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Fostering Greatness

by Linda Weigel

“Art is a universal language and through it each nation makes its own unique contribution to the culture of mankind.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower



The cast of “Working” rehearses at Dunes Summer Theatre, which benefits from IAC support.

The buzz was palpable as people began exiting the theater. A lot of happy faces, and they were not alone. A smile must have been on my face, because a woman nearby glanced up and immediately smiled back, establishing a connection. What a great show and, oh, how happy we were to have seen it.

“Working” was one of several outstanding productions this past season at Dunes Summer Theatre in Michiana Shores. When you combine it with cultural staples like Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City Chamber Music Festival and LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, you realize how fortunate we are to live in such a fine community.

These thriving cultural institutions attract business and people, helping the community grow in positive ways. Indiana Arts Commission funding is a vital element of their budgets. The IAC website lists several checkpoints, from “10 Reasons to Support the Arts” and “Arts & Economic Prosperity IV: National Statistical Report” to “SAT Scores and the Arts” and “Social Impact of the Arts.”

The introductory paragraph to “10 Reasons to Support the Arts” states: *“The arts are fundamental to our humanity. They ennoble and inspire us – fostering creativity, goodness and beauty. The arts bring us joy, help us express our values and build bridges between cultures. The arts are also a fundamental component of a healthy community, strengthening them socially, educationally and economically – benefits that persist even in difficult social and economic times.”*

How does the IAC fit into that picture? Why do we need its support?

The story begins in 1963.

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Arts organizations in LaPorte County can't keep their doors open without solid financial backing from donors, members, ticket sales and, most importantly, grants. Without it, offerings would be limited or, in some cases, cease to exist.

In Indiana, the IAC provides those needed monies. The state agency is funded by the Indiana General Assembly and National Endowments for the Arts, the key component being the NEA. Without it, our state would suffer terrible cultural, educational, even economic losses.

Arts funding through national grants began with the NEA in 1963 with President John F. Kennedy.

Kennedy once said, "If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him."

The president was well-known for his love of the arts, especially poet Robert Frost. In October 1963, during his remarks at Amherst College, Kennedy said, "Our national strength matters, but the spirit which informs and controls our strength matters just as much...If sometimes our great artists have been the most critical of our society, it is because their sensitivity and their concern for justice, which must motivate any true artist, makes him aware that our Nation falls short of its highest potential. I see little of more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than full recognition of the place of

the artist."

After Kennedy's death, President Lyndon Johnson, in honor of his predecessor, created the NEA in 1965. Independent from Federal government, it receives an annual allowance from Congress to fund its activities, in turn funding states. The NEA also awards the National Medal for the Arts, the highest form of artistic recognition in the United States. In 2015, it presented 12 awards. No awards followed until this year's four National Medal winners: Alison Krauss (contributions to music), Sharon Percy Rockefeller (an arts champion and supporter), The Musicians of the United States Military (excellence

in music and service to country) and Oscar-winner Jon Voight (contributions to acting).

Now, you might ask why it's so important to have federal arts funding. On its website, the NEA states four key attributes to funding:

- Federal Arts Support – A Federal arts role is crucial to a thriving cultural life, with the importance of grants as a fundraising instrument for arts organization.
- Access – NEA funds broaden public access to the arts. The emphasis is making the arts accessible to many who couldn't otherwise afford them.
- Education – The NEA supports life-

long arts learning. For example, this can be accomplished by strengthening arts education to students of all ages, which in the case of older adults can help increase cognitive development.

- Public Opinion – The American public supports



This map breaks down the Regional Arts Partners for the Indiana Arts Commission (2020 to 2023).

federal arts funding. Through polls, the vast majority of Americans favor a governmental role in such funding.

Indeed, without the NEA and consequential state-wide funding allocations, quality of life for all Americans would suffer.



The IAC mission statement includes "to positively impact the cultural, economic and educational climate of Indiana by providing responsible leadership for and public stewardship of artistic resources for all of our state's citizens and communities." This commitment represents pleasure and a positive experience, individual educational growth and improved academic performance. Economic growth factors into the equation: "The arts and culture sector is a \$730 billion industry, which represents 4.2 percent of the nation's GOP," the IAC website states.

There also is improved health care by institutions incorporating art as healing benefits and art therapy for veterans and their families.

The IAC, formed in 1964, was first called the Governor's Commission on the Arts, created by then Gov. Matthew Welsh through an executive order; however, there was no state funding. The only monies available were through a non-profit foundation created and financed by Commission Chairman James Fleming. A year later, in July 1965, the IAC was formally created as a state agency with a small annual budget of \$12,500. By 1979, the IAC announced 478 grants totaling \$4.1 million, dollars matched 6-1 by funds from local business and individuals.

As the years clicked by, the IAC saw growth in its outreach to various counties. By 2000, "grant funding period marked the implementation of the Regional Partnership Initiative. For the first time, organizations applied directly to Regional Partner Organizations for grants. Regional volunteer panels reviewed the grants and awards were made regionally," the IAC website states. This meant that for the first time, grant applications were dealt with more locally than downstate.

This transfer to a regional arts partnership was crucial to where we are today in La Porte County as part of Region One, which includes Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Next to the Indianapolis region, Region One has the second greatest population density in the state, which is crucial for funding. The greater the population, the more grant money awarded.

The IAC, part of state government, consists of 15 gubernatorial appointments. These individuals "establish the agency's policies and goals, plan its direction for the future and approve all grant awards and programs. The commissioners serve up to eight years, without compensation. They are selected to represent various areas of the state and diverse

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Fostering Greatness Continued from Page 3

arts, business and community backgrounds,” according to the IAC website.

In our region, Commissioner Libby Chiu from Ogden Dunes is serving her first term. She is an adjunct professor at Goucher College and teaches arts education and international arts policy. With an extensive background in the arts and arts administration, she is an outstanding representative for the IAC and an advocate for our region.

Consequently, each assigned regional partner is composed of a limited number of counties and is organized in such a way to efficiently and effectively process requests for grants and grant requests.

□

Region One operates out of South Shore Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster. John Cain is the executive director and Donna Catalano the director of special projects, and the person most responsible for assisting with IAC grant applications.

Catalano is especially well suited to act as the liaison between individuals and organizations interested in grant applications. Personable, patient and well-informed, she always is ready to help each applicant succeed.

Her interest in art began while working towards a degree in biological sciences. She took an art history course for fun and “fell in love with the arts.” Later transferring to University of Chicago, where she completed her degree, she continued her pursuit of art history with graduate-level courses. Upon graduation, she worked for 20 years in administration. While sitting as a member of the South Shore Arts board, she heard of an opening for a new grant administrator and applied for the position.

“Outside of Indianapolis, we get the second highest amount of money to re-grant,” she said. “Our



Through Region One, Donna Catalano is the director of special projects, and the person most responsible for assisting with IAC grant applications.

current regranting was \$276,000 between the three counties. Then adding other grants (On-Ramp, Advanced Placement, Arts in the Park) brought us to the final total of \$333,000 for Region One. People don't realize that the arts are all over. All you have to do is look.”

IAC grant programs fall into three primary categories:

- Artists.
- Arts in Education.
- Communities.

The process begins by going online to in.gov/arts/ and clicking on “Grant Programs.” Once redirected, note the three primary categories listed. If, for example, you are an artist, you will discover four separate grant possibilities:

- Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites.
- Individual Advancement Program.
- On-Ramp Career Accelerator.
- Traditional Arts Indiana Apprenticeship.



Michigan City's Laurel Izard applied for and received an On-Ramp grant.

This year, Michigan City's Laurel Izard applied for and received an On-Ramp grant. She is a prominent artist and art educator who serves as education coordinator for Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The IAC website describes the On-Ramp Career Accelerator program as “built for artists who are looking to rev up their business thinking, whether they are starting something new, looking to

deepen their business understanding or at a professional crossroads. On-Ramp gives participants new connections, a plan, coaching, and access to special funds to make it happen.”

To qualify, the applicant must attend a three-day intensive business skills and entrepreneurship training course, complete a certificate and receive one-on-one coaching with an arts business pro. Afterwards, the participant may request up to \$2,000 for a project during their fellowship period, only

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available to those who hold the Creative Entrepreneur Course Certificate of Completion.

Izard was this year's only LaPorte County On-Ramp grant recipient. She will use her funding to purchase specialized equipment enabling her to double her production of endangered animal art quilts, which will be exhibited locally and throughout the country.

In the artist grant category "Individual Advancement Program," LaPorte's Amanda Grace Joyner, a self-taught milliner, received an award. The IAC website states Joyner "is enthusiastically seeking to expand her millinery knowledge and receive her millinery certification by completing online courses. These courses will enable her to learn new techniques on hat blocking, sewing, creating unique hat shapes, and how to design unique trims to finish a hat as well as making



LaPorte's Amanda Grace Joyner, a self-taught milliner, received an award through the "Individual Advancement Program."

her one of the few certified milliners in the United States."

Within the general grouping of "Communities," there are four major categories:

- Arts in the Parks and Historic Sites.
- Arts Organization Support III.
- Arts Organization Support I/II.
- Arts Project Support.

Arts Organization Support is an interesting category. The website states, "Arts Organization Support grants provide annual operating support for the ongoing artistic and administrative functions of eligible arts organizations that align with the Indiana Arts Commission's Public Funding imperatives. The applicant does not request a grant amount. The grant amount is based on the average of the applicant's last three years of total cash income, panel's ratings, number of eligible applicants, and the dollars available. There is a 1:1 matching requirement."

"Panel rating" refers to individual volunteers who participate as grant review advisory panelists. Each year, a panel is formed to assess AOS grant applicants. Catalano is responsible for overseeing the formation of the panels, assisting both the grant review panelist and grant applicants. If participating as a panelist/reader, the person must:

- View a webinar training session, which can be seen at home or work.

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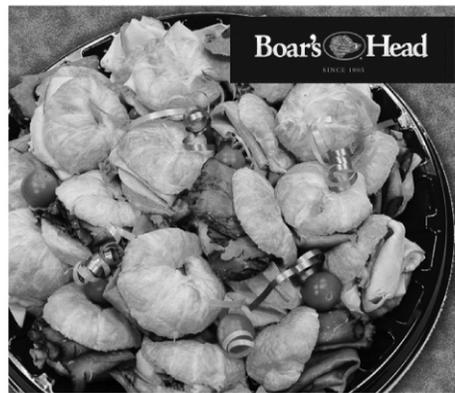
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- Read all the grants in their category.
- Grade each application according to a criteria guidance sheet.
- Be assigned as a first or second reader on the application, presenting analysis/synopsis of the application at an open session. After, other panel members may comment by agreeing or disagreeing with your analysis.
- Score each applicant for the final time and turn in scores to Catalano.

I had the pleasure of serving as a grant reader for organizational grants and art-project grants several years ago. This past year, however, I served as a facilitator to the grant panel readings for AOS grants; in other words, I introduced the first reader for each grant applicant and kept an eye and ear on the ensuing discussion, helping keep everyone on track and within a reasonable time. I was surprised by the high level of detail in the analysis by each volunteer panel member, especially concerning organizational boards, financials and community outreach. It became apparent all grantees must carefully scrutinize every sections of the grant application to be as thorough as possible. Failing to do so could affect their application.



LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra is another local organization that benefits from IAC support. *Beacher* file photo by Bob Wellinski.

Additionally, for every organization applying for either an AOS or APS grant, community outreach must be a key component of its mission. In that respect, all LaPorte County grant recipients met that requirement.



Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, seen here in a 2018 *Beacher* file photo by Bob Wellinski, received an IAC boost through the Arts Project Support field.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, the IAC Region One Grant Awards Ceremony was held in Merrillville. All grant recipients were required to attend. Regarding LaPorte County, under the category of Arts Organization Support, the Lubeznik Center, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra and Dunes Arts Foundation, which runs Dunes Summer Theatre, all scored well and received grant funding. In Arts Project Support, Michigan City Chamber Music Festival and Michigan City Messiah received support.

□

For those wishing to apply for Art Organization Support and Art Project Support grants, the due date is March 5, 2020, for the fiscal year 2021 grant period. The Letter of Intent for new applicants is due by Jan. 15, 2020. Visit in.gov/arts/ for more details.

On-Ramp fellowship applications are due by Jan. 6, 2020. Individual Advance Program grants are for visual artists only this year and due by Feb. 6. A webinar for interested applicants is available at in.gov/arts/

□

The IAC's importance to our region cannot be overstated. For our humanity, our creativity, our appreciation of beauty, our values, our cultural differences, for the joy the arts bring, for our children's education and a growing economy.

For all these reasons and more.

□

"Art is an effort to create, beside the real world, a more humane world."

Andre Maurois

IAC Grant Workshop

An informational workshop on the Indiana Arts Commission Grant is from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Featuring Anna Tragesser from the IAC, the program begins with a pizza party, followed by a short presentation. Guests then break into groups to discuss specific grants with Tragesser and IAC

associates, who will help participants begin their applications or work on previously started ones.

The workshop is free; however, registration is required because the session is limited to 40 participants. Register through www.chestertonart.com, or call the center at (219) 926-4711. Visit www.in.gov/arts/ for additional details.



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“Knives Out” is the Year’s Most All-Around Entertaining Movie

by Andrew Tallackson



An all-star cast keeps the laughs and surprises coming in “Knives Out.”

Perfection is rare in Hollywood...but Rian Johnson may have achieved it. “Knives Out” is the year’s most all-around entertaining movie.

Little exists to fault here. Johnson conceived the idea for the film nearly 15 years ago, but it was after 2017’s “The Last Jedi” saw disgruntled “Star Wars” fans demand his head on a platter that the backlash had a reverse effect on him. It reinvigorated him.

It is, however, the mischievous spirit of Agatha Christie that looms over his delicious gift of a murder mystery. The film exists as juicy tribute and devious update, with an all-star cast that guzzles the material with relish.

What would a Christie tale be without a bitterly dysfunctional family at the core. Seems popular crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead, his throat slit, the night of his 85th birthday, and everyone in the family is suspect. Each individual has a private beef with Harlan, the contempt masked in public with plastic smiles and forced demeanors.

The Thrombey clan is a pungent lot. Played with poisonous glee by the likes of Jamie Lee Curtis, Chris Evans, Michael Shannon, Toni Collette and Don Johnson, the pleasure of “Knives Out” comes from watching the Thrombeys scheme and squirm. Orchestrating their unease is Daniel Craig, who inhabits Benoit Blanc — the film’s Hercule Poirot



“Knives Out”

Running time: 130 minutes. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements including brief violence, some strong language, sexual references and drug material

equivalent — with winking tribute.

Agatha Christie loved to toy with expectations, misdirecting her reader, then waiting to the last second for the truth to spill out. Rian Johnson, by comparison, does something interesting. Midway through, he teases us with what more or less is the final verdict, then chips away at the deceptive obviousness of it. And he does so through a wonderful performance by the relatively unknown Ana de Armas as Marta, Harlan’s personal nurse who has the misfortune of vomiting every time she lies. She, in turn, becomes Benoit’s key to unraveling the Thrombey mystery. De Armas is so likable, so wise and vulnerable, the performance is a sheer delight.

“Knives Out” is paced like the Kentucky Derby. Once out of the gate, it never stops to catch its breath. Rarely has 2 hours and 10 minutes zipped by. Johnson trusts his audience can keep up with him. The payoff, believe me, is so worth it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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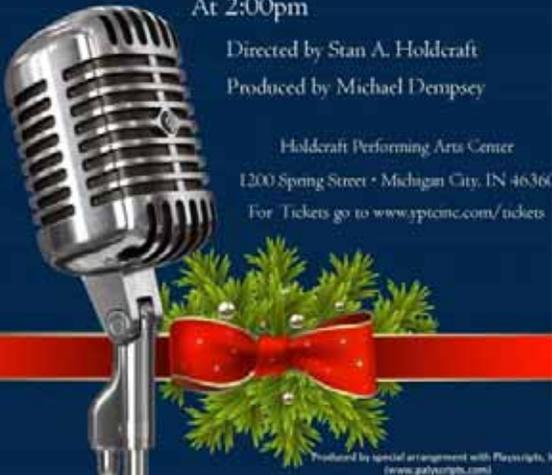
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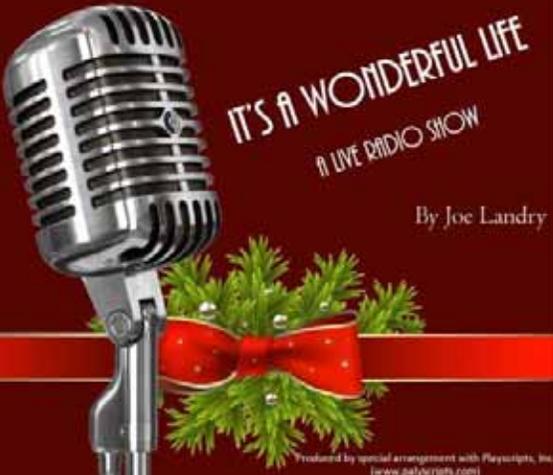
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Oscar Watch

by Andrew Tallackson

“The Irishman” is not exactly virgin territory for Martin Scorsese. He’s dipped into this well before – Mafia codes of loyalty and betrayal – unforgettably so with 1990’s “Goodfellas.”

But if anyone could pull off a mob movie that rivals “Gone With the Wind” in length, it’s Scorsese. “The Irishman” is epic and heartbreaking. And why 3½ hours, and why Netflix? Because both afford Scorsese breathing room to build his story to sufficient impact, with a concise, mordantly funny screenplay by Oscar-winner Steve Zaillian (“Schindler’s List”).

Using subtle CGI to convey older actors in their



“The Irishman”

Running time: 209 minutes. Rated R
for pervasive language and strong violence

youth, “The Irishman” is based on Charles Brandt’s 2004 book I Heard You Paint Houses, which detailed how Frank Sheeran (Robert De Niro), a veteran and meat packing delivery truck driver, met gangster Russell Bufalino (Joe Pesci), forming a brothers-for-life bond that transformed Frank into a Mafia hit man.

Scorsese and Zaillian allow Frank to serve as the audience’s guide to Mafia rights and wrongs, and in a sly manner, as if Frank is delivering a routine how-to seminar. When describing, for instance, the need to cast away guns into a particular river, he notes if divers swim to its bottom, they’d find enough weapons to forge an army.

It is good to see Pesci (the “Goodfellas” Oscar-winner) back on screen. He plays Russell as a man so quietly confident, his detached demeanor is comforting *and* terrifying, as if every outcome is a foregone conclusion.

The bulk of the film, though, delves into Frank’s heightening importance in Teamster Jimmy Hoffa’s world. Hoffa, played with typically ferocious vigor by Al Pacino, is a tsunami of a man who acts on instinct, yet respects Frank’s input. The chemistry between the actors is electrifying, so when others decide it’s time for Hoffa to “go,” De Niro’s performance is shattering. Scorsese eliminates all peripheral sound, as if death is present. All that remains is heightening dread. De Niro, as Frank, is mired in sadness, yet bound by irrefutable duty, what he sees as honor, but what his daughter Peggy (Oscar-winner Anna Paquin) knows, and despises, without having to say it. Her dad is a monster.

“The Irishman” is not without fault. The last 20 minutes are shapeless, unnecessary even. Still, the film is dazzling. One of Scorsese’s best.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

This has to be the strangest picture of the year: A Mel Brooks-style absurdist comedy by way of “Life Is Beautiful,” one that depicts Nazis as slapstick ba-boons, then switches gears by gunning for tears.

Common sense says, it shouldn’t work...but the ballsy spirit of “Jojo Rabbit” grows on you.

The film is based on Christine Leunens’ Caging Skies, but its success belongs to fearless writer/director/co-star Taika Waititi (the hilarious 2014 vampire mockumentary “What We Do In the Shadows”). He isn’t afraid to appear ridiculous, to go for the joke he knows is beneath him, but might still



“Jojo Rabbit”

Running time: 108 minutes. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content, some disturbing images, violence and language |

make an audience laugh.

“Jojo Rabbit” is set in Nazi Germany, in the waning days of World War II as the latest batch of German youth are prepped in a training camp. Among them is 10-year-old Johannes “Jojo” Betzler, played by Roman Griffin Davis in an extraordinary performance. The young actor has deeply expressive eyes, a bravado amid defeat as he’s repeatedly mocked by his superiors, including Oscar-winner Sam Rockwell essentially playing, well, the Sam Rockwell prototype: a drunken, slovenly ape.

Jojo’s imaginary “friend” is Adolf Hitler himself, played by Waititi as an effeminate, rah-rah cheerleader. Is the performance offensive? Take into account we are seeing the Führer through the eyes of a child, sculpted by innocence and naivety, and it works. And Jojo’s mother (Scarlett Johansson, moving) believes her son is no Nazi. She defies Hitler by hiding a Jewish girl, Elsa (Thomasin McKenzie), in their home.

“Jojo Rabbit” alternates between exceedingly clever exchanges between Elsa and Jojo, the broad comedy of Rebel Wilson (“Pitch Perfect”) as a brutish training camp instructor, loving attention from Jojo’s mother and laugh-out-loud delivery by Archie Gates as Yorkki, Jojo’s bespectacled best friend.

Then, brutality takes hold in a single image that is like a sucker punch to the gut. However peculiar the odyssey of Jojo, we feel an overwhelming sense of loss. The conviction of Waititi and his cast is what sells the final act of “Jojo Rabbit,” that amid the silliness, we can be deeply moved.

The movie’s message is one of hope, that protest can come not through epic battle, but small acts of defiance and sacrifice. None of this should gel. Through a bit of crazed movie magic, it does.

(This film is showing at Vickers Theatre. Check Activities on Page 34 for details.)

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People Engaged in Preservation Plans 2019 Candlelight Tour

People Engaged in Preservation, LaPorte's nonprofit historic-preservation group, will host its 2019 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8.

The times are 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 and 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 8. The tour includes five private homes:

- Larry and Peggy Smith, 2704 S. County Road 150 West.
- Gary and Sandy Ashby, 1421 Indiana Ave.
- Carol Kimball (the former Pine Lake Grange Hall), 3066 N. U.S. 35.
- The home of the late Rolland Hare, 302 C S.
- Dennis and Marianna Zeedyk, 2010 Michigan Ave.

Also included is Trinity Lutheran Church, 907 Michigan Ave., and the George W. Allen-designed *Puerta de Salvacion*, 1008 Michigan Ave.

All seven sites will be open for self-guided tours and decorated for the holiday season. Also included in one ticketed price is a horse-drawn carriage ride through LaPorte's historic district, live musical entertainment at all locations and refreshments at Trinity Lutheran.

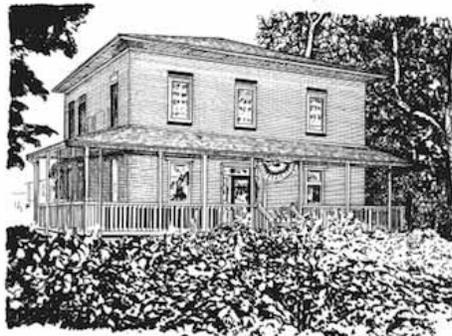
Advance tickets, which cost \$20, are available through Dec. 6 in LaPorte at Arbor Hill Inn, Coachman Antique Mall, CO-OP Shoppes, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, Plain & Fancy Antiques, Thaddeus C. Gallery and Town & Country Florist; in Michigan City



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at The Antique Market and Hoity-Toity; in New Carlisle at The Village Shoppes; in New Buffalo at The Villager; in Valparaiso at South Bend Chocolate Co.; and in Chesterton at Red Cup Cafe & Deli.

At-the-door tickets, which cost \$25, are available at Trinity Lutheran during tour hours only. Contact Pam Ruminski at (219) 363-2094, Tim Stabosz at (219) 363-7485 or email p_ruminski@yahoo.com for details.

Also available is PEP's 400+ page book, Historic Architecture of LaPorte, Indiana: The First Twenty Years of the Candlelight Tour, a compilation of the histories of all 107 structures on the tour since its inception in 1996. Published in 2018, it will be available at Trinity Lutheran for \$30 during the tour while supplies are available.



{warmulous} (adj); super cozy



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Holiday Tea Planned at Bishop's Mansion

The British custom of afternoon tea returns from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the historic Bishop's Mansion at Trinity Episcopal Church, 614 Franklin St.

The menu includes bite-size sandwiches, holiday scones topped with Devonshire clotted cream and jam, and traditional cakes, pastries and chocolates. English-style tea with cream, and the Russian-style tea with lemon and sugar, will be served on the Barker Hall monogrammed china.



Nichole Kintzele Messacar pours tea for Kathy White.

Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and younger and free for children 6 and younger.

Recently renovated, the Gilded Age mansion was

built by railroad car industrialist John Barker in 1901. It served as the residence for the bishop of what was then known as the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan City, which included all of northern Indiana.

Later, it was occupied by priests serving Trinity Church.

The entrance is through the Trinity Church courtyard and Gothic-arched cloister facing Franklin Street. The interior has multiple fireplaces, a 350 square-foot living room with coffered ceiling, oak-paneled library and grand staircase. The stained-glass window in the

stairway — a lighthouse — is the symbol of the Episcopal diocese. Visitors also may tour the chapel and Trinity Church.

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Festival of Lights/Snowflake Parade

Michigan City will kick off the Midwest's largest free drive-through light exhibit during the Festival of Lights Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 7, in Washington Park.



The event kicks off with the Snowflake Parade through the city's Uptown Arts District at 4 p.m. and the official lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. The Washington Park display includes five million individual bulbs. Santa will hold visits with children from his chalet at Seventh and Franklin streets. Storefronts will be decorated in a "Christmas Around the World" theme.

The lights display can be viewed through Jan. 4.

Annual Holiday Exhibition

Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, will celebrate 15 years in downtown LaPorte with its annual holiday exhibit, which kicks off with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

Original artwork created by Indiana-based artists, as well as those from Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, Beijing and Japan, will be on display. Artists include Katherine Corpe, Gregg Hertzlieb, Laurel IZard, KOZO, Alan Larkin, Laura Marmash, Billy Pozzo, Polly Pozzo, Pete Railand, Shaun Slifer, Valerie Taglieri, Tom Torluemke, Kristine Virsis and Bec Young.

The exhibit runs through Dec. 24. Call (219) 326-8626 or email at info@thaddeusc.com for details.

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The Magic will Remain

As one who has lived close to Lake Michigan in Grand Beach, Michiana and Union Pier since 1978, I am very clear the lake levels go up and down. Been that way since the lakes were formed.

The "magic" of living on Lake Michigan grows during times when the waters are lower and wanes when, at times like today, the water is high and the fall storms are frequent and strong. But the "magic" that attracts us will never disappear. Being "on the water" physically and visually is the most powerful elixir that helps us live in the moment. The magic of living in the moment on the lake or with easy access to the lake is why we own a home here.

Being "on" the waters of Lake Michigan means you must deal with water levels changing and storms occurring. The closer you get to the water, the more you must prepare yourself for nature periodically disrupting your lake living.

There have been many theories about how to live on the waters of Lake Michigan and survive Mother Nature's attacks. Sea walls and revetments have been the recent favorites. The wall is meant to stop the waves. The problem is the backward force created that scarps down to destroy the wall and push the sand far out into the water, reducing reliction and accretion when the water levels go down. The revetment breaks the waves, retains sand and supports reliction and accretion when the waters recede. Revetments are the current favorite solution to dealing with Nature's vicissitudes on Lake Michigan.

But there is something new about the current cycle of Lake Michigan levels and storms. The level has not exceeded 1986's all-time high. But the storms in October 2014 and October 2019 have been more frequent, more relentless, and produced more high waves than before.

Properties that easily survived 1986 are now threatened, and the cost of revetment construction has tripled in the past nine months to more than \$3,000 per foot.

What will this do to our world built on Lake Michigan magic? The magic will remain. Plans on how to enjoy it need some updating.

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White Elephant

I blinked...and foil-wrapped chocolate Santas, spools of red and green ribbon and cinnamon-scented pine cones lined the end of grocery store aisles.

The token Halloween decorations I put up in October still clutter my laundry room counter. When I open my laptop, the stack of Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals outnumber personal emails. Sprinkled among these online retail coupons are reminders from charities about Giving Tuesday. This morning, my youngest daughter forwarded a link to a holiday wish. Knots riddle the muscles between my neck and shoulder blades.

Much like homework feels to schoolkids on Sunday evening, the holiday shopping “scaries” have descended upon me.

Over the past two holiday seasons, I resolved to simplify my shopping list: buy less and purchase only useful gifts. Last year, I located wallets for my son and husband sculpted in the shape of a man’s front trouser pocket. For my married children, I purchased flash drives, spa certificates and gift cards to trendy local restaurants. My three daughters received slim handbags big enough to accommodate a lipstick, cell phone, house key and ID. Inside the purse, I stuffed a tissue-wrapped pair of glitzy earrings for that special evening out. Stockings held breath mints, travel-size toiletries, makeup brushes and an SPF lip gloss. As I looked at the wrapped presents under the tree, I congratulated myself on cornering clever and practical gifts. Sending my family back to their homes with suitcases no thicker than when they arrived was satisfying.

Before I downsized and moved out of Chicago’s western suburbs to Northwest Indiana, I hosted an annual White Elephant party in late January. If you are unfamiliar with this concept, pay attention. Over the course of a year, all of us receive gifts that, while lovely, may not be our style, size or fit our current decorating scheme. Most of us own too many scented candles, decorative hand towels, fancy soaps and nut dishes. Stockpiling these items to trade or gift at a White Elephant party is not only purposeful, it’s fun.

The party model goes like this. Wrap one or two unused items. Invite 20 or more friends. Purchase plenty of wine, snacks and dessert. Put numbers into a hat or bowl and pass. Guests pull a number

That Girl, This Life

Julie Ryan McGue

and that is the order in which a gift is selected, opened or traded. Partygoers can steal a present as many as three times before it is “dead.” Often, the background story to the wrapped item is quirky or humorous. Once shared, laughter and the wine bind the group in fellowship. At the end of the evening, each participant leaves toting a new treasure.

Over the summer, I cleared out our second home to ready it for a renovation project. To my dismay, I discovered several of the sensible items I gifted my immediate family not quite a year ago. Unopened flash drives, makeup brushes and wallets hid in the bottom drawers of bathroom vanities. I shoved a handful of SPF lip balms into the bottom of my purse and stuffed the remaining items in my suitcase to cart home to my White Elephant gift cabinet. On the shelf above the Tide and dryer sheets, I made a place for my family’s unwanted Christmas gifts among colorful scarves, lavender soaps and extra costume jewelry.

Determined to chase away the season’s shopping “scaries” and ease my beleaguered back, I’ve deleted the junk email coupons. I saved my daughter’s shopping link to consider for her January birthday. To further liberate myself, I honed my gift-giving goals further. Last year, I shopped extensively to unearth no-nonsense gifts I thought my family would appreciate. This year, my goal is to avoid my hard-earned dollars hiccupping back into the White Elephant cabinet.

As boring as it seems, I plan to sleigh the season with vetted products, pre-determined gift cards and charitable donations in the names of my loved ones. Compared to yesteryear, these are hefty adjustments to my holiday routine.

One thing won’t change.

The White Elephant party is already inked for mid-January. I anticipate selecting the right mix of wines, deliberating over the perfect snacks and purchasing a naughty, but yummy dessert. Compared to all the holiday wrapping and shipping I used to do, gift wrapping this season’s White Elephant treasure will be a snap. While I will miss watching my kids’ surprised faces as they open the presents I selected for them, I appreciate more the shopping time and dollars saved. Need I mention that giggling over unwanted, unnecessary gifts is less an assault to the ego at a White Elephant party than it is on Christmas morning (or months later when culling bathroom vanities)?

Giving the right gift is an art. Taking the guesswork out of it is this year’s stress-free holiday goal.

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)



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“Merry Christmas, George Bailey!”



“Merry Christmas, George Bailey!,” a radio play based on the 1947 Lux Radio Theatre broadcast of “It’s a Wonderful Life!,” runs Dec. 6-15 at LaPorte Little Theatre Club @ 218 A St. Performances are Dec. 6-8 and 13-15. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. Visit www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Christmas Market

“A Very Merry Christmas Market” is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Guests can listen to music and sample refreshments while browsing gifts by artists from Michigan City Art League and Land of Lakes Art Alliance. Items include ornaments, jewelry and clothing. Some gifts can be personalized upon request, while some artists may take commissions.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

• **Make Your Fishing Tackle Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 7, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

A ranger leads the program, also sharing fishing tips with anyone who wants to take a pole and cast a line.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

• **French Christmas Concert from 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Performing is local folk trio *Trois Canards*, which features Marti Pizzni, Suzanne Keldsen and Dot Pakin. The songs, sung in French and English, are accompanied by traditional instruments such as the fiddle, hurdy gurdy, dulcimer, accordion, guitar and recorder.

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 programs are offered:

• **Turtle Time from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.**

Meet outside the nature center to learn more about turtles.

• **Battle at the Dunes from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.**

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a history talk about the Revolutionary War battle here.

• **Beginner Bird Drawing and Painting Workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.**

Local artist Kristina Knowski leads the hands-on workshop, working from the park's mounted bird specimens to draw and learn about diverse bird life. Participants create their own painting. Register by visiting Kristina Knowski's Arts Facebook event and click her Eventbrite page.

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.

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Breakfast with St. Nicholas



St. Andrews by the Lake Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road, will host its annual Breakfast with St. Nicholas for children 12 and younger from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. A light breakfast is planned, followed by activities and a visit from St. Nicholas.

Old Lighthouse Museum

The Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park will be open from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8.

Regular entrance fees apply to tour the museum; however, there is no charge to visit the gift shop.



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The Year of the Goats

Natalie and I were strolling down the beach path to catch a summer sunset when what should our wondering eyes behold but a goat, happily munching on our overgrown foliage.

Goat, you say?

At the Prairie Club, in Harbert, Mich.?

Why, yes, said animal was part of an enthusiastic and voracious crew of 20 goats under the leadership of Garret Fickle from Munchers on Hooves LLC in Coldwater, Mich.

So, no, we weren't surprised to see goats munching their way through our verdant dunescape because we actually thought of the idea years ago at the Berrien County Youth Fair in — wait for it — the goat barn. Yes, one of the goat herders there assured us the critters are better than lawnmowers and Weed Wackers when it comes to, well, whacking weeds. We told her tangled thickets of invasive species had conquered our once-pristine dunes. She said her goats could make quick work of it. We took her name and number and passed them along to our conservation chair, Sharon Lemler. Sharon was intrigued, saying she'd look into the goat solution for a problem that bested the most stalwart of volunteer work parties. Yes, I once ventured into the thickest of the thicket with our then camp chair, Larry Bergman, and decided only Tarzan would be at home in that mess.



Even a hungry goat has to take five.

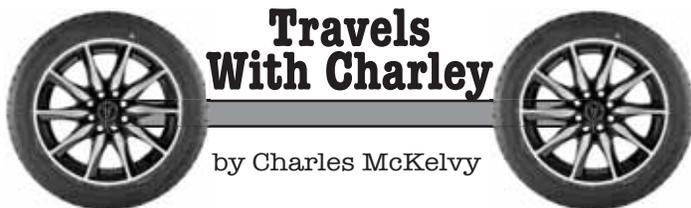
Or goats.

Fast forward to summer 2019 when Sharon's due diligence led to the appearance in our dunes of those aforementioned Munchers on Hooves.

Sharon reported "they worked tirelessly for six-and-a-half days, devouring the leaves of bittersweet, bush honeysuckle, privet, poison ivy, buckthorn, burning bush — basically everything within reach."

Well, not quite everything, because those goats from Coldwater were kept away from lily of the valley, which is toxic to them.

"Acres we could not see through nor walk through are now open and safe for us humans to go in and



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by Charles McKelvy

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survey the stems and roots of the invasives, and to cut them off," Sharon reported.

We two-legged volunteers were to follow up in the fall and get what the goats could not or would not masticate during what Prairie Clubbers are calling "the Great Goat Munchathon of 2019." Or, as



Goats at work.

Sharon stated in our *Hazelhurst Highlights* publication, "*Victos viderent venerunt.*" Meaning, they "came, they saw, they conquered."

Well, they didn't conquer the briar patch that passes for our front yard, much to the consternation of a friend who argues we should pen at least one goat in front of our house for a week or two to reduce the overgrowth.

Yes, but if we had done that, we would not have had a fawn coming to munch its lunch on a daily basis this past summer.

So, no goats for us, but we got our fill along the beach path this summer and, of course, at the Berrien County Youth Fair in August, where we hung out for a good long while in the goat barn. Yes, we are goat people without being goat owners, and we love talking goats with friends who own them. One such friend said the animals have minds of their own and will munch everything in sight, especially things like straw hats. I was wearing just such a hat at the fair and was careful not to lean too far into any of the goat pens, lest some old billy decide to have my brim for dinner.

And speaking of dinner, it was while in the goat barn this year when it finally dawned on me that not all goats come home from the fair to be adored as mischievous pets.

"Market goats," I said to Natalie, noticing a sign above a pen full of particularly handsome goats. "Meaning—"

"You know," Natalie said. "You ate goat when you worked for that lawn-care company years ago. Remember: the guys called it chivo when you asked what it was."

"Oh yeah, they made bleating goat noises and said it was really good in a stew."

I looked at the market goats before me and wanted to apologize for my past transgression against their cousins, assuring them I have seen the error of my carnivorous ways.

But they were of no mind because, after all, they were goats being what good goats do: munching.

So there you have it, fans of floral and fauna: the Year of the Goats.

And if you would like to have goats munching your back forty in 2020, contact Munchers on Hooves Goat Rental Service at (517) 403-2138 or visit munchersonhooves.weebly.com.

Goats, after all, are Mother Nature's way of controlling invasive species. As an added bonus, they will naturally fertilize your property.

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The view from our beach path this summer.

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Christmas at Copshaholm

Self-guided tours, “Find the Elf” and performances are part of “Christmas at Copshaholm” from 5:30 to 9 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 6, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Self-guided tours of the 38-room Oliver Mansion reveal the home decorated for the holidays. Named Copshaholm by the Oliver family when they lived there, the home has 10 Christmas trees on all three levels. Guests can try to “Find the Elf on the Copshaholm” and sample treats. Children can decorate ornaments for the museum’s holiday tree.

Actors will perform “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” written by local author Roger Chrastil, in the Ball Room every 30 minutes starting at 6 p.m. EST.

The full schedule is (all times Eastern):

- 5:30 to 9 p.m. — Self-guided tours of the Oliver Mansion, “Find the Elf on the Copshaholm,” holiday treats and ornament decorating.
 - 5:30 to 7 p.m. — visits with Santa Claus.
 - 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30 p.m. — “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”
 - 7 p.m. — Lighting of the Gardens.
 - 7:15 to 8 p.m. — The Holy Family School Choir.
- Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for members and

\$10 for youth 6-17. Children 5 and younger are free. Reservations can be made by calling (574) 235-9664 or at www.historymuseumSB.org

Also, The History Museum’s Sugar Plum Fairy Tea is at 6 p.m. EST Thursday, Dec. 12.



Guests are seated at tables of eight in the Leighton Gallery, which is aglow with Yuletide decorations. The menu, which includes sweets and classic teas, is catered by the Oliver Inn Bed and Breakfast.

Tickets include tours of the 38-room Oliver Mansion festooned for the holidays. The price is \$25, or \$20 for members and youth 17 and younger. Reservations are required.



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LaPorte County Public Library

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

• **Maker Lab: Beginners Night from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at the main branch.**

The program introduces the lab and explains access to it.

• **DIY Mini Emergency USB Charger from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.**

Learn to assemble and solder a mini USB mobile charger that uses a 9V battery for power. Register at laportelibrary.org

• **Maker Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. November focuses on 2-D design and December on circuits.

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Dec. 19.**

Students in third grade and older move up through levels, earning a certificate for each completed. They work independently and chart their progress as they complete hands-on projects that include web literacy, fixer skills, circuitry, game design and coding. □

Computer Science Education Week is Dec. 9-15. The schedule is:

• **Lego WeDo from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North.**

• **Pajama Time from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Coolspring branch. Children learn how robots add an extra element to storytelling.**

• **STEAM Sandbox from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Dec. 10-12, at the main branch.**

• **Play & Learn from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the main branch. Using basic coding, children help Beebots find their way back to the hive.**

• **Stories and More from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13. The emphasis is Beebots, which help teach general topics such as learning navigational and directional language, identifying community helpers, and colors and numbers.** □

Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.



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Voiceover Talent Auditions

Sudden Productions, in conjunction with MiShinnah Productions, will hold voiceover talent auditions for the reconstructed silent film "Dr. Mabuse, The Gambler."

The dates are 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at FADA, 617 Franklin St., Suite 4.



"Dr. Mabuse, The Gambler."

Sudden Productions is supplying the soundtrack to the Fritz Lang silent film. Typical recording sessions last from one to four hours. A nominal hourly stipend will be given. A variety of character voices are required for the recording sessions that start in early January. The film reflects the anxieties of decadent Berlin in Weimar, pre-Hitler German. Some characters include the evil Dr. Mabuse, a Follies starlet, a naive American playboy, an upright state prosecutor and a Russian Countess. On-stage acting experience is not required.

In the past, Sudden Productions has produced soundtracks for silent films such as "Aelita, Queen of Mars," "Prince Achmed," "Metropolis" and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.**

Youth ages 6-18 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

• **Library food and mitten drive.**

The library will collect mittens, gloves, hats and scarves during the holidays to decorate its holiday tree. Donations will be sent to The Salvation Army. Also, the library is collecting non-perishable food items for the local food pantry. A box is near the circulation desk through Jan. 3.

• **Learning Center Volunteers Needed.**

The Learning Center needs volunteer tutors for children and adults. Students need assistance in: reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. All that's required are two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the center for more information.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will visit Old Chicago Trail and Little Calumet River Trail near Chesterton at 1 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 7.

The route, which follows the river, goes through a forest dominated by maple, beech, basswood and oak trees. Insulated boots, cold weather gear and water are recommended for the two-hour moderate hike, with either a 1.6-mile or 2.1-mile route depending on weather.

Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher will lead the hike after a brief presentation. Parking is at the Bailly/Chellberg Comfort Station south of the Indiana Dunes National Park headquarters.

HCH events are free and open to adults and children accompanied by an adult. Dogs are allowed according to destination rules. Membership costs \$20 for individuals or \$30 for families. Visit harborcountryhikers.com for details.

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SAM Winter Recital



The School of American Music will present its annual winter recital for students and instructors at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 8, at Real Life Community Church, 12 Michigan St. E., Three Oaks, Mich.

The recital, free and open to the public, gives SAM students — children and adults — live performance experience in addition to training they receive in the school’s studios.

SAM offers one-on-one instruction in guitar, violin, baritone ukulele, bass guitar, piano, mountain dulcimer, slide guitar, flute, saxophone, clarinet and voice. Lessons are conducted in the school’s studios on the second floor of Three Oaks Library, and at its Arts & Education Center in Three Oaks.

Neil Young Tribute

Regional performer Johnny V will present the Eighth Annual Neil Young Tribute Concert to benefit Toys for Tots, Young People’s Theater Company, and Remembering Our Veterans.

The benefit is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. General admission is \$25 (online or at the door). VIP packages for \$200 plus tax are available. Visit www.yptcinc.com for tickets and more details.

The show began eight years ago at Valparaiso’s Front Porch Music. This year features the Heart of Gold Band, including: Rocco Labriola on pedal steel; Billy Romer and Freek Johnson “The Unit” on drums; Anthony Massaro from the Killer Bzzz Caution on guitar; Janis Wallin of Johnny V’s Wildflowers, Terrapin Flyer and The Family Groove Co. on bass; Al Joseph of Country Roads on violin; and Johnny V on keyboards, vocals and guitar.

Guests can take new and unwrapped toys or gifts to benefit Toys for Tots.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **NorthShore Health Center free blood-pressure screenings from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton, and 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Dec. 12, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Interested patrons also can receive help calculating Body Mass Index.

- **Decorating Gingerbread Houses on Thursday, Dec. 5, at Hageman Library.**

Adults and children 5 and older can participate. Materials are provided, but factory-sealed packages of candy donations are accepted. The program is free, but registration is required. Sessions start at 1 p.m. and continue every 30 minutes until 5 p.m. Call (219) 926-9080 to register.

- **Holiday film presentation, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The film is not rated. Free popcorn is served.

- **Tinker and Create from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at Hageman Library.**

Classes revolve around science, design, engineering and art through project-based work. Space is limited to 12 children. Register at (219) 926-9080.

- **"Dealing with Caregiver Stress During the Holidays and Effective Communication for those with Dementia" from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Pathologist Richard Nemeth leads the program.

- **What the Fork: Teen Cooking Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Thomas Branch.**

Teens in grades 6-12 will decorate holiday cookies and play "Catch Phrase."

- **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 15 and 29, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

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Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Leona Jurincie will teach a Prismacolor Colored Pencil Cardinal Workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9.**

Participants learn how to blend colors and apply the pencil to the black background, creating a holiday bird.

The class is designed for all experience levels. The cost is \$80, or \$20 for members. Students will take a break for lunch. A supply list will be provided.

• **A Duneland Photography Club exhibit, "Photo Memories in Focus," through January, with an opening reception from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.**

The exhibit includes about 19 members. Not all work is holiday or winter-themed. Instead, the group will present work that would make suitable gifts: large framed pieces for wall hanging, matted prints (suitable for framing) and photo note cards.

• **Jennifer Martin will host December children's art classes.**

The goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. December focuses on Impressionism. Painting and color will be a major emphasis.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1:30-3 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5p.m., elementary, 7- to 12-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool 3- to 5-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m., elementary, 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 5-year-olds
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., elementary, 7- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:30-7 p.m., middle school, fifth to eighth grade.
- Friday, 3:30-5 p.m., high school, ninth to 12th grade.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Families must be current members to receive the discount. Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. All payments made after the 15th of the month are subject to a \$20 late fee.



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|--------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Bitchin Bowlers | 34 | 14 |
| 2. Pin Pals | 33 | 15 |
| 3. Alley Katz | 32 | 16 |

| HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES | SCORE |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Cindy Beck | 204 |
| 2. Dottie Brinckman | 180 |
| 3. Kathy Osborne | 171 |
| 4. Nancy Kubath | 169 |
| 5. Sue Labovitz | 167 |
| 6. Margie Midkiff | 164 |
| 7. June Salmon | 158 |
| 8. Tammy Nelmar | 157 |
| 8. Pat Collado | 157 |
| 9. Ann Bogart | 156 |
| 10. Mary Lou McFadden (series) | 415 |

| SPLITS | SCORE |
|----------------|----------|
| Jill Jankowski | 5-6 |
| Lisa Albers | 3-4-7-10 |
| Nancy Kubath | 4-5 |

THREE STRIKES
Cindy Beck, Pat Collado

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



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

- LaPorte High School, 602 F St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9.

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.

Christmas in Pioneerland

Christmas in Pioneerland is from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.

The annual holiday event includes horse-drawn wagon rides, a general store, blacksmith shop, log cabin, Santa and Mrs. Claus, one-room schoolhouse, popcorn, cocoa and cookies.

Support those who advertise in the Beacher!
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Fernwood Botanical Garden

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

• **Wine and Wreaths from 3 to 5 or 6 to 8 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 11.**

Participants create a custom 20-inch round wreath with help from Fernwood instructors. Wine and appetizers are included. Reservations can be made for block parties of six or more. The cost is \$48 per person.

• **Breakfast with Santa from 9:30 to 11 a.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 7.**

Visit Santa, enjoy a holiday breakfast, make a craft with one of Santa's helpers, view the trains in the conservatory and listen to an interactive holiday music. The breakfast fills quickly, so reservations are encouraged. The cost is: adults, \$15.95; children 6-12, \$9.95; and children 5 and younger, free.

• **Holiday Greens Workshop — Mini Greens from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 7.**

The tradition started with Fernwood founder Kay Boydston. The cost is \$35, or \$28 for members.

• **Norwegian Nisse Christmas Dolls from 2 to 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 8.**

A nisse is a mythological creature from Scandinavian folklore associated with the winter solstice and Christmas season. Take an old sweater for the project. All additional supplies are included. Register by Dec. 6. The cost is \$20, or \$16 for members.

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

First Friday @ Lubeznik Center

"First Friday at the Holiday Artisan Market" is from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 6 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The market features items by regional artists. Krueger Middle School's Select Eighth Grade Chorus will perform holiday music. Guests also receive an additional 10 percent off their purchases.

Admission is free. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for details.

Collective Holiday Artisan Market

The Collective Holiday Artisan Market, which emphasizes handcrafted and upcycled pieces, is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Santa will be present from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Live music by Robert Rolfe Feddersen and local food and drinks are planned.

The cost is \$5 for visitors 13 and older. A portion of the admission fees is donated to the LaPorte Jaycees' Deserving Children's Shopping Tour.



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Students Chosen For Honor Bands

Instrumental music students from Michigan City High School and Barker Middle School were selected for three different Indiana Honor Bands.

The following MCHS students were set to perform in the Indiana All-District Honor Band Festival on Nov. 23-24 at Plymouth High School: Erica Galindo, clarinet; Adam Howard, trumpet; Anna-Lisse Lenard, flute; William Mansfield, tuba; Gwyneth Sardon, clarinet; Mia Taylor, clarinet; and Andre Williams, trombone.

Howard, Lenard, Mansfield, Sardon and Taylor also will perform in the Ball State University High School Honor Band on Saturday, Dec. 7, in Muncie.

The Indiana Regional Honor Band, made up of students in grades seven through nine, performed Nov. 17 at Portage High School. The band featured:

- Emray David, Alto Sax, MCHS.
- Nathan East, Trumpet, MCHS.
- Kyra Krachinski, Flute,

MCHS.

- Emma Schulp, Trumpet, Barker.
- Savhanna Timm, Flute, Barker.

Students were selected for the honor bands through a competitive application process, which included a director recommendation.

Frank Gast is the MCHS band director and Parker Sterling Barker's band director.



Pictured are (front row, from left) Emray David, Anna-Lisse Lenard, Gwyneth Sardon, Mia Taylor and Kyra Krachinski. The back row is (from left) Andre Williams, Erica Galindo, Adam Howard, William Mansfield and Nathan East.

VIC Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar

The Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway, will host its annual Fair-Trade Holiday Bazaar from noon to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7 and 13-14.

The bazaar offers handmade products from around the world. Offerings include clothing and handbags from India and Pakistan, jewelry from Africa, Asia and Latin America, and food products such as coffee and chocolate. New items arrive each week. Visit www.valpovic.org for details.

LCSO Scholarship Applications

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's Deborah DePoy Music Scholarship applications become available Jan. 1.

Depoy was born and raised in Mill Creek. After graduating from LaPorte High School, she received a music degree from VanderCook College of Music. She played bassoon with LCSO and Michigan City Municipal Band for more than 20 years until her death in 2013. She established the scholarship to help other musicians. The target is those with a 3.5 grade point-average or below.

"Although passionate about music, Debbie struggled in school, and she wanted students with similar struggles to be able to know that a scholarship would be available even if one didn't have an 'A' average," LCSO Executive Director Tim King said in a press release.

The scholarship is administered through Unity Foundation of LaPorte County's General Scholarship Application Program. Students should visit www.ufc.net to complete an application. The deadline is March 12.

The scholarship is for students planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in music. They must be LaPorte County residents and have graduated from a public high school here.



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KAC Members' Show

Krasl Art Center will host its 2019 Members' Show, which celebrates the theme of "Resiliency," on Dec. 6-Jan. 20.

An opening reception for the exhibit, which reflects on how the community has adapted to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats and stress, is from 5:30 to 8 p.m. EST Friday, Dec. 6.

Each year, members can submit one new work addressing the current year's theme, which is a continuation of the current KAC exhibit inspired by dialogue with Spectrum Health Lakeland. In 2016 and 2019, SHL completed Community Health Needs Assessments in which mental health emerged as the most urgent need in Berrien County. The artist-guided programming at KAC is designed to facilitate better understanding of mental health, and explore the concept of community resiliency.

All media, styles and skillsets are accepted in the members' show. In conjunction with it are:

- "Resiliency Reveal Painting Workshop" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST Saturday, Dec. 7. The class is led by artist Keith Stevens. Space is limited, so email education@krasl.org to make a reservation.
- Coffee with the Curator at noon EST Wednesday, Dec. 11. KAC Deputy Director/Curator Tami Miller, along with select artists from the show, lead a guided tour of the exhibit.

KAC is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Visit www.krasl.org or call (269) 983-0271 for more details.

Class of '69 Challenge

When the 1968 Elston High School graduating class started its Unity Foundation fund last year, they issued a challenge to other alumni years: raise the amount of your graduating year to donate to Unity's "The Graduates of Isaac C. Elston High School Education Support Fund."

Kathy Pahs Rhodes and Linda Nowatzke Swendenberg rallied their fellow alumni, presenting a \$1,969 check Nov. 22 to Unity Foundation Development Officer Jamie Miller.

The fund was created to support educational, social and personal development of Michigan City Area Schools students, with an emphasis on programs that may not receive federal or state funding. Anyone can make donations through www.uflc.net

Deck the Halls Craft Show

"Deck the Halls Craft Show" is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Faith City Assembly of God Church, 1314 S. Woodland Ave. The event features many crafters and small businesses.



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(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Dec. 6 — First Friday Concert Series, Rusty Nail Crossings gospel group, noon, LaPorte Hospital Chapel, 1007 Lincolnway. Free. Info: (219) 325-7633.

Dec. 6 — “First Friday at the Holiday Artisan Market,” 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

Dec. 6-8, 13-15 — “Merry Christmas, George Bailey!,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$12/students. Info: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Dec. 6-9 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* “The Aeronauts.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* “Jojo Rabbit.” Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Fri.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Dec. 7 — Breakfast with St. Nicholas, 9-10:30 a.m., St. Andrews by the Lake Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road.

Dec. 7 — “A Very Merry Christmas Market,” 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Dec. 7 — Deck the Halls Craft Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Faith City Assembly of God Church, 1314 S. Woodland Ave.

Dec. 7 — Make Your Fishing Tackle Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Dec. 7 — Holiday tea, noon-3 p.m., Bishop’s Mansion @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 614 Franklin St. Tickets: \$13/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger, free/children 6 & younger.

Dec. 7 — Collective Holiday Artisan Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: \$5/13 & older.

Dec. 7 — Harbor Country Hikers, 1 p.m. EST, Old Chicago Trail & Little Calumet River Trail near Chesterton. Info: harborcountryhikers.com

Dec. 7 — DIY Mini Emergency USB Charger, 1-2:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: laportelibrary.org

Dec. 7 — Battle at the Dunes, 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Dec. 7 — Snowflake Parade/Festival of Lights Ceremony, Uptown Arts District/Washington Park. Parade/4 p.m., lighting ceremony/4:30 p.m.

Dec. 7 — Benefit, Eighth Annual Neil Young Tribute Concert, 7:30 p.m., Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. General admission: \$25. VIP packages/\$200+tax. Reservations: www.yptcinc.com

Dec. 7 — The 15th annual Holiday Exhibition, 5-8 p.m., Thaddeus C. Gallery, 822 Lincolnway, LaPorte.

Dec. 7-8 — Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park. Holiday hours: noon-3 p.m.

Dec. 7-8 — Santa's Candy Cane Express, noon-5 p.m., Hesston Steam Museum, 1201 E. County Road 1000 North, La Porte. Fares: \$5/adults, children 3-12/\$3, 3 & younger/free. Info: www.hesston.org, (219) 778-2783.

Dec. 7-8 — People Engaged in Preservation 2019 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes. Times: 4-8 p.m. Dec. 7/1-5 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets/info: (219) 363-2094, (219) 363-7485.

Dec. 7-8 — Christmas in Pioneerland, 3-8 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Dec. 8 — Beginner Bird Drawing and Painting Workshop, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: Kristina Knowski's Arts Facebook event.

Dec. 8 — The Twin City Players, "How The Grinch Stole Christmas," 1 & 5 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/kids. Reservations: acornlive.org

Dec. 8 — Holiday film presentation, "It Happened on Fifth Avenue," 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Dec. 8 — The School of American Music annual winter recital, 2 p.m. EST, Real Life Community Church, 12 Michigan St. E., Three Oaks, Mich.

Dec. 8 — French Christmas Concert, 3-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Through Dec. 30 — "Christmas at the Mansion," Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tours: Tues.-Sun. Cost: \$8/adult, \$5/youth or senior Info: www.barkermansion.com

In the Region

Dec. 6 — Opening reception, 2019 Members' Show, 5:30-8 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Dec. 6-7, 13-14 — Fair-Trade Holiday Bazaar, noon-7 p.m., Valparaiso International Center, 309 E. Lincolnway. Info: www.valpovic.org

Dec. 7 — Breakfast with Santa, 9:30-11 a.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: adults/\$15.95; children 6-12/\$9.95; children 5 & younger/free. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Dec. 7 — "Open Mike" reunion with Mike Talbot, 7-9 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$5 minimum donation. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Noel Street by Richard Paul Evans (hardcover, \$21.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 377 pages.)

The Thanksgiving to New Year holiday season is here! And you know what that means — the latest Richard Paul Evans holiday novel is out! I don't mean to be flippant, but as sure as the sun rises in the East, each November, you can count on a slew of small hardcover books written by Evans and others providing stories of hope, redemption, love and forgiveness meant to uplift our spirits and put a smile on our faces...and maybe a tear or two of happiness as the last page is turned.

At this time of year, maybe it's a good idea to get away from super heroes and military-style shoot-'em-ups and focus on the positive, and what the season really stands for: love, faith and maybe finding a new direction for life...

"While global chess pieces were being moved around the board by the forces that be, my little world was following its own rickety path, which took a major detour that holiday season, starting with, of all things, a burned-out clutch."

It's 1975 in the small town of Mistletoe, Utah. The town is so small, it doesn't even have a McDonald's. And, get this, *"the New Year's baby was born in September!"*

Enter Elle Sheen, who is not having a good year. She works at the Noel Street Diner — more money in tips than wages, but her boss, Loretta, is big-hearted and helps Elle whenever she can with working extra shifts, or giving her food to take home. She even gave Elle a place to stay when she first arrived in town with her 7-year-old son, Dylan.

Dylan is biracial. His dad, Isaac, Elle's husband, was black and killed in Vietnam. Her parents disowned her after she secretly married Isaac, and said Dylan was not their grandchild. That's when Elle took Dylan, left Cedar City, Utah, and hit the road north looking for a new start.

This morning in November, Elle discovers something is wrong with her '57 Ford Fairlane. That "something" turns out to be a burned out clutch, and a bad timing belt and...ouch. That's a \$1,100 bill!

The owner of the shop, Renato, says his new mechanic, William Smith, will fix the car and Elle can make payments. So much for Christmas...

Who knew Elle's next encounter with William would be in front of the diner, with him crawling under his pickup truck and screaming in a foreign language. Elle helps the police calm him down, and he goes home.

To Elle's surprise, William works on the car for free on his own time, and it only costs Elle \$56 for the parts. She takes him some cookies to say thanks, and Renato says he is home sick. Seems he spent the weekend working on her car and now has the flu.

Elle feels bad, goes to his apartment and finds him almost passed out on the floor. She stays overnight, making sure he eats some soup and doesn't get any worse.

Some days later, William goes to the diner and thanks Elle for helping him. Would she like to go to dinner? Hmmmm, let me think about that...of course she'll go! They have a good time, he later meets Dylan, who takes to him immediately.

Going back to the truck incident, it turns out William also was in Vietnam, got captured and spent two years in the "Hanoi Hilton," the infamous prison in North Vietnam. He suffers from PTSD, and that is why he keeps a safe

distance from Elle.

Now, do you really think Evans is going to leave a story at this juncture? Of course not. But, I must say, he has a few tricks in his bag, and the stop-and-go progression of Elle and William's relationship will make you sit up and take notice.

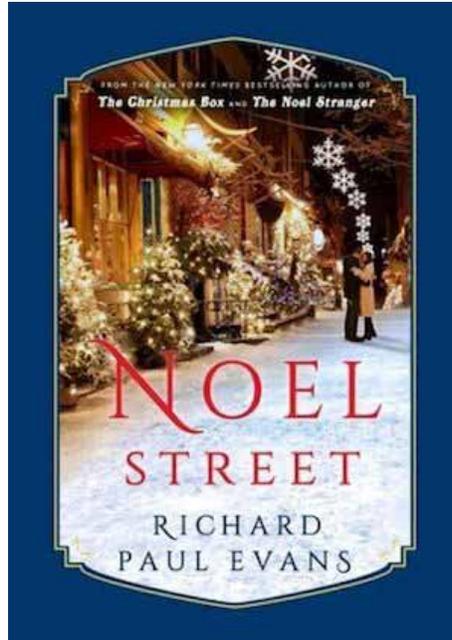
The season brings many memories for each of them, some good, some bad. Elle, for instance, feels it is her fault Isaac volunteered for the Army — maybe he'd still be alive. William admits he got in trouble and the judge gave him a choice — jail time or Army time.

And then, just when everything is turning sour, William confesses to Elle what really has been making him hold back his love for her...and it's a doozy.

Fix a nice drink after the kids are in bed and the husband is watching basketball on TV, then curl up in your favorite chair. This is a fast read you will enjoy, and maybe even bring your blood pressure down a point or two. We all need these little snippets of "me" time to regroup.

The New York Times calls Evans "the king of Christmas fiction," and I agree wholeheartedly.

Till next time, happy reading!





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