



Volume 34, Number 21 Thursday, May 31, 2018

A Fitting Honor

by William Halliar

Sunday, May 20, dawned damp and drizzly, with a chill wind blowing from the north. It was a date set aside by the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City to dedicate a new bust commissioned to honor one of Poland's favorite sons: the talented, charismatic patriot, Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

A small crowd, equipped with umbrellas and heavy, early spring attire, made its way through the lush spring foliage of Friendship Botanic Gardens — home for many years of the Polish ethnic gar-



Janusz Duzinkiewicz of Purdue University Northwest speaks about Ignacy Jan Paderewski's accomplishments during the May 20 celebration at Friendship Botanic Gardens. All photos from the event by Paul Kemiell



Dora Natella's new sculpture of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

den — to witness the unveiling of the new bronze bust.

As the appointed hour approached, the clouds began to dissipate and the sun tentatively poked its fiery orb through the mist to shine radiant and warming beams on the heads and shoulders of the gathered crowd.

A program accompanied the unveiling and enhanced the solemn, yet joyous occasion. Mark Kolasa, Polish Heritage Association president, welcomed the attendees and introduced Purdue University Northwest's Janusz Duzinkiewicz, who spoke at length of Paderewski's accomplishments.

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Published and Printed by
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Wendy Wilcox Kermen shared memories of her father, Robert Wilcox, sculptor of the original bust, and recollections of his work as he crafted that terra cotta sculpture.

John Leinweber, Friendship Botanic Gardens president, shared his excitement over the revived Polish ethnic garden and the meaning of the newly dedicated bust.

The ceremony came to a close. The sun broke through the clouds and gleamed from the polished bronze head and flowing wild hair of the renowned Paderewski as the garden and sculpture were blessed by Father Steve Kosinski. Enhancing the mood were melodies of the famed composer, played on keyboard by the talented Ruth Ausema. The plaintive notes of his music, rising and falling in the gentle breeze, added a perfect accompaniment.

The dedication was a fine and fitting honor to Pa-

derewski, the fiery musician and staunch patriot, and a tribute to people of Polish descent in North-west Indiana.

Today, Paderewski is a name familiar to few. Perhaps the occasional historian or connoisseur of obscure classical music might know of him, but the general public is unaware of who he was, and the impact he had on world history.

What's interesting about the May 20 celebration was that it represented the meeting of so many paths and stories, journeys begun many years in the past and uniting to form a new story to inform and inspire.

What are these paths that have crossed, and how can a bronze bust symbolize the union of amazing life journeys? The paths that crossed at the dedication represent people of extraordinary talent, vision and passion, living lives separated by many years and thousands of miles, yet coming together on this special occasion, in this special place.



Father Steve Kosinski blesses the garden with its new bust of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.



Jeanne Houck and Mark Kolasa are two of the many people over the years who have played an important role in the life of the Gardens.

I suppose the story begins with the life of Paderewski himself and ends with the creation of a bronze bust commemorating his life. Then again, as I spoke with Dora Natella, the talented sculptor who created the new bust, I discovered she journeyed in spirit along with the famous statesman and musician as her fingers worked and molded the clay that would become the finished work of art.

Paderewski was born Nov. 18, 1860, to Polish parents in the village of Kurylowka. His father was an administrator on several large estates. His mother died shortly after he was born and in consequence, he was raised by distant relatives.

From an early age, Paderewski was interested in music and took piano lessons. He was admitted to a prestigious conservatory at 12. After graduation, he married a fellow student and began to tutor at the same school. His wife died shortly after childbirth, a heartrending turning point that led Paderewski to a life dedicated to the study of music. A journey, it can only be imagined, to heal his wounded soul.



Wendy Wilcox Kermen helped shed light on the journey her father, Robert, took in creating the first two busts of Ignacy Jan Paderewski.

In 1884, he set out on the course of a virtuoso pianist touring Vienna, the city to which he recently moved, and with great success. Wherever he played,

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he created a great stir, and it was said he was looked upon with “extravagant admiration.” Apparently, Paderewski had great charisma that was reflected in his music. Added to this, it was said he was extremely good looking, with wild red hair. He was the “rock star” of his generation in Europe.

In 1891, he set out on a tour of the United States, where he won additional fame and came in contact with the rich, famous and influential. Paderewski began writing and performing his own compositions. He toured almost tirelessly around the world and was the first to perform a solo performance in America’s famed Carnegie Hall.

Over his lifetime, Paderewski composed many pieces and left a legacy of more than 70 orchestral, instrumental and vocal works. He toured the world for many years and created a \$10,000 trust fund to encourage American-born composers. He became a favorite of concert audiences everywhere he traveled. It is said the ladies especially admired his performances.

By early the 1900s, Paderewski had accomplished a lifetime of achievements, enough for any one man, yet he was not finished. In 1910, speaking in Poland on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the battle of Grunwald, Paderewski proved he was as gifted a speechmaker as he was a pianist and composer. On that occasion, he captured the hearts of his listeners with his passionate delivery without the use of notes.

He was a governmental “outsider” not a part of the partisan quarreling of the time, and this became one of his greatest assets. Paderewski was able to rise above political wrangling and appeal to the higher ideals of his native Poland, those of unity, sacrifice and charity.

During World War I, he became a Polish National Committee member and was selected as a representative of the forces struggling to create a unified state of Poland. In 1919, he was named prime minister of the new independent state of Poland.

In 1922, Paderewski retired from politics and returned to his first love: music. He again toured the U.S. and the world. During one tour in 1941, he became ill and died on June 29 at the age of 80. His body was buried in Warsaw at St. John’s Arch-cathedral. His heart is buried in the United States, his adopted country, encased in a bronze sculpture in the national Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa near Doylestown, Pa.

The second journey at the heart of this story began at the Century of Progress world’s fair of 1933-1934 in the imaginations of the Stauffer brothers: Virgil, Joe and Clarence. This journey was aided by the vision and philanthropic spirit of Dr. Frank Warren and his wife.

While visiting the Chicago World’s Fair, the Warrens were struck by the beauty of the gardens created by the Stauffer brothers, who happened to be Indiana natives. The Warrens wanted to share their dream of an international friendship garden in Michigan City, created and maintained by the brothers, to share with the folks of their hometown.

The Warrens, who were land developers, offered a site near their home to the Stauffers to create a garden with the theme “Peace and Friendship to All Nations.” Nations from around the world were asked to contribute native plants and trees to create individual gardens celebrating each nationality. Many nations contributed flowers and plants, including Holland, Germany and Poland. Paderewski, himself, donated plantings for the Polish garden. International Friendship Gardens officially opened to the public in 1936.

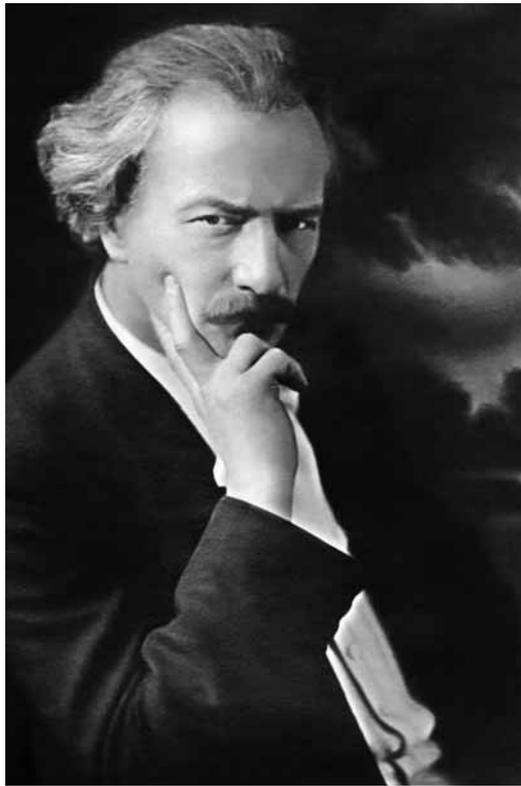


The committee that helped plan the May 20 celebration at Friendship Botanic Gardens.

A third thread of this epic journey began in 1947 with the creation of the Paderewski Club, founded by one Mrs. Kominiarek of St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish as a cultural club for women of Polish decent. The overall goal was to “make the people of Michigan City aware of the talents and abilities of the people of Polish decent in the fields of culture, music and art.”

The club grew in influence and eventually decided a suitable contribution to the newly formed Polish Garden at Friendship Gardens would be a life-sized bust of their club’s namesake. The group organized a raffle to secure funds and hired talented young local artist Robert Wilcox to create a bust in terra cotta, working from photos of the famous musician, composer and politician.

Wilcox adds a fifth line to the journey’s story. He was born in Chicago, but moved to Michigan City with his mother at 9. Early on, his artistic ability became obvious, and he began working as an artist in high school. As



Ignacy Jan Paderewski

an early job, he worked for the Gus Krueger Sign Co. in Michigan City. He studied in Chicago and became versatile at many forms of artistic expression, including sculpture.

Wendy Wilcox Kermen, Robert’s daughter and an accomplished artist in her own right, says of her father that he was “extremely honored to sculpt the bust of Paderewski because of his long association with the Friendship Gardens and with the Stauffer family.” The bust was commissioned in 1948 and dedicated in 1950. It was installed atop an Indiana limestone pedestal that was inscribed with the famous composer’s name.

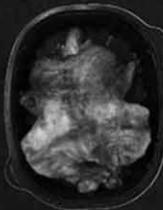
For many years, the terra cotta Paderewski bust stood watch over the Polish Garden, including the original Paderewski plantings.

Then a sixth string of the journey inserted itself abruptly and maliciously into the bust’s storyline.

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A Fitting Honor

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In 1968, a newspaper article posed the question, "Have you seen the terra cotta bust of Ignace Paderewski?" The bust had been missing for two years. It was stolen and vandalized once before and was found in a snowdrift by gardeners in the spring. Where had it gone this time?

The Paderewski Club offered a reward, but when the bust was finally returned, it was found to be in great disrepair. Robert Wilcox was commissioned to create a second bust. He still had the original mold used to cast the first bust, but this time his work of art was to be created with more durable materials. According to his daughter, who witnessed the creation of the second bust, her father cast this sculpture in a polyester resin infused with metal that had the look of bronze, but was "lightweight and much more durable than terra cotta."

The newly created bust was installed and reigned over the Polish Gardens for many years, but in 2002 fate intervened once again, creating yet another twist to the tale. The lightweight bust was designed so it could be removed from its limestone pedestal and stored indoors in winter. In 2002, the gardens suffered two incidents of arson, one of which destroyed the Alaskan Cabin, which unfortunately housed statuary stored for the winter. The "indestructible" Paderewski bust melted in

the conflagration.

Despite the setback, International Friendship Gardens continued to flourish, and the Polish Gardens continued to be maintained and bloom, but the limestone base that once supported Paderewski stood bereft and empty, with only the letters of his name carved into its surface to remind visitors of the great benefactor of Polish tradition.

After the Stauffer brothers retired and passed away, Richard and Jeanne Houck and a board of directors lovingly maintained the old gardens, creating yet another thread in this continuing saga of journeys.

John Leinweber and a new board of directors took up the mantle of leadership at the old gardens (the attraction eventually changed its name to Friendship Botanic Gardens), but the limestone Paderewski pedestal still stood quiet over the Polish Garden.

The Polish Heritage Association began working on the garden and the annual Polish Heritage Festival, which was established six years ago. Association members began replanting the traditional Polish Garden and dreaming of a more beautiful space, including the commissioning of a new likeness of their beloved ancestor, Ignacy Paderewski, to place on the empty pedestal.

After some discussion and fundraising, it was decided a sculptor should be found and a new bust commissioned.



Wherever Ignacy Jan Paderewski played, it is said he created a great stir.

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Enter Dora Natella of South Bend. The sculptor extraordinaire now adds her story to the threads of each journey.

It was from talking with Natella, who embodies all of the passion that is the art of sculpture, that I was inspired by the journeys that have come together to make this garden dedication possible.

Natella told me the new bust embodied a three-year journey. She began to think about Paderewski when first approached by the Polish Heritage Society. She made sketches, collected and studied photographs of the man, read his history and listened to his music. Unbelievably, some recordings of the master himself still exist.

As the Polish Heritage Association debated about cost and materials, Natella began to form a plan. She was struck by the photographs she studied of the man's unruly hair, and of his intent gaze, and she was inspired by the romantic melodies that led her on her own personal journey through music.

Natella knew she would create this sculpture no matter what the association decided, that it must be cast in bronze. If the group did not want the finished sculpture, she would keep it for herself, but she felt compelled to create this work of art. The association had decided on a concrete bust as a cost consideration, but Natella insisted if she was going to do this, it had to be done right.

So, the culmination of the journey of a dozen threads begins as sculptor lays hands to clay, feeling the pliable, supple material between her fingers warmed by the touch of her skin. She manipulates, tweaks, strokes and smooths, pulling and pinching and prodding until the face of Paderewski, himself, comes to life in the damp clay.

The finished clay bust is only the first step in the process that involves making a rubber mold, then a wax impression and using this impression to make a fireproof two-piece mold. Finally, molten metal is poured into the mold, consuming the wax impression. This cools and solidifies as an exact replica of the clay model as a bronze skin 1/8 inch thick. Each step of the painstaking process is checked thoroughly. Her hands made sore and stiff by the work until finally it is complete and the master comes to life, eyes blazing with the passion of his music and his love of Poland.

And now, the journeys of many lifetimes converge, the threads weave a wonderful tapestry. Once again, the great Paderewski will greet visitors to the garden in Michigan City that bears the name of his beloved Poland.



South Bend sculptor Dora Natella embarked on a three-year journey to create the bust that now exists at the garden.

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Ignore the Bad Press: “Solo” is Loads of Fun

by Andrew Tallackson

Well, good golly, they pulled it off.

After months of odious press — fired directors (Phil Lord, Christopher Miller), reshoots, miscast leading man (Alden Ehrenreich) — “Solo: A Star Wars Story” is not the steaming pile of excrement we’ve been prepped to expect.

This is a rousing, wildly enjoyable standalone “Star Wars” picture that, indeed, stands on its own. While the birth of myth no doubt is at play — the origins of scoundrel-smuggler Han Solo — the movie is like a space western cast with extras from “The Sopranos,” diving headfirst into the darker, seedy underbelly of a galaxy far, far away.

Father-and-son duo Lawrence and Jonathan Kasdan may have crafted a clever screenplay, but it is director Ron Howard who makes “Solo” crackle and pop. The Oscar-winner for 2001’s “A Beautiful Mind” was called in as a replacement after Disney sent Lord and Miller (“21 Jump Street”) packing due to “creative differences.” Howard, ironically, has not had a hit since 2006’s “The Da Vinci Code,” but it appears the challenge of patching the holes in a sinking ship invigorated him. The action sequences in “Solo” are some of the franchise’s liveliest, the interludes of humor most welcome.

In a performance that grows on you, Ehrenreich (a bright spot in the Coen-brothers misfire “Hail, Caesar!”) treats Solo as a guy who needs to earn his battle scars before strutting around with Harrison Ford swagger. He’s a “scrumrat” dodging gangsters on the shipbuilding world of Corellia. The dockworkers of “On the Waterfront” would have been at home in this dreary world teaming with lost souls desperate to escape.

Solo is separated from his girlfriend Qi’ra (“Game of Thrones” favorite Emilia Clarke), and three years later, we find him expelled from the Imperial Flight Academy for insubordination and now an infantryman plunked into the heart of battle. Howard stages the combat like a space-age version of “Black Hawk

Down: chaos reigns supreme, the fighting unlike anything we’ve seen in a “Star Wars” picture. And it is here Solo teams up with crooks posing as Imperial soldiers, led by Tobias Beckett (Oscar-nominee Woody Harrelson) and his wife, Val (“Westworld” star Thandie Newton).

The Empire is present, but in the periphery. “Solo” is more interested in the power struggles among the shady elite.

We also learn how Solo met his future copilot, the wookiee Chewbacca. Experiencing the early evolution of these two characters, we’re struck by how the entire “Star Wars” universe is firmly entrenched not only in the “Flash Gordon” serials George Lucas devoured as a child, but also the classic western landscape. Solo and Chewbacca may as well be Butch and Sundance. And when the two join forces with Tobias and Val to steal a shipment of hyperfuel, the heist is the space-age equivalent of a western train robbery, complete with a shootout atop the train cars. Howard paces the action with wit and breathless precision, and with the type of heroic gestures that punctuate this franchise.

When Donald Glover (FX’s “Atlanta”) makes his entrance during a “saloon”

card game as Han Solo frenemy Lando Calrissian, the actor brilliantly channeling the velvety cadence of Billy Dee Williams’ voice, everything about “Solo” firmly snaps into place. The action is brisk and the laughs welcome, all of it barreling toward a gasp-inducing twist near the end.

As a standalone film, “Solo” is less concerned with filling in franchise gaps, as was the case with 2016’s dynamite “Rogue One,” and more content with having fun. Purists and diehards may balk the film has no edge, that it’s Disney-fied “Star Wars.” Keep in mind, any angry tweets by these folk were likely composed while still living in mom and dad’s basement. “Solo” wants only to provide a good time.

It wholeheartedly succeeds.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Alden Ehrenreich stars in “Solo: A Star Wars Story”



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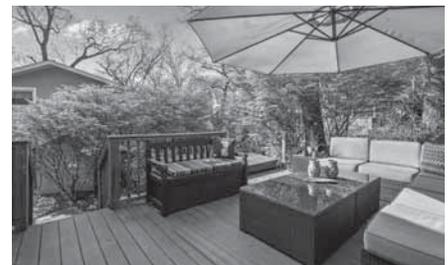
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Strong Cast Makes “Spitfire Grill” a Must-See Musical

by Linda Weigel

One of the best things about this region is experiencing the abundance of creative talent.

Dunes Summer Theatre’s “The Spitfire Grill” affords such an opportunity with a solid cast of experienced actors. From the opening song, “A Ring Around the Moon,” to the rousing “Finale,” the show is one of high energy and solid tonal quality.

“The Spitfire Grill” is based on the 1996 film and set to music by James Valcq and Fred Alley. The director is Steve Scott, recently retired producer at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Jeff Otto is the musical director.

This is a show that deals with many powerful themes, including redemption, compassion, the economic problems of small towns and the stigma and plight of Vietnam veterans. A very contemporary piece, it also deals with female independence, love and second chances.

The cast of strong female characters anchors the show in genuine, honest interactions. Hannah Williams as the lead, Percy Talbott, opens the heartfelt story with a singularly powerful and captivating performance as she imagines life in her idealized town of Gilead, Wis. Miggie Snyder as the postmistress and village gossip Effy brings a bit of comic relief. Jennifer Harlee Mitchell as Caleb’s wife, Shelby, exudes sincerity and inner strength. Eileen Long as the crotchety widow Hannah Ferguson embodies the older proud-and-determined-to-do-it-my-way individual. All four vocalists shine.



Shelby (Jennifer Mitchell, from left), Effy (Miggie Snyder), Hannah (Eileen Long) and Caleb (Jeffrey Baumgartner) look on as Percy (Hannah Williams) sweeps and confesses her dark past. Photo by Andy Neal

Scott Sowinski plays Sheriff Joe Sutter and Percy’s parole officer, who leads her through Gilead to the rundown diner called The Spitfire Grill and the crusty owner, Hannah, persuading her to take on Percy as a waitress. Joe later reveals his dissatisfaction with life in the small town with a solid vocal performance in “This Wide Woods.”

Jeffrey Baumgartner plays Caleb, Shelby’s husband and Hannah’s nephew – a man with many disappointments and without a good job since the quarry closed. As he sings “Digging Stone,” one senses the underlying frustration central to his character.

Of special note is Aaron Jones as Hannah’s war-damaged son Eli as a non-singing, puzzling presence. Eli barely appears during Act I; however by the end of Act II, his silent witness alongside Percy is emotionally powerful and heart-tugging.

The musical accompaniment by Otto on piano, Tom Vienna on guitar, Louis Stahl on violin, Tom Slatton on cello and Garrett Gudeman on keyboard provides the professional backing.

I highly recommend catching this marvelous production, but would caution bringing young children or children any older than high-school age. There are strong, difficult reveals in Act II that may be inappropriate for younger audiences.

Entertaining, powerful, redemptive, “The Spitfire Grill” is a must-see start to the summer season.

(See *Activities on Page 40 for dates, times and ticket prices.*)

Editor’s Note

by Andrew Tallackson

It is a question posed to me since Day 1 of joining *The Beacher*.

Are you going to do play reviews?

It is a fair inquiry. Local theater reviews were my forte the many years I served as entertainment editor in, shall we say, a “past life.”

Thing is, theater reviews pose prickly dilemmas for *The Beacher*. First off, we are a good news publication. If a play stinks, and we say so, a bad review does not gel with our feel-good vibe. Next, we are a weekly. Any play that runs only one weekend or two, a review after the fact does not help achieve a

packed house opening weekend.

But if there is one thing I’ve come to appreciate, it is that our readership has an open mind. So, we are not going to reinvent the wheel, but start with plays that have three-weekend runs. That way, a review impacts two of the show’s three weeks. The reviews will be divvied up between Linda Weigel and myself. These reviews will be honest and fair.

Whether plays with two-weekend runs are reviewed remains to be seen. It also should be noted plays will be reviewed if a reviewer is available.

So, let’s see how this goes.



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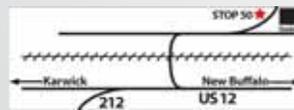
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John Ryszka: A Life In Glass

by Linda Weigel



John Ryszka.

Serious working artists share common impulses, specifically to create, evolve and learn new and challenging techniques.

John Ryszka of The Rising Phoenix Gallery is such an artist. A Rogers High School graduate, he has continued to pursue new and inspiring methods for lampworking in glass. After high school, he began his journey at Vincennes University, where he

studied graphic art and design. Needing an additional elective, he chose a class featuring scientific and decorative glass blowing.

“I immediately fell in love with the medium,” he said. Meeting other glass artists specializing in fiberglass structures and neon strengthened the infatuation.

At the National Neon Institute in Benicia, Calif., he became certified to work with neon, and it was there he was introduced to independent glass blowers and fused glass, including fused architectural studio glass.

Additional classes and workshops followed in Tucson, Mesa and Las Vegas, all the while honing his skills. He continued working with neon and exploring other glass making, eventually becoming a specialist in lampworking. Lampworking, he feels, offers greater precision and finer detail, and is less expensive and safer than working with a furnace and blowing glass.

In 2012, he traveled to Rome and was especially impressed with the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola with its magnificent interior design, especially the

ceiling frescoes of Andrea Pozzo. While standing on a marble disk set into the middle of the nave floor, viewing the overhead panorama of illusionistic floating figures ascending into a bright sky, a rehearsal began with Latin chanting and pulsating music. Such an overwhelming atmosphere of sound, light and color was transformative, inspiring him to “give a lot of thought to the importance of concepts and meanings/purpose in a new body of work.”

Later, he was directed to take a side trip to the island of Murano in Venice, known internationally for magnificent glass works, to visit its Murano Glass Museum. There, he discovered five glass bowls well over 2,000 years old. It was here he “realized that working with material that could push the potential for longevity and be around for centuries” was something he personally wanted to focus on in the future.

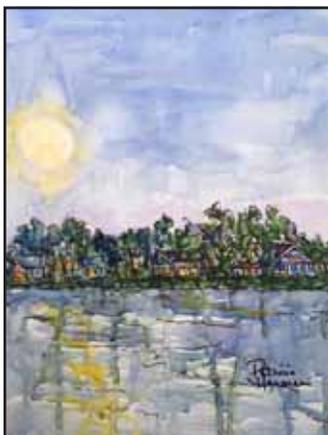
Lampworking allows John to incorporate into his art a purpose and feeling of timelessness inside his creations.



Dichroic glass with a spiral cane inside.

If You Go

The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.risingphxgallery.com for details



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The Rising Phoenix Gallery.

“I really like hiding things within the individual pieces so that the viewer may encounter an interactive experience,” he said. “Beautiful from a distance, yet, as a viewer if you are willing to engage with the work, there are multiple levels of meaning encased one within another – like little worlds ready to be discovered.”

And these little worlds do have multiple levels of meaning. For example: a marble globe may be held by a three-dimensional tree and within the globe is housed a flower. On the flower is a ladybug representing the scale of existence and on the ladybug is a center spot on her back with a yin/yang symbol, “representing the positive and negative charge to the atoms from which we are all built.”

The tree also serves as a symbol for the tree of life or the family tree. The flowers represent new beginnings and a fresh start, the ladybug good luck and the yin/yang symbol balance.

“The scale of one thing to the next is important, too,” he said, “and the stacking of one atop another creates a form of expansion and contraction.”

In 2016, he returned to Michigan City along with his wife, Nora, and two daughters. Nora also is a Michigan City native and an award-winning special education teacher. She runs the Montessori Restore through Etsy online.

By May 2017, The Rising Phoenix Gallery had opened, featuring local and regional fine artists with rotating monthly exhibits, artisan-made gifts, live glass-blowing demonstrations and art instruction. John also offers specialized classes in lamp-working as he continues to evolve and expand his artistic immersion into a life of malleable glass.



Marble with a flower, ladybug and yin-yang symbol.

A pendant.

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Jammin with Save the Dunes Returns to the Lakefront



Tumbleweed Jumpers

The eighth annual Jammin with Save the Dunes returns with music, beer and food from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at Washington Park's Guy Foreman Amphitheater.

The festival draws more than 1,000 people to support the nonprofit Save the Dunes, which protects and restores the region's environment.

This year, Save the Dunes has added an extra hour to the event, as well as additional bands and a second stage. Mr. Blotto, the headliner, will be joined by Robert Rolfe Feddersen, School of Rock-Oak Park, Tumbleweed Jumpers and Clusterpluck.

More than 10 local breweries and wineries will



Clusterpluck

be present, as well as food trucks. Kids Zone hours have been extended from 4 to 8 p.m., with more activities offered, including T-shirt tie-dyeing.

Tickets, which are \$20 in advance, can be purchased at savedunes.org or at Shoreline Brewery. The cost is \$25 at the door. Children 12 and younger are free. All beer is \$5 and comes in a special recyclable cup.

More details are available by contacting Heather Pritchard, Save the Dunes office manager/development assistant, at (219) 879-3564, Ext. 121, or heather@savedunes.org

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“The Drowsy Chaperone”

Footlight Players will debut a new comedy within a musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone,” for a three-weekend run at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The show begins when a lonely “Man in a Chair” (Robert Komendera) addresses the audience while sitting in the darkened theater, waiting for the show to begin. He hopes it will be a good one. The man plays a record of his favorite show, and his one-room apartment becomes the stage of the Morasco Theater in 1928, and an array of bizarre characters.

We meet the Drowsy Chaperone (Kathy Chase), her ward, Janet Van De Graffe (Amanda Sixbury), a big star giving up a life of fame and glamour to marry Robert (Alexander Bonner), who is under the scrutinizing eye of his best man, George (Noel Carlson). This wedding party is being held for no apparent reason at the home of Mrs. Tottendale (Emma Blanchard), which is overseen by her Underling (Emil Cripe).



Joe Blanchard (from left), Kathy Chase and Robert Komendera appear in “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

Janet’s producer, Mr. Feldzieg (Tom LeDonne), and his sidekick and blonde bimbo, Kitty (Sandy Young), are hounded by two gangsters posing as pastry chefs called the Tall Brothers (Penny Russell and Linda Renicker) and an uninvited guest, the King of Romance, Aldolpho (Joe Blanchard).

Adding to the mix are the servants (Abigail Sobus, Crystal Lundstrom-Sobus, Kathi Jones and Jane Ryszka), Trix, the Aviatrix (Debbie Bartholomew) and the apartment superintendent (Gary Bartholomew).

The show is directed by Laura Meyer and assistant director Alayna Lauritsen. Lee Meyer is the music director, with choreography by Denise Bar-kow. Production manager Jan Rice heads a team that includes set designer Floyd Colosky, lighting and sound designers Jim Snyder and Lauritsen, scenic artist Chris Whybrew and stage manager Michele Hyland

Performances are June 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17. Times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. Call the theater at (219) 874-4035 or visit www.footlightplayers.org for reservations.

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Coolspring Elementary School Celebrates a Milestone

Coolspring Elementary School celebrated its 80th anniversary with a special event Friday, May 18.

Coolspring alumni, including *The Beacher's* Drew White, former teachers, current students and staff, and parents attended the event to enjoy and reminisce. Activities included rock painting (rocks will be added to the courtyard garden), face painting, a bounce house, a scavenger hunt based on school history, a display of historic documents and photos in the school library.

Alumni from as far back as the 1940s were present to celebrate at the school, which was designed by John Lloyd Wright, son of Frank Lloyd Wright.

To mark the anniversary, the school also refurbished an old concession stand on the property this year, thanks to a grant from Lowe's. It will be used as an outdoor science classroom.



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Dunes Fun-Raiser, Ribbon Cutting

Dunes Arts Foundation will present its second "Celebration of the Arts FUNraiser" at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores.

Local dignitaries, the DAF board and summer production crew and actors will attend for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the newly renovated resident cabins, new kitchen/green room cabin and fire pit.

Guests can sample food by Fiddlehead, receive one drink ticket and hear music by Debra Sawyer of AhTu, as well as the performance of "The Spitfire Grill," directed by Steve Scott of Goodman Theatre.



Benjamin Rutkowski stands in "The Benjamin," a fire pit he built on his quest to become an Eagle Scout. Photo by Shawn Rutkowski

The fire pit is referred to as "The Benjamin" because it was built by Benjamin Rutkowski on his quest to earn his Eagle Scout badge. Rutkowski organized a building crew, solicited donations for supplies and planned the project from start to finish. His efforts will be honored during the ceremony.

Since last summer, Dunes has undergone major renovations and capital improvements, including box office upgrades, an improved parking lot and scenic shop and updated electricals and lighting. The historic dance room (circa 1940s) is undergoing a major renovations.

The cost is \$50. Visit dunesartsfoundation.org/boxoffice or call (219) 879-7509 for reservations.

Wishing Tree Young Artist Expo

Young artists will showcase their talents during the Fifth Annual Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation Young Artist Expo, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 1, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Now in its fifth year, the expo has delivered music from young violinists, an array of art and dance performances from South Shore Dance Alliance.

"We are so proud of the amazing work our arts partners do with the grants our organization provides," LOK Wishing Tree Founder Dot Kesling said in a press release. "Most of these kids would have no other access to participation in the arts without the help."

The foundation was created after Kesling lost her daughter, Lindsey O'Brien Kesling, in 2010 at 22 to accidental carbon-monoxide poisoning.

"We always knew we would have a dual mission — to continue the work Lindsey was passionate about, helping young kids achieve their creative dreams, and also to prevent others from being harmed or killed by carbon monoxide," Kesling said.

The Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has been a partner since the beginning, awarding several successive community grants for LOK to make more carbon monoxide alarms available to LaPorte

County residents. Recently, other potential supporters have expressed interest, including a local bank, an insurance agent, LaPorte High School, dozens of firefighters and local artists.



Barron

On June 1, Timmy Barron, a performing artist and graduate of Chicago's Second City, will appear as a special guest. Barron previously donated his time to teach an improvisational-theater class to children at a Boys & Girls Club on behalf of LOK.

Visit www.lokwishingtree.org or email info@lokwishingtree.org for additional information.



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Duneland Plein Air Painters Exhibit

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, Duneland Plein Air Painters will showcase recent work through July 1 at Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 1.

Begun in 2008, a handful of Michiana artists met weekly at various locations to paint outdoors. In those days, anywhere from two to five artists would show up to paint. Today, 15 to 20 "regulars" meet every Thursday at designated spots, with email notices reaching more than 70 artists. The painting sessions end with a critique of works of the day. Sessions may be morning, afternoon or evening, and the group paints from spring until late fall. Anyone can join, from professionals to beginners.



Members of Duneland Plein Air Painters meet on Thursdays to paint at designated spots.

SSAA gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com or the SSAA Facebook page for more details.

Donut Eating Contest

In celebration of National Donut Day, The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St., will hold its third annual Donut Eating Contest at 10 a.m. Friday, June 1.

The event pits four teams against each other to see which three-person team can eat the most donuts in 10 minutes. Competing this year are the Michigan City Police Department, Michigan City Fire Department, Michigan City Area Schools and, of course, The Salvation Army.

Returning this year is the solo winner of last year's competition: firefighter Scott Kaletha, who single-handedly ate 15 donuts in 10 minutes to take home the title of 2017 Donut Champion. This year, he will be on a team with fellow firefighters Drew Belue and Nick Pabone.



Kaletha

Team MCPD consists of Assistant Chief Kevin Urbanczyk, Sgt. Ken Drake and Officer Scott Combs. Team MCAS features school board members Beryle Burgwald and Beth Pishkur and transportation manager Dave Hack. Representing Team Salvation Army are the local corps officers, captains Johnny and Kerry Bartsch, and volunteer shelter director Mike McKerverey.

The public can support the team it thinks will win in a raffle. Tickets are \$10, and the grand prize winner is drawn from those supporting the winning team. A runner-up will be drawn from all tickets sold.

The grand prize is a one-month membership for two to Anytime Fitness, including consultation. The runner-up prize is a gift certificate to Blue Chip Casino's Spa Blu.

Ric Federighi of WIMS is the event emcee. Raffle tickets will be sold and donuts made available for those attending.

Proceeds support Salvation Army programs and services, including the food pantry, men's overnight homeless shelter, diaper bank, school uniform exchange, weekend backpack program and utility assistance. Call (219) 874-6885 to buy a raffle ticket or for more information.

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Agency Makes Name Change

Youth Service Bureau Big Brothers Big Sisters of LaPorte County is returning to its roots with a name change that carries with it the potential to serve more children in the community.

Effective at the end of May, the new name is Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County, which the agency called itself when it formed in 1972. The mission today, as it was then, is to provide programs and services to youth and families, specifically delinquency prevention, education, youth development and advocacy.

Better yet, the change allows YSB to participate in a nationwide pilot program that emphasizes positive outcomes for youth at-risk, or at high risk, of entering the juvenile justice system.



YSB Executive Director Steve Bernth sees only great things emerging from the changes.

“The action will help keep more local dollars here to serve local youth,” he said. “We’ll also have more flexibility in how we run the organization.”

In many ways, Bernth continued, the public won’t see any changes in how YSB runs its programs. A child’s safety remains top priority, with mandatory background checks conducted of adults who wish to become mentors. The agency also remains affiliated with Indiana Youth Services Association.

What excites Bernth is participation in the Mentoring+ Mentoring Enhancement Initiative. Through this effort, children and families are viewed as active partners, with parents engaged in program planning and implementation.

“What this does,” Bernth says, “is take what we are already doing one step further by incorporating parent involvement.”

However, Bernth continued, the potential for growth exists.

“Our intent is expansion not only in the schools,” he said, “but potentially into other locations as well.”

YSB will continue its operations at two locations:

- LaPorte — 906 Michigan Ave., (219) 362-9587.
- Michigan City — 228 W. Fourth St., (219) 879-5151.

Contact Bernth at (219) 362-9587, Ext. 104, for more details.



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A yearly tradition, musicians with Michigan City Chamber Music Festival presented a concert May 20 in the Bankoff family home to celebrate friendship, culture and music. It was also a way to thank donors who so generously support the program, making the yearly concert series possible.

It has been my honor to attend this much-anticipated event for the past six years. I look forward to experiencing beautiful music in so fine a setting.

People who are not familiar with chamber music might suppose it is highbrow or snobbish, but that is not the case. Chamber music is simply music written for more intimate settings, and there is not a more perfect venue for such performances than the cozy living room of the Bankoff home here in Michigan City.

“Our American Experience” is the 2018 theme of this year’s festival. American music was born of a wide variety of traditions. From jazz to blues to soaring symphonic melodies, the songs of our history were carried in the hearts of those who traversed vast oceans to make this land their own. Every kind



of musical tradition is encompassed in all that we think of as “Our American Experience.”

More than 55 people were present on this cool spring afternoon in May to enjoy a sampling of all American music played by some of the region’s finest musicians. Barbara Bankoff graciously welcomed everyone to her family home, noting her parents would have been pleased to know their home was being enjoyed by so many friends, and echoing to the strains of such amazing music.

Festival co-founder Nic Orbovich, from his position as first violin, led a quartet consisting of Betsy Varney (second violin), Nora Frisk (viola) and Igor Cetkovic (cello) on an exuberant romp through the history of our nation and featuring some of her most cherished melodies.

We, the audience, sat together almost shoulder to shoulder with the musicians as they played a program that included hymns, tangos, symphonic themes and a smattering of show tunes. We

A Musical Journey

by William Halliar



were taken on a heartfelt tour of American history. In our chests, we could feel the deep vibrations of the cello as Igor’s bow played over well-tuned strings and thrilled to the flying bows of the violins as they flashed high in the air.

As I closed my eyes to concentrate on the music and close out all surrounding distractions, I noticed entranced listeners swaying to the gentle Latin rhythms of a tango. At a pause in the melodic line, the entire audience — and it seemed the house itself — held its breath until the phrase was resumed. With eyes closed, I could imagine all of the beautiful sounds of the universe being played out before our attentive souls.

This concert season featuring the songs of “Our American Experience” will prove to be the most popular in what has become an amazing musical tradition in Michigan City. This yearly festival is a gift from the sponsors and supporters of chamber music in Michigan City, freely given to their friends and neighbors.



As I closed my eyes to concentrate on the music and close out all surrounding distractions, I noticed entranced listeners swaying to the gentle Latin rhythms of a tango. At a pause in the melodic line, the entire audience — and it seemed the house itself — held its breath until the phrase was resumed. With eyes closed, I could imagine all of the beautiful sounds of the universe being played out before our attentive souls.

The series runs Aug. 4-12. Look for a preview this summer of all of the music that will be featured, and plan on attending every concert for your very own musical tour of American history.

(All photos by Paul Kemiel)



FREE Lower Back Pain and Core Strengthening Check-Up Event

June 4th and 5th, 2018

Due to popular request and to help our patients enjoy the summer unhindered by lower back pain, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host a **FREE Lower Back Pain and Core Strengthening Check-Up Event**.

Monday June 4, 2018 at our **Valparaiso office** (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8- next to the Valpo YMCA)

Monday June 4, 2018 at our **Crown Point office** (11055 Broadway, Suite B- south of Tech Credit Union)

Tuesday June 5, 2018 at our **LaPorte office** (1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B-across Route 2 from Walmart)

Tuesday June 5, 2018 at our **Highland office** (2144 45th St- in the Port DeLeau plaza)

During the event, each attendee will receive:

One on one **FREE** consultation time with one of our **Back Pain and Core Strength Specialist** physical therapists.

You will discover tips on how to:

- Know what's causing your back pain and sciatica
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We have 13 **FREE** consultation spots available for each location. To hold your spot, please call **219-202-2500** in Valparaiso; **219-203-3100** in Crown Point; **219-380-0809** in LaPorte; or **219-310-8278** in Highland.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call 219-202-2500 in Valpo; 219-203-3100 in Crown Point; 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-310-8278 in Highland to hold your spot for the FREE Lower Back Pain and Core Strengthening Check-Up Event on June 4th and 5th.



Orthopedic & Balance
Therapy Specialists



Top 5 Core Strengthening Exercises



1. Basic Crunch

1. Lie on your back with your feet on the floor, knees up.
2. Cross your arms over your chest.
3. Tuck your chin up slightly, as if you're gently holding an orange between your chin and your chest.
4. Exhale as you press your navel toward your spine and lift your shoulders off the floor. Hold while you finish the exhale.
5. Inhale to lower your shoulders to the floor, without completely relaxing your abdominal muscles.

Top Tips

- You can put your hands behind your head, but take care not to pull on your neck.
- Keep the movement slow and controlled.
- Remember that it's not a huge movement. Your shoulders will only be lifting a couple of inches off the floor.
- Keep your low back flat against the floor, and keep squeezing your navel down.



Spinal Balance

1. Start on your hands and knees, with your knees below your hips, wrists below your shoulders.
2. Lift your navel slightly to support your low back.
3. Inhale as you stretch your right arm forward and your left leg backward.
4. Exhale as you bring them back to the floor.
5. Repeat on the other side, alternating between right and left for the entire set.

Top Tips

- Lift your leg and arm to the level of your hips.
- Keep your hips even.
- Keep your back strong. Don't arch your back when you lift your limbs.



Side Plank

1. Lie on your side, and bring your elbow to the floor below your shoulder.
2. Straighten your legs and press into the bottom leg to lift your hips off the ground.
3. Hold, then repeat on the other side for the same amount of time.

Top Tips

- Keep your hips directly between your feet and your head, or slightly above.
- You can stack your feet, or bring your top foot to the floor in front of your bottom foot to make it easier to balance.
- For added difficulty, you can lower your hip toward the floor (without letting it touch) as you inhale, and lift the hip on the exhale. Remember to perform this movement slowly and with control.



Bridge

1. Lie on your back with your feet on the floor, knees up.
2. Inhale as you press into your feet to lift your hips off the floor.
3. Exhale to gently lower your hips.

Top Tips

- Keep your toes pointing forward and press the entire foot into the floor.
- When the hips are lifting, your knees should be above your ankles.
- Keep your hips, knees, and ankles in line, so your knees aren't falling open or squeezing toward each other.
- For an extra challenge, you can do the bridge on one leg. Remember to keep your hips even.



Plank

1. Start on your hands and knees.
2. Straighten your legs behind you and lift your knees off the ground.
3. Hold, and keep breathing!

Top Tips

- Keep your hips in line with your ankles and head. A common mistake here is letting the back arch and the hips dip toward the floor.
- Focus on squeezing your navel toward your spine.
- You can also do this exercise on your elbows.

Awareness and Recognition

A convoy of motorcyclists headed to Michigan City's lakefront May 22, part of the National Veterans Awareness Ride from Sacramento to Washington, D.C., that brings awareness and recognition to veterans. The group rode north on Franklin Street

to the Danny Bruce Memorial in Washington Park. After a brief ceremony there, they headed to a dinner at St. Joseph Young Men's Society, 201 Frank-
lin St. A breakfast was held the next morning at American Legion Skwiat Post 451.



All photos by Paul Kemiel



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Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2.**
Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.
- **Angels Among Us at 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 5.**
Ange Benz leads the discussion on inspiring stories about the presence of angels in everyday lives. Call (219) 874-3754 for details.
- **STEAM Ahead Kids: Ozobots at 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 4.**
Program Ozobot robots using color codes and block-based coding with the Ozoblockly app. Advance registration is required. Register at the Youth Services desk. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for more information.
- **STEAM Ahead Kids: Bot Bash! at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 6.**
Play with Sphero robots and meet J.D., the library's programmable humanoid robot that talks, dabs and moonwalks. The program is appropriate for children 5 and older.
- **Summer Reading Program starts June 11.**
Sign up at the Youth Services Desk beginning Monday, June 11. All ages can participate. Any kind of reading counts: books, eBooks, graphic novels, newspapers, magazines, audiobooks, reading aloud to someone else or being read to. The last day to pick up prizes is Saturday, Aug. 4.
- **Poetry SlamCamp 2018 on Monday through Friday, June 18-22.**
This summer marks the camp's seventh year. Aimed at middle-schoolers, the library collaborates with Purdue University Northwest on programming and activities, including writing and performance. Additional details will be announced soon.
Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

PARC Anniversary Bash

PARC, 1713 Franklin St., will throw a 21-and older party to celebrate its one-year anniversary at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 2.

Since its debut, PARC has hosted more than 60 public events ranging from guest lectures and documentary film screenings to workshops, art installations and live music performances. Many organizations, including the Michigan City Social Justice Group, PFLAG LaPorte County and NAACP, regularly use space there.

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Casual Classic Concert Series



Brad Wong and Helen Lukan.

South west Michigan Symphony Orchestra kicks off its summer “Casual Classic Concert” series with “American Sounds” at 6 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 7, at The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, 601 Main St., St. Joseph, Mich.

The concert features works by Aaron Copland, William Grant Still, George Gershwin, Bill Douglas and Leonard Bernstein. The performers include Brad Wong, director of Western Michigan University’s School of Music, and SMSO Principal Pianist Helen Lukan.

Tickets, which are \$35, can be purchased at www.smso.org, by calling the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or at the office, 513 Ship St., St. Joseph. Tickets include a light summer supper and wine.

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series

The 17th season of the Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series kicks off June 6 at Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. All performances are free and at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. The schedule, with more dates announced soon, is:

- June 6 — George Karst.
- June 13 — Kent Jager and his Choristers.
- June 20 — Stephen Schnurr.
- June 27 — Mark Sudeith.

Karst is a composer, researcher, theorist, teacher, singer and musician who is working on his dissertation at Ball State University. His compositions have been played in New York, Chicago, University of Florida, Oberlin and Ball State. His output includes organ music, choral music, chamber music and electronic music.

He directs music at Trinity Episcopal Church, co-directs the Trinity Academy of Music and Fine Arts for young students and teaches at Indiana University Kokomo.

He lives in Michigan City with his wife, Stephanie, and two daughters, Theodora and Zoe.

Also of note, the 1891 Roosevelt Opus 506 tracker organ is in need of a new home. Call Ann Dobie at (219) 608-5358 for details.

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Market on Main

The Westville Area Chamber of Commerce will host the first Market on Main, complete with artisans, crafters and vintage vendors, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 2, along Main Street.

The free all-ages event features more than 40 local artisans and vintage vendors, including jewelry, apparel, vintage wares and handcrafted soap. Restaurants will feature foods and live entertainment.

A 21-and-older craft beer and wine tent sponsored by Four Fathers Brewing is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Burn 'Em Brewing and Misbeehavin' Meads also will serve brews. A \$10 cover charge to enter the tent includes a free pour from a brewery of choice. All cover charges will be donated to Rylee Christianson, a Westville Elementary sixth-grader recovering from a rare form of liver cancer.

An all-ages after party is at Jimmy's Grub & Pub on Main Street immediately after the market. A portion of those sales will be donated to Rylee Christianson.

The event seizes on the air of community spirit generated as the chamber prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year. Visit www.westvillechamber.org or Market on Main on Facebook for more details.

Friendship Botanic Gardens

The following programs are offered through Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12:

• **"Lily-Palooza" plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 3.**

The event features more than 40 daylily varieties, but only 400 plants, so people are encouraged to arrive early. The cost is \$5 per gallon pot, cash and carry.

Steve and Judy Kroczek underwrote the event.

• **Reptile Romp from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 3.**

During the free event, learn about the roles reptiles play in ecosystems through crafts, games and other activities. Live reptiles from Potawatomi Zoo will be present.



Email info@friendshipgardens.org or call (219) 878-9885 for details.

LaPorte County Public Library

The following program is at the main branch of LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.

• **Family Yoga from 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 6.**

Instructor Sarah Hott emphasizes yoga basics and exercise. No previous experience is required.



Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Images of Guatemala Exhibit

“Nick Bridge — Images of Guatemala” runs through June 24, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, June 8, at The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 Broadway.



An example of Nick Bridge's work.

Twice in recent years, Bridge traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, to study Spanish. He took along his sketchbook, drawing pen and water-based paints to capture local color and was inspired by the ancient cobblestone streets, Catholic churches partially in ruins because of earthquakes, and the strong Mayan presence. Returning home from his travels, he found himself unable to cease working with the extensive collection of images he acquired. The exhibit is the resulting images.

Since 1984, Bridge has exhibited his work in a wide variety of shows from New York to California.

NB Library Community Forum

An overview of Michiana's backyard birds marks the next Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, June 5, in the library's Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve Naturalist Wendy Jones will provide identification tips, information on birdsong, best options for attracting birds and catering to their feeding habits.

Upcoming programs include: “Come for to Sing III – A Summer Solstice Hootenanny,” Thursday, June 22; “Andrew Jackson by Tim Moore,” Monday, June 25, and “Icebound Found! The Ordeal of the S.S. Michigan,” Monday, July 9.

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



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Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are through Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.:

• **Framed Pine Cone Flowers from 10 a.m. to noon EDT Saturday, June 2.**

Create a piece of wall art using a recycled frame, pine cones and paint. Take an 8x10 picture frame. All other materials are provided. The cost is \$20, or \$16 for members.

• **Fernwood Photography Club from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, June 3.**

Open to all ages and experience levels, meetings start with a sharing and discussion of recent images shot by club members, followed by a monthly topical program. The program is free with paid Fernwood admission. Contact Bob Denny at bobbenny.fernwood@gmail.com for details.

• **Niles Handweavers Guild from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 6.**

The event features a Hoof to Hanger Wool Mill field trip. Contact Elizabeth Pilley at (269) 697-4003 for details.

• **Summer Yoga from 12:15 to 1:30 and 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. EDT Wednesday, June 6.**

All levels are welcome, with the class incorporating yang (energetic movement) and yin (restorative) poses. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit www.fernwoodbotanical.org for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will replace water and sewer lines, and create a new streetscape.

With construction in the final weeks, most of the roadway within project limits will be closed to through traffic. Intermittent sidewalk closures will be necessary. Abonmarche will work with residents and businesses, to the extent feasible, to minimize disruptions.

Question: What are the plans for the downtown opening celebration?

Answer: The celebration is at 3:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, June 14, starting at the newly installed Pokagon sculpture at Whittaker and Mechanic streets, then proceeding to Merchant Street.

In addition to the leaders' remarks, the festivities will include a marching band, songs and free small bites and beverages. Afterward, the annual farmer's market will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. EDT at its new Whittaker Street location.

Pop Up Tours

Historic sites in Michigan City will become museums for one night during Barker Mansion's newest effort: pop up tours.

Through partnerships with area institutions, guests will experience an insider's look at significant structures that feature connections to the mansion's legacy.

A June 2 tour features the Trinity Episcopal Church Bishop's Mansion. The Franklin Street residence was funded by Katherine Barker, wife of freight-car industrialist John Barker. It was closed to the public for decades while being used as a pastor's residence. Now unoccupied, the mansion is full of stories and details. The group will depart from Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., at 7 p.m. and walk to the Bishop's Mansion. Heritage Interpreter T.J. Kalin will point out significant architectural sites during the short walk.

The next tour highlights St. Mary the Immaculate Conception. The July 7 event meets at 7 p.m. at Barker Mansion, with participants led through the Haskell and Barker Historic District, where Kalin will detail significant structures and share stories of factory life. Upon arrival at St. Mary's, church historian Pat Harris will offer a tour highlighting the stained-glass windows, Alfonso Iannelli altar and Stations of the Cross. The altar and Stations were purchased by Catherine Barker in memory of her mother.

The last tour is at 7 p.m. Aug. 4. Participants meet at Barker House, which houses Save the Dunes (444 Barker Road near Barker Middle School). The group will explore the main house and outbuildings, which include a dance hall and carriage house. The Barker connection will be highlighted, including which family members lived in the home and when.

Each tour costs \$10 per adult and \$5 per senior or youth. The price includes a voucher for a free mansion tour valued at \$8. Proceeds will be split between Barker Mansion and the featured organization each month. Registration is required through Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5.



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Friends of NB Library Brick Sale

The Friends of New Buffalo Library, due to popular demand, will sell a limited number of commemorative bricks until all are gone or by the June 30 deadline.

The inscribed bricks will be installed in the main entrance walkway.

Order forms are available at the Friends of the Library used book counter at the library, 33 N. Thompson St. Forms may be submitted at the main desk or online following directions on the form.

The cost is \$50 for 4-by-8-inch bricks for up to three lines and \$100 for 8-by-8-inch bricks for up to six lines. Each line has a maximum of 18 characters, including spaces and punctuation.

A lottery selection process determines the placement of bricks.

Funds raised assist special library needs and community programs.

Brew at the Zoo

Washington Park Zoo combines beer, wine, food and views of the animals during its Brew at the Zoo fundraiser.

The annual event is from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Visitors can wander the zoo and stop at food and drink stations. Breweries include Burn 'Em, Zorn Brew Works and 10-56. Restaurants include Patrick's Grille, Arturo's Baked Goods & More, Mathey's and Quality Beet.

The \$50 ticket price includes entry, food, drinks and a commemorative glass. A limited number of tickets are sold for the 21-and-older event. A \$15 designated driver ticket includes free soft drinks and food tastings.

Tickets will be available at the zoo, or visit www.washingtonparkzoo.com



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.

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.

Joyful Movement, "Shake, Rattle and Move"

The 45-minute, low-impact mindfulness program starts at 7:45 a.m. and meets at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Dates are:

- June 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27.
- July 9, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30.
- Aug. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29.

The free program is self-paced and ideal for all ages. Participants can sit or stand. The emphasis is stretching, meditation, heart pumping and balance.

Call one week in advance of each date.

Kids Fishing Fun Day

Families are invited to the free event from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 2, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The morning of catch-and-release fishing, co-sponsored by Northwest Indiana Steelheaders, is at Luhr Park Pond. A limited number of bait and poles are available. No pre-registration is required. Hot dogs will be served.

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. June 4 and 18, July 9 and 23, and Aug. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- June 6 — "Mixing Medicine," over the counter do's and don'ts, pharmacist Jeremy Blosser.
- July 11 — "Diabetes Awareness and Sugar Glucose" with Clarise Largen of IU Health LaPorte Hospital.
- Aug. 1 — "Meditation, Relaxation and Chair Yoga" with Danielle Kessler of The Crossing Wellness Center
- Sept. 12 — Putting Your Garden to Rest for the Season with Gee-Burns.

LBCC Women's Golf Leagues

18-Hole League



May 22, 2018

Event: Low Net Odd Holes

"A" Flight

Low Gross:	Melanie Davis
Low Net:	Eunie Nondorf
Low Putts:	Cindy Levy

"B" Flight

Event:	Claudia Brennan
--------	-----------------

"C" Flight

Event:	Susan Keeley
Low Gross:	Rima Binder
Low Net:	Mary Weithers
Low Putts:	Tina Sonderby

Sunken Approach

Cindy Levy	Hole 10
Melanie Davis	Hole 10
Claudia Brennan	Hole 16
Susan Keeley	Hole 10

Birdies

Cindy Levy	Hole 10
Cindy Levy	Hole 12

Citizenship Classes

Four 10-week sessions to help people from other language backgrounds pass the citizenship test are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave.

There is no charge for the classes or materials.

Citizenship Passing the Test workbooks from New Readers Press will be used. The first session focuses on literacy skills, the second on civics and literacy, the third and fourth on "Ready for the Interview."

The classes, sponsored by READ LaPorte County Inc. , are taught by Cathy Eldridge, a former French and English as a Second Language teacher.

Funding hails from a Dollar General Literacy Foundation grant, with additional support from United Way and Bethany Lutheran Church of La Porte Foundation Inc.

Email mhedge8@comcast.net for details.

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

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1237 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City, 3-7 p.m. Thursday, May 31.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 3.

Donate and receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card courtesy of Suburban Propane. 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.

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JROTC Awards Ceremony

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted its annual awards ceremony May 16 at the high school.

Representatives from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Officers Association of America, Marine Corps League, Daughters of the American Revolution and Scottish Rite attended and presented their awards.

The recipients were:

- Gunnery sergeants Danny Walker and Griffin Williams, who received the Marine Corps League medal for superior Drill Team performance.
- Gunnery Sgt. Haley Williams and Staff Sgt. Thomas Mizer, who received the VFW medal for superior dedication.
- Gunnery Sgt. Zach Benedict, who received the MOAA award for most community service hours.
- Cpl. Jessica Wilhelm, who received the DAR Medal as the best first-year cadet on the Drill Team.
- 1st Lt. Tyler Stockley and Cpl. Julia Ringstad, who received the American Legion Military Excellence medal.
- Sgt. Damian Albusu, who received the American Legion Scholastic Achievement medal.
- Sgt. Stefen Glade, who received the Scottish Rite Medal for his work on the Drill and Cyber Patriot teams.



Cpl. Jessica Wilhelm receives the Daughters of the American Revolution medal from Luanne Long of the LaPorte County DAR chapter.

The following cadets also received awards:

- Staff Sgt. Connor Gresser, who received the Sons of the American Revolution for over-all dedication.
- Staff Sgt. Gretchen Szabo, who received the Woman Marine Association medal for extraordinary administrative support.

Many other cadets earned awards for participation in extracurricular activities, such as community service and the drill, rifle and Cyber Patriot teams. The ceremony concluded by honoring the three graduating seniors.

Cadets participated in numerous Memorial Day activities. The week after school ends, they will attend a week-long leadership camp in Wisconsin. Community support will continue during the summer, including parades and events.

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Shirley Heinze Bus Tour

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host an educational bus tour of its nature preserves from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9.

During the ride, staff, board members and guest speakers, including Erin Argyilan, Indiana University Northwest geosciences professor, will provide insights on land conservation and Northwest Indiana's ecology, geology and history.

Ten of the organization's nature preserves are included on the tour through Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. The bus will make brief stops at five preserves.

The bus departs promptly at 8 a.m. from Meadowbrook Conservation Center and Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso. It heads west to Ivanhoe South Nature Preserve in Gary for a short hike. The 50-acre property features globally rare dune and swale topography. The black oak savanna natural community there has been significantly restored.

The bus will travel south to the Hobart Marsh conservation area. On the way, passengers will pass by nature preserves located near Interstate 65, including Hidden Prairie/Ivory Wetlands on the west, and Brinson/Bock Higgins prairies to the east. The bus will stop for a short hike at Bur Oak Woods, which features a rare bur oak savanna natural community, with trees that are several hundred years old. Another brief hike is planned at Cressmoor Prairie to learn about restoration work there.

The bus then will travel back to Meadowbrook for lunch in the lodge.

The tour's afternoon portion focuses on preserves in Porter and LaPorte counties. Along the way, participants will hear about the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor project, and the restoration and public-access improvements being performed at preserves along the river. The bus will drive past Wykes-Plampin Nature Preserve in Chesterton, and stop for a brief hike at the 165-acre Dale B. Engquist Nature Preserve, located along the Little Calumet River adjacent to Heron Rookery. From there, the bus will head to Ambler Flatwoods in Michigan City for a brief stop.

On the final leg of the tour, the bus will take a scenic drive through the Great Marsh in Beverly Shores and make a brief stop at the Great Marsh Trail. Herons, egrets and sandhill cranes often can be seen at this wetland-restoration area. The tour returns to Meadowbrook at 3:30 p.m.

The \$40 cost includes lunch. Reservations are required by calling (219) 242-8558 by Monday, June 4. Payment must be made in advance. Seating is limited, so early reservations are advised. The bus is restroom equipped.

Visit www.heinzetrust.org or www.facebook.com/heinzetrust for more details.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Career Center's Modernized Manufacturing Lab

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program held a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 22 to celebrate a renovated manufacturing lab at the A.K. Smith Career Center.

The event marked the installation of two Computer Numerically Controlled Haas milling machines, donated by the Arconic Foundation and Urschel Laboratories. The machines complement a third CNC machine installed in 2016 and donated by the Morgan Family Foundation.

LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Director Audra Peterson said the modernization facilitates an expansion of dual credit, certification and training opportunities for Advanced Manufacturing and Machining students. The lab also is used in partnership with Purdue University Northwest engineering programs.

"We will now be able to do more cross training between the welding and manufacturing classes," Peterson said in a press release, "and expose students to hydraulics and pneumatics, skills that have been identified by our business partners."

A design center in the renovated classroom is equipped with computers, a 3-D printer and simulators that enable students to learn to code the new CNC machines. Manufacturing Technology Instructor Chris Smith received additional training



Michigan City High School senior Nicole Ginther operates the new Haas CNC machine as Manufacturing Technology instructor Chris Smith looks on.

through Ivy Tech to operate the new equipment and expand dual-credit offerings for students.

Jason Martin, Urschel Laboratories executive director of plant operations, said the donation of the CNC machine is part of an ongoing relationship between his company and the LaPorte County CTE program, which places high school student interns at Urschel each spring.

"We have some very fine students coming through our facility as a result," he said.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, students demonstrated the new CNC machines and led tours of the manufacturing lab for community and business leaders. Among the special guests present were State Sen. Mike Bohacek and State Rep. Jim Pressel, as well as a representative from State Sen. Todd Young.



South Central High School senior Mike Welsh (right) demonstrates the new Haas CNC milling machine as Michigan City High School senior Nicole Ginther and Charlie Keene, Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce board president, look on.



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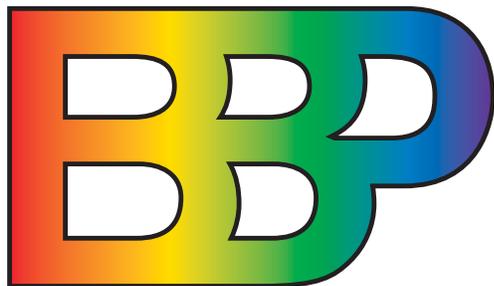
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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

June 1 — Third annual Donut Eating Contest, 10 a.m., The Salvation Army, 1201 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-6885.

June 1 — Jonah Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road. Cost: \$10/adults 13 & older, family bucket/\$30.

June 1 — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

June 1 — Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation Young Artist Expo, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lokwishingtree.org

June 1 — Opening reception, Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit, 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

June 1 — "En Plein Air" exhibit debut (First Friday), 5-8 p.m., The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St.

June 1 — Fiber artist Suzy Vance (First Friday), 5-8 p.m., SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St.

June 1 — Local artist Esther Lundmark, Lundmark Studios (First Friday), 5-8 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

June 1-4 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Journey's End." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also Showing:* "Finding Your Feet." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

June 1-10 — "The Spitfire Grill," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$18/general admission, \$15/students & seniors. Info/tickets: dunesartsfoundation.org, (219) 879-7509.

June 1-3, 7-10 — "Parade," 4th Street Theater, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Times: 8 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$20. Reservations: (219) 926-7875, Brown Paper Tickets online.

June 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17 — "The Drowsy Chaperone," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/12 & younger. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

June 2 — Westville Area Chamber of Commerce Market on Main, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Main Street. Free. Info: www.westvillechamber.org

June 2 — National Trails Day — High Dunes Hike, 10-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

June 2 — Kids Fishing Fun Day, 9-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Info: (219) 325-8315

June 2 — Professor Steve presents "The Science of Frankenstein," 1-2 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

June 2 — Jammin with Save the Dunes, 4-10 p.m., Washington Park's Guy Foreman Amphitheater. Tickets: \$20/advance @ savedunes.org, Shoreline Brewery. @ door: \$25, free/children 12 & younger. Reservations/info: savedunes.org

June 2 — Pop Up Tour: (Bishop's Mansion), 7-9 p.m., starts @ Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/seniors & youth. Registration: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5.

June 2 — Acorn Showcase, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

June 3 — "Lily-Palooza" plant sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Info: info@friendshipgardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

June 3 — Reptile Romp, 2-4 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Free. Info: info@friendshipgardens.org, (219) 878-9885.

June 4 — Popular Books, Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

June 4 — STEAM Ahead Kids: Ozobots, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 5 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Community Forum, birding, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

June 6 — STEAM Ahead Kids: Bot Bash!, 11 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

June 6 — Roosevelt Pipe Organ Series, George Karst, 12:15 p.m., Christ Church (the former First Congregationalist Church), 531 Washington St. Free. Info: (219) 608-5358.

Through June 4 — "Nick Bridge — Images of Guatemala," Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 Broadway. Reception: 5-7 p.m. June 8.

Saturdays — St. Stanislaus of Michigan City farmers market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through Oct. 27, parking lot next to tennis courts. Info: ssmcfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (219) 851-1785.

Saturdays — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Eighth and Washington streets. Through October.

Saturdays — La Porte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe. Info: www.facebook.com/laportefarmersmarket

In the Region

June 2 — Framed Pine cone Flowers, 10 a.m.-noon EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$20, \$16/members. Info: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Through Aug. 5 — "New Acquisitions: Selections from the Permanent Collection," Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art. Summer hours: noon-5 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: (219) 464-5276.

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Barker Career Week

Barker Middle School held the fourth annual eighth-grade Career Week on May 7-11.

Amy Hamann, curriculum and STEM coach, coordinates the events. Students experienced mock interviews, completing job applications, resume writing, career ethics games, researching careers in content fields, and highlighting careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math).

Opening speakers on the first day were former Barker students Kenny Smith, business owner and artist, and Lane Van Sickle, a nurse and volunteer firefighter.



Students listen to Michigan City Animal Hospital Veterinarian Technician Kim Winland.

Mid-week featured Career Guest Speaker Day in which students chose three sessions to attend based on their interest. Guest speakers included: CPA's Applegate & Co., Meghan Applegate and Blake Applegate; Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Derrick Beamer; LaPorte County EMS, Anji Miller; Sullair Corp. engineers Heather Mitchell and Luke Fredenburg; Hirsch Photography, Bruce Hirsch; Michigan City Fire Department, Tony Drzewiecki; Michigan City Police Department, Det. Jillian Ashley and Col. Greg Radiger; military careers, Maj. Tom McGrath; Ott/Haverstock Funeral Home, Pat Reynolds; Michigan City Animal Hospital Veterinarian Technician Kim Winland; and welders from A.K. Smith Career Center, Mandy Cannan and Keyon Donaldson.

Thursday was Job Shadow/Job Tour Day. Students went to work with relatives or signed up for a job tour. Students created a job shadow slide show about their experience.

Hosting job tours were A.K. Smith Career & Technical Education Center, Michigan City Police Department and Purdue University Northwest's engineering department.

The closing speaker was Audra Peterson, A.K. Smith Career & Technical Education Center director.

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Historian of the Year Awards

Several individuals were honored during the 2018 Historian of the Year awards, held at the May 15 LaPorte County Historical Society meeting.

The rules honor one current individual, one past individual and one organization involved in preserving LaPorte County history. Nominations are received for current and past individuals.

Mary Hedge, honored as a current individual, was nominated by Bruce Johnson. She is a LaPorte County Public Library reference librarian and longtime LaPorte resident. She presents programs regarding houses and other historically oriented programs perpetuating the city's history. She responds to requests at the library regarding local history and genealogy. She furnishes items to *The Herald-Argus* for its daily column, "Today in History" and for www.whatsnewporte.com titled "Moments in Time." She also helps manage and locate materials for the library's Indiana Room.



Hedge

The past individual honored was Madeline Kinney. She served as museum curator when it was located in the courthouse basement, then in LaPorte County Complex. Robert Cutler Jr., her grandson, accepted the award. He noted her avid interest in history and accomplishments during her tenure as curator and historical society board member.

A special award — a life membership — went to Peter and Charlene Kesling. Johnson read a tribute in which he elaborated on the numerous activities in which the Keslings have been involved to preserve local history, including: the bay windows from the Lonn building, the Grafton murals, continual maintenance of the nine-sided Door Prairie barn, the display of antique automobiles, a home for LaPorte County Historical Society and its museum, and most recently a major grant from the Kesling Foundation so the society can make major repairs.

Heritage Arts and Crafts Fair

The Civil War Days in Three Oaks Committee is seeking crafters to participate in the Heritage Arts and Crafts Fair.

Spaces are available in Dewey Cannon Park, 14 Maple Street, on Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28. Crafts such as sewing, quilts, knitting, soap, candles and shawls are welcome. Participants may display and sell goods, and demonstrate skills.

Fees are \$20 for one day or \$30 for both days. Vendors must provide a tent, tables and chairs. The registration deadline is Saturday, July 14.

Email cwinthreeoaks@yahoo.com for more information, or find the registration form at civilwardaysthreeoaks.jimdo.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applica-
tions for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Private family summer resort in New Buffalo looking to hire season-
al short order cook to work in canteen for lunch and evenings.

Split shift hours are:

Fridays: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 7-11:30 p.m.

Sundays: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 5-8:30 p.m.

Labor Day for cleaning and shutdown for season.

This is a seasonal job beginning the week of June 18 through
Labor Day, Sept. 3. Responsibilities/duties include: taking customer
orders, cooking on a grill, getting orders out in a timely fashion using a
fryer, using a pizza oven, keeping an orderly work area, cleaning work
space regularly, cleaning grill and fryers regularly, food prep, knowledge
of basic kitchen safety and sanitation

Compensation based on experience.

Email if interested: mmmdivorak@gmail.com

PRIVATE FAMILY RESORT (NEW BUFFALO) HAS OPENINGS

Kitchen positions – Seasonal - no experience necessary!!! Part time. Hard-
working seasonal kitchen staff/food servers and dish/pot washers to work any
Fri., Sat., Sun. breakfasts and/or dinners at private family summer resort.

Seasonal jobs beginning the week of June 18 through Labor Day, Sept. 3

No experience required. Possibility of working from 5 to 25 hours a weekend.

Responsibilities/duties can include: cleaning, food prep, working with a dish
machine, pot and pan washing and serving patrons in a dining room setting.

Email if interested: mmmdivorak@gmail.com

Looking for a summer or permanent part-time job? 12-20 hours per
week. We will train. Please stop in to Top Dog (Seventh/Washington)
between 10:30 and 11 a.m. or 1:30 and 4 p.m. any day except
Tuesday to apply. Ask for Tabi.

Looking for part-time, reliable, dependable cleaning lady. Must have
a car, experience a plus. Call Rita after 9 a.m. at (219) 878-9311 or
(630) 596-6119.

FOR SALE

87 Regal Sebring Inboard 195-XL & trailer, 2 new batteries, runs great.
\$700. Waterskies and 2 tow toys negotiable. (708) 212-1637.

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We also buy all kinds of jewelry, costume, fine, sterling flatware. Call
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WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys,
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ently locate in Long Beach, Shoreland Hills or contiguous areas. We're in
the market for a 3/2 home, approx. 1,500-1,900 sq. ft., central A/C & heat,
basement (unfinished OK) and convenient two-car garage. Single level is
preferable; multi level with main level master & bath would be considered.
Presently living out-of-state, but have local contacts who can view proper-
ties and notify us in order to travel there. We can be flexible in arranging a
lease-back if someone wants to sell, but isn't really ready to immediately
move. If this indicates potential, we would like to hear from you!

Andrew & Mary: (541) 488-6968, (559) 917-3108

(drewsky51@gmail.com)

REAL ESTATE**RENTALS INDIANA**

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.

Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among
\$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basket-
ball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$775, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no
pets. (312) 399-5341.

BIG BEAUTIFUL BEACH HOUSE: LB summer rental (July-Aug.)

½ block from lake. 4BR/1BA. Make us an offer we can't refuse.

Call (219) 210-1181.

Stop 31: Renovated 2 BR/1BA ranch within walking distance to private beach. Avail May 15-Oct. 15 \$200/nt; 3-nt min; Oct 15-May 15, 2019: \$825/mo.+utilities. **Contact cmppsusan@gmail.com**

Long Beach monthly rental starts early July. Close to beach. 3BR/2 ½BA. Quiet street. VRBO listing 188146. **(404) 406-3379**

Sheridan Beach Annual Rental

Cozy, 3BR beach cottage. 3 blocks to lake. Off-street parking, stove, fridge. Recently remodeled. Yard work handled by owner. \$975 a month+utilities. Credit check. No pets. **Available 6/1. Call (219) 363-6818**

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUM WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL IN THE SHORES! 2BR/2.5BA/main-floor den, at 2210 Bayview Drive. \$224,500. Sale by owner. Household items, furniture items available by appointment. **(219) 393-4609.**

Michiana Shores building site, for sale by owner. Close to lake. Easy build lot. Perk-test completed. Great neighborhood. South Sun! Asking \$129,000. **Call (219) 878-1608.**

GORGEOUS LAKEFRONT BUILDING SITE - BEVERLY SHORES
Remarkable opportunity to own a piece of paradise on Lake Michigan dunes with exquisite views of sunsets and the Chicago skyline, 150 feet of frontage direct across from the beautiful beaches of Beverly Shores on West Lake Front Drive. Property includes a 50 foot wide lot rear access from Fairwater Ave. \$499,900. **Call Sheryl Doll-Lewis REMAX 1st for more information. (219) 362-9400 or (219) 617-1920**

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following program is available:

• **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

Explore Miller Woods, build a fort, climb a tree, create nature art and feed the resident fish, turtles, snakes, toads and frogs. Dress for the weather.



• **Public comment sought.**

The National Park Service has available for review the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for Pinhook Bog debris removal.

The equivalent to an Environmental Assessment, the EE/CA includes cost and engineering scoping for removing the debris and residual contaminants.

The EE/CA is located on the NPS's Planning, Environment and Public Comment website. It is available for review and comment through June 18. Visit parkplanning.nps.gov/INDUPinhookBog for access and instructions on how to submit comments.

Contact Project Leader Jim Conroy at (402) 661-1708 or jim_conroy@nps.gov for more details.

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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

• **National Trails Day — High Dunes Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 2.**

Meet a naturalist at the nature center for the one-hour trek to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes.

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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, June 2, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime (while supplies last) and make a freckled strawberry to celebrate June's favorite fruit.

• **Professor Steve presents "The Science of Frankenstein" from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Professor Steve will demonstrate many of the concepts found in the book and movies, including light, anatomy and electricity. The event is best suited for children 5 and older and their caregivers. All attendees must have a free ticket, available at Thomas and Hageman libraries, to attend.

• **Chesteron Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays, June 3, July 1 and Aug. 5, at Thomas Library.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, June 4, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express."

• **The Messier The Better for 9-30 Months at 10 a.m. Tuesdays at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The May 29 program focuses on sponge painting. Dress to get messy and head outside.

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, June 5, July 3 and Aug. 2, at Hageman Library.**

Registration can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-9080.

• **Bits & Bytes series, Android: Part 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 5, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 7, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Tween Dance Craft Revolution for children 8-12 on Wednesdays.**

Each week, participants create a craft and learn a dance or game from a different period in music history. The schedule is: June 6, 3 p.m., Hageman, the 1960s; June 13, 3 p.m., Hageman, the Disco era; June 20, 6 p.m., Thomas Children's Department, the 1980s; June 27, 6 p.m., Thomas, music of today; July 11, 3 p.m., Hageman, country-western. Registration is required. Call (219) 926-7696.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 6 and 20, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed. Parents are welcome, but required for youth 10 and younger.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

This week, I offer two books that show the talent and imagination of authors from our community. Both are about gifts — turns out, giving *and* receiving gifts are a lot more complicated than we thought. After we've sifted through all the nuances of the subject, you will find these books have lowered your blood pressure and brought a smile to your face...I guarantee it!

Best of All Gifts by Sheila M. Cronin (*oversize paperback, \$16 (Barnes & Noble or Amazon) online; also available as an eBook for \$2.99 through Amazon*)

What is the “best of all gifts?” We give gifts for many occasions — happy and sad. We give gifts for weddings, graduations, baby and wedding showers, birthdays and sad occasions like funerals. But are our gifts always altruistic? Do we sometimes give gifts, even unconsciously, with ourselves in mind? It's possible...and an interesting question for a woman writing a dissertation...

Life is good. Well, mostly. Jonquil Bloom still hasn't forgiven her father for disappearing when she was only 8. What she didn't know was that her dad, returning from the Korean War, suffered greatly from PTSD. One day, coming home from a business convention, something happened...he never made it home. But could he still be alive somewhere? Jonquil didn't consider something might have happened to her father. She thought he just walked away from his wife and daughter.

Jonquil is 34 now, a widow and mother to a 10-year-old son, Billie. She has a sort-of boyfriend — more of a boyfriend, less than a fiancée — Claude Chappel. Jonquil can't seem to commit to Claude... Or maybe it's because she still holds the memory of her husband, Gerald O'Keeffe, close to her heart. He died in a house fire.

She can't think about her father or her love life right now. She has this paper to write. She is trying to complete her doctorate in psychology with a dissertation about the “*psychodynamics of gift giving*.” To that end, she has taken on a job at Clyde's Department Store as a gift counselor.

She hands out questionnaires for the customers to answer. The responses to these questions and the stats they provide, along with her experiences at the store, will be the meat of her dissertation. She finds she has a talent for helping people with their gifting questions. Of course, the store wants her to suggest items from their many departments, but

Jonquil discovers that isn't always what the customer needs to hear. She has come across some very interesting gift problems to solve!

Then there's the matter of her thesis advisor who's just too good looking, and at the store, she has been assigned an assistant, one she didn't want, who seems hellbent on constantly rubbing her the wrong way. But the moment her heart stops is when Billie awakens and says he can't see...a mother's worst nightmare...

How will it all resolve itself? Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and Jonquil must hold it together for herself and her son.

I found Jonquil to be a strong character, a woman on her own who manages to keep going no matter what. Other characters in the book reflect people we have all met along life's way — lovable, funny, helpful, some that set your teeth on edge.

All in all, a relaxing, entertaining and thoughtful read.

Consider — Maybe the best of all gifts is not one you can touch with your hands, but the one that touches your heart.

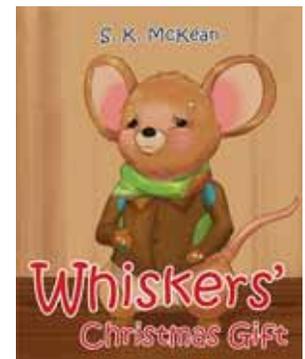
Whiskers' Christmas Gift by S.K. McKean (*oversize softcover, \$12.95 at Barnes & Noble or Amazon; also available as an eBook from Amazon for \$9.99*)

*“Once upon a time,
In an old and empty house
Lived a little mouse called Whiskers,
And his Mama, Mrs. Mouse.”*

From that first verse, you and your child will be captivated by this tale of a tiny mouse who knows Christmas is coming and only wants one thing — a gift for his hardworking mother. They are so poor, but Whiskers only thinks of his mama and making her happy. Whiskers goes on a quest to find Santa Claus and hopes he can make his wish come true. Will Santa listen to such a little mouse?

The drawings are enchanting and colorful, and convey the story beautifully — Whiskers in his patched coat and mittens, and mama in her cap, sitting and sewing on her rocking chair. The rhyming story will appeal to your little ones as you read out loud, and the older ones beginning to read on their own. The message is loud and clear, one that applies all year long, not just at Christmas — “...we receive but what we give.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Till next time, happy reading!





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