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Deep Impact

by Andrew Tallackson

If someone told Kyle Higdon, back in the carefree days of his youth, that one day he would work for the largest professional and technical contractor hired by NASA, he might not have believed it.

Growing up along the shores of Lake Michigan, Higdon had no clear path in his mind that led to NASA, no passion for space exploration or the mechanics behind it.

“That wasn’t what I identified with as a kid,” he says. “Really, my goal growing up was to eventually make an impact somewhere. But I feel like the skills I developed over the years...and all the experiences I’ve had helped drive me to this point, and I have had great support from my teachers, and my family, in terms of stoking that fire.”

In May, the Long Beach native will have been employed one year with Jacobs Technology Inc., a division of Jacobs Engineering, which has what’s called



Kyle Higdon is photographed in the cockpit of the space shuttle that sits in the Shuttle Avionics and Integration Lab.

the JETS contract, or JSC Engineering, Technology and Science contract, with NASA. His job title — and it’s a mouthful — is rarefied gas dynamics/computational fluid dynamics engineer, which places him among a seven-member team at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In the simplest terms, Higdon writes computer simulations for high-altitude flight scenarios, the issue of safety being of utmost importance.

Higdon’s youthful dream of making an impact as an adult, thus, is fully realized. He and others like him are ensuring that the next era of space exploration unfolds within the safest parameters possible.

The 30-year-old, 2007 Michigan City High School graduate recently spoke

with *The Beacher* during a telephone interview from Houston, and it was during our conversation,

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Deep Impact

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and subsequent emails with his mother, Camille, that stories from his childhood hint at the path his life would follow.

One of Higdon's earliest memories, in fact, is one that involved his mother.

"One of my favorite things was to watch a storm come into Michigan City from across the lake," he says. "I remember, my mom and I would sit out and watch the lightning across the lake. Maybe that was something that drove my interest in aerodynamics: understanding how the different aspects of physics happen. I was always curious."

Camille recalls her son's first flight, at age 4, when the family flew to Houston to visit his grandparents.

"He was so excited, asking all kinds of questions about flying and the plane," she said. "It was a beautiful, clear day and after takeoff, he looked out the window and said, 'Mom, Mom, look there is a map down there.' Sure enough, I looked out the window and the land was patched with farmlands and roads, which did look like a map."

So unbeknownst to Kyle, forces of nature — literal and impressionable — were at work. His youthful mind, however, was preoccupied with an altogether unrelated interest.

Running.

When you consider the Higdon family name, it makes sense. Kyle's grandfather, Hal, is a contributing editor for *Runner's World*. At the 1964 Boston Marathon, he finished fifth overall, his time,

2:21:55, making him the first American finisher. Ironically, he was among 5,000 finalists considered to be a NASA journalist in space, making it to the final 40. That opportunity, however, was not to be in light of the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy in 1986. It also must be noted that Kyle's parents, Kevin and Camille, organize

Long Beach's Old School Run, the event held every year before July 4th festivities commence.

So, during his formative years, Kyle did what came naturally. Run. Along Lake Shore Drive. On the beach. Waving hello to friends, neighbors and, during summers, the seasonal residents as he passed by.

His academic journey began at Long Beach School, then switched to St. Stanislaus School after the former closed, then Krueger Middle School and finally Michigan City High School, where he ran track all four years. He even ran during his undergraduate days at The University of Notre Dame, but it was there he arrived at the conclusion that

track wasn't in his future.

"I thought I would be a great runner, to make an impact in athletics, but that didn't happen. That's what I realized in college," he said. "I was still competing, but not (with) the impact I thought I would have. Thing is, the discipline and perseverance of competing in sports translated to my studies."

Kyle's exploration into other career possibilities began within engineering, but it was an introductory aerospace class that narrowed down his course of study. The chance to conduct research alongside professors sealed the deal.

"I like a challenge, and it was probably more of



Kyle (seated, right) with his parents, Kevin and Camille, brother, Wes, and sister, Holly.



Kyle (front), during his track days at Michigan City High School.

the hands-on nature, the open-endedness, that I found interesting," he said. "I was free to explore, make mistakes and learn from that, maybe discover something no had discovered before, which I know rarely happens."

Kyle laughs, adding "I had delusions of grandeur in my undergrad days."

Nonetheless, Kyle knew precisely what he wanted to do with his life. After graduating from Notre Dame in 2011, he embarked on the step-by-step process to earn a doctorate in aerospace engineering, one that led him to the University of Texas at Austin. It was ideal, a setting that afforded a mind like his, one fueled by curiosity, plenty of research opportunities.

In 2014, he was among 54 students from across the country included in the NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship. Adept at computer simulations, he helped research how heat affects space vehicles as they return to Earth's atmosphere.

Playing an active role in such formidable research quieted any uncertainties Kyle harbored when his post-graduate work first began.

"I remember one of the first days of grad school, I go into this office with other grad students, and I came out thinking, 'How the heck am I ever gong to understand as much as these guys?' They were talking about things way over my head," Kyle recalled.

"Later," he adds, chuckling, "I would see new grad

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Deep Impact

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students come in and think, 'I can talk about these things forever (with them).'

All that hard work paid off when Kyle earned his doctorate in aerospace engineering and, in May 2018, was hired by Jacobs Technology.

"It's been pretty exciting — a job where you are excited to go to work every day and work on interesting projects," he said. "Since I got here, I felt like this group has had a lot of trust in what I've been doing. It felt like a team right from the start."

Interesting projects, indeed.

Higdon has helped simulate space station heating, specifically to make sure jets don't burn sensitive aspects ranging from solar panels to docked vehicles.

"We support analysis for every vehicle that docks at the space station," Higdon said. "These vehicles can be...commercial vehicles such as the SpaceX Dragon, or international partners like the Japanese HTV or Russian Soyuz."

Another exciting project involves the planned ORION spacecraft launch, an American-European venture designed for four astronauts and situated, according to a report, "at or beyond low Earth orbit." No date for a manned flight is set; however, testing launches have begun, Higdon said, adding, "The Orion Exploration Mission-1 is planned for

2020 and will spend time orbiting the moon."

Higdon and his colleagues also focus on the journey home for astronauts.

"Re-entering is one of the most dangerous parts of space flight," he said. "A big burden on our group is to make sure these astronauts are safe."

Aside from specific tasks, Kyle says his position entails plenty of free rein.

"I like having the ability to apply my skills right away on something that can have an impact," he said. "I'm trusted to get something done."

"At the same time, I can walk down the hall of my building and sit in an old mockup of the space shuttle, or walk outside and see Mission Control, or go into the viewing area...and see where they practice different scenarios."

And when he returns home to Long Beach, what does he enjoy most?

"My parents, my grandparents — it's an awesome place to be," he said. "There is nothing

better than going to the lake in the summer and hanging out with friends and family."

And maybe a quick run along Lake Shore Drive? The Old School Run?

Kyle laughs.

"I definitely want to come and run in that this July."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



May marks Kyle Higdon's one-year anniversary with Jacobs Technology Inc., the largest professional and technical contractor hired by NASA.



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April 6th	Permaculture Garden Design Workshop w/ Christine Maloney	10-12
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June 8th	Invasive Walk w/ Betsy Elsaesser	10-12
June 22	**Make and Take Bouquet Workshop w/ Lyndsay Ploehn	10-12
Oct 5	Wild Edibles / Mushroom Walk w/ Christine Maloney & Justin Sule	12 - 2

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“Arsenic and Old Lace” Opens at Footlight Theatre



Bryan Redeagle (seated), Joe Blanchard (standing, left) and Ian Hughes appear in “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

The classic, suspense-laced comedy “Arsenic and Old Lace” returns March 1-3 and 7-10 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Debuting in 1941, Joseph Kesselring’s play revolves around two spinster aunts, Abby and Martha, and their nephews: Mortimer, a theater critic, Jonathan, a criminal, and Teddy, who believes he is president. Add to the mix Mortimer’s skeptical girlfriend, Doctor Einstein, who is Jonathan’s eccentric sidekick, the Brooklyn police department and a number of gentleman callers. Problems arise when the aunts start a new “hobby.”

The cast includes Bryan Redeagle, Jan Rice, Kristin Allison, Joe Blanchard, Alex Bonner, Ian Hughes, Di Younce, Adam Wogomon, Lane Grote, Thom Nelson, Donovan Barrier, William Cullins and Larry Piotrowski. Director Dee Piotrowski is assisted by Di Younce and Producer Lara West.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 for adults, or \$10 for children 12 or younger, and \$10 for the March 7 show. Reservations are recommended by calling (219) 874-4035. Leave a name, phone number, the day and date of the requested performance and the number of people in the party.

Reservations also can be made at www.Footlight-Players.org.

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Lubeznik Exhibit Casts Critical Eye on Existing Culture

by Linda Weigel



Tom Torluemke's acrylic panels, "Fearsome Fable/Tolerable Truth," with Alison Ruttan's cast ceramic vehicles on sand and plywood, "Line in the Sand."

Contemporary artists present a different kind of truth: honest, unique, perhaps disturbing or humorous views of our current world. Captivating scenes real or imagined, visual commentaries on society good and bad — all enlighten and inform us, depending on our ability to recognize and appreciate what is contained within the works.

Through "Nature vs. Everything," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., presents a challenging, timely, one might say critical look at our existing culture. The exhibit is a thought-provoking and, in one room, fully immersible experience.

"Nature vs. Everything" opened Feb. 1. Spread through the Hyndman, Brinka/Cross and Susan Block galleries, the new show features nine contemporary artists: Dan Attoe, Amy Casey, Juan Angel Chávez, Diane Christiansen and Shoshanna Utchenik, Michal Pajón, Lilana Porter, Alison Ruttan and Tom Torluemke.

"Exploring humanity's relationship with nature, these artists view the dialog between humans and their environment somewhere between a quiet conversation and a brutal exchange," according to a description of the exhibit. "Often using a lens of whimsy, humor or horror, this exhibition explores environmental peril. Each encounter with the art asks viewers to reflect on their interaction with the natural world while questioning their scale, significance and impact."

Ruttan's "Line in the Sand" is composed of hand cast ceramic vehicles, sand and plywood. Originally presented at Chicago Cultural Center, the installation was at that time 30' long and 12' wide, composed of more than 400 ceramic objects. For this showing, the plywood base measures 18' x 8' and contains approximately 250 cast works. The impact



The detail in Alison Ruttan's "Line in the Sand."

is still highly charged as the subject represents a military operation that actually occurred during the Gulf War.

The artist's statement explains: "Artist and Professor Alison Ruttan has been engaged with ques-

tions surrounding the nature of violence as part of the human condition for the past 10 years. This large multi-media installation was made in reference to the 'Highway of Death' from the Gulf War, a 60-mile stretch of highway between Kuwait and Iraq that U.S. and Canadian forces carpet bombed in 1991."

In viewing the work, the sense of destruction is complete and yields many questions concerning the futility of war, and the cost to both human lives and the consequential environmental repercussions.

Standing tall, end to end along the curved outer wall, is Torluemke's "Fearsome Fable/Tolerable Truth," a series of acrylic on corrugated cardboard panels and birch plywood. The work is described in his artist statement as an "interactive mural," where he "explores two sides of the story of humanity's relationship with nature." One side presents a well-worn, used-up world with no remaining natural environment. The panels are interactive, as this is artwork you can touch and feel, free to flip the panels to the backside to reveal an entirely differ-

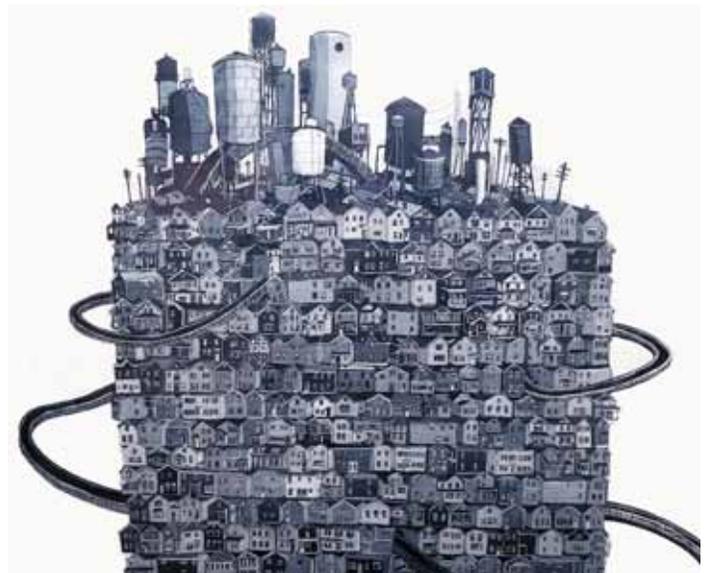


The detail in Tom Torluemke's "Fearsome Fable/Tolerable Truth."

ent reality, encouraging you to change your point of view. Revealed is a world "replete with healthy oceans, snow-capped mountains, a cornucopia of fresh produce, responsible use of technology and industry – a very different and brighter world."

One feels encouraged after viewing this work to think carefully about the choices we make as consumers of goods and services, especially as relates to the quality of life.

Other artists in the Hyndman Gallery are Porter, Casey, Chávez and Attoe. In her Feb. 9 curator-led tour, Director of Exhibitions Lora Fosberg stated that Porter's work "allows the viewer to enter the work and to become activated in the scene. She allows the narrative to reopen the viewer to decide for themselves. The greatest thing about the work is that the artist proposes ideas to you. You bring your own history to the viewing."



Amy Casey's etching, "Homefront."

With Casey's brilliant etchings, we see an artist who has fully mastered the difficult medium with complex ideas about the struggle of man vs. his environment.

Attoe's paintings are not just straightforward oil works, but rather highly skilled layers of translucent glazes that may incorporate a very unusual twist: tiny text embedded in the surface. Look carefully, and you may be able to locate the nearly hidden message.

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Chávez utilizes unusual materials in construct-ing his art, such as tar. Generally known for much larger works, his small glass-domed pieces presented in the show are more maquettes or models for larger works, such as “Roadless.” “Chief Wonder” is a mixed-media work assembled from old fishing poles, rope and other materials splayed fanlike and resting on a wood-



Dan Attoe's oil on canvas,
“Cedar Trees.”

en table, briefly reminding me of a warrior headdress.

Upstairs in the Brinka/Cross and Susan Block galleries, the theme continues with additional intriguing art works. Christiansen and Utchenik have created a fully integrated installation event titled “Clearing.” Initially, Fosberg says, the idea came from a video created by the duo.

“It was created a few years ago, but seemed like it would really lend itself well to expanding into three dimensions as an installation,” she said.

To create a total surround of uninterrupted surface for drawing directly on the walls, windows needed to be covered. It took them four days to complete the piece.

“The installation was made specifically for the space, but we do hope that it will travel to another location and take a new form if possible,” Fosberg said. “So much work went into the production that it would be a shame not to show it again.”

Upon entering, I was enveloped in a welcoming space. This, too, is artwork you can touch. Visitors are encouraged to try on the masks, but not touch the hanging items.

Pajón's remarkable collage work is unlike anything I have encountered. Influenced by unrecognized 19th century women illustrators from the U.S. and U.K., he incorporates cuttings of their art within the new, resulting in an evolved statement. Several pieces in his show reference ancient Greek pottery, krater and amphora forms that are noted for being more than just ceramic jugs for storing wine or oil, but also for the beauty of their surface designs. The formal shape of the ancient pots now takes on newly collaged stories. His technique is impeccable, executed with precision and resulting in an artwork that is exciting and visually engaging.

Downstairs in the NIPSCO Art Education Center gallery, we find artist/illustrator/graphic designer Melissa Washburn's “Cabinet of Curiosities,” a series of mixed-media illustrations based in nature. Her representations of insects and animals are refreshing: something familiar to everyone.



“Ariadne, Mistress of the Labyrinth,”
a mixed-media collage on panel by Michael Pajón.

Washburn states, “I am not a scientific illustrator. I make no claims about the technical accuracy with which I represent the natural history subjects in my work, nor do I approach them in the systematic way a biologist or naturalist would. Instead I am guided by curiosity and aesthetic appreciation of these specimens, learning about the life, taxonomy, and habitat of living things as I come across each one.”

“Nature vs. Everything” closes June 8. Washburn's “Cabinet of Curiosities” closes March 2. Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman says the center “already has 700 students scheduled to tour this exhibit, with more schools contacting me to make arrangements for learning tours.”

If you would like to see the exhibit with a group, contact the LAC at (219) 874-4900 to schedule a date and docent-led tour.

It is remarkable how high the continued quality of art is at the LAC. Catch these striking and thoughtful exhibitions before they close.



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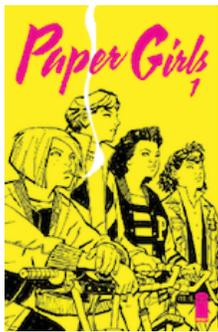
Michigan City Public Library

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.

• **Graphic Novel Club for Teens at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28.**



The focus is Brian K. Vaughn's "Paper Girls." The group is aimed at youth 13-18.

• **Needle Arts League at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 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.

• **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.

Home & Lifestyle Expo

Builders Association of LaPorte County will host its Home & Lifestyle Expo on Saturday and Sunday, March 2-3, at Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa.

Admission is free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Visitors can speak with professionals in areas such as home building, remodeling, home maintenance and gardening. Experts can discuss specifics such as kitchens, baths, floors, doors, heating, cooling, sunrooms, patios, yards, furnishings and crafts.

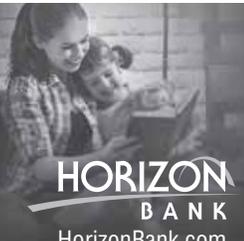
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Chesterton Art Center

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

- **Painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6.**

Guests are welcome, with no registration required. All ability levels and styles are invited. Participation is encouraged.

Artists can take work at any stage, from conception to the final version. While a safe and friendly environment, it is a critique involving insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

- **Jennifer Martin will host a Green Frog edition of “Cookies and Canvas” on Friday, March 8.**

Children 3-7 can attend from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by youth 8 and older from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The program includes an 8x10 frog-themed, stretched-canvas painting, as well as cookies and juice. The cost is \$10 per child, or \$5 for members. Register and pay no later than Thursday, March 7.

- **The membership drive “March Membership Madness” includes an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23.**

Prospective members, current members and guests can tour the building, sample treats, win prizes, meet teachers, shop for art/gifts, learn about the organization and sign up for membership.

Memberships begin at \$35 per year.



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

Brown Bag Gardening Series

LaPorte County Master Gardeners continues its Brown Bag Gardening Series with “Gardening Through Handicaps” from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Michigan City Senior Center.

Guests can take a lunch or snack. The cost is \$5. No registration is required. Call Purdue Extension-LaPorte County at (219) 324-9407 for more details, or download a flyer at www.extension.purdue.edu/laporte. Click on the “Garden” heading at the top of the page, or visit www.lpmastergardener.com

The last program, “Gardening with Kids,” is from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at the LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room, 904 Indiana Ave.

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Women in Leadership

Women in Leadership of LaPorte County will feature Maria Mercedes Diaz Garcia, who will discuss "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center, 444 Pine Lake Ave., LaPorte.

Diaz Garcia is one of six candidates for LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's position of conductor/music director. LCSO is sponsoring the March WILL meeting.

During her program, Diaz Garcia will reveal how a passion for music led to her role as a professional conductor in a field dominated by male counterparts. A native of Spain, she began her musical career as an oboist and pianist, receiving advanced degrees in both instruments. She appeared with orchestras in Spain, Germany and England, and recorded



as soloist for Spanish television. She was awarded a tenured position from the Ministry of Education to teach oboe in National Conservatories in Spain and held professorships in Murcia and Madrid. In the United States, she has taught conducting at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and at Bowling Green State University. She has taught other courses at BGSU, including Aural Training and Music Appreciation.

She is a conducting fellow/assistant conductor of orchestras at BGSU, where she also conducts the New Music Ensemble. As a doctoral candidate, she is writing a dissertation that focuses on aspects of time in contemporary music.

During the WILL meeting, attendees also will meet LCSO Interim Executive Director Tim King.

Meetings are open to the public. Reservations can be made at www.women-in-leadership.com

Ted Perzanowski, M.Div., B.A.



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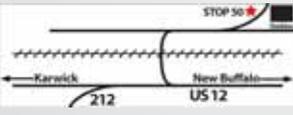
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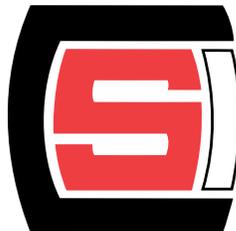
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Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:



Drilling a tap hole is a popular activity during Maple Sugar Time.

- **Maple Sugar Time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 2-3, at Chellberg Farm.**

The 41st annual Maple Sugar Time festival features one-hour tours that start every 20 minutes. Learn how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how early settlers used large iron kettles to make syrup. Then, stand in the warm steam of the sugar shack, where sap is boiled the way the Chellbergs did in the 1930s.

Try drilling a tap hole, lugging heavy sap buckets using an old-fashioned yoke and sampling a free taste of pure maple syrup.

Warm up in the farmhouse and collect recipes featuring maple syrup. Pure maple syrup and sugar, and related products such as maple-flavored popcorn and maple water, will be sold. Guests also can learn how to make maple syrup at home, and how modern maple sugar farmers use advanced technology to make syrup today.

Chellberg Farm is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20, Porter.

- **Art in the National Park 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.

□

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.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Knit Wits and Pearls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

- **Bits & Bytes series, Evernote, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 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.

- **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

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

- **Chesterton Cubing Club from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 3, at Thomas Library.**

Anyone interested in Rubik's Cube is welcome. Email ebmalapanes@gmail.com for details.

- **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, March 4, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.** The focus is Ann Patchett's "Commonwealth."

- **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at Hageman Library.**

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

- **Teen Scene from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Teens in grades 6-12 are invited. The focus is making magnetic slime. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **Minecraft Meet-up at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at Thomas Library.**

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

Heritage Interpreter Presentations

Heritage interpreters will share their journeys through mansion archives during free programs at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

The mansion archives house thousands of documents, photos, blueprints, clothing and other remnants of Gilded Age life in Michigan City. Subjects include dramatic consequences of the 1894 Pullman riot, as well as life in the Barker family.

Refreshments are served. Select dates include short tours of the mansion and other areas of the house. Call (219) 873-1520 or visit barkermansion.com for more details.

Have a story idea?

Call us at (219) 879-0088

“12 Incompetent Jurors” Opens at LaPorte Little Theatre Club

The spoof “12 Incompetent Jurors” kicks off a two-week-end run Friday, March 1, at LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St.

Directed by Tony Thomas and Jim Snyder, the show kicks into high gear after a man is accused of abducting half a dozen cats. It’s a simple open-and-shut case, even for a jury that’s filled with odd-balls, such as a dim-witted PR lady (Katy Gartland), a bickering couple (John Waterson and Patty Nocek) and a cracker-crunching oddball (Robert Richter).

Juror No. 8, however, a wannabe lawyer played by Trent Kaercher, believes the “Cat Burglar” is innocent. Will he be able to sway the other jurors? Or will they side with Juror No. 3 (Greta Friedman)? Other jurors include Shania Povlock, Rachel Keehn, Bobbi Lauritsen, Dave Mikolajczyk, Robyn Jackson and Jen Conrad.

Performances are Friday through Sunday, March



Trent Kaercher and Greta Friedman appear in “12 Incompetent Jurors.”

1-3 and 8-10. 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 for reservations or more information.

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The Top 3 Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Back pain and sciatica can be one of the most frustrating problems to deal with...leading to pain killers, expensive MRIs, multiple injections, even surgery.

What's worse is that many times these costly procedures do not lead to being pain free...or even less pain OR relief...leading to frustration...feeling like life is passing you by...and depression.

BUT from experience of helping over 2,000 patients with back pain and sciatica heal naturally without medications, injections or surgery...I can share that in every case the person got back to normal because the CAUSE of their back pain and sciatica was addressed correctly.

So what causes back pain and sciatica?

From my experience, there are 3 most common causes we see at Orthopedic and Balance Therapy:

Cause #1: Stenosis, Arthritis, DDD (Degenerative Disc Disease)

Pain with standing and walking? Less pain when you sit down? 50 or more candles on your next birthday cake?

If you answered Yes to these 3 questions, then there's a 99% chance the cause of your back pain or sciatica is stenosis, arthritis or DDD.

Sufferers with this cause also may have lower back stiffness when they first get out of bed in the morning...and may need to "move around" for 15 minutes...or get a hot shower before they loosen up.

They usually have trouble being on their feet for long times...and need to "sit down for a minute" to get relief.

This is the person who needs to lean forward on the grocery cart to make it through the store.

Cause #2: Herniated Discs or Pinched Nerves

Sufferers with herniated discs are usually younger...40 years of age or younger...and have sharp pain down the back of their leg when they bend forward or lift.

As a general rule, the further down the leg they have pain, numbness or tingling...the more pressure they're putting on their nerve.

They have pain bending forward...and usually relief bending backwards or standing.

Cause #3:

This third cause is the most commonly missed cause of back pain and sciatica because it does not show up easily on an X-ray or MRI.

Sufferers of this cause usually have pain with changing positions, such as getting in and out of a car...or rolling in bed...or getting in and out of bed.

Sitting or driving is usually a problem...and one leg can feel "heavier" than the other.

Sufferers with this cause even can experience groin pain and trouble controlling their bladder (even at a young age).

Why knowing the cause of your back pain or sciatica is important...

When you know the cause of your back pain and sciatica, then it's much easier to do the right treatment to get back to normal...and heal naturally.

However, finding the exact CAUSE of your lower back pain and sciatica can be tricky...because some back pain and sciatica sufferers can have more than 1 CAUSE!

Free Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- What cause #3 is...this is the sneakiest cause of lower back pain and sciatica.
- How to determine the cause of your lower back pain without an expensive MRI (Did you know that up to 85% of people over 50 who have no symptoms of back pain or sciatica will show up with a bulging disc on an MRI? That's right...they have no symptoms, yet the MRI shows a bulging disc.)
- How to match the right treatment to the exact cause of your symptoms (this is where most patients get poor results... when the correct treatment is not matched to the correct cause).
- Why this one popular "quick fix" treatment is doing you more harm than good...in the process lowering your chances for permanent relief from your symptoms.

So call my office now and secure your spot for my Lower Back pain and Sciatica Workshop..

- **LaPORTE Call (219) 380-0809. Tuesday, March 5th, from 5-6 PM** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Indiana 2 from Walmart).
- **VALPARAISO Call (219) 548-8770. Thursday, March 7th, from 6 to 7 PM** located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

This workshop is FREE, but I am only taking 20 attendees at each location due to space constraints.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Albuero PT, DPT, MTC
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. As a bonus, all attendees will receive a copy of my most recently published report on the **Top 10 Most Burning Questions For Sciatica.**

P.P.S. Call (219) 380-0809 in LaPorte or (219) 548-8770 in Valparaiso now to secure your spot for my Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

All adults anxiously await the watershed parenting moment when they introduce their children to beloved books or movies from their own youth.

For guys, it is the holy grail of cinema: the “Star Wars” saga. Taking it a geek-step further, where to begin? Start with the champagne entries, Episodes IV-VI (“A New Hope,” “The Empire Strikes Back,” “Return of the Jedi”), then visit crapola Prequels I-III (“The Phantom Menace,” “Attack of the Clones,” “Revenge of the Sith”), because that’s how we experienced them...or proceed in chronological order? Where do we factor in the new stand-alone entries?

This is the quandary of father figures with too much time on their hands, but one contemplated with the precision of filing an income tax return.

When you are an unabashed, card-carrying, die-hard movie dork such as myself, one who has reviewed films much of his adult life, you notice trends: works of artistic and cultural merit, often on the written page, that established the template for stories that still resonate today.



Many comparisons have been made between Willy Wonka in Roald Dahl's tale, seen here as played by Gene Wilder, and James Halliday, played by Oscar-winner Mark Rylance, in “Ready Player One.”

An eccentric, wildly successful entrepreneur decides it's time to call it quits, introducing a global contest that inspires a feverish response, and whose victor wins the keys to the kingdom.

And that's the plot description for? Most adults and children would quickly reply with Roald Dahl's “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” and they would be correct. If your answer was “Ready Player One,” well, that would be accurate, too.

Ernest Cline's 2011 debut novel, and Steven Spielberg's 2018 film, for that matter, are a paean to '80s pop culture, but at its core, the story is “Willy Wonka” for the gaming generation. It's 2044, society has largely crumbled and retreated to a virtual world known as the Oasis. Creator James Halliday has died, but before his death recorded himself issuing a challenge to everyone in the Oasis: find certain Easter eggs hidden within his digital world and inherit his fortune.

Halliday shares much in common with Dahl's

purveyor of delectable sweets: Both retreated from human contact to exist in a fantastical world they created, and each believes someone from the next generation has the smarts to survive the contest's challenges.

Dahl was criticized by wary adults who argued his book was too dark and twisted. But the author knew children are savvy. In “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” as well as its film and stage adaptations, the subtext is not lost on its audience: badly behaved children get their just desserts. Kindly Charlie Bucket triumphs because his actions speak louder than words.

The underlying theme of “Ready Player One,” succinctly updated for today's glued-to-their-cell-phones youth, is that we've lost the ability to communicate, hiding behind technology when one-on-one contact is far more satisfying. And in Wade Watts, Cline's hero, we have a street-smart, nearly destitute teen whose wise, thoughtful decisions elevate him to the top of the heap competing for Halliday's prize.

It's “Willy Wonka” all over again.



Gandalf, seen here as played by Ian McKellen, had a profound influence on father-figure roles in fantasy and science-fiction tales.

Without Gandalf the Wizard, there would be no Albus Dumbledore, revered Hogwarts headmaster in “Harry Potter,” nor Jedi Obi-Wan Kenobi in “Star Wars.” Heck, Kenobi, in “A New Hope,” is referred to as a relic, a tired old wizard from a decimated past.

With Gandalf, cemented by Ian McKellen's pitch-perfect embodiment in Peter Jackson's “Lord of the Rings”/“Hobbit” trilogies, J.R.R. Tolkien achieved one of the most enduring archetypes in fantasy and science-fiction: the wise and withered mentor.

When you consider Frodo/Bilbo Baggins, Harry Potter and Luke Skywalker, these are fatherless young men swept into worlds of daring and adventure by men years beyond them in age, but culling the best out of them through victory and sacrifice. Granted, Luke's search for the truth leads to the worst babydaddy reveal ever, but through Kenobi,

The Durability, and Rebirth, of Classics

by Andrew Tallackson



Albus Dumbledore, seen here as played by Michael Gambon, is directly inspired by the character of Gandalf.

Dumbledore and Gandalf, we see age as the representation of wisdom, experience and parental comfort for three lost boys.



Boo Radley, as played by Robert Duvall, in “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

“Hey, Boo!”

Read that quote, or hear actress Mary Badham utter it with childhood awe and innocence, and Boo Radley immediately comes to mind from Harper Lee's 1960 masterpiece, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” as well as the Oscar-winning 1962 film.

Boo Radley, in the southern hamlet of the story's Maycomb County, is the neighborhood enigma. A recluse. Everyone in town has their own version of the “truth,” but each tall tale revolves around some variation of him being a horrible beast.

Turns out, as we all know, Boo Radley factors into the story's climax, rescuing Jim and Scout from a drunken, murderous Bob Ewell. And in our mind's eye, we see Robert Duvall in his film debut: pale, eyes rimmed with dark circles, cowering in the corner of Scout's bedroom.

Tough not to choke up just thinking about it, right?

The title of Lee's masterwork is an obvious metaphor for the injustice of racism, but it infiltrates another subtext of the story through Atticus Finch, who at one point tells his impressionable, tomboy of a daughter, “*You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.*”

Through Tom Robinson, a black man accused of raping a white woman, Scout learns the harsh truths of the world she inhabits. And through Boo Radley, she discovers its gentile, often misunderstood side.



Old Man Marley (Roberts Blossom), a character directly inspired by Boo Radley, has a heart-to-heart talk with Kevin McAllister (Macaulay Culkin) in “Home Alone.”

Without Boo Radley, we would have no Old Man Marley in “Home Alone.” To say he is misread by everyone in Kevin McCallister's neighborhood is putting it mildly. Rumor has it, he's a serial killer who murdered his entire family, in South Bend, no less.

The guy looks threatening. Beautifully played by veteran character actor Roberts Blossom, Old Man Marley has a sunken face, his eyes pools of sadness and regret.

Accidentally left behind when his family makes a mad-dash scramble to reach the airport on time, Kevin comes face to face with his neighbor in one of the film's best scenes: a choir rehearsal on Christmas Eve. Seated together in the church pews, we realize Marley not only is aware of what people say about him, but also that he doesn't want Kevin to believe the gossip. Turns out, he is estranged from his family, attending choir practice so he can watch his granddaughter rehearse.

Through Marley, Kevin absorbs the same message as Scout did in “To Kill a Mockingbird”: don't judge a book by its cover.

And when Marley is reunited with his family at the end, clutching his granddaughter as if never wanting to let go, it is impossible *not* to choke up with emotion. Forgiveness and redemption, indeed, surface in the most unlikely of places.

“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

“The Lord of the Rings.”

“To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Undisputed classics, their legacies resurrected and retooled for ensuing generations. What a treat it's been to witness my son embrace them.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Dance & Drama Series

Ballet dancer, musical theater performer and dance instructor Judith Joseph will conduct a six-week dance and drama series at The Three Oaks Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St.

Called "Acting Up!," the one-hour classes, which are from 4 to 5 p.m. EST March 18-April 22, are limited to fourth- through eighth-graders and cost \$90 for all six sessions. An orientation meeting is at 4 p.m. EST Monday, March 11.



Judith Joseph (center) is photographed during an interactive performance involving children.

According to Joseph, each class will include a theater dance warmup, scripted monologue, brief dance routine and an "imagination assignment" that involves improvisation and character development. Parents can attend and observe the classes.

Joseph, Michigan City, has a Bachelor of Arts in dance and a Master of Fine Arts in theater performance. She worked with choreographers Bob Fosse, Agnes deMille, Gower Champion and Charles Weidman, and appeared in productions such as "Chicago," "Carousel," "Brigadoon" and "Damn Yankees."

In Michigan City, she co-founded Acting Theater of Michigan City and is the artistic director of Metamorphosis Traveling Theater.

Payment is due by March 11. Contact The School of American Music at schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or (269) 409-1191 to register.

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. 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:

- March 6 — Bug Fun.
- March 20 — A Hopping Good Time.
- April 10 — Scavenger Hunt Fun.

Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club that emphasizes quality of life meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30).

The schedule is:

- March 6 — Tips for working on balance, coordination, endurance and strength, Orthopedic & Balance Therapy Specialists.
- April 3 — Spring cleaning, container gardening and recycling, Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.

Spa Day at the Park

The free event is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 9, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 attendees receive a swag bag. Vendors will have booths highlighting sample services and/or products, including: aromatherapy; make-up experts; chair massages; natural beauty care products; and jewelry.

No pre-registration is required.



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Credit Union Aids Steady Stitchers

Members Advantage Credit Union donated \$500 to The Steady Stitchers, which aids people in need within the community.



Members Advantage Credit Union President Frank Beachnau presents a \$500 check to The Steady Stitchers.

A local non-profit, Steady Stitchers has been operating for more than nine years. Through donations of fabric and finances, volunteers create various items for fellow residents who need help or are going through a difficult time, including: hats, backpacks, scarves, mittens, pet beds, and walker and wheelchair totes.

The next "Lend A Hand Day" presented by the group is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.

The MACU donation will help purchase materials, as well as repair and maintain equipment.

LONG BEACH WOMEN'S BOWLING



Feb. 19, 2019

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Gutter Busters/Diagonal Divas	19	9
2. Queen Pins	18.5	9.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Cindy Beck	185
2. Dottie Brinckman	183
3. Lenore Hadaway	164
4. Kathleen Staninger	161
5. June Salmon	160
6. Sue Labovitz	159
7. Ginny Hogan	156
8. Barb Macudzinski	155
9. Nancy Kubath	154
9. Mary Lou McFadden	154
10. Ann Bogart	153
11. Tammy Nelmar	151
12. Ellie Parkerson (series)	456
13. Carolyn Wiggins (series)	413

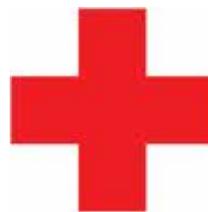
SPLITS

Ann Bogart	1-2-8-10
Linda Neulieb	5-7
Mary Lou McFadden	3-6
Ellie Parkerson	4-5

THREE STRIKES

Pat Collado, Diana Holt, Ginny Hogan, Cindy Beck

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



American Red Cross

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

- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 5.

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.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



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Academic Super Bowl Invitational

Purdue University Northwest will host its 11th annual Senior Academic Super Bowl Invitational.

The free event is at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, in the James B. Dworkin Student Activities Center Great Hall. Students from nine schools in the greater LaPorte County area will compete in the senior-division event. The schools are: Elkhart Christian Academy, Home Scholars (Lake, Porter, La Porte counties), LaCrosse High School, LaPorte High School, Marquette Catholic High School, New Prairie High School, North White High School, Oregon-Davis High School and South Central High School.

The theme is "The Fertile Crescent." Students compete in six subject areas: science, English, fine arts, social studies, math and interdisciplinary.

The competition is part of the Indiana Association of School Principals, Department of Student Programs.

The schedule is:

- 3:45 p.m. — Registration.
- 4:10 p.m. — Coaches and proctors meeting.
- 4:30 p.m. — Welcome, Purdue Northwest Chancellor Thomas Keon.
- 4:40 p.m. — Social Studies, Professor of History Michael Lynn.
- 5:15 p.m. — Math, Jerry DeGroot, continuing lecturer of mathematics.
- 5:50 p.m. — English, Sarah White, clinical assistant professor of English.
- 6:25 p.m. — Science, Lindsay Gielda, assistant professor of biology
- 7 p.m. — Fine Arts, Judy Jacobi, assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collections and Special Programs.
- 7:40 p.m. — Interdisciplinary, Pediatrician Mark Jacobi.
- 8:15 p.m. — Awards.

Trophies go to the winning school in each subject area, and students receive ribbons for first, second and third place.

Contact Liz Bernel at (219) 785-5719 or ebernel@pnw.edu for more information.



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The History Museum Tours

South Bend's The History Museum is offering private, curatorial tours of the national traveling exhibit "Spirited: Prohibition in America" at 5:30 p.m. EST Friday, March 1 and 15.

The tours are conducted by Curator/Registrar Kristi Dunn, who will make special stops in key exhibit areas, including what led to Prohibition, how the 18th Amendment was passed and why the 1920s roared.

The tour is limited. Reservations are required. Tickets, which cost \$25 or \$20 for members, may be purchased online at historymuseumSB.org or by calling (574) 235-9664.

The exhibit runs through March 17. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.

Triathlon Registration Under Way

Registration is under way for LaPorte County Family YMCA's 40th annual Triathlon set for Saturday, Aug. 3, in LaPorte's Soldiers Memorial Park.

The race is a quarter-mile lake swim, 12.4-mile bike and 3.3-mile run. The course begins in Soldiers Memorial Park at the Stone Lake Beach House and winds through LaPorte County.

The triathlon, which features chip timing, includes male and female divisions for ages 12 and older, as well as team categories.

Race packet pickup is from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Aug. 3 at Cummings Lodge during registration. Contact Kathy Workman at kworkman@lpymca.org for details, or visit www.lpymca.org and click on the events link.

Lip Sync Battle 2019

United Way of LaPorte County will raise money for the community through Lip Sync Battle 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 8, at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa's Stardust Event Center.

The event, which features 15 acts, lets those attending vote for his/her favorite act. Guests also can dress up as a famous singer, rock group or duo.

The evening includes food, appetizers, a cash bar, DJ and dancing. Tickets are \$50.

Visit givegrove.com/lip-sync-battle/tickets for reservations.

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Cadets Participate in Oral History

Two JROTC lance corporals participated in the LaPorte County Library Veterans Oral History project, where local veterans recounted their experiences while serving their nation.

The Michigan City High School students were Declan Rice and Dontrell Maitland.



Vietnam veteran Rich Mrozinski provides insight into combat during the Vietnam War to Cadet Lance Cpl. Declan Rice.

Monicah Fratena, the LaPorte County librarian who heads the project, said the cadets did a good job interviewing the veterans.

“They were very respectful,” she said in a press release, “and showed great enthusiasm to hear of the exploits of members of our own community who experienced combat.”

Both cadets were impressed with the veterans they interviewed.

“It was great to get a first-person perspective instead of just reading a description out of a book,” Rice said in a press release.

Maitland was equally impressed, saying that interviewing the veterans was a motivator for him to consider the military as a possible career.

The veterans interviewed were Rich Mrozinski (Vietnam), Billy Warner (Desert Storm), Lewis Juday (World War II) and Glenn Larson (Korea).

Rice and Maitland also are members of the MCHS military drill team.

Tree/Shrub Seedling Fundraiser

The Berrien Conservation District is taking orders for its annual tree/shrub spring fundraiser.

A variety of bare root seedlings of evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees are offered, along with strawberry and raspberry plants. Rain barrels and composters are available.

Orders may be placed at www.berriencd.org. Also, order forms may be obtained from the office at 3334 Edgewood Road, Berrien Springs, Mich., or request one be mailed by calling (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3.

Quantities are limited, and orders are due by April 12.

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Stargazing at Gabis Arboretum



Rengstorf

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest will host a stargazing event to view the Pleiades — Earth’s nearest star cluster — at 6 p.m. Friday, March 1.

Pleiades is prominent in the night sky this time of year. Hosting the viewing is Adam Rengstorf, PNW associate professor of physics and astronomy.

If weather conditions are unsuitable, a presentation is held inside the Railway Depot.

Another event is at 7:30 p.m. April 8. Admission is free. Registration is encouraged by emailing gabisarboretum@pnw.edu or calling (219) 462-0025.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.

History on Tap

“History on Tap,” the monthly lecture series that dives into the area’s social history, meets from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

This month’s lecture is by Kathleen Tobin, chairwoman of Purdue University Northwest’s Department of History and Philosophy.

Tickets are free, and beer from Zorn Brew Works will be sold for \$4 per pour.

Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.

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First Friday @ Lubeznik Center



“A Taste of Gerry Hundt Music” marks the next First Friday program from 5 to 8 p.m. March 1 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Heralded as a “legendary one-man-band,” Hundt plays the blues using stringed instruments, rack attachments and foot devices.

Burn ‘Em Brewing will serve beers during the program. Admission is free. Call (219) 874-4900 or email artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org for details.

New SSAA Exhibit

Southern Shore Art Association unveils its latest exhibit, “Old, New and Renewed,” during an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 1, at the SSAA gallery, 724 Franklin St.

The exhibit explores various stages within life cycles, such as: grandparent with baby; antique or resale shops; plants; pets; furniture; or clothing.

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

Lunch & Learn Series

The next Lunch & Learn program is from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, at Rittenhouse Village at Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The topic is “Understanding & Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior.”

The program is free. Caregivers who make advance reservations receive a free lunch.

Call REAL Services at (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132, for reservations or more information.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 28 — Graphic Novel Club for Teens, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 1 — First Friday in the Chapel, organist Derek Nickels, noon, LaPorte Hospital Chapel. Free. Info: (219) 325-7633.

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

March 1 — Group exhibit, “Threads of Life,” 5-8 p.m., The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St.

March 1 — First Friday @ Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park, 5-8 p.m.

March 1 — First Friday @ LCA, Gerry Hundt’s Legendary One-Man Band, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

March 1 — Opening reception, 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

March 1-4 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* Oscar Nominated Short Films-Animated. Rated PG. Time: 12:15 p.m. March 2. *Also:* Oscar Nominated Short Films-Documentary. Rated R. Time: 6 p.m. March 7. *Also:* Oscar Nominated Short Films-Live Action. Rated R. Time: Noon March 3. *Also:* “Green Book.” Rated PG-13. Times: 2:45 p.m. March 2-3/9 p.m. March 2. *Also:* “The Favourite.” Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. March 1-4. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

March 1-3, 7-10 — “Arsenic and Old Lace,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger, March 7 show. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.FootlightPlayers.org

March 1-3, 8-10 — “12 Incompetent Jurors,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$12/students. Reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

March 2 — Free Yoga classes, Rogue Xtrme Fitness, 2010 E. U.S. 20. Times/info: www.facebook.com/RogueXtrmeFitness/

March 2 — Lyrical Liberation (open mic), 6:30 p.m., P.A.R.C., 1713 Franklin St. 21+. Admission: suggested \$5 donation. Info: parc1713@gmail.com

March 2 — Magic Dick & Shun Ng (Americana, R&B), 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Info: acornlive.org, (269) 756-3879.

March 2-3 — Home & Lifestyle Expo, Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat./9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 326-0624.

March 2-3 — Maple Sugar Time, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 4 — Popular Books, Ann Patchett's "Commonwealth," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

March 5 — Adult Coloring Program, 6-7:30 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

March 6 — Brown Bag Gardening Series, "Gardening Through Handicaps," noon-1 p.m., Michigan City Senior Center. Cost: \$5. Info: (219) 324-9407.

March 6, 13, 20, 27 — Heritage interpreter presentations, 6 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free. Info: barkermansion.com, (219) 873-1520.

Through April 1 — Display, Great Lakes Museum of Military History memorabilia, Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, Franklin Street next to Planet Fitness. Info: (219) 872-5055.

In the Region

Through March 9 — "Little Shop of Horrors," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. March 1-2, 8-9/3 p.m. March 3. Tickets: adults/\$21, seniors 62+/\$19. Student discounts available. Reservations: elkhartcivictheatre.org, (574) 848-4116.

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.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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On February 28, 1827, the Baltimore and Ohio, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry both passengers and freight, was incorporated.

On February 28, 1849, the ship California arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first gold seekers.

On February 28, 1917, it was reported the United States intercepted the “Zimmermann Telegraph,” reputed to be a proposal for a Mexican-German alliance should the U.S. enter World War I.

On February 28, 1953, scientists James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes.

On February 28, 1983, the final episode of “M*A*S*H” aired on CBS.

On March 1, 1790, Congress authorized the first U.S. Census.

On March 1, 1864, Rebecca Lee received a medical degree from Boston’s “New England Female Medical College,” becoming the first black woman to be licensed to practice medicine in America.

On March 1, 1872, Congress authorized the creation of Yellowstone National Park.

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy authorized the establishment of the Peace Corps.

On March 1, 1962, in Garden City, Mich., the first Kmart opened for business.

On March 2, 1776, the Navy and Marines fought their first battle of the Revolutionary War, capturing a British fort on the Bahamas’ New Providence Island.

On March 2, 1837, Rush Medical College, predecessor of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center, was incorporated in Chicago.

On March 2, 1888, H.G. Wells, reacting to criticism his poetry lacked meter, responded, “Meters are used to measure gas, not the outpourings of the human heart.”

On March 2, 1933, the motion picture “King Kong,” starring Fay Wray, premiered in New York.

On March 2, 1949, after the first non-stop flight around the world, Lucky Lady II, a U.S. B-50 Superfortress, landed in Texas.

On March 2, 1965, the movie version of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical “The Sound of Music” premiered in New York.

On March 3, 1831, Chicago railroad-car magnate

George Pullman was born in Brocton, N.Y.

On March 3, 1857, John “Long John” Wentworth defeated Benjamin Carver (5,933 to 4,842) to become Chicago’s first mayor.

On March 3, 1875, “Carmen,” Bizet’s world famous opera, premiered in Paris.

On March 3, 1879, Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood, of Washington, D.C., was the first woman admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On March 3, 1923, the first issue of “Time” magazine was published.

On March 4, 1747, Casimir Pulaski, the nobleman who became a hero of the American Revolution, was born in Winiary, Poland.

On March 4, 1789, the constitution of the United States took effect when the first Congress met in New York.

On March 4, 1851, fire destroyed Chicago’s first hotel, the Sauganash, located at the southeast corner of Lake and Market Streets.

On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, in his inaugural address, uttered these famous words, “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right...”

On March 4, 1933, during the depth of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt, in his inaugural address, said, “So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

On March 5, 1868, the U.S. Senate convened as a “Court of Impeachment” to rule on charges against President Andrew Johnson.

On March 5, 1924, in Buffalo, N.Y, Frank Caruana bowled two consecutive perfect games, the first person to do so in league sanctioned play.

On March 5, 1997, Nellie Fox, star second baseman for the 1950s Chicago White Sox, was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

On March 5, 1998, NASA said enough water was frozen in the soil of the moon to support a base and perhaps, one day, a human colony.

On March 6, 1475, Michelangelo, Italian Renaissance artist and sculptor, was born in Caprese.

On March 6, 1836, after a 13-day siege, San Antonio’s “Alamo” fell to a Mexican army under the command of General Santa Anna. All of the 187 defenders, including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died in defense of the Texas fort.

On March 6, 1853, Giuseppe Verdi’s opera “La Traviata” premiered in Venice.

On March 6, 1965, a U.S. government spokesman announced the first contingent of combat troops was being sent to Vietnam.

On March 6, 1981, Walter Cronkite signed off for the last time as anchor of the “CBS Evening News.”

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Community Scholarship Application

Online applications are available for the 2019 Unity Foundation of LaPorte County cycle of scholarships and awards.

March 22 is the deadline. Scholarships and awards ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 are given through more than 50 funds at Unity, the community foundation serving LaPorte County. Opportunities are available for graduating seniors and students already in college. Log into www.uflc.net to complete and submit applications and documentation.

The general scholarship application was designed to allow students to apply for several different scholarships through one application. Students are encouraged to begin the process early, as transcripts must be downloaded before the application is submitted, and some scholarships require verification of club involvement or activities.

Some scholarships require nominations of deserving students or adults:

- **Diane K. Bamberth Memorial Award.**

This goes to current graduating LaPorte High School seniors pursuing an undergraduate bachelor degree from an accredited, tax-exempt college or university. Applicants demonstrate leadership, humility, courage, tenacity, strength through diversity and strong moral fiber. Recipients must enroll as full-time students. Nominators may be: colleague, clergy, community member, family member, professor/teacher.

- **Jan Nona Environmental Stewardship Award.**

This goes to residents of LaPorte or Porter counties who are activists in environmental protection. Nominators may be: community member, family member, professor/teacher, self.

Additional printable scholarship applications are available on Unity's website:

- **The Michigan City Chapter of the Drifters Scholarship Application.**

The scholarship assists a distinguished African-American and/or other minority undergraduate student of Michigan City High School pursuing higher education.

- **New Day Foundation's Connie Yagelski-Marhanka Music Scholarship.**

These scholarships go to graduating high school seniors from LaPorte County who are including music in their studies towards a degree or career.

- **Susan Hay Hemminger Scholarship Foundation Application.**

There are four award criteria: financial need, academic achievement, community service/leadership and ability and commitment. Applicants must be: legal LaPorte County residents; graduates of a high school district that includes LaPorte County in its boundaries; and accepted/enrolled in a two- or four-year undergraduate program at an accredited institution.

Friday Hours

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Call us at (219) 879-0088 with questions



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Collector's Apprentice by B.A. Shapiro
(hardcover, \$27.95 retail in bookstores and online;
also available as an eBook. 339 pages)

"A collector was a curator, a custodian, for art could not be owned in the sense a piece of furniture could be owned; it was timeless and meant to be shared."

Art for art's sake. Art and a con job. Art and murder.

I have it all for you this week. Historical fiction that is more fiction than history, but it all works beautifully in a story that will take you through the 1920s from Brussels, Belgium, to Philadelphia, Pa.

In her last two books, The Art Forger and The Muralist, Shapiro has shown a talent for keeping art at the forefront of stories that entertain and inform with a colorful palette of characters, both historical and fictional.

In this story, Shapiro starts at the end. Say what? The story begs to be told back and forth in time because it combines elements of surprise and an unfolding plot that keeps you reading and wondering what will happen next.

So, the end starts with a murder trial in 1928. Vivienne Grigsby is on trial for the murder of her boss, Edwin Bradley. Why? Because she stands to inherit millions of dollars worth of artwork. The damning piece of evidence against her is that witnesses said Edwin vowed to disinherit her just days before his demise.

So — young and pretty Vivienne...saint or sinner? Of course, Vivienne says she's innocent. Don't they all? Especially when Vivienne isn't even her real name. Now, we go back to the beginning...

It's 1920 in Brussels, and Paulien Mertens (later known as Vivienne Grigsby) is an 18-year-old impressionable girl from a well-to-do family. She and her father shared a love of art, more for the Post-Impressionists than the old masters.

Paulien meets a handsome man, some 15 years her senior, named George Everard. A con man extraordinaire, he asks Paulien to marry him while lining the pockets of his jacket with her father's, and his friends', money in a con the men fall for hook, line and sinker.

By 1922, Paulien's family is broke and disgraced, she is disowned by her family, no longer affianced (George has disappeared), and she winds up in Paris looking for work. She changes her name to Vivienne Grigsby and goes to all the art galleries seeking to use her knowledge of art for a job.

She's about to give up, and afraid she will run into someone who knows her and her family, when a chance at a dream job comes through...

Vivienne is introduced to Edwin Bradley, a rich American looking to acquire art pieces for his new museum in Philadelphia. He needs an interpreter who can speak French as well as English. Vivienne fits the bill, and she is hired.

Edwin teaches Vivienne a lot she didn't learn in art school. He is especially enamored with the Post-Impressionists. One of his favorite artists is Henri Matisse. When sarcastically asked how he could like such "art," Edwin answers this way—*"Appreciating art and the artist isn't necessarily about liking a painting, it's about understanding the artist's intent, how he uses his skills and tools to achieve his vision."* Makes sense to me.

With Edwin's influence, and money, Vivienne is privy to attending dinners and salons, and meeting people like Matisse and Gertrude Stein. P.S. She gets to know Henri *very* well.

Guess who shows up in Paris? George, or whatever he is calling himself now. He puts on the old charm, thinks Vivienne is more beautiful, and why doesn't she go off with him to Italy? What an ego!

Well, Edwin is getting ready to return to Philadelphia: lots of new artwork in the hold of a ship bound for America. Vivienne knows the only way to get away from her past is to get Edwin

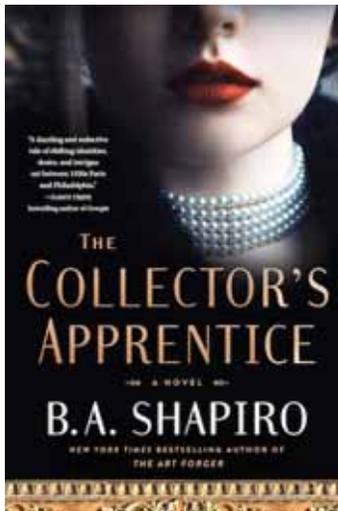
to hire her for his permanent assistant and take her back with him to Philadelphia. Lucky for her, he asks, she accepts and it's off to a new start in America. But guess who eventually shows up in Philadelphia?

Vivienne has a father/daughter relationship with Edwin, although he would like more. Matisse wants more of a relationship from her and gets it. George shows up thinking Vivienne still wants him — the jury remains out on that one — and plans a new con to relieve Edwin of his new paintings. Will it work?

I like the way Shapiro keeps you guessing about Vivienne and George. Sometimes, she seems besotted by him. Sometimes, it sounds like she's looking for revenge for what he did to her family. Vivienne is a complex creature, seeming the delicate female one minute, then the take-charge strong woman the next.

All in all, it's one entertaining read, combining all the elements of a good love triangle, lots of interesting art and a murder that may not be a murder.

Till next time, happy reading!



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