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Richard Hunt is photographed by Russell Jenkins in his Chicago studio.

MONUMENTAL WORKS

by Edmund Lawler

From an industrial-looking workshop in a century-old brick building chock full of metal shards, blow torches, anvils, a hoist and a smatter of welding tools arises the graceful, virtuosic handiwork of perhaps the nation's most prolific public sculptor.

Welcome to Richard Hunt's Chicago studio. Beneath a 40-foot atrium in a building that was once a Chicago Transit Authority electrical substation, the 83-year-old sculptor crafts large-scale abstract metal creations that accent more than 130 public sites across America.

If you've been to Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame, Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Mich., or just about anywhere in Hunt's hometown of Chicago, you've seen his monumental works of copper, bronze and steel. They're impossible to miss.

For example, his sculpture "And You, Seas," where the St. Joseph River meets Silver Beach, soars to a height of 48 feet. Nearby, at KAC, a pair of 22-foot high, twisting stainless steel arches form a stunning new entrance to the art center's lakefront campus.

When he's not working in his studio in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, Hunt often can be found in his other workshop: the Richard

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MONUMENTAL WORKS

Continued from Page 1

Hunt Studio Center, which he established in 1995 in Benton Harbor's Arts District.

He was encouraged to open shop there by Cornerstone Alliance, the economic development agency serving Benton Harbor and other Berrien County communities. The Alliance's Community Renewal Through the Arts program is designed to help stimulate the arts and economic growth, and Hunt was eager to pitch in.

"It's an attempt on a small-town level to create something like the River North area in Chicago or SoHo in New York, where you have a blend of studios and galleries and restaurants," Hunt says. "Benton Harbor had taken over several tax-delinquent properties, so I took a look at some of them and saw one I liked near Fourth and Territorial."

The district is a far cry from River North's vibrancy and critical mass, but Hunt says people who expect to find downtown Benton Harbor to be deserted and dilapidated might be surprised to find signs of life, including some interesting dining and entertainment venues, like The Mason Jar Cafe or The Livery.

He remembers going with his family when he was a child to Benton Harbor to watch the legendary House of David baseball team. The extravagantly bearded ball players represented a religious society founded there. His family — his father was a barber and his mother a beautician — also paid summertime visits to friends' homes in nearby Cassopolis.

As an adult, he's been a regular guest at artist friends' homes in such Harbor Country communities as New Buffalo and Lakeside. Southwest Michigan has always felt like a second home to him.

Regardless if he's sculpting in Benton Harbor or in Chicago, his creative process is much the same. He combines the industrial skills of a master welder with the improvisational talents of a jazz musician. He admits he's never quite sure where his muse will take him when crafting his wildly surreal sculptural creations that often feature a winged motif.

Hunt explains that he works directly with metal as opposed to a sculpting process, where molten metal is poured into a shape so it will cool and harden into that form. Working directly with metal, he believes, allows for more improvisation as he bends, burns and buffets a piece into shape.

"In some of my works, it is my intention to develop the kind of forms nature might create if only heat and steel were available to her," he said.

Working directly with metal, he adds, "Allows more freedom of expression than any other sculpture technique. You can put things together.

You can take them apart. Or you can put them together in a little different way. There is the process of working with the tools, feeling the metal, doing whatever it is that you want to do with it."

As a young man who contemplated a career as a painter, Hunt was inspired to work directly with metal after seeing a touring international exhibit that stopped in Chicago. It featured some sculptures of Picasso and his fellow Spanish abstractionist, Julio Gonzalez.



Hunt's "Hybrid Figure," outside the front doors at Lubeznik Center for the Arts.



The former Chicago Transit Authority building that Richard Hunt now uses for a studio.

At Chicago's School of the Art Institute, where he graduated in 1957, Hunt also was inspired by the abstract metal sculptures of his professor, Egon Weiner, as well as by another teacher, Nelli Bar. Both Jews, they fled Nazi Germany to avoid persecution.

Hunt, who began sculpting in clay in a makeshift studio in the bedroom of his family's home on Chicago's South Side, wasted no time in making his mark on the world of art. When he was a junior at the School of the Art Institute, the Museum of Modern Art in New York purchased one of his metal sculptures, "Arachne."

"It was obviously the most pleasant surprise I had up until that point," says Hunt, a self-effacing man with a gentle spirit. "It came out of the blue."



Hunt's "I Have Been to the Mountaintop" in Memphis, Tenn.

Fourteen years later, Hunt became the first African-American artist to have a major solo exhibit at MoMA, one of the world's largest and most influential repositories of modern art.

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MORE INFORMATION ABOUT INDIANA LAKEFRONT

With Alan Landing's permission (Alan has been appraising Indiana and Michigan properties for at least 30 years), I am quoting from his annual report on real-estate prices and sales. Alan has been publishing this annual report for many, many years. Data is for 2018 from GNIAR

"In LaPorte County, of the seven reporting districts, four had fewer sales in 2018 than 2017, although all seven districts enjoyed higher prices, with Michigan City reaching the \$100,000 plateau for the first time ever. MLS district 521, which encompasses the lake neighborhoods, had a record year for sales: over \$1 million with 14, while the old record was seven! Virtually all of the price increase in the lake area came from the sales of homes worth \$1 million and more, with four sales topping \$2 million this year."

"As mentioned above, the lake area 521 saw unit sales overall decline by 11, while prices rose approximately \$70,000 on average, with most of the increase found in the sales of homes of \$1 million or more. Lower price categories saw virtually no gain in 2017. Long Beach finds itself in talks over septic-system requirements, seawall requirements and even lake ownership discussions. This would seem to present a chilling effect on the market based on the 11 fewer sales. However, the sales of homes with a value of \$1 million or more had a record year at 14, with 7 being the best year ever before. Of these 14 sales, four topped the \$2 million mark. So even with a number of issues hanging over the district, buyers paid some record prices for lakefront properties."

Alan did not break out Long Beach from Shorewood Hills, Duneland Beach and Michiana Shores, as I did last month. But I thought it would be good to see his comments and analysis, especially his information about higher end properties that I did not discuss.

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MONUMENTAL WORKS Continued from Page 3

As a student at the School of the Art Institute in the 1950s, Hunt was only one of a handful of black students. He recalls there were no black instructors. Some of his fellow African-American classmates went on to become art teachers or commercial artists.

experience in America, as evident by such works as the 'Freedman's Column' at Howard University and 'I Have Been to the Mountaintop,' a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, where King was killed.

"Hunt's success and popularity as a sculptor of public pieces can be attributed to the universal appeal of his work and his remarkable ability to produce abstract works that are suggestive of themes



Richard Hunt says working with metal allows for more improvisation.

"They did not have the great luck that I had," Hunt says with his characteristic sense of understatement.

According to the Smithsonian Institution, "The public sculptures of Richard Hunt undeniably bridge the gap between abstract art and the black

and people of his immediate world."

Graduating with a degree in art education, Hunt was awarded a coveted year-long fellowship that allowed him to travel and study throughout Europe. After a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, Hunt went on to a glittering career in which his sculptures were exhibited throughout the world. He served on the Smithsonian board of directors and was a member of the National Council on the Arts.

He was a professor-in-residence or artist-in-residence at universities such as Harvard, Yale, Northwestern, Cornell and Indiana. He continues to sculpt every day, but at 83, he feels it's no longer his place to advise younger generations of artists.

"Too much time has passed for me to be giving advice to students. But maybe there are some senior citizens at assisted living centers who want to hear me talk about using clay models," he says with a laugh.

More understatement from one of the greatest living American sculptors whose remarkable body of work over more than 60 years work will forever be held in the highest regard.



Installations outside Krasl Art Center by Richard Hunt.



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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 to 5 p.m. Thursdays in February.**

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.

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

Membership to the group, formerly known as the Knit Club, is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

• **Mindfulness Light for the Reluctant User at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.**

Margie Williams introduces relaxing and healing-mindfulness techniques. No prior experience is needed.

• **Story Time at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 11.**

The Story Time Crew presents stories, songs, activities and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive your child's name tag. The program is appropriate for children birth-5 accompanied by an adult.

• **CoderDojo at 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11.**

The free coding club for ages 8-18 explores programming such as Ozobots, Spheros, Chibi Chips and 3-D modeling. Coding tools include Scratch, Hopscotch and MakeCode. Children 12 and younger must have a parent attend.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 21st season. The discussion is Global Migration. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 12 and 26, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 13 and 27.**

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

• **Angels Among Us — Be Our Valentine! at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13.**

Listen to and share stories about angels in everyday lives. Ange Benz leads the program.

• **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.

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The Dukes of Dixieland to Perform With SMSO

The Dukes of Dixieland will join Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra for its next concert, "Jazz with the SMSO," at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 9, at Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall.

Established by producer John Shoup in 1974, the Dukes of Dixieland has been New Orleans' pre-eminent jazz band for nearly 50 years. With 31 albums, three PBS television shows and an Internet show, the group plays Fats Domino, Huey Smith, Louis Prima and many originals.

The concert lineup is arranged to emphasize the full sound of an orchestra. Highlights include "Clarinet Marmalade," "Honky Tonk Train Blues" and "What a Wonderful World."



The Dukes of Dixieland.

An optional Creole-inspired dinner and concert package costs an additional \$30 per person. Patrons can arrive at 6 p.m. EST in the The Mendel Center Deckman Studio, then walk to the concert in Grand Upton Hall without leaving the building.

The concert will have a more casual setting, with patrons seated at tables. A cash bar is available. Tickets are \$35 for Zone A, \$20 for Zone B and \$5 for students. The dinner and concert package is available for \$65 for Zone A and \$50 for Zone B.

Grand Upton Hall is located at 1100 Yore Ave., Benton Harbor. Reservations can be made at www.smso.org, by calling (269) 982-4030 or in person at 513 Ship St., St. Joseph.

Chef Night

The Friends of New Buffalo Library's next Chef Night is at 5 p.m. EST Monday, Feb. 11, at the library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The event is led by pastry chef Denise Churchill, who trained at The French Culinary Institute in New York City. She will demonstrate cookie decorating with royal icing and cupcake decorating with buttercream. Adults can decorate their own cupcakes. Mini-cupcakes will be available to taste, and kids receive a "paint your own" Valentine cookie.

The cost is \$25 per family (a three-person minimum) and \$20 per individual. All proceeds aid the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. Sign up at the library front desk: cash and check only, with checks payable to the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org, call (269) 469-2933 or email nbtlcreate@gmail.com for more details.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee will hold a special meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in the council chambers at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

The purpose is to review a PowerPoint presentation concerning site locations for public art.

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Theatre at the Center Opens Season with “Million Dollar Quartet”

“Million Dollar Quartet,” the musical that dramatizes an actual 1956 recording session at Sun Records studio, kicks off with previews Feb. 14 at Munster’s Theatre at the Center.

The play, which features book by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, is set on Dec. 4, 1956, at the studio in Memphis, Tenn., when Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley assembled for an impromptu jam session. The story reveals how Perkins was there to record songs with Lewis, a new performer. Presley happened to visit with his girlfriend at the time, just as Cash stopped in to speak with recording impresario Sam Phillips, who is eager to resign Cash to a new contract, unaware he has already signed with Columbia Records.

Director Daryl Brooks has cast Zack Sorrow as Presley, Michael Kurowski as Jerry Lewis, Tommy Malouf as Cash, Zachary Stevenson as Perkins, Sean Fortunato as Phillips and Aerial Williams as singer Dyanne. Additional cast members include musicians Michael Sinclair as Jay and Nick Anderson as Fluke.

Brooks is making his directorial debut at TATC. In 2018, he directed “Memphis” at Porchlight Mu-

sic Theater and received a Jeff Award nomination. His playwright credits include “Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis Jr.” and “Black Pearl: A Tribute to Josephine Baker,” both in 2017, both of which he also directed at Chicago’s Black Ensemble Theater.

Previews begin Feb. 14, with opening night Feb. 17 and a continued run through March 31.



Tommy Malouf (from left), Zach Sorrow, Zachary Stevenson and Michael Kurowski star in “Million Dollar Quartet.” Photo by Brett Beiner.

Performances are at 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. In addition to the regular run schedule, TATC has added performances during the final seventh week: Wednesday, March 27, at 2 p.m.;

Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 31, at 2:30 and 7 p.m.

Tickets range from \$42 to \$46. Group discounts are available for 11 or more. Student tickets cost \$20. Call the box office at (219) 836-3255 or Tickets.com at (800) 511-1532 for reservations.

Visit www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com for additional information. The theater is located at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.



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“Aftermath: War is Only Half the Story” Photo Exhibit

Stories of the people left behind after the cameras leave war zones is the focus of “Aftermath: War is Only Half the Story,” a traveling photo exhibit that debuts Friday, Feb. 8, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Drawing on photos from more than 50 photographers, the post-war views unveil not only another side to the effects of war, but also tell the stories of people coming together to rebuild and heal. It is a 10-year retrospective of the documentary program “The Aftermath Project.” Founded to help change the way the media covers conflict, and to educate the public about the cost of war, it has discovered some of the most groundbreaking photojournalists in the world, as well as internationally acclaimed photographers Stanley Greene, Nina Berman, Davide Monteleone, Justyna Mielnikiewicz and Jim Goldberg.

Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, Calif., is involved with the project.

In conjunction with the exhibit:

- The free opening party is from 6 to 8 p.m. EST

Friday, Feb. 8. KAC’s education department will lead an exhibit-themed workshop. Small bites and a cash bar are planned.

- A free panel discussion hosted by Aftermath Curator Sara Terry from 10 a.m. to noon EST Saturday, Feb. 9. Terry will be joined by regional community members to discuss themes covered by the exhibit.



One of the photos by Stanley Greene included with “Aftermath: War is Only Half the Story.”

- Coffee with the Curator at noon EST Wednesday, Feb. 13. KAC Deputy Director and Curator Tami Miller will offer insights into the exhibit.

Also at KAC, in the artlab, is “Wilderness and Household: Coping with Comfort” by Yhelena and Michael Hall.

The exhibit explores the evolution of domestic appliances, and how they have gradually shaped humans

into creatures of comfort. By altering the functionality of domestic appliances, according to a press release, the tools are turned into metaphors that reflect our dependency on these devices and the desire to break free from their grasp.

Visit krasl.org or call (269) 983-0271 for more information.





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LCSO "Fashionably Late" Campaign

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra is conducting a "Fashionably Late" subscription campaign in response to the enthusiastic audience reaction to Russell Ger, its first music director candidate.

The next concert is at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, with candidate Mercedes Diaz at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center in Michigan City. Diaz is the first woman in 15 years to conduct LCSO. Her program, "Made in America," features music by Bernstein, Gershwin, Ellington and Dvorak.

Concluding the season is candidate Alexander Platt, who will lead an evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Selections include "The Sound of Music," "Carousel," "South Pacific!" and "Oklahoma."

Subscriptions can be purchased at www.LCSO.net or by calling (219) 362-9020. Prices are \$50 for adults and \$40 for seniors (60 and older).



Diaz



Platt

B. Shores Museum Virtual Exhibits

Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery now has virtual exhibits available at www.thedeptmag.org

Longtime resident Carol Ruzic has curated dozens of exhibits at the museum highlighting Beverly Shores history. They include photos, objects, newspaper clippings and newsletters.

Loading these exhibits to a museum database for digital preservation has begun and is available to the public. Individual users and professional researchers can perform searches and cross-referencing for information.

Actual gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday through Sunday, May through October. The museum is located at 525 S. Broadway.

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The February program is a yearly tradition: the Weavers' & Spinners' Challenge. Nine guild members wove or spun projects required to include five challenging specifications.

Visitors and potential new members are welcome. Visit www.dunelandweaversguild.org for details.

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Is that pain in your heel or bottom of your foot due to PLANTAR FASCIITIS?

FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop Reveals Natural Healing Secrets

Does your heel or bottom of your foot hurt:

- with the first few steps out of bed in the morning? Worse as the day progresses?
- when walking after prolonged sitting?
- when climbing stairs or standing on your toes?
- after standing for long periods?

Dear fellow Northwest Indiana resident,

Heel and foot pain is no joke. It can be debilitating...

You begin to dread getting out of bed in the morning...not a great way to start your day.

You get embarrassed with the way you walk after sitting for a while...you get curious glances from people.

You get frustrated...disappointed, sometimes angry at yourself for not being able to do the things you love...like shopping, leisure walking or simply keeping up with your kids or grandkids.

What is plantar fasciitis?

Plantar fasciitis (say "PLAN-ter fash-ee-EYE-tus") is the most common cause of heel pain.

The plantar fascia is the flat band of tissue (ligament) that connects your heel bone to your toes. It supports the arch of your foot.

If you strain your plantar fascia, it gets weak, swollen and irritated (inflamed). Then, your heel or the bottom of your foot hurts when you stand or walk.

Repeated strain can cause tiny tears in the ligament. These can lead to pain and swelling. This is more likely to happen if:

- Your feet roll inward too much when you walk.
- You have high arches or flat feet.
- You walk, stand or run for long periods of time, especially on hard surfaces.
- You are overweight.
- You wear shoes that don't fit well or are worn out.

Here's the test...

Sit down on a comfortable chair. Cross the leg of the involved foot over the opposite knee.

With either thumb, press firmly on the bottom of the involved heel, towards the arch of the foot.

If you find that this spot is tender and painful to you pressing on it, then most likely you have plantar fasciitis.

NOW...using the hand on your affected side, take hold of your affected foot and pull your toes back towards the shin. This creates tension/stretch in the arch of the foot/plantar fascia.

Repeat on the other side for comparison.

If this step feels so much tighter on the affected side, then you most likely have plantar fasciitis.

Now you may be asking...can plantar fasciitis heal and pain subside without medications, injections or surgery?

In most cases, yes...but it depends on, but not limited, to the following factors:

- Length of time you've been suffering.
- Things you're doing that are making the condition worse without you knowing it.
- Degree of swelling and tightness of the plantar fascia.

FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop

To help our valued clients dealing with heel and foot pain, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on the following dates and locations:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 19, LaPorte office at 5 PM:** 1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B (next to All Star Auto, same building as Hair Fitness)
- **Thursday, Feb. 21, Valparaiso office at 6 PM:** 3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8 (next to the Valpo YMCA)

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- The Top 2 most common causes of heel and foot pain
- Single biggest No. 1 mistake heel and foot pain sufferers make resulting in a condition that necessitates surgery
- How you can heal naturally without medications, injections or surgery
- Do-it-yourself techniques that will make you feeling better immediately after the workshop

This event is limited to 20 attendees only due to the interactive nature of this workshop. **To hold your spot, please call:**

- **(219) 380-0809 in LaPORTE**
- **(219) 202-2500 in VALPO**

See you at the workshop.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call NOW to hold your spot for the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on:

- *Tuesday, Feb. 19, La Porte (219-380-0809)*
- *Thursday, Feb. 21, in Valpo (219-202-2500)*

Oscar Watch: "Free Solo"

by Andrew Tallackson

It takes a mighty ego to upstage a 3,000-foot-tall vertical rock formation...but Alex Honnold somehow achieves that feat, often on unnerving levels, in "Free Solo."

Here is a film, Oscar nominated for Best Documentary Feature, that is as much in awe of nature as it is terrified by it, and it uses the now 33-year-old rock climber to explore what type of person has the *huevos* to scale El Capitan Wall, the intimidating granite monolith at Yosemite National Park, without any harnesses, ropes or equipment. What's called a free solo climb. Brave...or suitably unstable?

By the end of the film, we may have the answers.

I was prepared to dismiss "Free Solo." How could it be nominated for Best Documentary Feature and not the profoundly moving "Three Identical Strangers," or the whimsically optimistic "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" But the National Geographic-produced film is bold, muscular, visually hypnotic.

So, yeah, it deserves the Oscar nomination.

The crew assembled to capture Honnold's June 2017 free-solo ascent at El Capitan achieves what you'd expect from a National Geographic production. The colors of the Yosemite landscape pop with lush vibrancy. Drone photography seamlessly captures aerial footage in ways film crews rarely could have done 10 years ago. The camera is inches away from Honnold's face. His feet. His chalky fingers as they grasp for leverage. The effect is queasy, dizzying, with a you-are-there immediacy.

Oftentimes, during the nail-biting finale that depicts Honnold's trek up El Capitan, a part of me wondered, "Is some impressionable dolt going to see this and attempt the same feat?"

Had "Free Solo" been directed by ADD 10-year-olds, indeed, the film would have placed Honnold

on a thrill seeker's pedestal. But husband-and-wife filmmakers Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, the later orchestrating the film's jaw-dropping rock-climbing moments, take Honnold to task, dissecting him like a curious lab experiment.

Honnold, it seems, only feels alive when scaling impossible mountains. His brain spins a mile a minute. He primarily lives in a van. He prefers soli-

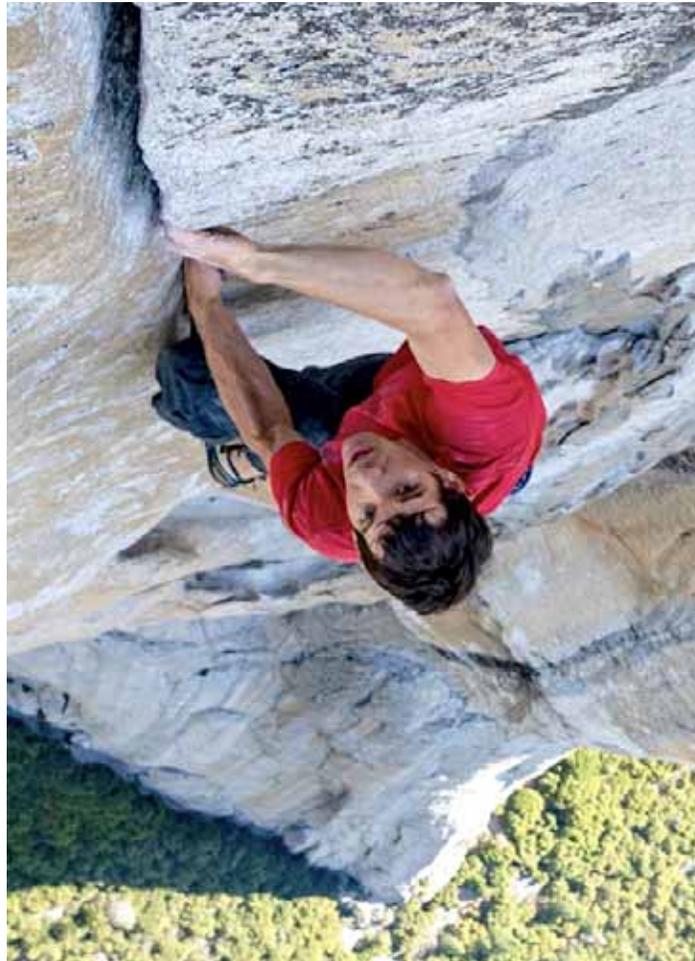
tude to companionship. The revelation by his mother that his father likely had Asperger syndrome hints at the forces at work within Honnold. His latest girlfriend, Sanni McCandless, who has lasted longer than any significant other before her, has the patience of a saint, but before the El Capitan climb, poses this of Honnold: Is her fear that he may not survive, the emotional hell each adventure exacts on her, of any consideration to him?

It is a legitimate question. The film frequently makes mention of other climbers who plunge to their deaths, some of whom Honnold knows well, but whose deaths he shrugs off, casually, as if simply being told of a change in weather. Even one of Honnold's cameramen, a longtime friend, can't watch the precarious moments of the El Capitan climb, fearful he will catch sight of a man's final moments.

No doubt Honnold will achieve other remarkable

feats in his life. He may even succumb to them. I'd be curious to know, 10 years from now, if he's married or has children. As it stands now, the thrill of achieving the unachievable remains his most alluring mistress.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



★ ★ ★ 1/2

"Free Solo"

Running time: 100 minutes. Rated PG-13
for brief strong language

The Beacher

Keeping You Updated on the Arts!

And the Nominees Are...

New!
1st and
2nd Place
Prizes

PICTURE

- "Black Panther"
- "BlacKkKlansman"
- "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- "The Favourite"
- "Green Book"
- "Roma"
- "A Star is Born"
- "Vice"

DIRECTOR

- "BlacKkKlansman," Spike Lee
- "Cold War," Paweł Pawlikowski
- "The Favourite," Yorgos Lanthimos
- "Roma," Alfonso Cuaron
- "Vice," Adam McKay

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- "The Favourite"
- "First Reformed"
- "Green Book"
- "Roma"
- "Vice"

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

- "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"
- "BlacKkKlansman"
- "Can You Ever Forgive Me"
- "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- "A Star is Born"

ACTOR

- Christian Bale, "Vice"
- Bradley Cooper, "A Star is Born"
- Willem DaFoe, "At Eternity's Gate"
- Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Viggo Mortensen, "Green Book"

ACTRESS

- Yalitza Arapicio, "Roma"
- Glenn Close, "The Wife"
- Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"
- Lady Gaga, "A Star is Born"
- Melissa McCarthy, "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"
- Adam Driver, "BlackKlansman"
- Sam Elliot, "A Star is Born"
- Richard E. Grant, "Can You Ever Forgive Me"
- Sam Rockwell, "Vice"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Amy Adams, "Vice"
- Marina de Tavira, "Roma"
- Regina King, "If Beale String Could Talk"
- Emma Stone, "The Favourite"
- Rachel Weisz, "The Favourite"



Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by fax to (219) 879-8070 or email to drew@thebeacher.com. The deadline is noon Monday, Feb. 18. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the Feb. 21 edition, before the Feb. 24 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. First place receives a \$25 Fiddlehead gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass. If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 7 edition.

Name: _____

City/Town: _____

Phone Number: _____

Oscar Watch: “Can You Ever Forgive Me?”

by Andrew Tallackson

Any other year, Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant not only would be Oscar shortlisted for their revelatory work in “Can You Ever Forgive Me?,” but they’d leave their competitors in the dust.

But with so few people having seen this gem of a movie, the two will have to settle on their nominations as the “win.”

One benefit of the Golden Globes — the alcoholic precursor to the Oscars — is that it cleaves categories into dramas and comedies, thus affording comic actors and actresses a better shot at nabbing trophies.

“Can You Ever Forgive Me?” isn’t necessarily a comedy, but everyone involved is savvy enough to capitalize on the outrageous irony of its larger-than-life true story. It’s based on the late Lee Israel, who in the 1970s-1980s courted success with respected biographies of actress Tallulah Bankhead and cosmetics giant Estée Lauder.

As the film opens, it’s the early 1990s and she’s hit rock bottom, unable to publish books or magazine articles. Her editor (a tart Jane Curtin) wants little to do with her. She’s behind on the rent, unable to pay for the medical care her cat requires.

She stumbles upon an actual note by Fanny Brice, and through a crazed burst of inspiration adds a witticism to it with her typewriter. She then sells it to the owner of a nearby bookstore, the meager profit enough to cover rent and cat medicine. From there, the scheme grows more elaborate as she obsessively creates fakes of personal communications by everyone from Dorothy Parker to Noël Coward. It works. She’s able to live in relative comfort...until the FBI gets word of her shenanigans.

Lee is played by McCarthy in a performance unlike anything before this. Her breakout, Oscar-nominated work in “Bridesmaids” (2011) was a blessing *and* a curse: a blessing in how it revealed McCarthy’s disarming approach to comedy (the vulgar court jester disguised as misguided sincerity), and a curse in that McCarthy felt compelled to top her-

self from there. Her subsequent use of the F word in films like “The Heat” felt like the equivalent of military bombardments.

But in “Can You Ever Forgive Me?,” director Marielle Heller (“The Diary of a Teenage Girl”), working from the astute Oscar-nominated screenplay by Nicole Holofcener (“Friends with Money,” “Enough Said”) and “Avenue Q” co-creator Jeff Whitty, reins in the actress, not by necessarily hitting the mute button, but by pushing her further than any director beforehand. She strips the actress bare, with no makeup and a disheveled mop of a hairstyle. McCarthy reeks of desperation, drowning her woes in alcohol and dismissing others with acidic barbs.

It is a tribute to the actress that she somehow makes Lee likable through her brittle vulnerability, a desire to be loved — the movie does not shy away from her homosexuality — and to restore her credibility within the publishing world.

Lee’s partner in crime is Jack (Grant), the role itself a tired trope in comedies: the bitchy gay best friend. But Grant dodges

that bullet through an aching loneliness, a desire for companionship wherever he can take it. Late in the film, when all is said and done, and Lee meets with Jack to give the head’s up she is writing about them, Jack is thin and gaunt, dying from AIDS. Rarely has an actor so hauntingly conveyed someone painfully aware of his own dwindling mortality. It’s heartbreaking, his final exchange with McCarthy, and the actress reacts to his caustic humor with a quivering smile that beautifully encapsulates their love-hate relationship.

The bond between the two is so subtle, it may be *too* subtle for Oscar voters who prefer their trophy winners a tad showier.

That’s a shame. McCarthy and Grant gave two of the best performances of the year.

(“Can You Ever Forgive Me?” arrives on DVD and blu-ray Feb. 19.)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant star in “Can You Ever Forgive Me?”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Can You Ever Forgive Me?”

Running time: 106 minutes. Rated R for language including some sexual references, and brief drug use

Oscar Watch: "Cold War"

by Andrew Tallackson

Paweł Pawlikowski.

Never heard of him? The Polish-born, United Kingdom-bred filmmaker has carved a celebrated career for himself. "Ida," his 2015 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, told of a woman on the cusp of taking vows as a nun who learns her parents were Jewish.

Still not ringing any bells?

OK, try this: Pawlikowski's the guy who bumped Bradley Cooper from this year's Oscar race for Best Director, his stark, black-and-white "Cold War" besting Cooper's much-beloved debut behind the camera, "A Star Is Born."

Pawlikowski is a natural-born storyteller, with a painterly eye for crafting images. "Cold War" may be the most achingly beautiful film of 2018. And at a lean 89 minutes, the director makes the most of his economical running time, the story spanning the late 1940s to the mid-1960s.

If only the third act was as compelling as what preceded it.

The film opens in 1946, as men and women in post-World War II Poland audition to become traveling performers celebrating Polish culture and history. Wiktor Warski (Tomasz Kot) is the music director/conductor, and he's immediately attracted to Zula Lichon. As played with a real fire in her belly by Joanna Kulig, it's easy to see what draws Wiktor to Joanna. She's driven, passionate. Enigmatically sexy: Her difficult past appears to have sculpted her potent demeanor.

Their emerging love affair is captured through the gorgeous Oscar-nominated cinematography of Łukasz Zal. Here is a case where black-and-white imagery feels appropriate: less a stylistic choice like Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma," more a means to convey Poland as a country reborn amid ruin. And the music of Wiktor's troupe is haunting: hymn-like reminders of loss and hope.

As the years go by, and the troupe is forced to

present communist propaganda, Wiktor feels compelled to flee, to France, where he and Zula can be free as artists. To love each other on their own terms. How Zula's decision to stay put charts the course of "Cold War" from there.

What's intriguing about "Cold War" is how the tone of the picture shifts with the changing times. The early scenes are appropriately somber and elegaic, the passages of life in 1950s France bouncing along at a jazzier groove.

But it is in France that the vitality of the relationship between Wiktor and Zula sheds its luster. I can't put my finger on it, whether it is Kot's inert performance or the way the role was written, but Wiktor is a bit of a dud. He gazes longingly, with bedroom eyes, at Zula, but that's about it. The film falls into the trap of so many love-hate affairs, where the moody, temperamental artist longs for, and tires of, his muse. Pawlikowski also comes dangerously close to letting style trump substance, the political conflict that chips away at Wiktor and Zula lost to a camera that lingers on Kulig as if she's Brigitte Bardot in pretentiously hip perfume commercials.

You come dangerously close to not caring anymore about these two... until the closing 10 minutes. Pawlikowski, who loosely based the film on his parents, strips "Cold War" of all the glitz and glamour and returns to

the bare core of these two people, and we are moved. Not tremendously so, but moved nonetheless.

Pawlikowski is a tremendous talent. The Best Director Oscar nomination is deserved. A film of sheer perfection, however, awaits.

("Cold War" can be viewed on Amazon Prime starting March 22.)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Tomasz Kot and Joanna Kulig star in "Cold War."



"Cold War"

Running time: 89 minutes. Rated R for some sexual content, nudity and language

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Frog Monitoring Workshops

The public is invited to one of two free training workshops for prospective volunteers to monitor local frog populations.

Spencer Cortwright, University Northwest biology professor, will lead the workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 9, at Barker House, 444 Barker Road, Michigan City. Alan Resetar, The Field Museum's amphibian and reptile collections manager, will lead the workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Meadowbrook Conservation Center, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.



Cortwright

The abundance and distribution of frogs over time indicates the health of aquatic ecosystems, as frogs are sensitive to changes in environment. By monitoring frog populations, citizen scientists provide data to help land managers and herpetologists recognize early warning signs of a declining habitat.

Workshop participants will learn about the characteristics of each species, preferred habitat and how to identify the calls of 13 local frog and toad species. Newcomers will be assigned a preserve or natural area close to home, or they may attend just to learn about the issue. New participants who would like to become a monitor will be assigned a preserve or natural area close to home. Those wishing only to learn about the program are welcome. Experienced monitors will learn any protocol changes, obtain data sheets, review frog calls and share lessons learned from last year.

Space is limited, so early registration is advised. Call Sarah at Shirley Heinze Land Trust at (219) 242-8558 or email sbarnes@heinzetrust.org. Visit www.heinzetrust.org for additional information.

Annual Valentine Tea

The 69th Annual Valentine Tea is at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

The event is free. Betty Staples will give devotions, with entertainment by Trilogy and Beverly Griffith. Afterward is fellowship and refreshments in the church community room. The building is accessible for people with disabilities, so use the door on the building's west side.



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SAM Winter Recital



School of American Music held its winter recital Sunday, Jan. 27, at Three Oaks Arts & Education Center.

The recital featured 14 students from voice, piano, violin and guitar studios. Students ranged in age from 5 to 71.

The voice studio, led by instructor Donna Mitchell, featured Broadway selections, while the violin studio, led by instructor Beth Osseberg, featured classical formative pieces from the violin repertoire.

The guitar studio, led by instructor Garth Taylor, featured dances played in classical style, while the piano studios, led by instructors Denise Vanden Bussche and Aglaja Petrova, featured pieces from the beginning piano repertoire.

Visit schoolofamericanmusic.org for more details.

SMSO Presents

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will unveil its new concert series, "SMSO Presents," at 2 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 10, at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

The series introduces hour-long programming, with smaller ensemble and solo performers. The Feb. 10 concert, "That's Amoré! An Afternoon Cabaret of Arias & Love Songs," features tenor Paul Mow and pianist Joshua Goines, with guest vocalists Meredith Best George, Kacie Colleen Mercer and Abby Murray Vachon.



Mow

Tickets, which are \$25, are available at www.smso.org or at the door.

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GeoBee Winners

Approximately 360 students at Krueger Middle School participated in the school-level National Geographic GeoBee in late November/early December, with the top 10 students advancing to the final school competition.



Krueger Middle School winners (from left) James Symons, Wyatt Bauer and Issac Williams.

On Dec. 12, seventh-grader Wyatt Bauer won first place, eighth-grader Issac Williams took second and seventh-grader James Symons finished third.

The school-level competition is the first round in the annual National Geographic GeoBee. Teacher Janine Peo is the Krueger coordinator.

Bauer enjoys the mini-series "Planet Earth," which he feels helped prepare him for the contest. He will take an online qualifying test March 29 to see if he advances to the state GeoBee competition.

Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 15.**

Church will lead students through a variety of watercolor techniques. The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class.

• **A new five-week session of Monday Night Ceramics starts from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 18.**

Beginning students will develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students refine techniques to create more complex forms. Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture also are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class.

The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. The cost of clay is an additional \$15, payable to the instructor on the first day of class. All other supplies are included.

□

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Bits & Bytes series, The Basics of iPhone & iPad, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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.

• **Kids Improv from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The improvisational games are aimed at youth 8-12. No registration is required.

• **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

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“A History of the Circus”

“Cirqzooladon: A History of the Circus,” which showcases promotional posters and photos of circus acts and local parades, runs through June 9 at South Bend’s The History Museum.



This undated photo shows a circus parade in South Bend.

The first circus is thought to have been created by Philip Astley in 1768 in England as an equestrian event. Later called the “father of the modern circus,” Astley was a skilled equestrian. His technique of demonstrating trick riding in a circle, rather than a straight line, was a forerunner of the rings used almost exclusively in later circuses. He hired acrobats, tightrope walkers, jugglers and clowns to fill in between acts, which led to the circus venues many know today.

The proximity of Peru, Ind., which is home to the International Circus Hall of Fame, provides a close connection to the history of the circus. It was the winter headquarters for several circuses, including Ringling Brothers and Buffalo Bill’s Wild West.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors (60 and older), \$6 for youth (6-17) and free for members. For an additional cost, guests can include a visit to the Studebaker National Museum, which adjoins The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St.

Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Visit historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for details.

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JROTC Conducts Presentation

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps conducted a demonstration for eighth-graders at Barker and Krueger middle schools Jan. 24.

The purpose was to familiarize students with JROTC, encouraging them to consider enrolling when completing their schedule for the next school year. The program consisted of an introduction by the senior Marine instructor, Maj. Tom McGrath, followed by basic and armed exhibition drill. Physical training activities of tug-of-war, stretcher carry, fireman's carry and the dizzy-izzy were executed.



Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Danny Walker commands the armed basic platoon.

The cadet commanding officer, Capt. Tyler Stockley, then gave his impressions of the JROTC based on his four years of experience. The program concluded with questions from students.

The drill team was to compete Feb. 2 at Wheeling (Ill.) High School for the Chicagoland Drill Meet. After that, they turn their attention to the MCJROTC National Championship Meet on April 13 in Washington, D.C. That trip will be done at no cost to MCHS nor the cadets. It is fully funded by the Marine Corps.

Additionally, they will support other MCHS events, such as providing Color Guards for the home boys basketball games, providing parking support for the boys regional basketball tournament March 9 and parent/teacher conferences March 21.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



Jan. 29, 2019

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Queen Pins	13.5	2.5
2. Bitchin Bowlers	12	4
2. Blind Side	12	4

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Mary Lou McFadden	182
2. Carolyn Wiggins	178
3. Cindy Beck	174
4. Margie Midkiff	173
5. Sue Labovitz	170
6. Tammy Nelmar	168
6. Nancy Kubath	168
7. Pat Collado	156
8. June Salmon	153
9. Ellie Parkerson	150
10. Barb Macudzinski (series)	411
11. Kathy Angelo (series)	409
12. Debra Smith (series)	409

SPLITS	
Polly Fletcher	1-3-7
Cindy Beck	2-7
Barb Macudzinski	3-10

STRIKES	
Sarah Blank	3
Cindy Beck	4



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

Genealogical Society

LaPorte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, at LaPorte City Parks Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

A social time and business meeting are followed by "Show & Tell," when members and guests can share recent discoveries through family history.

Also, the annual Allen County Public Library bus trip is April 24. The cost is \$21. Reservation information is available from Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360-5426.

Visit sites.rootsweb.com/~incigs/ for more details. Information on Genealogist of the Year nominations also is available on the website.



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

• **Art in the National Lakeshore from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through May 11 at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet local artists who use the dunes as inspiration to take photos, paint, draw or write. Programs may be inside or outside.

• **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Movie Screenings at the Paul H. Douglas Center from 2-3 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 24.**

Join a ranger for a screening of a national park or outdoor-related documentary.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 24 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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

• **Parents and toddlers can participate in the Nature Tots program from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.**

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



The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Lunch With the League

Deborah Chubb, interim co-chairwoman of the Citizens Climate Lobby of Northwest Indiana, will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Feb. 12, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

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

Chubb's presentation will include information, updates and future projects, as well as news on the new grant for lead-based paint hazards in Michigan City. A question-and-answer period follows.

The public is invited, and reservations are not required; however, a donation is requested from non-members. Attendees are encouraged to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and buy lunch from the menu.

Visit LWVlaporte.org or email LWV at lwvlaporte@gmail.com for more details.



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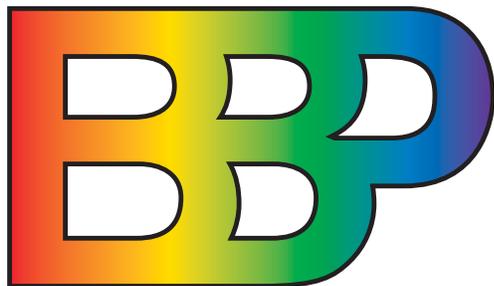


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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 7 — Kids Improv, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 9 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Info: www.dunelandweaversguild.org

Feb. 9 — Art in the National Lakeshore, 2-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 9 — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10-11:30 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 9 — 69th Annual Valentine Tea, 1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Free.

Feb. 10 — Snowshoe hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 10 — To the Beach & Back Hike, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 10 — Mindfulness Light for the Reluctant User, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 11 — Friends of New Buffalo Library Chef Night, 5 p.m. EST @ library, 33 N. Thompson St. Cost: \$25/family (three-person minimum), \$20/individual. Registration: (269) 469-2933, www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

Feb. 11 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 12 — Lunch With the League, noon, Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: LWVlaporte@gmail.com

Feb. 13 — Angels Among Us — Be Our Valentine!, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

In the Region

Feb. 8 — Opening party, "Aftermath: War is Only Half the Story," 6-8 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info: (269) 983-0271, krasl.org

Feb. 8 — Dan Navarro debuts w/ opener Patti Shaffner, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

Feb. 9 — South Bend Comic Book Convention, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933. Free. Info: www.epguides.com/comics, (309) 657-1599.

Feb. 9 — Free panel discussion, "Aftermath: War is Only Half the Story," 10 a.m.-noon EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, krasl.org

Feb. 9 — "Jazz with the SMSO," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall, 1100 Yore Ave., Benton Harbor, Mich. Tickets/reserva-

tions: www.smsso.org, (269) 982-4030.

Feb. 9 — Unwrapped at the Box, Sankofa in Concert, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Cost: \$10. Info: www.acorntheater.org, (269) 756-3879.

Feb. 10 — “SMSO Presents” concert series, “That’s Amoré! An Afternoon Cabaret of Arias & Love Songs,” 2 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: www.smsso.org

Through Feb. 28 — Multi-media exhibit, Michael Klaus Schmidt, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan Hospital Clair of Assisi Room, 3500 Franciscan Way; 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

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

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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Snowshoe Shuffle from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9.**

The free naturalist-led snowshoe exercise hike, which meets at the Nature Center, offers a chance to learn the history and techniques of snowshoeing. Free snowshoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. A winter hike is planned if there isn’t enough snow.

- **Nature Myths from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9.**

Meet at the Nature Center to help shatter myths about animals that call the dunes home.

- **To the Beach & Back Hike from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.**

Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for a moderate hike, with the return trek along Trail 7.

- **Reptile Rendezvous from 2 to 2:40 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.**

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to see live turtles and snakes, the emphasis being how they survive the cold winter months.



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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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.

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. Feb. 11, March 4 and 18, and April 1 and 15 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

The schedule is:

- Feb. 27 — Catch The Sun.
- March 6 — Bug Fun.
- March 20 — A Hopping Good Time.
- April 10 — Scavenger Hunt Fun.

Daddy Daughter Dance — “Princess Style”

Fathers and daughters can get dressed up for the dance from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, or 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at Red Mill County Park.

Each night has a limit of 90 individuals. The cost is \$15 per couple, and \$5 for each additional daughter. The evening includes dancing, refreshments and photos. Pre-registration and payment are required.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks. Call (219) 325-8315 for more information or to make a reservation.

Shelter and Hall Reservations

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

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by Sally Carpenter

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"This wasn't terrorism. It was pure terror."

Horror. Science fiction. Call it what you will. This book is scary, read-by-the-light-of-day scary. And...it's fun. Oh come on, you know we all like to be scared out of our wits by books and movies that make us stuff popcorn in our mouth while grabbing the arm of whomever's sitting next to us. This book ranks right up there with the best of adrenaline-pumping terror. Here's what it's all about...

New York City Mayor Tom Cafferty is about to experience the crowning achievement of his political career. After years of wrangling for money, followed by years of excavation and construction, the underground subway known as the Z Train Expansion, connecting Manhattan with New Jersey under the Hudson River, is finally completed.

Halfway between the New York and Jersey's shores, and 300 feet below the river, is a brand new Visitors Pavilion where the inaugural train will stop for speeches and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Cafferty stands next to President Reynolds. He wasn't invited — Cafferty feels he should own the day — but Reynolds shows up anyway. No love lost between these two.

Soon, the inaugural train, with 65 selected passengers, including Cafferty's wife, Ellen, leaves New Jersey and heads underground to the pavilion. Radio contact between the train and Cafferty goes smoothly until...no more radio signals. Minutes pass until...the train slides into the pavilion. No sign of a living person. No sign of even a body. Only empty cars splashed with blood from front to back and top to bottom. What the...?

Now the real story begins...

Why are there no bodies on the train? Who or what took them out? What happens next? Panic, of course. The Secret Service pulls the president into the control center, locking the door, allowing no one else in except the technical crew, sending the people waiting at the train platform into a hysterical run for cover, running into each other, trying to find the safest place to go. Naturally, the first thing everyone thinks is that this is a terrorist attack.

Cafferty seeks out Diego Munoz, head of operations at the Pavilion. What he tells him isn't good. The electric grid is down, and now, methane gas levels in the tunnel are rising.

That means two things: First, they won't be able

to breathe once the methane level reaches a certain point, and two, it won't matter if a rescue train arrives to save them because any sparks from the train will cause the methane gas to explode.

Now, the story splinters off into different directions...

Secret Service agent Samuels decides to take President Reynolds and Munoz into the tunnel and up to the river to meet a submarine to whisk the president to safety. How come Samuels only takes Munoz with him? Why leave the rest of the agents behind? It soon becomes apparent something or someone is following them, and when they get to the portal, Samuels seems to have a different idea of what's going to happen...

Meanwhile in the Pavilion, a SWAT unit lead by Sarah Bowcut has made its way down the tunnel. Cafferty tells her if his wife is alive, he is going to find her. Bowcut and several of her team, including Lucien Flament, a reporter, volunteer to go with him. Flament is a strange one. As they proceed, he seems to know something he can't or won't share with the others...

Up on the ground in New Jersey, train engineer Sal can see something is going wrong down below and decides to take matters into his own hands, making a rescue run to the Pavilion...Hope he knows the methane level is rising...

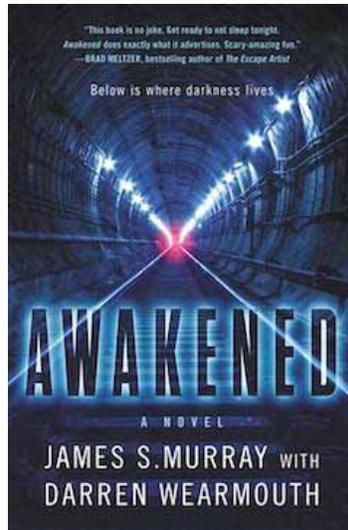
Cafferty is about to learn what he has unleashed, and it's not a pretty picture. All this splintering off of various people in different directions makes this one exciting read. Each chapter ends in a cliffhanger, switching over then to another part of the story, leaving you eager to see how all these various scenarios will come together. Or will they?

It's an exciting race to see who discovers the mystery of the horrific killings. The bowels of the earth and sea are still a mystery to scientists and so offer a wide range of possibilities for talented writers like Murray and Wearmouth to speculate about. The characters cover the whole spectrum of good to bad and hero to coward. It's as much a character assessment as a horror story, making it an obsessive read.

Sure I can see this story as a movie, with all of Hollywood's special effects, but, hey, I'm old school... Read a book and use your imagination!

The writers come from very different backgrounds: Wearmouth is ex-British Army who went on to corporate technology before becoming a writer. Murray is a writer, actor and executive producer of the TV show "Impractical Jokers."

Till next time, happy reading!



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