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The Next Generation

by Andrew Tallackson



Hannah Hammond-Hagman, Lubeznik Center for the Arts education director, offers insight into an exhibit during a school field trip. Photo provided.

Earlier this year, Lubeznik Center for the Arts hosted “Nature vs. Everything,” an exhibit that engaged viewers by suggesting they consider humanity’s relationship with nature. An introspective challenge, to be sure, one that factored significance, scale and impact into the equation.

During a field-trip tour, LCA Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman noticed a youngster from Riley Elementary School in LaPorte particu-

larly absorbed by the imagery. Two weeks later, during a free Family Day, he returned, this time with his parents, serving as their personal guide.

Hammond-Hagman, witnessing it unfold, was beaming.

“He had such ownership (in the exhibit),” she said. “He was saying things like, ‘This work is about’...things like that. It was so cool. It was a really beautiful thing.”

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That youngster from Riley Elementary returned yet again, enrolled in one of the center's instructional art offerings. Herein lies the essential "why," the critical component behind educational outreach through the Lubeznik Center, 101 W. Second St. Exhibits such as "Nature vs. Everything" and now the widely acclaimed "The Chicago Imagists: Before and After" reaffirm the center as a beacon of artistic and cultural significance. But it is efforts to inspire the next generation of artists, to tap into the creative well of our youth, that extend the promise of durability, of ensuring artistic quality of life remains vital here.

At the LCA, Hammond-Hagman is key to helping realize that vision. Sitting down for an interview with *The Beacher*, she quotes a study that indicates 60 percent of people who attended a cultural institution as children returned as adults.

So how do you go about doing that, galvanizing area youth, exciting them about art?

It starts at the top, by having a dynamic leader in Executive Director Janet Bloch, who held the education director post before Hammond-Hagman.

"I see firsthand how much LCA's outreach programs impact local youth," Bloch said. "Students enjoy looking at art and take pride in interpreting what they see. They are developing strong visual literacy skills.



Hannah Hammond-Hagman is photographed by Andrew Tallackson in her Lubeznik Center office. She is standing next to a piece titled "Deception" by Dayton Dec, a 16-year-old South Central High School student and Teen Arts Council member.

"The lessons that our education director develops bring the art to life for students and opens up their world, on par to reading a book."

That role, that *responsibility*, is not something Hammond-Hagman takes lightly. And, she is ideally suited to the task. The Chicago native was born to artist parents who inspired her to explore her creative side. Photography emerged as her forte. She later earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography

from Indiana University, then a Master of Fine Arts in photography and studio art from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She also taught on the high-school level. In fact, she was teaching art classes at the LCA when Bloch asked her to take on the role of education director.

That was three years ago, and Hammond-Hagman not only has fulfilled those duties, but expanded on them as well.

The educational aspects of the LCA have several components.

First are the in-house classes and workshops held in spring, summer and fall. Open to youth, teens and adults, talented, accomplished instructors from across the region are invited to share their wealth of talent and instruction. A quick glance at fall sessions on the

LCA website (www.lubeznikcenter.org) range from abstract painting and smartphone photography to drawing for young artists and an introduction to photo zines. A few offerings, such as "Sandcastle Writers Monday," "Sandcastle Writers Wednesday" and "Fused Glass," were sold out at press time.

(Zines, for the unfamiliar, are independent or self-published works, often produced by a copier.)

Also available for youth are three-week summer camps in visual arts, which were expanded from two-hour daily sessions to four hours, one reason being, Hammond-Hagman says, it's better suited for working parents.

Scholarships exist for students in need, Hammond-Hagman adds, the goal being no child is turned away from a wonderful experience through the LCA.

Education, however, extends beyond the center's art-adorned walls, thanks to a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City and Safe Harbor After School Program, the latter offering support to Michigan City Area Schools elementary, middle and high school students between 3 and 6 p.m. The emphasis is visual and performing arts, with Hammond-Hagman saying the programming combines academic literacy standards with creative artistic development. She works with a team of about 18 individuals who go out into the schools, exciting children about the artistic potential within them.



Making the art relevant to the lives of students is a key component during tours, Hannah Hammond-Hagman said. Photo provided

And when students arrive at the LCA, included among the curious throngs engaged in school field trips, Hammond-Hagman and her team of educational docents, working closely with Exhibition Director Lora Fosberg, are cognizant that, for many, this may be their first experience in an art gallery. She and the docents have come up with talking points, ways to make the art relevant to the life ex-

Continued on Page 4

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Shaan Khan, M.D., is an Independent Member of the Medical Staff at LaPorte Hospital.

The Next Generation

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periences of the individual students.

“When they walk through these doors,” Hammond-Hagman says, “we want them to not only feel welcome and inspired, but that there is room here for their own voices.”

That, in turn, sets the tone from the get-go. Hammond-Hagman says she can see a collective “relax” among the students. They appear less uncertain, their body language more receptive to what they are about to encounter.

“We say to them, ‘We can’t wait to hear what you have to say,’” she explains. “That gives them confidence. It relaxes them. And, they start to listen to each other.”

Take, for instance, “The Chicago Imagists” exhibit. The goal with visiting youth, Hammond-Hagman says, is to place the exhibit in a cultural and historical context, then reveal how it relates to them today. Their responses and reactions, she says, are priceless.

“Just what they see and what it could mean,” she says, “they say things that are poignant. Spectacular. Unfiltered.”

If a student asks why an artist chose a certain material or medium, then the question is redirected back to the student with something to the effect of, “Why do you think the artist used that material?”

The domino effect is the student being actively engaged in the discussion, the creative process. The

origins of art.

“They start to *own* the art,” Hammond-Hagman says. “They feel empowered to have an opinion about it, that what they have to say matters.”

Especially moving, she continues, is if a particular piece speaks to a youngster on a personal level, if it relates to him/her, family or key friendships. The student then shares a part of himself/herself as



Dorothy Graden, a docent, discusses a new exhibit with students during a field-trip tour.

it relates to art.

All in all, the LCA sees about 2,000 students a year just through field trips, Hammond-Hagman says. They come from LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties, as well as New Buffalo, Mich.

And now, teens can play an even greater role by becoming part of the Teen Arts Council. Formed in 2017, the group is open to students from any regional high school and includes representatives from Michigan City, LaPorte, South Central, New Prairie, Marquette Catholic, La Lumiere and Chesterton. On average, the council meets monthly and includes everything from workshops to visiting an artist studio or Chicago museum. The time together, Hammond-Hagman says, deepens and broadens their art experiences.

Then again, that holds true with *everything* the LCA does when it comes to youth. The more art becomes accessible, tangible to them, the greater relevance it has in their own lives.

“If we have any small part to play in creating that cultural citizenship,” Hammond-Hagman says, “then *that’s* the work. We always have to be mindful of that.”



Ming Washington, a former docent, talks with students about the exhibit they're experiencing.

LCA Receives NiSource Grant

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., has received a \$33,000 NiSource Charitable Foundation grant, which will support a comprehensive technology upgrade to enhance educational programs.

The funding will help better incorporate a STEAM component and connect youth to art in the galleries, LCA Education Director Hannah Hammond-Hagman said in a press release.

Phase I included the purchase of 30 iPads, a charging station and other related supplies. The new technology was put to test by a group of 8- to 13-year-olds in the one-week "Lights, Camera, Action" summer camp. The technology, Hammond-Hagman said, allowed students to produce stop motion animations and video pieces in collaborative groups and individually.

Over the next year, the new technology will be integrated into different programs, including after school arts education offered at 11 different Michigan City area schools and a variety of classes and camps. Other plans include STEAM-specific professional development for LCA's education staff and a major upgrade to the LCA website.

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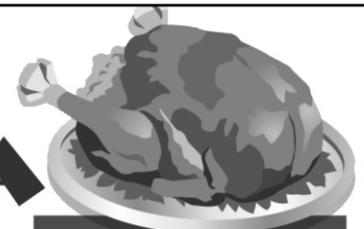
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“The Goldfinch” Review Part 1: The Movie

by Andrew Tallackson

Having not read “The Goldfinch,” Donna Tartt’s 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner, places me at a loss as to what went wrong here. An educated guess: Her sprawling, complicated tale presents challenges for any film adaptation. And the more television expertly takes a crack at literary works – HBO’s “Big Little Lies” being the champagne example – the more convincing the argument that some tales are too much book for one movie.

In “The Goldfinch,” the A-list cast is betrayed by the screenplay. The movie is like cinematic CliffsNotes: all detail, no soul. It’s unsettling, actually, how indifferent the movie is. It flatlines from the word go and never recovers.

The story is straight out of Dickens. Thirteen-year-old Theo Decker suffers a horrific tragedy when a bomb explodes in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the exact same time he and his mother are viewing an exhibit of Dutch masterpieces, her favorite being Carel Fabritius’ “The Goldfinch.” He survives, his mother dies in the blast. Other individuals there that day factor into Theo’s ensuing journey as he bounces through caregivers, all while the Fabritius painting is the subject of a painful secret.

It is a jigsaw-puzzle mystery told through a child’s epic personal journey. But “The Goldfinch” exists in an emotional vacuum. Director John Crowley, whose wistful adaptation of Colm Tóibín’s “Brooklyn” was my favorite film of 2015, is so pre-occupied with story mechanics, he can’t lavish any heart on the characters. The story is one of terrible loss: a child’s longing for a mother who no longer exists. But Theo’s mother is a shadowy figure revealed only in the final scene. The bond between mother and son, which should be the story’s heart-breaking core, is non-existent. Young Oakes Fegley is very good as Theo, handling difficult scenes like a

pro, but Ansel Elgort, so wonderful in “The Fault in Our Stars” and “Baby Driver,” is muted as the older Theo, the character’s appeal having evaporated by adulthood.

Nicole Kidman and Jeffrey Wright – she as caring maternal figure Samantha Barbour, he as antiques dealer James Hobart – do what class acts do: class up scenes with subtle acting flourishes. But the film gives neither of them scenes that move us.



Nicole Kidman and Ansel Elgort star in “The Goldfinch.”



“The Goldfinch”

Running time: 149 minutes. Rated R for drug use and language

“The Goldfinch” also takes a detour to Las Vegas, where Theo is carted off to by his alcoholic birth father (Luke Wilson) and his ex-prostitute girlfriend (Sarah Paulson), but it takes “Stranger Things” star Finn Wolfhard, expertly mastering a Ukrainian accent, to sucker punch the movie to life. As Theo’s misfit pal Boris, Wolfhard appears to have stumbled off the set of a livelier movie. He infuses so much mischievous energy into the picture, it’s a shame to see him go when the story reverts back to New York.

By that point, “The Goldfinch” has introduced a snooze of a subplot involving Denis O’Hare (“True Blood”) as a vindictive art collector, then a wildly convoluted trip to Amsterdam that involves way too much gun play...all before a tidy closing scene that’s

supposed to leave us moved, but by then, we have long since given up. The movie has not given us a reason to give a damn.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Coming Soon

Beacher book reviewer Sally Carpenter will offer her take on Donna Tartt’s novel, shedding greater insight into the story.



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The Gifts of September

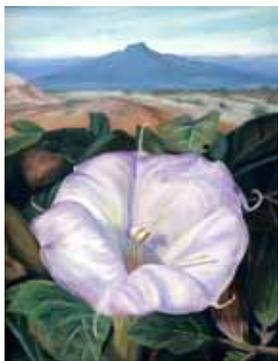
by Linda Weigel

"Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures."

Henry Ward Beecher

September's visual arts explode with multiple possibilities for fine-art enthusiasts. Whether talking First or Second Friday openings, special events or other shows, the range of offerings is rewarding and plentiful.

□



"O'Keeffe Country"
by Mary Ann Pals.

The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2803 Franklin St., offers "Petals, Waves & Wings," a series of pastel drawings by Mary Ann Pals. Her exploration of birds, water and close-up views of flowers is delightful. The very nature of pastels lends itself to a softened, restful vision, leading this viewer to ponder the essence of the artist's soul as expressed through her drawings.

The exhibit closes Sept. 29.

□

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., presents the juried photography exhibit "Your Best Shot."

Juror Trent Albert of Albert Photographic in Chesterton selected winners in five categories:

- Best People/Portrait to Katelyn Haase for "Beauty in the Eye."
- Best Nature/Animal to Susan Kirt for "South African Giraffe."
- Best Scenic to Gregg Scott for "Sunset at Beverly Shores."
- Best Building/Structure to Steve Bensing for "Octave Grill."
- Best Still Life to Sara Noë for "Spiraling."

Additionally, the Artist-of-the-Month features the infrared photography of professional Carol Estes, who has included an informative explanation of the process alongside her photographs.



"Spiraling" by Sara A. Noë.

Be sure to stop by during open hours from noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The exhibit closes Sept. 29.

□

SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St., features the work of upcoming young artist Nathan Biancardi, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art at Valparaiso University.

His subject matter ranges from portraiture to surrealism. Through the colorful layering of images and brush work, the viewer receives an interesting and perhaps challenging insight into the artist's mind. The exhibit ends Sept. 30.



A painting by Nathan Biancardi.

"I include all sorts of images and design motifs in my works, although they may have one major subject," he said in an artist's statement. "I believe that creating visual art is a way to let the imagination really come out, and to stimulate the imaginations of other people."

□

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., presents new exhibits in its downstairs galleries.

The Area Artists' Association Gallery's "Little Worlds from the Big Lake" showcases member Joel Brussell, who presents his dazzling, highly professional photography from along Lake Michigan's shores. The textures and contrast in each work elicit an emotional response and wonderment at the sheer beauty of the unfolding scene.



"Ice Boulders"
by Joel Brussell.

"Most of what I shoot is within three or four blocks of where I live," he said in an artist's statement. "The challenge is to make the very familiar new, striking and dramatic..."

Brussell's work is a definite must-see. To view more of it, check out his website at brussellphotography.com. The show closes Oct. 1.

□



"It's OK to Cry" by Jamiah Calvin.

The NIPSCO Art Education Studio presents "The Healing," a series of oil-on-metal paintings by Chicago artist Jamiah Calvin.

Each piece is impressive and carries weight: a psychological message enfolded within. The execution is brilliant. The exhibit is well-spaced, with ample room between works allowing for a more measured, contemplative approach. This is another must-see show. The exhibit closes Oct. 25.



Meanwhile in Beverly Shores, two new exhibitions opened Sept. 13 at The Depot and Ellen Firme Gallery.

The Depot, 525 S. Broadway, presents "Inside and Out: Studio and Plein Air," paintings and mixed media by Pat Herman.



Pat Herman with two of her plein air watercolors.

Pat is a dedicated member and core founder of Duneland Plein Air Painters. Her series of watercolors and mixed media (pen and ink with watercolor) are expressive, light-infused visions of nature and studio work. She is always challenging herself to do more and grow as an artist, and her current show is reflective of that. It closes Oct. 6.



"Sketch" by Matthew Kubik.

The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, features drawings of sculptures and scenes of Rome by artist-architect-professor Matthew Kubik. He has led many tours of Rome, and the exhibit highlights work from his most recent trips. His eye for composition, and his ability to expertly capture the very essence of a place, imbues immediacy to the work, leaving the viewer with an impression of having experienced something truly special.

The exhibit continues until Oct. 8.



Other recent art events showcased the region's artistic possibilities.



Richard Lange is photographed with recent work.

Continued on Page 10

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The Gifts of September Continued from Page 9

On Sept. 6, Blink Contemporary Art, 1709 Franklin St., held a one-night event celebrating recent works by painter Richard Lange and sculptor Suzanne Cohan-Lange. The gallery was filled with extraordinary art — art that is engaging, thoughtful.



“Uprooted Woman” by Susan Cohan-Lange.

Cohan-Lange’s work relates to the human form and pulses with the aching lives caught up in unimaginable circumstances. Her mixed-media piece “Uprooted Woman” is reflective of such sentiments and harkens to the worldwide issue of immigration and the uprooting and separation of families.

Lange’s work represents an evolution from his earlier efforts of patterned shapes and colors.

“They are my emotional responses to the political climate in this country and the world,” he said in an artist’s statement.

The large canvases incorporate actual plants that have been carefully dried and pressed before added to the canvas surface, creating a subtle structural relief.

□

In Harbart, Mich., just a short drive away, Judith Racht Gallery, 13689 Prairie Road, presented its 24th Annual “Outsiders Outside Folk and Outsider Art Fair” during the Labor Day weekend.

With 48 booths from all over the country, this is the premier fair of its kind. There really is nothing else like it in the entire Midwest, and the crowds on that first day were indicative of the growing interest in visionary, folk and outsider art.

One of my favorite individuals was Canadian artist Casey McGlynn. Engaging and personable, McGlynn is a graduate of Ontario College of Art and Design and has exhibited throughout the U.S. and Canada. His work is collected internationally and highly reflective of who he is. The symbolism in his work comes from a number of sources, including the birds outside his window, his children, a friend, even himself.

While talking with him about one of his works, I



A mixed media by Casey McGlynn.

asked if the large whale in the center and the boat with men below was perhaps referencing Moby Dick.

However, that was not the case.

“It’s like something you are battling, like something you are up against, like Jonah and the Whale,” he said. He explained that the whale symbolized something that needs to be conquered, and the men in the boat are literally all in the same boat together, all trying to conquer whatever they need to conquer emotionally, mentally or spiritually.

McGlynn feels an immediacy to create and to create as much as possible, still making ample time for his family and especially his children. A while ago, while working with aerosol paints and not being careful to use proper masking equipment, he fell ill, and although he only used the paints for six months, they damaged his heart such that he now needs a permanently installed defibrillator.

“For me, the rest of my life, I’m going to do what I want because I don’t know how long it will be,” he said.

For McGlynn, the whale takes on a whole new, very personal dimension. Sobering thoughts, and a warning to anyone — artist or otherwise — to always think safety first and, if in doubt, go ahead and wear a protective mask.

□

The arts in Michiana are flourishing with a variety of rich styles to suit the tastes of nearly everyone. As fall approaches, resist the urge to stay inside. Instead, get out and experience the wide assortment available for your viewing pleasure.

□

“If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you; I am here to live out loud.”

Emile Zola

Cause for Celebration



City officials, artists and community members gathered Sept. 11 to officially dedicate the Plaza 618 mural on Lincolnway in LaPorte. The ceremony included LaPorte Mayor Mark Krentz, gallery owners Thaddeus and Laura Cutler, mural artist Tom Torluemke, his assistant, Billy Pozzo, and his daughter, Polly, LaPorte County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, City Planner Beth Shrader and Mike Riehle, LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership president. Photo by Linda Weigel. Her full story on the mural project appeared in the Aug. 22 edition of *The Beacher*, which can be viewed online at www.thebeacher.com

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• **Fall Craft at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19.**

Children 4 and older accompanied by an adult are invited. All material are provided. Children must be present to receive supplies.

• **Bookmarks: Barbara Kingsolver's "Unsheltered" at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20.**

Therese Oniskin is the reviewer.



Jakob Dylan in "Echo in the Canyon."

• **Films on DVD Series: "Echo in the Canyon" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.**

The documentary, Rated PG-13, looks at how musical groups such as The Byrds, The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield and The Mamas & the Papas birthed the beginnings of the Laurel Canyon music scene.

• **"The Practice of Writing" workshop at 6 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 23 and 30.**

Author-teacher Hilda Demuth-Lutze offers the workshop for adults. Supplies are provided. Call (219) 873-3049 to register.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25.**

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

• **Readings in Elementary Spanish 1 at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28.**

The prerequisite is a previous study of beginning Spanish. The aim is to increase vocabulary and improve reading. The class is free, but a \$6 textbook is available at the first session.

• **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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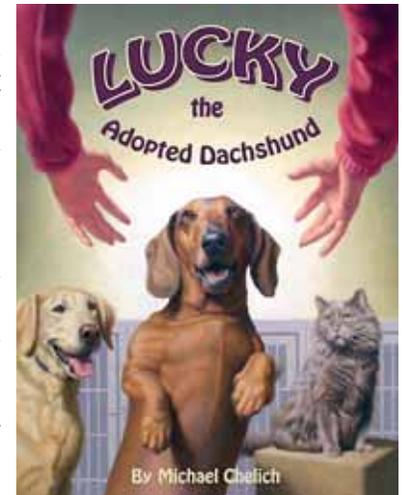
Illustrator Book Signing

Michael Chelich, the illustrator behind James Dworkin's Dog and the Dolphin series, will attend a book signing for his latest work from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at Michiana Humane Society & SPCA, 722 Indiana 212.

Chelich, Munster, has been accepting and creating commissioned artwork for 30

years. In recent years, he has illustrated Dworkin's series of children's books that includes The Dog and the Dolphin, The Dog and the Jet Ski and Red's Nature Adventure.

The Sept. 21 book signing is for his own work, Lucky, the Adopted Dachshund.



Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers starts rehearsals for its fourth series of Christmas Concerts from 6:30 to 8 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Sept. 25, at The School of American Music's Arts & Education Center, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich.

The ability to read music is not required, but chorus members are expected to attend regular rehearsals. This year's offering is "A Christmas Collage," which involves not only singers, but also local musicians and other talent.

Participation in HCS is free; however, donations are welcome. HCS also performs traditional and patriotic songs at events throughout the year. Break-out groups also are being formed.

Visit the group's Facebook page, Harbor Country Singers, or schoolofamericanmusic.com and click on the Harbor Country Singers tab for details.

Runnin' for Prestin

The eighth annual Runnin' for Prestin 5K/10K is Saturday, Sept. 21, at the shelter by the splash pad in Washington Park.

The race starts at 8 a.m. Beforehand is a brief ceremony held to honor and remember children who have, or are, battling cancer. All race proceeds benefit Riley's Children's Hospital Foundation for pediatric cancer research.

Visit www.runninforprestin.com or the Runnin' for Prestin Facebook page, or email info@runninforprestin.com for more details.

THANK YOU From Bolt for the Heart!

All of us at Bolt for the Heart would like to thank you, Michigan City, Franciscan Health, The Play for Jake Foundation and all of the walkers and runners for making the Sept. 8 inaugural 5K a great success. The weather was tremendous, as was the turnout and enthusiasm. Each of the law enforcement teams in LaPorte County were represented, led by Sheriff John Boyd, Chief of Services Royce Williams (Michigan City Police Department) and LaPorte Police Chief Tom Owens. Thank you for your help on Sunday AND for what you do each day in keeping us safe.

Each dollar of registration goes directly to placing AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) in every police vehicle in LaPorte. With the success from this year's run, we are well on our way of the goal of 130 AED's. Lives will be saved by these devices. Stay tuned for an enhanced Bolt in 2020.

www.boltfortheheart.com

Respectfully,
Pierre Twer and the Bolt for the Heart



Pet Blessing



St. Andrews by the Lake Episcopal Church, U.S. 12 and Moore Road, will hold its annual Pet Blessing during a service on the lawn at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 22. Fellowship follows the service.

Day of Mindfulness

Peacemakers' Sangha's 18th Day of Mindfulness is from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at Taleamor Park, located at the Petersons' LaPrairie Farm, 2215 E. County Road 350 North.

Registration is at 9:45 a.m. The cost is a \$15 donation. The day involves enjoying nature, sitting and walking meditation. Take lunch, water, a meditation cushion or chair.

Preregistration is encouraged so organizers can plan ahead. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Lee Malizia at leemalizia@gmail.com

Celebration & Boat Trek

The 10th Annual Celebration & Boat Trek of LaPorte's Chain of Lakes is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

The event unites several groups, including LaPorte County Conservation Trust Inc., Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and LaPorte City Parks & Recreation Department.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at Cummings Lodge. The kayak/canoe launching is at 10 a.m. Starting at the shore near the beach house, it will follow two different paths. One travels northward into Pine Lake. The other follows a southward trek through Hennessey Lake to the Weller Avenue bridge (culvert). The southward trek features a course of wild, natural habitats for many native wetland species. Because the bridge presents an impediment to further passage, boaters will turn around and return from there.

The Wilderness Inquiry will offer boating instructions and rides on voyageur canoes.

Participants in the boat treks should meet at the Stone Lake beach house. Boats and life jackets will be provided for those needing them, while kayaks/canoes can be reserved at nwipa.org. Prior notification is needed so organizers know how many extra boats are required. Boaters should take water, sun screen and bug spray. Old tennis shoes are better to wear than sandals or flip-flops. An orientation session on safety and historical information precedes the launch. Afterward, a potluck is planned at the beach house.

Contact Stan Shepard of NWIPA at (219) 921-3050 or Stylianios.Shepard@gmail.com to make a reservation or for more details.

Free Smithsonian Museum Day

The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., is participating in *Smithsonian's* 15th annual free Museum Day on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Download a free ticket at Smithsonian.com/museumday. Each ticket grants one guest free access, and one ticket is permitted per email address.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call (219) 324-6767 or email info@laportecountyhistory.org for details.

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“Chicago’s Polish Americans”

Registration is under way for “Chicago’s Polish Americans,” a Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana program, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at Portage Public Library 2665 Irving St.



Dobrzycki

The speaker is Mark Dobrzycki, Harwood Heights, Ill., who is the current director of Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic in Chicago. In 2016, he and the clinic received the Vanguard Award from the Advocates Society of Polish-American Lawyers. The award recognizes individuals and institutions who make the law and legal profession more accessible to, and reflective of, the community at large. He was the

first Polish American, and first non-attorney, to receive this award.

Earlier this year, the *Teraz Polska* (Poland Now) Foundation of Warsaw, Poland, presented him with its “2019 *Osobowosc Roku* (Person or Personality of the Year, Chicago Edition) Award” for his lifetime contribution to Chicago’s Polonia.

Admission is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served. Reservations are suggested by calling Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369 or email polamnwi@yahoo.com

LaPorte Sunflower Fair

The 21st annual LaPorte Sunflower Fair is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, in downtown LaPorte.

Festivities start near Lincolnway by Michigan and Indiana avenues and head south to Harrison Street. Featured are more than 130 craft vendors. Car show registration starts at 9:30 a.m., while music and entertainment begin at 10 a.m. Sunflower contest judging starts at 11 a.m., with winners announced at noon. A rib cookoff judging is at 2 p.m.

The event is presented by LaPorte Economic Advancement Partnership and a volunteer committee. Visit www.sunflowerfair.com for details.

Kicking off the fair is the Kiwanis Sunflower 5K Run & Fun Walk. Registration is at 6:45 a.m., followed by the run at 8 a.m. The start and finish points are in front of the LaPorte County YMCA. Awards go to first male and female overall, and the top finisher in each age group receives a medal.

The costs are \$15 (15 and younger) and \$20 for adults through Sept. 20. The day of cost is \$25 for adults. Register at runsignup.com/Race/IN/LaPorte/KiwanisSunflowerFair5K

Indoor Flea Market Vendors

Vendors interested in renting space for the New Troy Indoor Flea Market are encouraged to do so now because spots are quickly filling up.

The new season begins Saturday, Oct. 12.

Market Director Donald Heitsch invites vendors with antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, furniture and locally made or grown edibles. Vendors of eggs, honey and syrup are in particular demand.

Markets are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the second and third Saturdays of each month through April. Red Brick Cafe provides lunch and snacks.

The market is held at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. A map is available at www.Facebook/NewTroyFleaMarket.

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

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The Great Race





It was the biggest turnout to date as 23 teams competed in the sixth annual Dragon Boat races, a fundraiser for Dunebrook, on Sept. 7 at LaPorte's Stone Lake.

Teams raced in three heats in canoe-like vessels with a dragon head and tail on the bow and stern. Huge crowds gathered along the shoreline to support their favorite teams.

The winners were:

- Division A — Applegate and Co. CPAs.
- Division B — Journey Church.
- Division C – La Lumiere School.
- Division D — American Licorice.

All photos by Bob Wellinski

Indiana Dunes National Park

The following programs are planned:

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 14.**

Projects focus on preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk off trail. All equipment and protective gear, including gloves and eye protection, will be provided. Meet at The Park Connection volunteer office, which is adjacent to the main Chellberg Farm parking lot.

- **The fourth annual Apple Festival from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21-22, at Chellberg Farm.**

The family-friendly event offers seasonal activities such as free tractor-pulled hayrides, a Kid's Corner with games and crafts and apple-chucking catapults. Make cider using an apple press, learn how to cook apples for applesauce and apple butter, ferment apples into vinegar, make apple pomanders and discover other uses for apples. Free tasting of most of these products will be available.

Visitors can buy apples, lunch or a snack from food vendors and a farm stand market featuring local produce. Local musicians and the Northwest Indiana Storytellers will perform. Other options include exploring the historic farmhouse, then checking out the farm's cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and goats in the barn, the chicken coop and surrounding pastures. Draft horses will be on site, and children can help feed the animals at 3:30 p.m. each day.

The event is supported by Dunes Learning Center and Friends of Indiana Dunes. Chellberg Farm is on Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter.

- **Playdate in the Nature Play Zone from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

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

- **Art in the National Park from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 9 at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road.**

Learn how to paint the dunes. A canvas and paint are provided for the free class. Registration is required, and the class is limited to 20 adult painters. Be prepared to park in auxiliary sites during the summer due to parking congestion. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information and to register.

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

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

- **Feed the Farm Animals at Chellberg Farm from 4:30 to 5 p.m. Sundays.**

The farm includes cows, pigs, goats, chickens and turkeys.



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

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

- **Feed the Birds at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.**

Meet a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers

- **Turtle Time at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.**

Meet outside the nature center to learn more about turtles.

- **Wetland Wander at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.**

Take a 45-minute hike into the dune wetlands to explore breeding birds and underwater critters.

- **Spectacular Spiders at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.**

Learn facts about spiders, and their adaptations to hunt insect prey.



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

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Monday Musicale: A Primer

Editor's note — Sue Cassler submitted the following column.

As a long-standing member, I am taken aback when encountering locals unfamiliar with Monday Musicale. After all, the organization has existed in Michigan City since 1909!

As we observe its 110th anniversary, let me take this opportunity to introduce Monday Musicale to the community.

At the turn of the 20th century, when people often entertained themselves by reading, singing or playing an instrument, there was a growing interest in providing cultural activities in Michigan City. To that end, 20 young women met Dec. 7, 1909, to organize The Music Study Club, with Gertrude Moritz as its first president. Monthly meetings were held in members' homes, and membership was limited to 20. Meetings began with the reading of an essay on a prescribed topic, followed by a musical program. Responding to requests from people unable to perform, 10 "associate memberships" were added in 1921. By 1926, after two name changes, the club was renamed "The Michigan City Monday Musicale." As membership grew, club meetings were moved to local churches. It wasn't until 1975 that men were allowed to join.

Today, unless announced, meetings are at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month, September through May, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Monday Musicale is an affiliate of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Our purpose is to encourage local musicians to use their talents, and to increase musical interest and awareness in our community.

Two-thirds of our approximately 60 members are active members, chosen by audition and required to perform on at least one program per year. While associate members do not perform, they assist with refreshments and can host a monthly program or serve as an officer. The group is comprised of vocalists and instrumentalists who play banjo, cello, clarinet, flute, guitar, oboe, organ, piano, saxophone, trumpet, viola and violin. Most live in LaPorte and Porter counties.

Each year, the program committee chooses a theme around which all monthly programs are planned. The theme for 2019-2020 is "American Values Among Musical Genres." Dates and topics are: Sept. 23 – movies; Oct. 28 – opera; Nov. 25 – country and folk; Jan. 27 – sacred; Feb. 24 – Broadway (closed meeting); March 23 – jazz; April 19 — Student Awards Competition for musicians in grades four through 12; May 3 – Scholarship and Awards Concert, featuring competition winners; and June 1 – Americana and patriotic.

Guests are welcome. Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.



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A Night of Star Power

Story and photos by Bob Wellinski



Joe Stewart

Joe Stewart and Rebecca Lane walked away with top honors Sept. 7 during the 13th annual Hoosier Star competition, but it could be said those in attendance walked away winners. They were treated to outstanding talent from 10 finalists.

Stewart won the adult division as he belted out “I’m Not the Only One.” Billy Cox finished as runner-up with his song, “Drink in My Hand.”

In the youth division, Rebecca Lane’s “At Last” earned her first place, as Ella Moon was on fire during her performance of “Girl on Fire.” Raul Palma received the Joe Mellen Rising Star Award, which honors the youth finalist who exemplifies the star qualities Mellen radiated on and off stage. Mellen, who was active with Hoosier Star, died in 2011.

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra was equally amazing as the night’s contestants, directed by guest



Rebecca Lane

conductor Alastair Willis, faced judges Julia Biek, Dewitt Jackson Sr. and Mary Kay Steele. Jeremiah Mellen was the emcee.

Competing in the youth division were: Jamileh Cornejo, Rebecca Lane, Joseph Giuliani, Ella Moon and Raul Palma. In the adult division were Laura Carns, Billy Cox, Tim Hester, Clara Hooton and Stewart.





Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Sue Vrska will teach a Mixed Media Flower Canvas Workshop from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.**

Students create individually designed papers, then design the backdrop by painting and composing on canvas. Taking those papers, participants fashion flowers that will be attached to the hand-painted canvases.

All supplies are provided. The cost is \$85, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

• **Herb Helm will teach a three-week watercolor workshop starting from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24.**

Class is designed for an advanced beginner and above. Students will create a sunflower using a pour-and-splatter technique. Painting will require a number of techniques, including splattering, glazing and using masking fluid. The painting will incorporate positive and negative painting, with opportunities to add a personal interpretation.

A supply list will be provided upon registration. The cost is \$140, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

• **Caroline Hatch will teach a Jewelry SOS (Easy Repairs & Remedies) Class from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25.**



The painting students will create in Herb Helm's class.

The class is ideal for someone who needs guidance completing a jewelry project, or a student interested in learning tips and tricks for doing repairs. The cost is \$45, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

• **A series of drawing classes with Sarah Fantuzzo kicks off with the four-week Discover Drawing Class from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 25.**

The class is designed for beginners with little to no drawing experience. Students can try techniques while determining if they want to progress to a more in-depth class. The cost is \$90, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list is included upon registration.

The four-week Drawing Fundamentals Class starts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23.

The class is ideal for beginners to hone skills and learn techniques, from proper perspective to expert-level rendering. The emphasis is personal guidance, detailed demonstrations and practice.

The cost is \$140, with members receiving a \$20 discount. A supply list is included upon registration.

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

Beginning students develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students refine techniques to create complex forms. Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture are encouraged.

Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces are glazed during the final class.

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

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



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Adventure Festival Registration

Registration is under way for the Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival throughout the Indiana Dunes region on Friday-Sunday, Oct. 4-6.

The festival unites more than 70 events into one weekend. Indiana Dunes National Park is the host with support from Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes Tourism and more than a dozen other partners.

Centered at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center in Porter, the festival showcases the region's outdoor activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, geocaching, photography, bird watching, camping and yoga. It is open to families, beginners, experts and those with limited mobility.

Highlights include paddling trips on the Little Calumet River, Lake Michigan and Lake George in Hobart; dozens of hikes led by experts; and access to natural areas not normally open to the public.

Registration is required at www.dunesoutdoorfestival.com. Many events have limited spaces and fill up quickly, so registering before the weekend is recommended. To help cover costs, there is a \$10 festival fee for adults that is good for all three days. Children 18 and younger are free.

Call (219) 395-1882, visit www.nps.gov/indu and www.facebook.com/IndianaDunesNPS for updated information.

Dunes Learning Center Gala

Dunes Learning Center will host "A Dunes Affair," its annual fundraising gala, from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton.

Tickets start at \$100. Proceeds help students from diverse backgrounds experience a national park. The event includes silent and live auctions, live music, wine, beer and refreshments. Also, science educator-Hoosier historian Ken Schoon will receive the Green Apple Award for Excellence in Environmental Education

Visit adunesaffair.simplenetix.com/e/45578 for reservations or more information.

Euchre Night

Rolling Prairie United Methodist Women will host Euchre Night from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at Rolling Prairie United Methodist Church, 3444 E. U.S. 20.

The \$10 cost includes cards and a walking taco bar. Tacos are from 5 to 6 p.m., with cards at 6 p.m. Cash awards go to the top winners:

- First — \$25.
- Second — \$15.
- Third — \$10.

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LaPorte County Public Library

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

- **Maker Mondays from 3-5 p.m. Mondays through Oct. 28.**

Each month highlights a different skill and lab equipment. September focuses on video production and October 3-D modeling and printing.

- **STEAM Sandbox from 3-5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday through Oct. 31.**

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

The following program is at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North:

- **Caregiver University from 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays.**

The schedule is: Sept. 24 — Medicare and Medicaid; Oct. 8 — Caring for Aging Parents at Home; Oct. 22 — Alzheimer's and Dementia; Nov. 5 — Aging and the Law: Living Wills, Guardianships and More; and Nov. 19 — End of Life Care and Planning.

Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details.

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Bits & Bytes series, Five Things You Can Do to be More Secure, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, in 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.

- **Kids Improv from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The improvisational games are aimed at youth 8-12. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

- **DIY Bag Charms for Teens from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can make pom-poms and tassels to create an accessory that hangs from a key ring, purse or backpack.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

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| 2. Alley Katz | 4 | 0 |
| 3. Pin Pals | 4 | 0 |
| 4. Blind Side | 4 | 0 |

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

| | SCORE |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Tammy Nelmar | 195 |
| 2. Jill Craig | 168 |
| 3. Linda Neulieb | 163 |
| 3. Sue Luegers | 163 |
| 4. Nancy Kubath | 160 |
| 5. Sue Labovitz | 159 |
| 6. Ann Bogart | 158 |
| 6. Pat Collado | 158 |
| 7. Lenore Hadaway) | 153 |

SPLITS

Tammy Nelmar 5-7

THREE STRIKES IN A ROW

Tammy Nelmar



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



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

- Marquette High School, 306 W. 10th St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20.
- YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

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.

Symphony Home Tour

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will host its Master Key Symphony Home Tour, complete with six homes, from noon to 5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 22.

Open to visitors 12 and older, the ticket price directly benefits SMSO. The cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Make reservations by calling (269) 982-4030 or visiting SMSO.org

Aunt Kitty's Fall Yard Sale

Saturday, Sept 28th and Sunday, Sept 29th
9 AM to 3 PM

4061 S. County Line Rd. Westville, IN 46391

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Items may be dropped off Friday September 27th from 9am to 3pm at the shelter. NO clothing, electronics or large furniture please!

Homemade treats and vittles will be for sale while you shop, provided by 3 Old Cat Ladies' Cafe.

www.catsociety.org shelter@catsociety.org
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5-in-1 Recycling Event

LaPorte County Solid Waste District will host its fall 5-in-1 Recycling Dropoff from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

Accepted items include: appliances, electronics, household hazardous waste, tires and shredding.

The cost for tires is:

- First four passenger car/truck tires are free per resident.
- Each additional car/truck tire costs \$1 for each.
- Semi/tractor tires cost \$5, while tires 54-inch or larger tread to tread cost \$75.

Use the fairgrounds' main entrance when arriving. Call (219) 326-0014 for details.

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the former St. Mary's School, 321 W. 10th St.

The facilitator is the Rev. Walter Rakoczy. Membership is free and open to anyone wanting to learn about the Polish language, culture and traditions.

Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369 or email polamnwi@yahoo.com for details. Visit "Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana" on facebook, then click "Join Group" for additional information.

Shakespeare Tea

South Bend's The History Museum will host a Shakespeare Tea, complete with a catered menu, at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 22.

Guests are seated at round tables of eight in the Leighton Gallery, decorated with themes of "Romeo and Juliet," "Macbeth" and other Shakespeare plays.

Tickets are \$25, or \$20 for members, and include visits to the museum's exhibit "Full Circle: Shakespearean Culture at Notre Dame." Reservations are required and can be at historymuseumSB.org

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.

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Barker Middle School Science Teacher Amy Hamann and Social Studies Teacher Mariah Pol are using Virtual Reality in their classrooms thanks to a Michigan City Community Enrichment Corp. grant. Connecting students to the real world, the technology also supports Barker's goals as an Indiana STEM Certified Middle School and Museum of Science & Industry School Partner.

MAC Children's Arts Scholarships

The Michigan City Public Art Committee has scholarships available for children interested in taking art instruction.

The City Council created the committee in 2011. The scholarship funds visual art classes or individual art instruction for qualified children between ages 5 and 18. The maximum request per individual is \$200. Funds are available for instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, collage, crafts such as beading, mosaic work and weaving, art camps or any combination of these taught by a legitimate instructor. The committee will not fund music, writing, dance or drama instruction.

Applicants must show financial need and take instruction from an art provider within city limits. The deadline is at least 30 days before instruction begins. Applications are available at LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Submission can be made there to Jane Daley, or email her for an application at jane@michigancitylaporte.com

Remember Me Thursday

Michiana Humane Society, 722 Indiana 212, will observe Remember Me Thursday at around 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26.

Luminarias line the front lawn, each dedicated to the memory of a pet or shelter animal. Guests can arrive as early as 6 p.m. to buy luminarias and decorate them. The lighting ceremony begins around dusk.

Those unable to attend, but would like to place a luminaria should call MHS at (219) 872-4499.

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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



Fernwood Botanical Garden

13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

• **Fall Night Hike from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. EDT Friday, Sept. 20.**

Call for screech owls and listen for bats hunting insects. Take a flashlight. Registration is required.

• **Smithsonian Magazine Museum Free Day on Saturday, Sept. 21.**

Visit smithsonian.com/museumdaylive to download a coupon for free admission for two.

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

Oktoberfest

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish will host its Oktoberfest on Sunday, Oct. 6, at Elks Lodge 432, 416 E. U.S. 20.

The event includes a chicken dinner, music, a game room and raffle. Doors open at 11 a.m.

The dinner ticket, which includes desserts and drinks, costs \$15 for adults and \$9 for children. They can be purchased from parishioners or calling (219) 872-9196 before Sept. 22. Children 12 and younger accompanied by an adult eat free from the kids buffet. Carryouts are available, and reservations are advised.



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All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. 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. Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and 28, Nov. 18 and 25, and Dec. 2 and 16 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Call at least one week in advance to register.

Pioneer Days

The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28-29, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

Historically clad re-enactors and vendors involve families in outdoor cooking, crafts, candle dipping, wagon rides and food. The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors and children 4 or younger.

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:

- Oct. 2 — Medicare 2020: an overview of any changes in coverage and enrollment.
- Nov. 6 — What is your spine saying, and complimentary health/spinal screening, with Hicks Chiropractic Health Center.

Chalk It Up

Families can design and make reusable vinyl transfer and chalk paste from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at Luhr County Park.

Aimed at children 4 and older, adults will make a 9x12 framed piece and children 5x7 two-sided pieces. A minimum of five participants and a maximum of 24 are required. The cost is \$25 per pair (adult and one child) and \$5 for each additional child.

Registration and payment are due at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

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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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Sept. 19 — Fall Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 20 — Bookmarks: Barbara Kingsolver's "Unsheltered," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 20-24 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Luce." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon. *Also:* "The Peanut Butter Falcon." Rated PG-13. Times: 9 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* "A Dangerous Idea: Eugenics, Genetics and the American Dream." Time: 7 p.m. Sept. 24. Presented with Harbor Country Progress. Q&A with writer/director Stephanie Welsh. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Sept. 21 — Runnin' for Prestin 5K/10K, 8 a.m., shelter by Washington Park splash pad. Ceremony beforehand. Info: www.runninforprestin.com

Sept. 21 — DIY Bag Charms for Teens, 10-11 a.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Sept. 21 — LaPorte Sunflower Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., downtown LaPorte. Info: www.sunflowerfair.com

Sept. 21 — Michigan City in the Gilded Age Walking Tour, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tickets: \$5. Reservations: (219) 873-1520, Eventbrite.

Sept. 21 — Illustrator book signing, Michael Chelich, 1-3 p.m., Michiana Humane Society & SPCA, 722 Indiana 212.

Sept. 21 — Free Family Day, 1-4 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Sept. 21 — Euchre Night, 5-9 p.m., Rolling Prairie United Methodist Church, 3444 E. U.S. 20. Cost: \$10. Reservations/info: (219) 778-2910.

Sept. 21 — Acorn Showcase Fundraiser, 6:30 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: acornlive.org

Sept. 21 — Celebration & Boat Trek of LaPorte's Chain of Lakes, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cummings Lodge, LaPorte. Registration: nwipa.org. Info: (219) 921-3050, Stylianos.Shepard@gmail.com

Sept. 21-22 — Fourth annual Apple Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Sept. 22 — Wetland Wander, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 22 — Films on DVD Series: "Echo in the Canyon," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through Oct. 5 — Art exhibit, former LaPorte

resident Roland Lee Hockett, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2504 Indiana Ave.

Saturdays through October — Michigan City Mainstreet Association Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets.

Saturdays through Oct. 26 — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas.

In the Region

Sept. 20 — Fall Night Hike, 7:30-9:30 p.m. EDT, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Registration: (269) 695-6491, www.fernwoodbotanical.org

Sept. 21 — PastTime with Billy Shelton, 7 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Cost: \$8/advance, \$10/door. Info: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org/

Through Sept. 21 — Exhibit, FACETIME, Fritz Olsen Fine Art Gallery, 6914 W. Holloway Drive, Sawyer, Mich. Info: (269) 426-3003.

Sept. 22 — Summer Sundays at the Box, Twin City String Band, 1-6 p.m. EDT (live music/4 p.m. EDT), The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Free-will donation. Info: (269) 983-3688, boxfactoryforthearts.org/

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.

Thursdays — Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families, 6 p.m., Franciscan Health Michigan City, Maria Theresia Conference Room C, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: (219) 801-1296.

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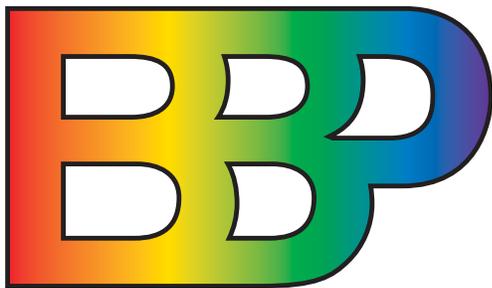
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On September 19, 1796, President Washington's farewell address to the nation was published.

On September 19, 1881, President James A. Garfield died from wounds inflicted by an assassin's bullet.

On September 19, 1906, Mark Twain said there were "only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe...the sun in the heavens and The Associated Press down here."

On September 19, 1928, Americans were introduced to Mickey Mouse when Walt Disney's "Steamboat Willie" opened at New York's Colony Theater.

On September 19, 1970, "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" debuted on CBS.

On September 20, 1797, the U.S. frigate Constitution "Old Ironsides" was launched at the Boston Navy Yard.

On September 20, 1916, in New York City, the first meeting of the National Research Council took place. It was formed at the request of President Wilson for "...the purpose of encouraging the investigation of natural phenomena..."

On September 20, 1963, President John F. Kennedy went before the United Nations to propose a joint U.S.-Soviet expedition to the moon.

On September 20, 1973, in a tennis match that was ballyhooed as the "Battle of the Sexes," Billy Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs before a huge crowd, as well as a national television audience, in Houston's Astrodome.

On September 20, 2004, CBS News apologized for a "mistake in judgment" in its story questioning President George W. Bush's National Guard service, saying it could not vouch for the authenticity of documents featured in the report.

On September 21, 1784, *The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser*, the first daily newspaper to be published in the United States, made its appearance in Philadelphia.

On September 21, 1897, the editor of *The New York Sun*, in response to a letter written by 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, wrote one of the all-time favorite editorials, titled "Is There a Santa Claus?" "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist..."

On September 21, 1915, the massive, mysterious, stone structures at Stonehenge, on England's Salisbury Plain, were sold at auction for 6,600 pounds.

The buyer was C.H.E. Chubb, of Salisbury Plain.

On September 21, 1937, The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien was published.

On September 21, 1947, author Stephen King was born in Portland, Maine.

On September 21, 1970, "NFL Monday Night Football" debuted on ABC.

On September 21, 1981, the Senate confirmed Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On September 22, 1776, American patriot Nathan Hale, convicted by the British as a spy, was put to death by hanging. His last words: "*My only regret is that I have just one life to give for my country,*" have become a lasting part of American legend.

On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

On September 22, 1927, in the famous "long count" fight at Soldier Field in Chicago, Gene Tunney successfully defended his heavyweight boxing title against former champion Jack Dempsey.

On September 22, 1964, the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" (which would survive for 3,242 performances) opened on Broadway.

On September 23, 1845, the New York Knickerbockers, America's first baseball club, was chartered.

On September 23, 1912, the first Mack Sennett "Keystone Comedy" motion picture was released.

On September 23, 1938, a time capsule, scheduled to be opened in the year 6939, was buried on the grounds of the World's Fair in New York.

On September 23, 1952, Richard Nixon delivered the "Checkers" speech.

On September 24, 1780, Benedict Arnold, after being arrested for attempting to give the British the plans for the West Point fortifications, escaped to a British ship.

On September 24, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill establishing Wyoming's "Devil's Tower" as the first national monument.

On September 24, 1934, at Yankee Stadium, Babe Ruth (the Sultan of Swat) made his final appearance as a player with the New York Yankees.

On September 24, 1964, the sitcom "The Munsters" premiered on CBS.

On September 25, 1690, the first American newspaper, *Publick Occurrences*, was published in Boston. The Royal Governor was not happy with the first edition; so a second one never appeared.

On September 25, 1890, Congress established Sequoia National Park.

On September 25, 1912, Ford Motor Co. established an eight-hour working day and five-day week.

On September 25, 1979, the musical "Evita" opened on Broadway.

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Area families can attend a free Family Day from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

LCA offers a free Family Day for each major exhibit. Guests on Sept. 21 can view “The Chicago Imagists: Before and After,” with no advance registration necessary. Families also can engage in multiple art activities and mini-tours. Kid-friendly snacks will be provided.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Wolf Pack by C.J. Box (*hardcover, \$27 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook. 370 pages*)

It's off to the wilds of Wyoming this week to meet Game Warden Joe Pickett. He's been the subject of 18 books that sustain their momentum with smooth prose that slowly morphs into an unexpected, and explosive, climax. Book No. 19 is no different.

Pickett has a wife, Marybeth, who works at the local library, and three daughters: Sheridan and April, both at college, and Lucy, a high school senior.

The story delves into the world of drugs, the cartels that get rich off them and the men and women who work tirelessly to stem the flow of drugs into our country. Wyoming seems like an unlikely place for all that, but stick with me, they don't call it the "Wild West" for nothing.

Our story begins in another state...

In Arizona, three men and a woman mete out their own kind of justice. The four are collectively known as the Wolf Pack. Criminals in Mexico and the U.S. Southwest fear *and* respect them. The Sinaloa Cartel has hired them for a special job.

They are looking for a man named Ernie Mecca, but don't get any information from the soon-to-be-dead Tim Kelleher, his wife and their friend. They are taken out in parts in a body bag, never to be found. But they do get a lead from Kelleher before he dies: Mecca said something about going north. Colorado? Wyoming? They will soon find out.

Fade to Wyoming where another game warden, Katelyn Hamm, whose district is west of Pickett's, observes a drone following a herd of deer. The drone buzzes over the animal's heads, causing them to panic and run over each other, killing seven young deer.

Katelyn is livid. Who would do such a thing? She calls on Pickett to share information. Joe's best friend, Nate Romanowski, now a falconer, is contacted to drop the drone with the help of his falcons. It works. Drone destroyed.

Pickett has a strange situation himself: illegal traps are found in his territory. The animals were left to die. Not hard to figure out who owned them — by law, the owner's name has to be printed on them. Could the drone and traps be connected to the same person?

The address on the traps leads Pickett to a remote dirt road and large compound. The owner, Bill Hill, isn't helpful, saying the traps aren't his, but

the drone is, and who is going to buy him a new one? Pickett writes him a ticket, which he throws on the ground.

It gets worse. Nate's daughter, Lucy, is dating this man's son.

Problems pile up when two FBI agents show up who want no local law to know why they're in Wyoming. Katelyn is visited by them first. They won't tell her what they are doing in Wyoming, but they are arrogant and bullies, making it clear she must cooperate and drop any charges against Bill Hill or else. Or else, what? They run into Pickett next, and the agents try the same tactics, but he turns the tables by secretly recording their conversation.

Pickett has a problem with these men — a very big problem. They want his cooperation with no questions asked, and want to be in charge. But who knows the area better? A Wyoming game warden, or two suits from Washington, D.C.?

Pickett's boss arranges a meeting with the suits, Nate and Katelyn, and the local prosecutor. For some reason, Katelyn is a no-show. Pickett finally finds out why Bill Hill is untouchable. Now, he understands his arrogance.

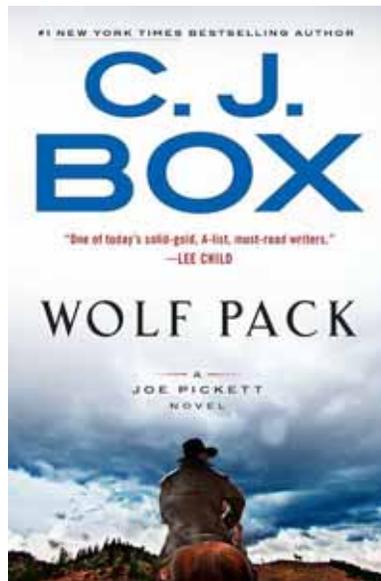
And when Nate says two strange vehicles — two men in a van, and a woman and a man in a sedan, both with Arizona plates — have been seen around town, Pickett knows something bad is about to go down. He can't imagine what ruthless murderers are about to invade his beloved country. The Wolf Pack has arrived.

They say death comes in threes — proven when, soon, there is the murder of a couple of tourists, the murder/suicide of an elderly couple and a hit and run. Coincidence? I think not. But what is their connection to the Wolf Pack?

Pickett has a keen eye for ferreting out clues, and calm demeanor for bidding his time to let the Wolf Pack make the first move. It's a move that will suddenly light up the sky and increase your reading speed by twofold. The ending gallops along like a spooked herd of deer, and Pickett could become your next favorite character. It's all a matter of simple prose, well thought-out characters and a beautiful location that makes us realize how important our natural resources are.

FYI— Box and his wife live on a ranch in, where else? Wyoming. His website is cjbox.net; FB: [authorcjbox](https://www.facebook.com/authorcjbox); Twitter: [cjboxauthor](https://twitter.com/cjboxauthor)

Till next time, happy reading!



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