runs Nov. 18-Dec. 23 at Munster's Theatre at the Center.

George Seaton wrote and directed the 1947 film that was based on a story by Valentine Davies. Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, a young Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn as Santa starred in the holiday favorite that



Cast photo from "Miracle on 34th Street: The Musical" by Guy Rhodes.

won three Academy Awards. The play features book, music and lyrics by Meredith Willson ("The Music Man"), opening on Broadway in 1963. The show's title changed during the decades to "Here's Love" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," the latter a reference to the popular holiday song featured in the musical.

Roger Mueller, as Kris Kringle, returns to TATC, where he was last seen in "Here's Love" in 2000. Other credits include a Jeff Award as John Adams in "1776" at Marriott Theatre, "Brigadoon" at Goodman Theatre, "All My Sons" at Timeline Theatre and "Amadeus" at Shakespeare Theatre.

Stella Rose Hoyt, as Susan, has performed throughout Chicagoland since she was 4. She was last seen at TATC playing Molly in the 2016 holiday run of "Annie Warbucks." She recently played Small Alison in the Chicago premiere of "Fun Home" at Victory Gardens, Mary Claire in "The Christmas Schooner" at Mercury Theatre and Jane in "Mary Poppins" at Oak Lawn Theatre.

Courtney Jones, who is making her TATC debut as Doris, recently played Dyanne in "Million Dollar Quartet" at Timberlake Playhouse. Other credits include "Ragtime" and "Titanic" at Griffin Theatre and "Ordinary Days" at BoHo.

Christopher Kale Jones makes his TATC acting debut as Fred after his recent one-man tribute there, "Darin: Bobby's Biggest Hits." He is best known for playing Frankie Valli in the first national Broadway tour of "Jersey Boys."

Additional members include Mi-

chael Kingston as Mr. Macy, Dan Klarer as Shellhammer, Michael Potsic as District Attorney, Rick Rapp as the Judge, Sam Shankman as Sawyer, Amir Henderson as Harry, Liliana Rene as Hendrika, Ethan Solis as Tommy, Chris Carter, Veronica Garza, Matthew Huston, Rachel Klippel, Ashley Lanyon, Haley Jane Schafer, Hope Elizabeth Schafer and Trequon Tate.

Linda Fortunato, the director and choreographer, has been nominated for five Joseph Jefferson Awards as choreographer and director, and received Equity and Non-Equity Jeff Awards for Outstanding Choreography in 2013-2014 for TATC's first Jeff Award for choreography of "42nd Street."

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 7.30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays, with select Thursday and Sunday night performances. Individual tickets range from \$42-\$46. Call the box office at (219) 836-3255 or Tickets.com at (800) 511-1532 for reservations. Group discounts are available for 11 or more. Student tickets are \$20.

The theater is located at 1040 Ridge Road. Visit www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com for more details.



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Program by Holocaust Survivor



This photo, provided by Candles Holocaust Museum, shows the liberation of Auschwitz in January 1945. Eva and her twin sister, Miriam, are the two young girls standing in the front row.

The Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway, will host a free presentation by Holocaust survivor Eva Kor at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at Valparaiso University's Harre Union Ballrooms.

The program is in conjunction with the Valparaiso University College of Arts & Sciences.

Kor and her family, the only Jews in their small Romanian village, were abducted and transported to Auschwitz in 1944. She and her twin sister, Miriam, then 10, were separated from the rest of the family and subjected to medical experimentation by Nazi Doctor Josef Mengele.



The two girls survived until liberation in January 1945, but their parents and older siblings perished.

After the war, Eva and Miriam eventually made their way to Israel, and Eva subsequently married an American and emigrated to Terre Haute. There, she established the Candles Holocaust Museum and Education Center. She has devoted her life to informing the world about the Holocaust through lectures and books. In 1995, as an act of self-healing, she chose to forgive her Nazi captors.

Visit www.valpovic.org for more details.





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Free MCCMF Concert

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival violinists will perform Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" during a free concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Zofia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich also will present a new work, "Duo Concertante" for two violins by Kendall Durrelle Briggs.



Zofia Glashauser and Nic Orbovich

"The Four Seasons" is a group of four violin concerti, each providing musical expression to a season of the year. They were written around 1721 and published in 1725 in Amsterdam, together with eight additional violin concerti as "The Contest Between Harmony and Invention."

Three of the concerti are original. The first, "Spring," borrows motifs from a Sinfonia in the first act of Vivaldi's contemporaneous opera "Il Giustino." The inspiration probably was the countryside around Mantua, where Vivaldi was living at the time. They were a revolution in musical conception: Vivaldi represented flowing creeks, singing birds (of different species, each specifically characterized), a shepherd and his barking dog, buzzing flies, storms, drunken dancers, hunting parties from varying points of view, frozen landscapes and winter fires.

Glashauser and Orbovich are known for their work as "Fiddlers Two." They have performed the complete violin duo concerto repertoire with orchestras across America. For "The Four Seasons," Glashauser will solo on "Spring" and "Autumn," while Orbovich solos on "Summer" and "Winter." They will be accompanied by a string quartet comprised of violinists Mark Portolese and Betsey Varney, violist Istvan Szabo and cellist Igor Cetkovic. Harpsichordist Patricia Lee will accompany.

A meet-the-artists reception follows the performance. Visit www.mccmf.org or call (219) 561-1939 for more details.









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Songs of Giving Hearts

The Sixth Annual Songs of Giving Hearts Charity in Concert is Friday through Sunday, Nov. 9-11, at three locations.

The concerts are by volunteer musicians and vocalists, most of whom are community organization representatives, social service workers, music ministers, students and other individuals.

This year, the goal is to raise awareness through song, comedy and story the challenges for homeless youth, veterans and their families, the impact of abusive behaviors and violence, and the challenges of mental-health needs and suicide prevention.

Performers include Michelle Alexander, Nic Orbovich, and adult and student choir members from Notre Dame, Queen of All Saints and St. Stanislaus churches.

The concert schedule is:

- 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.
- 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at Notre Dame Church, 1000 Moore Road.
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at IU Health LaPorte Hospital Chapel.

For admission, take: donations for food pantries through Sacred Heart and Trinity Episcopal; winter wear for homeless families at Sand Castle Shelter; and/or a free-will donation. Donations will help support: Interfaith PADS Shelter; suicide-prevention programs; Catholic Charities-Gary Diocese; veterans outreach and support services Give An Hour.

Visit www.songsofgivinghearts.org, or the event's facebook page, for more details.

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

Two indoor flea markets are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 10 and 17, at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, furniture and locally made or grown food are available. Lunch also is served.

Admission is free. The market continues the second and third Saturdays of each month through April. A map is available on the Facebook page NewTroyFleaMarket.

Proceeds from space rentals benefit the center, run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy. Contact Donald at (773) 803-9773 for more details.

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Sinai Forum

Robert Costa, national political reporter for *The Washington Post*, is the speaker at the next Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum.

The program is at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex, 1401 S. U.S. 421. Doors open at 3 p.m.

In addition to covering the White House, Congress and campaigns, Costa is the moderator of PBS' "Washington Week," an awardwinning news discussion program,



and a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC. The University of Notre Dame and University of Cambridge graduate also is a regular on "Meet the Press," "Morning Joe" and "PBS NewsHour."

Costa frequently travels across the country to report on how policies and politics affect Americans.

Students showing a valid high school or university I.D. may attend for free. A limited number of general admission single tickets are available at the door for \$30.

The next speaker is college football coach Lou Holtz at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2.

Visit www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum for more details.

Curator-Led Gallery Tour

An interactive, curator-led gallery tour of the new exhibit "Waiting for a Sign" is from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 10, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The exhibit explores the use of signage, text and iconography to deliver messages of environmental justice, protest, identity, mystery and hope. Artists include Willie Baronet, Diana Guerrero-Macia, Corey Hagelberg, Cheryl Pope, Kay Rosen, Joel Ross, Deb Sokolow and Bernard Williams.

The tour is free. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for details.







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Michelle

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Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

Three Oaks, Mich.

The Acorn Theater parking lot, to be precise, after the first tech rehearsal for "Three Oaks Against the World," an original play conceived for the Three Oaks sesquicentennial celebration.

The sky was a gorgeous shade of ocean blue, peppered with darker hues that foretold of evening's arrival. Taking in the sight, I paused, glancing at the scrap of paper in my hand with a phone number scribbled on it. The number for my former piano teacher, with whom I had not spoken in nearly 30 years. Why so long? Well, life has a way of getting in the way. Simple tasks or gestures are postponed, then forgotten amid pressing duties.

Being involved in this Three Oaks show, though, triggered bouts of sentimentality. Memories of past performances. My beloved piano teacher.

Ray Scott.

 \boldsymbol{A} wry comedian. An indomitable spirit. A heart as deep as the ocean.

Would she remember me? I'd tracked her down to a Tennessee nursing home, the phone number acquired at my high school reunion. Now seated inside my car, I dialed the number, the vehicle picking up the call by bluetooth connection. It rang three times. Then, a weathered voice.

"Hello?"

Nervous gulp.

"Ray, I don't know if you remember me, but this is Andrew Tallackson."

A pause. A faint whisper of a laugh. Then, with a shout, "ANDREW. JACKSON. TALLAJACKSON. ROSS."

Oh yeah. She remembered me, the laughs we shared at how frequently people butchered my Scandinavian last name.

She continued.

"Lord have mercy, how are you? *Where* are you?" It was like we hadn't missed a beat. We swapped stories. The conversation lasted the entire drive from



John Bello, as Pharaoh, is joined by the ensemble to perform "Song of the King."

Three Oaks to Michigan City. Pulling into my driveway, I shared with her that, on several occasions over the years, I'd served as the music director, and played keyboard for, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." That was the first show we did

when the Emerson

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The conversation took a serious turn. There was an urgency to her voice.

into being.

"Listen," she said.
"You do that show one
more time. You hear
me? You do it one more
time for you, you do it
one more time for me."

One month after that phone call, a facebook post by a high school friend delivered heartbreaking news.

Ray Scott had passed away.





The cast performs "Benjamin Calypso."

Tuesday, April 24, 2018. LaPorte Little Theatre Club.

ABeacher interview with three generations of one LaPorte Little Theatre family: Bonnie Quigley, her daughter and son-in-law, Katy and Tim Gartland, and her granddaughters, Norah and Natalie. The bond between them was unmistakable, the conver-

sation fueled by vigorous laughter and unconditional love not just for each other, but for the building in which they now relaxed.

As the interview ended, Tim mentioned the group's first show of the upcoming season: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

The announcement stopped me dead in my tracks.

"Joseph," I gasped. "That's my favorite show. I've done that show. Three times. First time, I was 12. I've taught the music for that show. Twice."

The smile on Tim's face, it could only mean one thing. The wheels were turning.

"So, would you be interested in being

music director? Play piano in the show?"

"In a heartbeat," I regurgitated before he could change his mind.

"All right, then," Tim replied, the smile deepening across his face. "We'll talk soon."

I stumbled out of the theater. Could it be happening? *Really* happening? Were the stars aligning so a promise eight months earlier might become reality?

Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018

LaPorte Little Theatre Club.

First day of auditions for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice rock opera immortalized by Donny Osmond in the early 1990s.

The stars, indeed, had aligned. All the pieces of the puzzle, firmly locked into place. Director Nick Bello, the idea of directing "Joseph" a passion project for years. Me as music director. Matt Nelson, on board to direct the children's chorus. Tim Gartland, ever ready as producer.

The talent pouring across the stage? Staggering. Jeremiah Mellen, a Hoosier Star winner, gunning to play Joseph. Erin Imer — a voice that could melt butter — eager to play the narrator. Tom Coe, the revered LaPorte High School choral director, eager to be part of the experience. And the joy of any audition: the unexpected surprises that pop up out of nowhere, but with vocal prowess or stage presence that make you sit up and take notice.

So bountiful was the talent, the play was cast by the time auditions wrapped that Sunday.

Aug. 8-Oct. 11, 2018 Rehearsals.

LaPorte Little Theatre Club.

I am a piano man at heart, but over the years, opportunities presented themselves that thrust me into the position of teaching others how to perform music on stage.

One might expect a reasonable level of confidence, having now served as music director for shows such as "South Pacific," "Footloose," "The Wiz," "The Wizard of Oz," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Scrooge: The Musical." Not quite. Every "first read," where the cast reads through the script, or in the case of "Joseph," sings through it, a secret part of me braces for a cast member to stop, point and shriek, "Fraud! Imposter! Get this man out of here!" Melodramatic? Sure, but indulge the occasional neurotic in me.

The beauty behind this production, though, was that no trace of ego existed. This was a cast and crew bound by a love for this musical, the experience forging a theatrical "family" in the best sense of the word. Humble. Supportive. Hard-working to a fault. As musical numbers took shape, the vocals soared upwards, to every crack and crevice in the theater. A song like "Joseph's Coat" would finish with rousing flourish.

This was gearing up to be something special.

Oct. 12-21, 2018

LaPorte Little Theatre.

Eight sold-out shows.

Theatergoers traveling from Chicago to secure a seat.

Standing ovations.

This was unreal. Even amid all the requisite community theater glitches. Mics that went out in the middle of songs. My keyboard locking up after a

Continued on Page 24



Erin Imer and Jeremiah Mellen, during their final performance together as the Narrator and Joseph.

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"AMAZING" JOURNEY Continued from Page 23



Tom Coe (right) and Anthony Garcia, performing "Those Canaan Days."

song, refusing to cooperate...until I turned it off and rebooted. Strong gusts of wind that blew a transformer, sending the theater into total darkness before spotlights saved the day.

The audience never seemed to mind. In fact, the hurdles appeared to endear the cast, and its showmust-go-on gusto, on a greater level to them.

Yes, indeed, this was something special.

Sunday, Oct. 21.

10 p.m.

Home

In bed, my wife soundly asleep by my side. Me, blanketed by the odd sensation after any final performance: something that so intensely united so many people had come to an end.



An undated photo of my piano teacher, Ray Scott.

Thoughts of Ray Scott emerged before drifting off to sleep. "Ray," I whispered, the ensuing words taking the shape of a hushed prayer.

I did it.

I did it for me.

I did it for you.

And it was great.

Better than great, actually.

Amazing.

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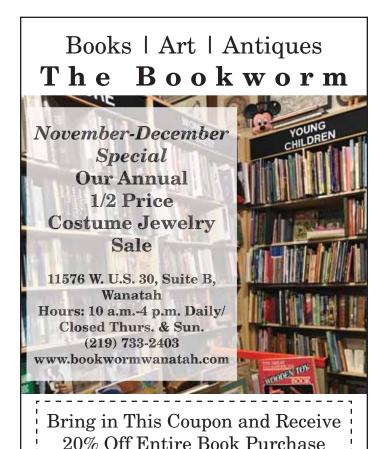
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New CAYA Volunteers



LaPorte County Circuit Judge Tom Alevizos, accompanied by Juvenile Magistrate Jonathan Forker, swore in the latest group of Court Appointed Youth Advocate volunteers. These individuals will support struggling youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Pictured are (from left): Forker; Triston Rouse; Joe Drantz; Keiren O'Kelly; Judith Hundt; Mary Jane O'Brien; Kayla Glassman; Dennis Carroll; Michael Hess and Alevizos. Not pictured is Jennifer McCracken.





Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

• Saw-Whet Owl Banding from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays through Nov. 18.

Indiana Audubon Society is partnering with the state park to sponsor the program and provide licensed banding staff for the technical research and education effort.

After learning about the program, visitors wait at the nature center as banding staff check hourly special nets throughout the dunes. The Friends of the Indiana Dunes will provide hot cocoa.

Banding nights are weather dependent. Visitors should call ahead to confirm banding will take place. Visit www.indianaaudubon.org/to register.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

Barker Monthly Lecture Series

"For Richer or For Poorer? Church and Labor in the Gilded Age(s)" is the topic of the next monthly lecture series program from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

The series features local historians, academics and scholars. This month's program is by Valparaiso University professor Heath Carter. Q&A and a book signing for his new book, <u>The Color of Compromise</u>, are planned.

Tickets are free, with beer from Zorn Brewery for sale. Registration is at Eventbrite.com or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5. Visit www. barkermansion.com for more details.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that is part of the monthly Indiana Dunes birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• Stargazing Through Telescopes from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Kemil Beach parking area.

Members from Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will attend with telescopes. Dress for the weather. Take binoculars. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• A ranger will lead a two-hour tour of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in one of the park's 16-passenger buses at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11.

The tours meet at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Tours are free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at Paul H. Douglas Center.

The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

• Veterans Day Film & Talk from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

The film is "Vietnam Nurses with Dana Delaney": the stories of women who served in the Vietnam era.

• Parents and toddlers can participate in the Nature Tots program, 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.

Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor play.

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 for more information.





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Dinner with the League

Save the Dunes Program Manager Cathy Martin will speak at Dinner with the League at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The program is hosted by The League of Women Voters of LaPorte County.



Martin

Martin worked on the Indiana Dunes Climate Change Adaptation Plan, coordinated by Save the Dunes with Chicago's Field Museum. She has expertise in conservation planning and natural resource protection and restoration in Northwest Indiana. She will update guests on current and ongoing efforts to deal with climate change in the Indiana Dunes and surrounding areas.

The public is invited, and reservations are not required. A donation is requested from non-members. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 5:30 p.m., then buy dinner from the menu.

Email the League at LWVLaPorte@gmail.com for more details.

Hometown Heroes Food Fight

Eight local establishments, to show their support of area veterans, will participate in the Hometown Heroes Food Fight from 2 to 5 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 10, at The Weko Beach House, 5301 Lake St., Bridgman, Mich.

Participating restaurants in the mac-and-cheese competition are: Brewster's Italian Cafe; Journeyman Distillery; Greenbush Brewing Co.; Patellie's; Casey's Bar & Grill; Lake Street Eats; The Feather Bone; and Villa Nova Pizzeria. The event also includes beer from Haymarket Taproom, live music and children's activities. All proceeds go to the Bridgman American Legion chapter.

Tickets are \$10, while veterans, active duty military and children 10 and younger are free. Make reservations at veteransfoodfight.eventbrite.com and take the printed ticket. Tickets also can be purchased at the door. All ages are welcome.

Deserving Children Charity Auction

LaPorte County Association of Realtors' Deserving Children Charity Auction is Friday, Nov. 9, at Orak Shrine Temple, 3848 N. Frontage Road.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., with the auction at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$50, include a drawing for a cash prize. Tables may be reserved for groups of eight.

Funds raised assist the Deserving Children Shopping Tour in partnership with LaPorte Jaycees and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.

Visit www.laportecountyrealtors.com for reservations or 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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

• Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, at the Thomas Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn is served.

• Intro to the Ukulele from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 9 at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Learn basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. Ukuleles will be provided, although participants can take their own and should indicate so during registration. No experience is necessary, and space is limited. Register at the Thomas Branch Reference Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

LaPorte County Public Library

The following programs are at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.:

• Picture Perfect from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8.

Guest photographer James Conlin will focus on editing through Adobe Lightroom.

• Let's Play Music! from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 10.

Katie Shannon from Let's Play Music LaPorte leads the hands-on program for children 4-8.

• Upcycle Sewing Class: T-shirt to Pillow Cover from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Learn basic sewing skills, and make a pillow cover out of old T-shirts. Attendees should take four T-shirts and register online.

Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.



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PAC Soccer Champs



Fifth- and sixth-grade team members are: Jackson Smith, Sam Miltenberger, Matthew Sperling, Jack McCarthy, Charlie Meyer, Jack Egan, Michael Johnson, Bobby Looney, Lilli Armato, Maggie McDonald, Hailey O'Dell, Madelyn Shinn, Jack Albano, Jackson Day and Maya Williams. Not pictured are Aedan McKee and Coach Brian McKee.



Seventh- and eighth-grade team members are: Andrew Novak, Sean Egan, Max Meyer, Samantha Smith, Mackenzy McDonald, Aidan Catt, Connor Gately, Jacob Fournier, Alex Novak, Lukas Balling, Ezra Pendergrass and coaches Dan Fournier and Kevin Egan.

Notre Dame Catholic School has good reason to celebrate. Its fifth/sixth grade and seventh/eighth grade soccer teams won the Parochial Athletic Conference.

Pictured are the fifth- and sixth-grade team, the photo taken Oct. 16 at Queen of All Saints, and the seventh- and eighth-grade team, the photo taken Oct. 18 at Notre Dame.

Thanks to Notre Dame Athletic Director Joe Bobillo for submitting the information.





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American Red Cross

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

- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8. Receive a Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La-Porte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14. Receive a Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last.

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 redcrossblood.org for more details.

NB Library Community Forum

During Veterans' Day week, the Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum will focus on the USS Indianapolis at 6 p.m. EST Monday, Nov. 12, in the library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Speaker Jason Kuntz of Buchanan Community Schools will recount what is known as the biggest shark attack on record, and the fate of 1,196 military after the sinking of the ship assigned to deliver the atomic bomb to the island of Tinlan in the Philippine Sea.

Upcoming programs include: "The Top Five Environmental Issues in Southwest Michigan" on Dec. 3, and "Caroling at the Library with Harbor Country Singers" on Dec. 13.

The series is underwritten in part by The Pokagon Fund. Call the library at (269) 469-2933, follow the Facebook link at newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or email new.buffalo.FOL@gmail.com for details.



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La Porte County Parks



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

Essentially Well

Learn about the health and lifestyle benefits of essential oils from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8, at Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Pam Harmon of Earthside Living will show how to make six roller balls to prepare for the cold season, and how to use the oils through reflexology. The six essential oils to be made are: Defense, Head, Respiratory, Seasonal, Stomach and Throat.

The program is for people 18 and older, with the requirement being a minimum of four and a maximum of 20. The cost is \$22 for six roller balls.

Pre-registration and payment are required.

Beginner Meditation

The program for individuals 18 and older is from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Luhr County Park.

Instructor Stacy Coar will teach how to quiet the mind with breathing techniques, along with multiple ways to meditate.

The cost is \$20. The minimum number of participants required is four and the maximum is 12. Preregistration and payment are required.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Nov. 19 and 26, and Dec. 10 and 17 at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Nov. 28 Where Did the Leaves Go?
- Dec. 5 Sensory Sensations.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

Veterans Day Tour of Cemetery

South Bend's The History Museum will present a Veterans Day tour of City Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Nov. 11.



Conducted by Travis Childs, museum director of education, the free tour focuses on historic grave sites of community veterans. Participants should meet at the cemetery's entrance at West Colfax Avenue and Elm Street. Parking is limited. No pets are allowed.

The tour will be canceled if the weather is poor. Call (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for details.

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child is Nov. 12-19.

Shoebox gifts are filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items to share through the Samaritan's Purse project. Area volunteers hope to collect more than 37,500 gifts to contribute to Operation Christmas Child's 2018 goal of reaching 11 million children in need.

Area drop-off sites include Calvary Chapel New Buffalo, 1615 E. Buffalo St., and LaPorte First United Methodist Church, 1225 Michigan Ave.

Visit www.samaritanspurse.org for more details.

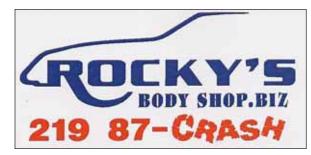
Gallery Christmas Gift Shop

Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin Square, will host its second Gallery Christmas Gift Shop on Nov. 9-Dec. 22.

The gallery will have fiber arts, paintings, photos, pastel pictures, watercolors, books, jewelry and Christmas items.

Hours are 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Live entertainment, snacks and refreshments are planned Friday, Dec. 4.

A portion of the proceeds supports future Artspace events.



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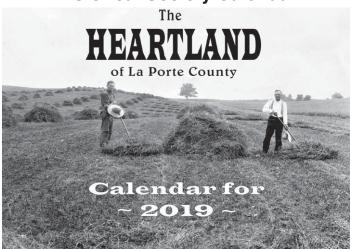
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Historical Society Calendar



"The Heartland of LaPorte County" is the theme for the 2019 calendar on sale at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Featured are photos of farms, farm machinery and other agricultural images, some dating back to the 1800s. The cost is \$12. Call (219) 324-6767 to reserve a copy. Visit www.laportecountyhistory.org for details.

Harbor Country Hikers

New Buffalo resident Fred Jolly will share his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail during a free Harbor Country Hikers talk at 6 p.m. EST Tuesday, Nov. 13, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Jolly just returned from through-hiking the Appalachian Trail, becoming one of fewer than 500 people 60 and older to have done so since the trail opened in 1937. Jolly began the 2,190-mile trek on March 25, his 62nd birthday, and hiked through 14 states. Part of his motivation was to raise money for the National Park Foundation. So far, he's raised more than \$24,000. Visit Jolly's website, www. athike.jollyoutthere.com, for details.

Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.





Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale members celebrated Halloween with "The Spirit Underworld" as the theme during the Oct. 29 program at First Presbyterian Church.

Dressed in black, musicians performed selections inspired by otherworldly creatures for members and guests.

New member Emmie Reigel opened the program, singing the title song from the musical "Kiss of the Spider Woman." Soprano Kathy Chase shared "The Farmer's Curst Wife," a comical American folk song. Donning witches' hats, Reigel, Chase and Laura Meyer performed the cauldron scene from Act III of the Verdi opera, "Macbeth."

Program chairman Lee Meyer presented the piano solo "Diabolic Suggestion, Opus 4, No. 4" by Sergei Prokofiev. Elaine Hornyak and Meyer collaborated on William Bolcom's "Graceful Ghost Rag," arranged for flute and piano. Vocalists Howard Brenneman, Candace Archer and new inductee Tom LeDonne performed a scene from Charles Gounod's opera "Faust."

Soprano Deb Campanella sang "How Could I Ever Know?" from the musical "The Secret Garden." In solo selections from "The Wiz," Campanella and Chase presented "If You Believe" and "Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News."

Archer and Reigel presented songs from the Stephen Schwartz musical "Wicked." Archer, portraying Glinda the Good Witch, sang "Popular." With broom in hand, Reigel's Wicked Witch, Elphaba, performed "Defying Gravity." The two then joined forces for the finale, "For Good."

Next month's open program, "Christmas and Verses," is at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details. Visit Monday Musicale Michigan City on facebook for more information.

Junior Juried Art Show

The Village Gallery will showcase works by 12 Valparaiso University junior art majors.

The submissions depict a variety of mediums and styles, all addressing the various goals and priorities of artists Ashley Borg, Mary Egan, Autumn Fagenbaum, Elle Howard, Nicole Jones, Andrea' Kutemeier, Nicole Lubarski, Aaron Melendez-Castro, Jordan Pagel, Anna Styrczula, Nina Tadic and Claire Utzinger.

Richard Brauer, Valparaiso University professor emeritus and Brauer Museum of Art director, served as the juror, with 24 works selected.

The exhibit runs through Dec. 6. The gallery is located in Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



Oct. 30, 2018

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Gutter Gals	21.5	10.5
2. Blue Shoes, Lucky Ladies	21	11
Gutter Busters		
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE
1. Sue Labovitz		237
2. Margie Midkiff		205
3. Mary Lou McFadden		190
4. Sue Luegers		189
4. Barb Macudzinski		189
5. Nancy Kubath		162
6. Debra Smith		160
7. Ann Bogart		152
7. Peggy King		152
8. Kathy Osborne		151
9. Carolyn Wiggins (series)		415
10. Cindy Beck (series)		400
SPLITS		
1. Sarah Blank		2-7-10
2. Regina Bradley		2-7
3. Cindy Beck		5-6
4. Nancy Kubath		2-7-8
5. Mary Lou McFadden		2-7-8
STRIKES		

STRIKES

Sue Labovitz — 4

Barb Macudzinski, Margie Midkiff — 3

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

New Buffalo Public Library

The following programs are through New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson St. All times are Eastern:

Thursday, Nov. 8

- Book Club, noon.
- Teen STEAM Series: November Tech, Sphero, 4 p.m. Aimed at youth 11-18.

Friday, Nov. 9

- Story Time, 11:30 a.m.
- Yoga, 1:30 p.m.
- Teen Silent Library, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 10

 Veterans Reception and Quilt of Valor giveaway, 1 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 12

- Read with Newdle the Therapy Dog, 11 a.m.
- Lego Club, 3-7 p.m. (new day).
- The Tragedy of the USS Indianapolis, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 13.

• Lego Club, 3-7 p.m.

Call (269) 469-2933 for details.









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Garden of Remembrance

Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve is partnering with Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services to create a Garden of Remembrance.

Fernwood's existing Boxwood garden will be designated as the Halbritter Wickens Garden of Remembrance and Reflection, honoring families served by the funeral home in Niles, Mich.

Steve and Sabrina Wickens created an initial five-year community partnership with Fernwood, presenting a check to Fernwood Executive Director Carol Line and Director of Development Elaine Rowland in August.

"Sabrina and I have always wanted to create a place where those who have suffered a loss might find some comfort and peace, a place of remembrance and reflection that is available to everyone," Steve Wickens, of Halbritter Wickens, said in a press release.

Originally a collection of small shrubs recommended for landscape use, the Boxwood Garden includes a border of "Grand Rapids" and "Handsworthy" boxwoods. The entrance features a cedar gazebo marked with motifs of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Inside, beds of shade-tolerant groundcovers border the boxwood hedge.

Fernwood is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org or call (269) 695-6491 for more details.

River Valley Garden Club

Propagating and growing succulents is the topic at the River Valley Garden Club meeting Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich.

The meeting begins at 1 p.m. EST, with a social time and business meeting followed by Donald Heitsch's presentation on succulents at 2 p.m. EST. Guests are welcome.

The club will meet twice in December for a holiday luncheon and to make Christmas arrangements for shut-ins

Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513 or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org for details.

LCA Member/Volunteer Party

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will host a member and volunteer appreciation party from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16.

The event includes hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and live music. Guests can shop the Holiday Artisan Market before it opens to the public, with a 10 percent discount on all items and free gift bagging.

The curated market runs Nov. 17-Jan. 4 and features handmade items from more than 35 different artisans in the Midwest.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for details.

Salute to Business Luncheon

The Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce will host its 15th Annual Salute to Business Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 15, at Heston Hills Event Center, 1933 E. County Road 800 North, Galena Township.

The luncheon begins with registration at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and the presentation at 11:30 a.m. The speaker is Blair Milo, Indiana secretary of career connection and talent.

The event recognizes organizations that made a significant contribution to the community based on longevity, job growth, physical expansion and economic impact. New this year, the chamber will present awards for: Small Business of the Year; Mid-Size Business of the Year; Large Business of the Year; Community Organization of the Year; Two Outstanding Young LaPorteans; Workforce Development Award; and Blue Collar Worker of the Year.

The cost is \$35, or \$30 for members. Call (219) 362-3178 or visit bbpnet.com/x44a for reservations.

Dining with the Stars

South Bend's The History Museum will present "Dining with the Stars," a dinner for tables of eight that celebrates the glamour of films and actors, at 6 p.m. EST Friday, Nov. 9.

Held in conjunction with the exhibit "CUT! Costume and the Cinema," tickets are \$45, or \$40 for members. Reservations can be made at historymuseumSB.org or by calling (574) 235-9664, Ext. 233.

"Cut," which guests can view, features more than 40 costumes worn by actors.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.

The Purdue Years Tour

Staff at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., will explore ways Purdue University once used the mansion during "The Purdue Years Tour" from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9.

Guests will hear reminisces from former students, learn which classes took place and view historic photos. The evening includes venturing into the lower level, as well as a look at how the gardens were transformed during Purdue's time.

The cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per senior or youth. Registration is required through Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5.

Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.

Genealogical Society

William Adams will speak on "Sons of the Union Veterans" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at LaPorte City Parks and Recreation, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

The talk is part of the LaPorte County Genealogical Society meeting, scheduled so because the group typically honors veterans at its November meeting. Guests are welcome.

Visit bbpnet.com/x44b for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 8 — Picture Perfect (Adobe Lightroom editing), 6-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 8-11 — Holiday Market, Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets, Suite 113 & 605/main courtyard. Hours: Nov. 8/5-9 p.m., Nov. 9-11/noon-6 p.m.

Nov. 8-11 — Saw-Whet Owl Banding, 6-7 p.m., nature center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-

Nov. 9 — LaPorte County Association of Realtors' Deserving Children Charity Auction, 5 p.m., Orak Shrine Temple, 3848 N. Frontage Road. Tickets: \$50. Info: www.laportecountyrealtors.com

Nov. 9 — "The Purdue Years Tour," 7-9 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/ adults, \$10/seniors & youth. Registration: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5.

Nov. 9-11 — Songs of Giving Hearts Charity in Concert. Times, locations: www.songsofgivinghearts.org

Nov. 9-15 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Now showing: "Blaze." Rated R. Times: 5:30 p.m. Fri.-Mon. Also: "Lizzie." Rated R. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

Nov. 9-11, 15-18 — "Peter and the Starcatcher," 4th Street Theater, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Times: 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat./3 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: (219) 926-7875, Brown Paper Tickets.

Nov. 10 — "Dr. Who": The Next Chapter, 11 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 10 – Curator-led gallery tour, "Waiting for a Sign," 11 a.m.-noon, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: www.lubeznikcenter. org, (219) 874-4900.

Nov. 10 — Pokemon Go Community Day, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 10 – Upcycle Sewing Class: T-shirt to Pillow Cover, 1:30-3:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 10 - Stargazing Through Telescopes, 5-7 p.m., Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 10 – LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, "Whirlwind Tour of Europe," 6:30 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$18/seniors, \$30/table seats. Children & students with ID/free. Reservations: www.LCSO.net, (219) 362-9020.

Nov. 11 — VETERANS DAY.

Nov. 11 — Film screening, "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Nov. 12 — Veterans Day Film & Talk, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 12 — CoderDojo, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 12 — New Buffalo Library Community Forum, USS Indianapolis, 6 p.m. EST, library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933, newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

Nov. 13 — Intro to 3-D Modeling: Tinkercad, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 13 — Dinner with the League, Save the Dunes Program Manager Cathy Martin, 6 p.m. Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: LWVLaPorte@gmail.com

Nov. 13 — Free Harbor Country Hikers talk, New Buffalo resident Fred Jolly, 6 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

In the Region

Nov. 9 — Unwrapped Concert Series, Peter Bergin, 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Nov. 10 — Hometown Heroes Food Fight, 2-5 p.m. EST, The Weko Beach House, 5301 Lake St., Bridgman, Mich. Tickets: \$10, veterans, active duty military, children 10 & younger/free. Reservations: veteransfoodfight.eventbrite.com

Nov. 10, 17 — Indoor flea markets, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free admission. Info: (773) 803-9773.

Nov. 13 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EST, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: (269) 426-3513.

Support Groups

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

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REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL - RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

Beachwalk Resort at STOP 7 has fully furnished homes, ranging from studio to 5 bedrooms available for monthly rent Sept. 15-May 15. Monthly rates

\$900 to \$2,500, INCLUDES utilities, cable and Internet. Please call (800) 814-7501 or email odessa@beachwalkresort.com for more information.

Artist/artisan/maker co-op studio space for rent in the 600 block of Franklin Street, in the heart of the Uptown Arts District! One additional, working studio available, for a total of four, approximately 290 square feet per studio space, plus 160 square foot shared, retail space. Participate in First Fridays and other shared events. For information, text Carol at (773) 663-8678 or Linda at (219) 743-9595.

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Stop 31. Nicely furn. 3BR, 2BA with 3-season porch. Family room. \$2,100/wk. WiFi. W/D. No smoking/pets. 4-min. walk to beautiful beach. Winter/spring available: \$895/mo+util. Call Pat at (708) 361-8240.

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MCAS Energy Project Honored

Michigan City Area Schools, in partnership with Performance Services Inc., has received a 2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in the Renewable Energy category.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management presented the award Sept. 19 at its 21st Annual Pollution Prevention Conference and Trade Show in Indianapolis.

The MCAS Solar and LED project, completed last December, is the largest for any school district in Indiana and the Midwest to date. It consists of ground-mount photovoltaic arrays and LED lighting upgrades at seven locations: Joy Elementary, Niemann Elementary, Pine Elementary, Barker Middle School, Krueger Middle School, Michigan City High School and the Administration Building.

The solar arrays provide 2.83 megawatts of clean, renewable energy and, in combination with the LED lighting upgrades, offset approximately 52 percent of combined electricity usage at these locations, with expected net energy savings of \$23 million over 30 years. The project is made possible due to Indiana net metering benefits for renewable systems and a guaranteed energy savings project with Performance Services. A companion solar curriculum program developed by the National Energy Education Development project and sponsored by Performance Services is in use in MCAS classrooms across the district.

South Shore Military Special

All veterans can ride the South Shore Line for free through Nov. 9-11 and on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), observed Nov. 12.

As personnel walk through the train, riders should let them know he/she is a veteran or active military personnel. No identification is required. On Nov. 12, trains follow the regular weekday schedule.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Reckoning by John Grisham (hardcover, \$29.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 415 pages)

"Life is full of mysteries and we're not guaranteed the answers." Truer words were never spoken. Sometimes not knowing can be the best answer, because knowing can cause pain and suffering that reach out to many, not just the one...

I am an avowed Grisham groupie, no doubt there.

He is the king of storytelling, especially all the legalese novels he has written that explore the inner workings of the law from every angle.

Grisham's latest is true to form, but from a much different perspective, maybe not the way you would expect. And I loved it. Just when you think Grisham has written his best, he comes up with this astonishing story that goes back to his Ford County, Miss., roots—the scene of his early books—for a tale of love, war, racial inequality, betrayal and the things we do to protect the ones we care for. It covers a lot of territory, yes, but it's well worth the read. Here's why...

One morning in 1946, Pete Banning walks into the office of Dexter Bell, pastor of the Methodist church in Clanton, Miss., and shoots him: two bullets in the

heart, one to the head. Walking back through the church auditorium, Banning approaches the black janitor, Hop Purdue, and tells him to get the sheriff, while he calmly goes back home.

"For most people in Clanton, among the white folks anyway, there was a sense of betrayal. Dexter Bell was popular and highly regarded. Pete Banning was a near-mythical figure. To have one kill the other was such a senseless loss it touched almost everyone. Motive was so incomprehensible that no solid rumor emerged to address it."

The Banning family has farmed cotton for generations in Ford County; they were an old and respected family. All this makes the murder even more unbelievable. Pete will only say he has nothing to say, yet tells his lawyers he will not consider an insanity plea. How do you defend a man who won't defend himself?

Bell had been in Clanton since just before Pearl Harbor. He was a respected man of God, a kind and gentle man, a faithful husband and fine father to his three children. What could he possibly have done to Banning to warrant his death?

The trial, short and to the point, is not an easy one for a jury forced to decide the fate of someone they admire, who is obviously guilty, but gives no reasonable answer as to why he killed the preacher. In the end, Pete is found guilty and sentenced to death in the electric chair.

That's the CliffNotes version, but before Banning's fate is decided, with all its unanswered ques-

tions, we must go back to the beginning to put the pieces of the puzzle in place. Grisham takes us back to a young Banning, a West Point graduate. He served in the Army, married Liza and one day moved back to Clanton to take over the family farm when his father died.

As a reservist, he was called back to active duty after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He received an assignment to go to the Philippines. While there, the Japanese overran the island and he became part of the Bataan Death March, but managed to escape the Japanese, spending the next three years as a guerrilla fighter.

This is where Grisham's writing skills shine like the North Star: I have never read a more moving and heavily researched retelling of the war in the Pacific. The battles to keep the islands out of Japanese

hands, the battle against disease, famine and lack of supplies and the final surrender are told with all the heart-rending reality that marks Grisham's writing

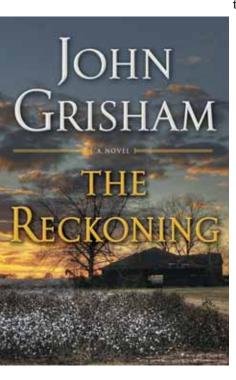
Unfortunately for Banning, the Army reports to Liza that he is missing in action and presumed dead...

No matter how the family grieves, life goes on in Clanton. The two Banning children, Joel and Stella, go to college and Liza remains on the farm. And, one day, three years later, to everyone's surprise, hometown hero Pete Banning is home again...so why do things at the Banning household begin to deteriorate so fast?

Just don't expect the answer of Bell's murder to be an easy one. There are twists and turns in this story that involve many aspects of life in the South during the 1940s. And don't think because Banning was put to death, it is all over for his family.

This is an astounding story that touches on the best and worse of humanity.

Till next time, happy reading!



















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