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JURASSIC MARK

by William Halliar



Mark Tarner is intent on having his Indiana Dinosaur Museum open by December 2023.

Mark Tarner has a life motto: “Don’t talk — Do!”

He is a man with big dreams who works tirelessly to bring them to reality. He recently told multimedia journalist Mark Peterson of South Bend’s WNDU 16 News Now, “I don’t golf, don’t have a vacation home. I just love to work.”

Sound like a boring life?

Not on your sweet tooth!

You may not know Mark personally, but you definitely know him through his business endeavors. He is the owner and driving creative force behind The South Bend Chocolate Co., which has been bringing

sweet delights to folks of the region under its own banner — Michigan City’s Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets is home to one of its locations — and to the rest of the country as an ingredient in many other brands, for more than 30 years.

Now, Mark is building what will become a one-of-a-kind attraction at the southwest corner of the U.S. 20 and U.S. 31, on the outskirts of South Bend: a virtual showplace for food, culture and history in northern Indiana.

A brand new chocolate factory is being constructed that will be open for tours, including — hold your breath — free samples along the tour route. Under

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JURASSIC MARK

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the same roof will be his famous Chocolate Museum tracing chocolate's history, uses and production from its origins to present day.

A third attraction will be housed in the same massive complex: the state's first and only Indiana Dinosaur Museum. The goal is for the museum to open in late 2023. According to WNDU's Peterson, this new adventure has led some in the area to dub Turner as "Jurassic Mark"

Mark's dream is to create an interactive experience in which children can discover and help curate, clean and preserve real dinosaur bones.

"If we are working on turtle fossils," Mark says, "we will have real live turtles on hand to study and compare the fossils to."

Mark intends his new museum to be part zoo-part research lab for fossils.

Mark enjoys reading and learning, deriving great pleasure from making his dreams become a reality. His 90-acre site at 24820 U.S. 20, South Bend, will



Rachael Turner, Mark's daughter-in-law, is photographed with a stack of bones that will be part of the museum.

become a destination for tourists from around the country and the world, as well as students and locals who hopefully return often to help with cleaning and preserving ancient dinosaur bones. A big plus is the opportunity to work side by side with real paleontologists.



The skeleton for Indiana Dinosaur Museum takes shape.

Located on a continental divide, the 90-acre plot of wooded land punctuated by open prairies will feature walking trails with observation decks and cozy spots to eat a picnic lunch away from the hustle and bustle of surrounding activities...all the while, the smell of sweet chocolate will permeate the breezes that filter through the stands of hardwood forests.

Howard Park Public House will provide food items, while South Bend Farms will host events featuring harvests of the seasons surrounded and dipped in chocolate dreams.

Mark became interested in digging up dinosaur bones as a young child. As long as he can remember, he was a rock hound, always searching for unusual specimens, especially those that contained fossils. While I was on a recent tour of the construction site with Mark, he often stopped to pick up an interesting rock and explain its origin.

He certainly has a knack for finding fossils, under-



Mark Tarner talks about the Indiana Dinosaur Museum, with construction visible in the background

standing how to read formations on the ground. He has made many friends among the ranchers in Montana's Hell's Creek Formation near Jordan, Mont. Actually, the formation covers portions of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Mark spends several weeks a year there exploring rocks deposited during the Jurassic Era, which ended 145 million years ago. This is where he made his most spectacular find: the almost complete skeleton of a duck-billed hadrosaur, which he painstakingly excavated from the surrounding rock. Carefully removing the bones, Mark discovered there also were skin impressions left in the surrounding rock.

This hadrosaur, which Mark lovingly named after his wife, Juliette, will serve as the focal point of the Indiana Dinosaur Museum.

Mark has spent hundreds of hours on dig sites. While not in the field, he studies what others have discovered and written. His passion, this labor of

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JURASSIC MARK

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love, has made him an expert on the subject. As young paleontologists work side by side with him on the dig sites, they learn from his experiences.

Mark has collected more than 600 dinosaur bones, some as large as a small car, that he has stored in a warehouse ready for placement in the new museum. Many will be available for visitors to the museum to handle and work with as they join Mark in the hands-on adventure of dinosaur hunting.

Mark also likes to keep people updated on the progress of the building site through the Facebook page Indiana Dinosaur Museum, which be found at www.facebook.com/indianadinosaurmuseum/. For example, a video posted Sept. 27 shows the skeleton of the building in its entirety. In another video post, Mark is seen discussing how his dream has been to combine his two passions: chocolate and dinosaurs. And, he expresses his hopes that the site becomes not only a regional attraction, but a national one as well.

The COVID-19 pandemic, indeed, put the project behind schedule somewhat; however, enthusiasm for it has not been dampened. Mark still projects an opening date for this amazing entertainment and educational complex in December 2023.

The South Bend Tribune reported that the city will bestow \$2.7 million to Tarner to finish the building. The condition was that Tarner invest about \$15.4 million on the endeavor.

In a meeting with the South Bend Common Council, Mark was quoted in *The South Bend Tribune* as

saying, "We had no intentions of coming to anybody for any money prior to the COVID, and we've done a great job recovering as a company. Of course, in construction, there's been a lot of inflation. The bulk of the funds are for the dinosaur museum, which is a nonprofit that my wife and I established."

The city, according to *The South Bend Tribune*, previously supported the project with \$1.4 million for infrastructure improvements. The puts the city's total commitment at \$4.1 million. A sign of the city's believe in Mark's endeavors.

"Nothing is impossible," he exclaims. This place,



Rachael Tarner, Mark's daughter-in-law, is photographed with visitors Collin and Dillon Gallagher. Behind them is a dinosaur bone covered in plaster to protect it in transport. It is as long as the trailer.

he adds, will be fun and educational for moms, dads, kids, grandmas and grandpas. Nothing brings out the kid in a person like dinosaurs, and to be able to touch the bones and work with them will make this museum a place that will inspire people. Add to the mix the enticing delights of chocolate candy, and you have a surefire hit of an attraction.



An artist rendering of the completed Indiana Dinosaur Museum.



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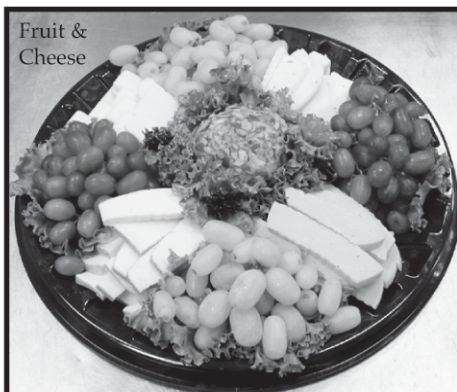
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Footlight Show to Spoof Hallmark Christmas Movies



Real-estate tycoon Laertes (Bruce Stahl, from left) and Evergreen Inn owner Holly (Liz Graupner) face off as best friend Bridgett (Bobbi Ann Lauritsen) mediates the rough discussion. Photo by Lara West.

Footlight Players will present the third production of its 73rd season, Don Zolidis' "The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon," on Dec. 2-4 and 8-11 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Director Denise Barkow, in a press release, describes the show as a "satire or spoof of the Hallmark Christmas movies in which six (count 'em, six) cute couples go through the basic pattern of Sad Situation, Meet Cute, Goes Wrong, Grand Gesture and Happy Ending all at the same time."

Two narrators — Amanda Saqui, Valparaiso, and Teagin Powers, Chesterton — help move the action along.

In the play, Evergreen Inn's host, Holly (Liz Graupner, Chesterton), assisted by her best friend Bridgett (Bobbi Ann Lauritsen, LaPorte), struggles to maintain an upbeat atmosphere while business is slow. Creepy real-estate tycoon Laertes (Bruce Stahl, Michigan City) wants to bulldoze the inn. Then comes the blizzard.

The cast also includes: Adam Wogomon, Brien

Rissman, Jill Thomas, Kaelie Winebrenner, Kristin Allison, Michael J. Thomas and Noel Carlson, all of Michigan City; Ed Ryscuck and Jill Ritchie, Chesterton; Josefina Reign, Valparaiso; and Carmen Navarro and Rick Henderson, LaPorte.

The crew includes: production manager/set dresser Joy Davidson; assistant director David Mikolajczyk; set designer Tony Thomas; scenic artist Chris Whybrew; light designer Michael J. Thomas; sound designer Veronica Thomas; costumer Bobbi Ann Lauritsen; and Kathy Chase designing the hair and makeup. Lara West is the stage manager.

Performances are Dec. 2-4 and 8-11. Thursday-Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and younger. All tickets Dec. 8 are \$12.

There is no assigned seating, and reservations are strongly encouraged by calling (219) 874-4035 or visiting www.footlightplayers.org

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Movie With Local Ties Celebrates Faith's Triumph Over Addiction, Recidivism

by Andrew Tallackson



Joey Lawrence stars as Scott Highberger in "Pardoned by Grace." The scene here was shot in Washington Park.



Scott Highberger (left) is photographed with actor Joey Lawrence on the set of the film.

Scott Highberger is a testament to faith salvaging a life spinning precariously out of control.

In and out of prison. Addicted to drugs and alcohol. Unable to sustain meaningful relationships.

That was the crux of Highberger's existence.

Then, he stepped through the doors of Road to Life Church, 7056 W. County Road 450 North. Met its pastor, Dave Gargano, and members of the church family. Slowly, but surely, his life came into focus. His faith brought a new calm, an order, to daily life.

At the precise moment when he could have been locked away for 20 years, Highberger owned up to his past, prepared to accept whatever punishment came his way. Instead came an act of grace.

Today, Highberger, who grew up in Michigan City and Chesterton, is the founder with his wife Danielle of Behind the Wire Ministries, a nonprofit faith-based organization created in 2019 that serves the incarcerated population, offering transitional housing to men when released.

Highberger and Gargano now are the subject of the faith-based film "Pardoned by Grace" that is taken from Highberger's 2018 book Behind the Wire: A Prisoner's Journey to the Pulpit. The movie, shot throughout the area — including Michigan City — stars Joey Lawrence as Highberger and contemporary Christian singer Michael W. Smith as Gargano.

A screening of the film was held in October at Road to Life Church. And with Highberger and his

wife now residing in Loogootee, Ind., near Vincennes, *The Beacher* was able to set up a subsequent interview with him and Gargano at the same time via Zoom.

Highberger has nothing but praise for what director Kevan Otto and screenwriters Mark E. McCann and Melissa Stamper achieved with his story.

"Seeing the development from where I came out of and where I am today, it's proof, it's evidence, that it can happen," he said. "There are so many people caught in destructive lifestyles. What I like to say is, I was set free so I can be set loose. God would give me something to do and something to say.

"I feel like they did a really good job of depicting being stuck in that cycle for the first two-thirds of the film," he continued, "and then what freedom looked like on the other side of that, at least the beginning of it, what can happen, and how productive someone can be."

Gargano admits he became emotional the first time he saw the film.

"A lot of Scott's story, I knew, but to see it on film, before I met Scott, when it comes to the part of him and me, and what God did through his life, I might have given him an opportunity, but God would have given him an opportunity anywhere," he said. "To know that Scott's doing great things still and touching lives all over the world — it's not the end, but the beginning."

Now 45, Highberger said people who read his book inspired him to pitch it as a movie. Reaching out to faith-based production companies, he found a home for his story at Graham Family Films, a marketing and production company started in Nashville, Tenn. Its focus is movies, TV shows and other projects.

A few of the film's flashbacks reach back to when Highberger was 16, but the bulk of it explores the destructive lifestyle that consumed him in his 20s



Dave Gargano (right) is photographed with Michael W. Smith, who plays him in the film.

and 30s. Many scenes were filmed in Chesterton, the prison scenes at Porter County Jail. Michigan City factors into the equation. Washington Park, in fact, fills in for Florida. Another scene, which features Lawrence as Highberger, shows him walking down Franklin Street not far from *The Beacher*.


Plenty of local talent appears in the film, including Road to Life congregation members (Gargano included), Alexander Bonner, a familiar face in local community theater, as an inmate, and Michigan City's Brenda Reiser as Highberger's mother.

Highberger said Dean Cain, who rose to fame as Clark Kent/Superman on TV's "Lois & Clark," initially was considered to play him, but that fell through. Lawrence then took on the role.

Gargano said he and Smith talked quite a bit so he could prepare for the film. Everyone was blown away that Smith took a break from touring to join the production, Gargano and Highberger said. The script, they added, made him want to be involved.

The movie does not paint Highberger's journey as easy. It delves heavily into his recidivism, the hold that drugs and alcohol had over him.

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Scott Highberger (center) is pictured with Michael W. Smith (left) and Joey Lawrence at Road to Life Church.

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"They really wanted to show how lost I was, and anybody who's been in that cycle can totally relate to that," Highberger said. "That's their life. It's that war back and forth, up and down, trying to do what's right, but then falling back into what is wrong."

"And a lot of people watching that cycle happen are really concerned that they are never going to change," he continued. "This movie really depicts that, that not only can some break through the cycle, but the people watching around us can have hope for that person in their lives, that this could happen for them."

Gargano said watching the film's climactic courtroom scene was incredible, capturing the intensity of the exchange between Highberger and the judge.

"Scott's judge was hard core," Gargano said. "He

threw everything out, any way for Scott to get a slap on the wrist or get a couple years. We thought for a moment that Scott was gone, for 20 years for sure."

Completed in 2019, Highberger says the pandemic delayed the film's entry into theaters. So, developing a release strategy involved waiting to see when the right time was to make it happen.

Right now, Highberger says screenings can be scheduled through Dec. 31 via The Faith Content Network (<https://faithcontentnetwork.com>). If the response is positive, the possibility exists for it to arrive in theaters and on streaming platforms.

Highberger says one of the movie's greatest accomplishments is showing what he calls the vital connection between the church and prison system.

"You see how I came in, my life is upside down, and Road to Life welcomed me," he said. "I met with Pastor Dave, I was worried about being accepted, and he accepted me, and that bridge is so vital."

"Who knows what would have happened had I not had the connection with the local church."


As a pastor, Gargano appreciates how the movie emphasizes the impact faith can have on one's life.

"I don't take any pat on the back...because I believe God had a plan for Scott no matter what. I'm just grateful I was able to help," he said. "I also pray churches see that there are a lot of Scotts out there, that their lives could be changed. And Scott is making such an impact in his ministry. I know, again, it's just the beginning for him."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Harbor Country Singers will present "Sounds of the Season," its holiday sing-along, at 3 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 4, at The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The program is free; however, a donation is requested of canned goods/food items for Neighbor to Neighbor. The performers will be accompanied by multiple instruments, ranging from piano and guitar to dulcimer, trumpet, French horn, trombone and tuba. The program will span holiday favorites, from Hanukkah to Christmas and secular to sacred. The lineup includes "Silent Night," "Jingle Bells," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "White Christmas." Songbooks with music and lyrics will be provided.

Free concert tickets are available through www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. Contact The



School of American Music at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com for more details.

Harbor Country Singers is supported by SAM and a Pokagon Fund grant. Established in 2016, it rehearses and performs in Harbor Country for holidays and other events. Pat Putnam is the producer.





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The Market Presents Enormous Opportunity



Dan Coffey invited Bradley Martin, loan consultant with Loan Depot, to write a rebuttal to one of his previous columns.

I look forward to Dan Coffey's monthly column. His latest ended with positive news about our local Indiana real-estate market, but only after presenting a gloomy picture about affordability due to rising interest rates. Dan is right that there are buyers who no longer qualify for the same purchase as when rates were substantially lower. However, for buyers who can qualify and afford the higher monthly payments for the time being, the market presents enormous opportunity to buy a home now as more buyers sit on the fence waiting for interest rates to drop.

I have also heard buyer concerns about a housing bubble. While it is unlikely that we will continue to see home appreciation in the double digits, appreciation is expected to continue, even if at a conservative appreciation of 4.49%. The current market in no way resembles the housing crash of 2008. While bad loan products were partly to blame, the real reason was simple supply and demand. In 2007, there were over 4 million housing units for sale. Today, that number is down to 1.25 million housing units (less if you subtract the 518,000 already under contract) for sale.

Interest rates also are destined to come down. As we have all seen and felt, the Federal Reserve is fighting inflation by swiftly and significantly raising the federal funds rate. They will be successful in curbing inflation, but will likely go too far. Looking back over the past 50 years, each time the Fed raised interest rates to fight inflation, the economy went into a recession. The result was that interest rates quickly fell. So, what happens to housing prices after a recession? According to the S&P/Case-Shiller National Housing Price Index, after eight out of the last 9 recessions, home values went up.

When rates do come down, more buyers will compete for still low inventory. Increased buyer activity means more buyer competition, multiple offers and higher prices. That same home today will cost more in one year. In addition, by waiting to purchase, you are giving up the equity you would have otherwise gained by paying principal down on your mortgage.

Here's an example of the cost of waiting for interest rates to drop:

	House Price	Interest Rate	20% Down Payment	Monthly Payment	Equity in December 2023
Buying today	\$600,000	6.5% APR 6.515%	\$120,000	\$3,034	\$32,305 Appreciation + Principal
Buying next year if rates drop	\$626,940 Same house + 1 year appreciation at 4.49%	5% APR 5.015%	\$125,388	\$2,684	\$0 Appreciation + Principal
		Difference	\$5,388	\$350	\$32,305

This is for illustrative purposes only. This information is not intended to be an indication of loan qualification, loan approval or commitment to lend. Loans are subject to credit and property approval. Other limitations apply. Rates, terms and availability of programs are subject to change without notice. (071422 767028v2)

As you can see in the above example, it could cost you nearly \$32,305 in equity in just one year by waiting for rates to drop (using a conservative 4.49% housing appreciation and factoring in principal paid down). And remember, you can always take advantage of lower mortgage rates by refinancing.

Bottom line: Don't wait to buy. To quote Sir John Templeton (a pioneer in both investment and philanthropy), "The time of maximum pessimism is the best time to buy."



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The library is changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will close while work is done.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in December.** Membership 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. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5**

p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6. Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.

- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.

- **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7.** Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Miss Dana can teach people how to play. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details.

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required.

(Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. It is closed Thursday for Thanksgiving. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.)

Holiday Artisan Fair

The second Holiday Artisan Fair is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Local artisans will offer holiday gift items, ornaments, succulents, bird feeders, jewelry, original prints and cards, ceramics, candles, honey, crochet, fiber art and resin art. The gift shop will be open as well. Visit the museum's Facebook for updates.

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We Are Us: The Human Condition

"Art is many things but, directly or indirectly, it always describes the human condition." – Millard Sheets

When the mailing first arrived more than a month ago announcing the latest exhibit at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., I paused, wondering what we might expect from "We Are Us: The Human Condition."

The art reproduced on the invite card included a painted portrait by the great Alex Katz titled "Carmen." Was this a show dedicated to portraits? Despite being one of the most important genres in the history of art, portraiture is not seen as often in major contemporary art venues...or at least often enough. At LCA, might we see passionate, highly charged works framing current global existential and/or real conflicts? Might we be challenged by daring, unexpected pairings of media, sound, light? Or, like the Katz portrait used in the recent mailing, would we be reintroduced to an art form easily recognizable in its presentation, still valuable for its context, social implications and universal appeal?



Alex Katz's preparatory work for larger canvas, achieved on oil on board.

If you are as intrigued as I was, then maybe you'll want to begin like I did by thinking about how you define the term "human condition." Philosophically, I've read it refers to all the events, situations and experiences throughout a person's lifetime, such as birth, growth, emotional development, desires, ups and downs and eventual death. The journey of life. We all walk our own walks, and artists are especially good at visualizing/emoting through the visual and performing arts what it's like to go through such a process.

In the end, my previous musings were in vain, quickly vanishing once I read the list of artists in the exhibit. The show brings to our region works by historically significant visual artists – the kind

The Inquisitive Artist

Linda Weigel



you read about in art history books! What an opportunity to learn, share and add to one's own artistic curiosity. After reading the list, my mind took an unexpected detour, and I had that light-bulb moment. I said to myself, "Holy Smokes! Look at this!" So many greats, especially from the 20th century, as well as known and upcoming artists from current times! How on earth did this even happen? Where did they find all this art, and how did it all come together? Those answers would soon become apparent once I took a curator-led tour.

Meanwhile, take a look at what you can expect: Ivan Albright, Romare Bearden, Greg Breda, Mandy Cano Villalobos, Henri de Talouse-Lautrec, John Divola, Ron Herman, Ulrica Hyndman-Vallien, Lester Johnson, Alex Katz, Käthe Kollwitz, Jacob Lawrence, Cydney Lewis, Hung Liu, Yolanda López, Ruth Morgan, Alice Neel, Dean Porter, Ramiro Rodriguez, Edward Ruscha, Therman Statom, Lisabeth Sterling, Stephanie Trenchard and Carrie Mae Weems.



"I like to make an image that is so simple you can't avoid it, and so complicated you can't figure it out."
— Alex Katz

I began this exploration by showing up opening day, Oct. 29. I was soon introduced to a wide assortment of prints, some glass works and paintings in the downstairs gallery. The range of artistic



"Municipal Shelter," Käthe Kollwitz's lithographic crayon on paper.

styles worked compatibly within the same universal theme, providing insight, emotional connection and appreciation for the high quality of artworks. Upstairs in the Brinka-Cross and Susan Block galleries, I found two installations, both worth consideration and both interesting, as well as more prints and another Katz painting.

LCA Exhibition Director Lora Fosberg led a gallery tour Nov. 12. She curated the current show and developed the initial feel/direction over the course of nearly two years. She stated, "The whole idea behind 'We Are Us: The Human Condition' all started with this idea that we have really come through the wringer in these past many years. It's been tough, tough times and, you know, art is the key that represents the now, right? Artists are making work that represents the now."

Even work completed as long as 50 years ago, she continued, can be relevant to us in 2022.

"But, what I really want to talk about with you is emotions," she said. "Let's just be human and show how we are all so completely connected as human beings. And artists have such an amazing way of doing this with no words."

That simple statement hit home, and the emotional component is one that surely emanates from this exhibit.

How was the groundwork laid for this exhibit?

First, Fosberg began with "this incredible loan of Alex Katz paintings from a very important collector in Chicago." Alex Katz is a renowned American painter from the 1950s, born in Brooklyn on July 24, 1927. The 10 paintings sweeping across the curved

wall of the main Hyndman gallery anchor the show, as they represent a series of preparatory works executed in preparation for Katz's eventual painting titled "Ada's Garden" (a huge 120x240 inch oil on canvas work now at the Des Moines (Iowa) Art Center. Katz is especially known as a figurative painter, acclaimed for his large-scale simplified paintings.

Viewing these 10 preparatory works is invaluable in understanding the final piece, and his approach and process. Two other works by Katz also are included in the show: the oil-on-board "Carmen" and his screen print "Susan."

Secondly, with works by Katz as her starting point, Fosberg began formulating the possibility of a new show by traveling to South Bend Museum of Art and Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart to look through their permanent collections.

"And, I picked pieces that I thought would be really relevant right now with some of the most famous artists around, really important artists in this room (Hyndman Gallery)," she said.

Later, other collectors agreed to lend their works to this show, such as Divola's "Abandoned Painting B," Breda's "The Citadel" or Sterlings' glass piece "A Point in Time." The ability to formulate a concept, pursue the needed works to complete a successful exhibit showcase just how important Fosberg's role was in determining this successful show.



So, who is Alex Katz?

He's 95 now. He's got a retrospective at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City. So, it is

Continued on Page 18



Jacob Lawrence's serigraph print
"The 1920s... The Migrants Cast Their Ballots."



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We Are Us...Continued from Page 17

kind of cool that we could time this show with the Guggenheim effort. The thing to know about him is that he has bucked the trend his whole life. When he started in the 1950s, what was happening in the U.S. was abstract expressionism.

Fosberg said Katz was going to pursue his art without caring about what others were doing or trends of the time.

"He was going to do portraiture, and the thing that he stole from abstract expressionism was scale," she said.

With Katz, the scale changed, and he began making huge paintings with flat backgrounds and cropped, simplified forms.

In the case of "Ada's Garden," Fosberg said, the subjects are, in fact, attending a cocktail party.

"The figures in the final piece are larger than life against a dark, low-light background," she stated. "You think it wouldn't be so somber and lonely feeling. It really gives you that feeling of being alone in a crowd. These people are all isolated against their black background."

(That sense of isolation is universal and something experienced by many throughout time.)

As those on the tour moved around the gallery, encountering each new work, the underlying premise of universal human conditions held true. The accompanying stories for each work as presented by Fosberg brought depth and further understanding.

"The place where I had freedom most was when I painted. I was completely and utterly myself." – Alice Neel

In the case of Neel, we were fortunate to view four lithographic portraits while Fosberg described the artist and her approach to subject matter.

"Alice Neel was painting at the same time as Alex Katz, a little bit before in the 1940s, she was in Harlem, Spanish Harlem," she said. "That's where she lived, and there was a reason why she lived there because she was interested in painting the people."

"Again, where does portraiture come from? It comes from a very privileged place. But that's not what Alice was interested in. She wanted to paint the people. Lots of people from her neighborhood, members of her family and other people who were considered outsiders, not considered part of the society at a whole at that time."

Continuing the tour, we viewed portraits by other well-known artists, such as Käthe Kollwitz, Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Ivan Albright and even Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

Seeing the Kollwitz lithograph "Municipal Shelter" definitely was relatable to 2022. Kollwitz's work always is emotional, and as the nearby statement reads, "Municipal Shelter is one of many of Kollwitz's work that depicts a mother under duress, huddled over her children." How poignant and how timely considering current international conflicts. We've all seen the videos and films by now, but this intimate, expressive rendering by Kollwitz in 1926, sadly, still strikes a contemporary chord.

"My belief is that it is most important for an artist to develop an approach and philosophy about life – if he has developed this philosophy, he does not put paint to canvas, but puts himself on canvas." – Jacob Lawrence



"Men from Rutgers" (1980),
Alice Neel's color lithograph and screen print.

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Another very timely work is Jacob Lawrence's "The 1920's... The Migrants Cast Their Ballots." In this case, the migrants are more than a million African-American citizens who between 1920-1940 moved from the South to the North. Lawrence is recognized as a social realist artist, and this particular print is a fine example of his style. Note: Most of the citizens represented are wearing red, white and blue, are young and old, casually dressed and more formally dressed, representing a range of economic levels. Everyone is waiting their turn to vote.



There is so much more to discuss and see. The comments by Fosberg are just a taste of what awaits anyone who takes a tour with her.

She's that good.

Don't forget to go upstairs to experience Cano Villalobos' "You Know Your Children," a found-object installation. Read the accompanying statement about how this piece came about, how she is inviting viewers to recognize the familiar and themselves in others. Importantly, the piece references early Michigan City as quoted in the accompanying statement: "Michigan City's history begins in 1830, when a wealthy banker purchased the land from the U.S. government to develop his businesses. That is, according to Wikipedian authority. Popular histories do not mention the Potawatomi, a people who have occupied the region long before white settlers. 'You Know Your Children' unveils this silenced history and commemorates Potawatomi narratives



"You Know Your Children" by Mandy Cano Villalobos.

and voices."

On the heels of Jason Quingo's sculpture "Mikinaak," installed this year in front of City Hall, Villalobos' piece is a must-see for all, especially LaPorte County citizens.

Be sure not to miss Cydney Lewis' "Unearthing Pathways on the way to the grocery store" installation as well. Note her framed handcut paper, water-color works.

Hearing Fosberg's commentary, as well as observing her enthusiasm and listening to insights, especially enhanced my understanding of the characteristics of, and stories behind, each portrait or work of art. Frankly, the show reignited my interest to learn more about the

contemporary world of portraiture. I hope it would do the same for you, too.

(The show closes Feb. 24, 2023. Anyone interested in a group tour — a minimum of five or six people — should contact the LCA to arrange a docent tour. Sign up for Family Day from 1-3 p.m. Feb. 11, 2023. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.)

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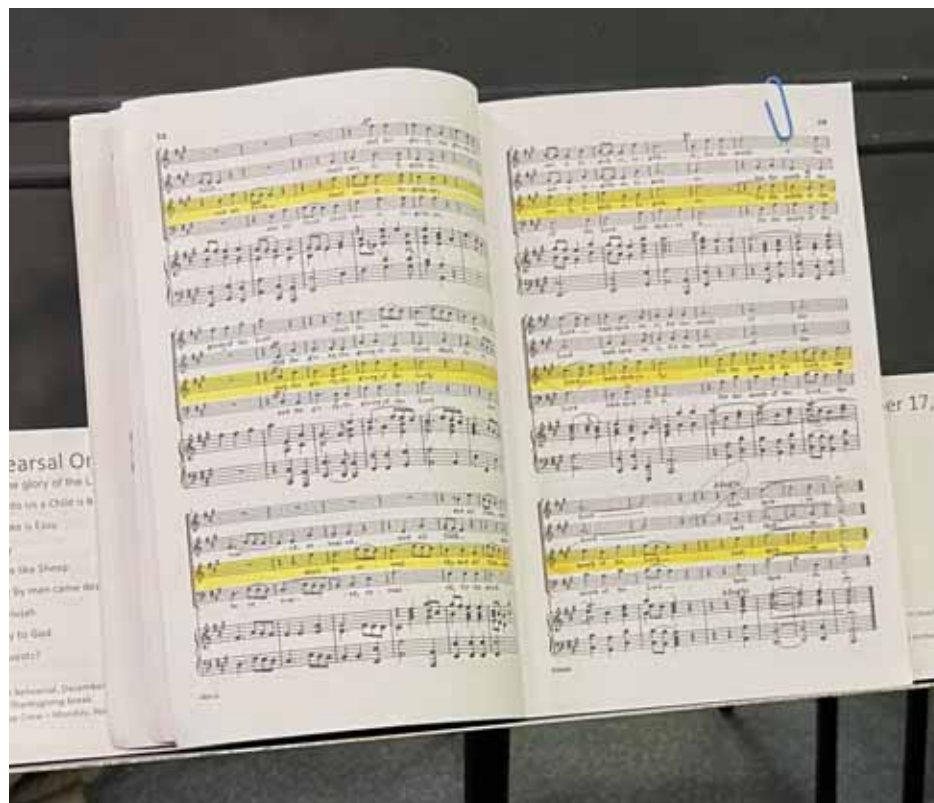
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Handel's beloved "Messiah" returns for performances at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St.

Admission is free. There is no advance seat reservation; general admission will be used.

"Messiah" premiered in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13, 1742. A large-scale semi-dramatic work for chorus, soloists and orchestra, it is the source of the beloved "Hallelujah Chorus."

Michigan City's performance, conducted by Philip Bauman, features four soloists, a chorus and orchestra with authentic continuo. The soloists are: soprano Kirsten Leslie Karadzova, mezzo-soprano Kristin Gornstein, tenor Matthew Daniel and bass-baritone Vince Wallace.

Visit www.mcmessiah.com, or Michigan City Messiah on Facebook for more details.

(All photos by Andrew Tallackson.)

The Magic is Gone in “Disenchanted”

by Andrew Tallackson



Giselle (Amy Adams, from left), Morgan (Gabriella Baldacchino) and Robert (Patrick Dempsey) start life over in the suburbs in “Disenchanted.”

There’s a scene early in “Disenchanted” where Giselle (Amy Adams), Robert (Patrick Dempsey) and his daughter Morgan (Gabriella Baldacchino) settle in for the night at their new suburban estate. Morgan is camped out on the floor because of an electrical mishap in her bedroom. The perpetually perky Giselle, cuddled up with Robert, sings blissfully, the tune cut short by Morgan from below who, as only teens can, dishes out an annoyed “*Momm-mm*” for her to stop.

The scene earns a big laugh...and I immediately thought, great. They nailed it. Exactly the right tone for this long-awaited sequel to the 2007 Disney hit.

Then, “Disenchanted” flat lines from there.

It’s not that the Disney+ sequel is bad. More, it’s the trouble with most sequels/reboots these days. It is not enough to say, the gang’s all here. You need to recapture the magic of the original, give us a reason to care. And “Disenchanted,” while pleasant, is hardly memorable.

Directed by Adam Shankman (“Hairspray”) and written by Brigitte Hales, the story takes the approach of “Into the Woods” — what comes *beyond* Happily Ever After. And here, Giselle, the former Andalusian princess, has a new baby with Robert, but they’re both worn down by Manhattan, moving to suburban Monroeville. The tucked-away hamlet is a cross between the French village from “Beauty and the Beast” — the movie contains plenty of nods to the 1991 Oscar winner — and the cheery sitcom

★ ★ 1/2

“Disenchanted”

Running time: 127 minutes. Disney+.

Rated PG for mild peril and language.

facade of Marvel’s “WandaVision.” That the always-chipper Giselle unintentionally butts heads with the community’s “queen bee,” Malvina (a subdued Maya Rudolph), and her two worker bees (Yvette Nicole Brown and Jayma Mays), feels like a juicy fairy tale twist: “Cinderella” meets “Desperate Housewives.”

That, in effect, was the pleasure of the first film. Disney, and Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken, were having a laugh at their own expenses, capped off by that spectacular Central Park musical number.

And that, sadly, is the first of many disappointments in “Disenchanted.” The score by Menken and “Wicked” composer Stephen Schwartz is forgettable: a potential first for them both. The blah songs become a distraction.

When “the plot” kicks in — Giselle’s fairy tale wish for happiness backfires, gradually transforming her into a wicked stepmother — the screenplay appears to have been lobotomized of comic inspiration. The movie could have had so much fun with Giselle behaving so uncharacteristically rotten. Instead, she’s vaguely threatening. Ditto Rudolph,



Maya Rudolph (right) does not get the funny lines her character deserves.

who doesn't get many funny lines.

And poor Dempsey. He's all but forgotten, tossed into a handful of scenes that reduce him to the comic buffoon. James Marsden, back as King Edward, essentially is an extended cameo.

Then, returning costar Idina Menzel, as Edward's wife Nancy, belts out a showstopper called "Love Power," and it puts the movie's flimsiness to shame. She's giving her all, why can't the rest of the picture?

Adams is still charming. Even in semi-stinkers like this, she can do no wrong. Baldacchino is delightful as well. And Shankman knows how to stage a lively musical number.

But again, sequels should not be content with simply looking and feeling like the original. They need a heart and soul...neither of which "Disenchanted" has the good fortune to possess.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Gratitude Has a Ripple Effect

When November began, my instructor reminded our sunrise yoga class that the month's focus was on abundance and gratitude. After class, I grabbed my notebook and made a list of the people and things for which I am thankful, then vowed to make an extra effort to express gratitude to others.

But as the week drummed on, the appreciation I received amounted to a few obligatory thank-yous from online bill pay systems and from some post office patrons when I held the door open. Nearly a full week elapsed before I witnessed an unforgettable aha moment.

Most Sundays, my oldest daughter and her two sons — ages 2 and 4 — drop by my house in Sarasota for a few hours. While I anticipate this special time with my grandsons, each visit is as different as the boys' personalities. The outings range from laid-back and stress-free to calamitous and contentious. Regardless of the outcome, I'm always grateful to slip into this open window of their lives. I get to see the boys test their limits as budding athletes, exercise their silly or inquisitive genes and negotiate with my adult daughter over allowable speech and behavior.

A recent Sunday rendezvous found both boys recovering from ailments picked up at preschool: pink eye, an ear infection and a lingering cough due to RSV. So, when the trio pulled into my driveway, I assumed the boys would gravitate towards quiet play at the train table, sidelining a splash in the pool for a spunkier day. Any of you with grandchildren know to predict is to err foolishly.

To add to the usual mayhem, my daughter had serendipitously scooped up the family's aging dachshund Stella and brought her along. As they trooped into my house, I mentioned something about how a flush of wood ducks had begun (post Hurricane Ian)

That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



rinsing off in my pool each morning.

"Lulu, are they out there now?" DJ, the 4-year-old, asked.

He darted to the patio door with Stella in hot pursuit, her piercing bark filling the stillness of my house. Accustomed to following his brother's lead, James, the 2-year-old, lumbered after the pair. I glanced at my daughter, my eyebrows meeting the fringe of my bangs.

"I guess we're going outside," she said.

When I unlocked the lanai door, Stella skirted between our legs and ripped down the steps to the pool's edge. We found her scampering around the pool coping, yelping maniacally, not at birds, but at the bobbing pool cleaner.

DJ scanned the area, his features drooping with disappointment. "The ducks are gone, Lulu."

"Yes, but they left something behind. Look!" I pointed at a film of feathers. "Let's get the skimmer net and scoop that out."

Each time DJ and I plopped the net into the pool, Stella erupted. She barked at DJ. She growled at the net, and she whined at me. At one point, she leaned so far over the edge that she slid into the pool, which sent the boys into hoots and hollers.

Amid this pandemonium, my daughter stabbed a finger at the horizon. "Look boys!"

Across the channel, a helicopter patrolled the Lido Beach shoreline. As it neared us, the whop-whop of its blades sliced through Stella's cries. Enamored with all things mechanical, particularly construction equipment and rescue vehicles, the boys stared into the heavens, mouths agape.

None of us noticed the police boat until it neared my dock.

When my daughter spotted it, she scooped up James, moved swiftly to the seawall, shouting, "Oh, look! Here comes a police boat."

As we scampered for the best view, the mother in me speculated about why a helicopter and police speedboat were perusing our local waters. Grinning like it was Christmas morning, the boys waved at the passing police boat. Spying them, the captain and sole policeman on board slowed the engine and veered in our direction.

"He's coming closer Lulu."

As DJ bounced and jiggled, I struggled to keep his chubby little hand tight within my own. When



the vessel got within yards of the seawall, the policeman flicked on flashing blue lights and gave the siren a quick blast.

"Yay, yay. Do it again!" DJ crowed.

I pointed to the helicopter and yelled to the cop, "Everything, okay?"

"Just making sure the beaches stay safe, mam," he shouted.

Below the policeman's mirrored sunglasses, his grin was deep and wide. He motioned to DJ. "Do you like football?"

DJ jumped up and down. "Yeah! We like Texas football."

My daughter winked at me. We both knew that the news of DJ's loyal fan support of their alma mater would tickle my son-in-law.

"Great. Get ready to catch this then!"

The policeman reached into a mesh bag and tossed a football across the choppy seas where it landed in the grass near DJ. He picked it up, puzzling at the police crest emblazoned across the black foam ball. My daughter explained to him what he held in his hands and his face grew serious.

He looked over at me, awe lighting up his eyes. "Lulu, I got a police football."

"Yes, you did. You better say thank you!" I said.

We all waved grandiosely to the policeman, pitching a multitude of thank yous into the soft Sunday morning breeze. As he acknowledged our gratitude, the cop's smile brightened, his spine straight and proud, a signal perhaps of how much our gratitude meant to him. And then with one last blast of the siren, the policeman circled the boat around, heading back into the channel towards the bay.

The four of us stood rooted by the seawall watching the boat's retreat. Within my daughter's arms, James pointed, repeating, "Boat. Mommy, boat!" while DJ ogled the football, muttering, "A police football. Can't wait to show Dad."

And as I beheld my family clustered near me, I marveled at the abundant blessings of the morning. The helicopter, the police boat and the football were unexpected gifts. If only for a moment, we all forgot about the kids' lingering ailments, the messy ducks, Stella's barking and how best to occupy two active boys for a few hours. Although a stranger, the policeman had brought unbridled joy into the lives of a few impressionable boys. In return, I think our effusive thanks warmed his heart. The episode was a perfect reminder about the ripple effect initiated by kindness and gratitude.

My yoga instructor was right. Focusing on abundance and gratitude is a worthy endeavor, one that easily translates beyond November and into daily life.

Imagine the possibilities if all of us recognized abundance and practiced gratitude each and every day.

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)



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In Memoriam

Former Elmhurst, Ill., resident Gail Miller Blubaugh, 67, died Nov. 18, 2022, in Punta Gorda, Fla., from Ataxia-MSAC. A memorial service was held at Ahlgrim's Funeral Home, 567 Spring Road, Elmhurst.



Gail was born June 11, 1955, in Greenville, MS, to Hoit and Dorothy Miller. Her father was in the U.S. Air Force and flew for TWA until he retired. Her mother graduated from University of Michigan with a focus in business, but stayed home and raised her children, Katherine Cary, Gail Elizabeth and Weston Hoit. They moved to Michigan City (Duneland Beach) when Gail was 5.

She loved living in the vacation paradise her grandfather founded.

Gail married John Walter Blubaugh Jr., the love of her life, on Aug. 12, 1977, at Notre Dame Catholic Church, Michigan City. They were blessed with four wonderful children: Laura Elizabeth, Scott Ford, Julie Katherine and John Matthew. She attended Purdue University and got her Bachelor of Science in business in 1977, then attended National Louis University and received her Master's in Arts and Teaching in 1999. She worked at Japan Line USA

in its accounting department, was a control buyer, assistant buyer and associate buyer, then worked as a buyer in intimate apparel and hosiery at Spiegel Catalog before staying home to raise her children. They moved to Elmhurst, and she joined the Elmhurst Newcomers and Neighbors Club, serving on its board for three years as community relations, treasurer and hospitality chairperson. She was in charge of the Hawthorne School Playground Committee. After going back to school, Gail was a second- and third-grade teacher at Hawthorne Elementary School, Elmhurst, until 2015, when she retired, living in Wisconsin and eventually moving to Florida.

Gail felt she had a wonderful life – thanks to her many friends, family and those who cared. Her interests included family, skiing, photography, reading, crafts, travel, friends and her students.

Gail is survived by her husband of 45 years, John of Punta Gorda, and her children, their spouses and their children: her daughter, Laura Kentnesse, Oregon; her son, Scott, his wife, Amanda, and their children, Ellis Jonathan and Winifred Mae, all of Vermont; her daughter, Julie, her husband, Zac Connelly, and their daughter Freddie, all of Illinois; her son, John, and his wife, Lauren, Illinois; a sister, Katherine (Kit), Illinois, and her children, Lisa and Krista, and her brother, Weston (Wes), and his wife, Kelly, Indiana, and his children, Nicole, Katherine and Natalie; many friends and her cat, Sox.

Gail is preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy B. Miller, father, Hoit Miller, mother-in-law, Irene Blubaugh, father-in-law, John W. Blubaugh Sr., daughter-in-law, Anita Kentnesse, and brothers-in-law, Christopher Blubaugh, William Friddle and Ben Marchlewicz.

In lieu of flowers, donations may kindly be sent to the National Ataxia Foundation.



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- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The following programs are planned:

- **Coolspring Storytime from 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Coolspring branch.** The interactive program includes singing, dance and rhymes.
- **Make a Holiday Ornament from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Meeting Room A at the Main Library.** The session will offer three options. Any experience level is welcome.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, in the main library multipurpose room.** The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Geraldine Brooks (adults 19+) from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.** The author will discuss her recent *New York Times* best-seller *Horse*. Advanced registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/20770>
- **Crafty Kids (ages 6-11) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the main library multipurpose room.** Children learn new craft styles and techniques while developing fine motor and listening skills.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit www.laportelibrary.org for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

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Chesterton Art Center



The annual Members' Exhibit is on display Dec. 3-Jan. 12, 2023, at Chesterton Art Center, with a free artists' reception from noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10.

Every media and style typically is represented, including painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, glass, wood, ceramics and mixed media.



CAC's first Sip+Shop, where artisan vendors and artists display additional items they've created, is from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The event includes a cash wine bar, door prizes, treats and free gift wrap.



Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.



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LaPorte County Parks



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.

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, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. 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:

- Dec. 7 — Let it Snow.

Nature Center Craft Day

The all-ages program is from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Luhr County Park.

No pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Field Trips

Educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park. The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

Call (219) 324-5855, visit www.laportecountyparks.org or email natureniki@csinet.net for details.

Grant to Aid Nature Center

The Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte awarded an \$8,000 grant to Luhr County Park Nature Center for displays and environmental-education tools.

The LaPorte County Park Foundation will add \$5,000 so \$13,000 is available. The emphasis will be interactive displays that promote eye and hand coordination, and help develop fine motor skills for all ages. Parks officials also will purchase new binoculars, and a reel and fishing rod combination, for programs.

The goal is to have the exhibits installed in early 2023, according to Niki Schmutte, chief naturalist and nature center manager.

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In the Area

Dec. 1 — Make a Holiday Ornament, 5:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Dec. 2 — Ribbon cutting/new exhibit grand opening, 3-5 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

Dec. 2-4, 8-11 — “The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger, Dec. 8/\$12. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Dec. 2-30 — Holidays at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri., closed Monday. Admission: \$16.50/adults, \$10/children & seniors, free/children 2 & younger, active military, veterans. Info: www.barkermansion.org

Dec. 3 — Holiday Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Dec. 3 — Festival of Lights Celebration, Uptown Arts District. Parade: 5 p.m., 9th-4th streets, then tree-lighting ceremony @ Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Dec. 3-4 — Handel’s “Messiah,” 7 p.m. Dec. 3/3 p.m. Dec. 4, The Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, 1200 Spring St. Free. Info: www.mcmessiah.com, Michigan City Messiah on Facebook

Dec. 5 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Dec. 6 — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Dec. 6 — Virtual Author Talk with Geraldine Brooks (adults 19+), 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/20770>

Dec. 7 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Info/reservations: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Dec. 7 — Crafty Kids (ages 6-11), 4-5 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Dec. 31 — Ginny Scott abstract/expressionist paintings, Michigan City Public Library,

100 E. Fourth St.

Through Dec. 31 — Works by Andrea Bojrab, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church’s Legacy Center, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 872-9196.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Bufalo).

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Thursdays in December — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

In the Region

Dec. 3 — Chesterton’s European Market Holiday Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., downtown Chesterton. Info: www.dunelandchamber.org/holiday-markets

Dec. 3 — A Rockapella Christmas, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$50 + \$7 convenience fee, free for children 12 & younger; reserved: \$85 + \$7 convenience fee and \$35 (children). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Dec. 3-Jan. 12, 2023 — Annual Members’ Exhibit, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Free artists’ reception: noon-2 p.m. Dec. 10. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Dec. 4 — Harbor Country Singers holiday sing-along, “Sounds of the Season,” 3 p.m. EST, The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Free; donations (canned goods/food items) requested. Reservations: www.schoolofamericanmusic.com

Dec. 4, 11 — “Christmas at Copshaholm,” 4-7 p.m. EST, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$15, \$10/members, \$5/youth 6-17, free/5 & younger. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Dec. 7 — Sip+Shop, 4-7 p.m., Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through Dec. 13 — Fine-arts photographer Erin Roark, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Info: (219) 465-1591, www.pinesvillage.org

Through Dec. 23 — 44th Elkhart Juried Regional, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/8-12, \$8/13-18 & college students with ID. Info: www.midwestmuseum.us, (574) 293-66

Through Jan. 8, 2023 — Annual members’ exhibit, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph,

Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Through Jan. 8, 2023 — “Charged: The Rise, Fall & Resurgence of Electric Vehicles,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$10 - adults, \$8.50 - seniors 60+, \$6 - youth ages 6-18. Info: www.studebakermuseum.org, (574) 235-9714.

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Festival of Lights Celebration

Michigan City's Festival of Lights Celebration returns starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

First is the parade from Ninth to Fourth streets, followed by the lighting of the official Michigan City Christmas Tree at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

Families then can visit Santa at his Michigan City workshop, 710 Franklin St. (the old CVS), help pick the Chili Challenge champions, and support Meals on Wheels LaPorte County and Toys for Tots. Children can drop off their Santa wish lists from 6-8 p.m. Hot chocolate and treats will be available.

Old Lighthouse Museum

Volunteers are needed to help Old Lighthouse Museum celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023.

The museum is housed in the 1858 lighthouse in Washington Park. Displays tell the story of Great Lakes shipping, lifesaving and area shipwrecks. It also preserves the city's history.

Anyone who would like to get involved with anniversary plans, or who has ideas for how to celebrate, should email contact@mchistorical.com or leave a message at (219) 872-6133.



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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On December 1, 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the House of Representatives to break a four-way deadlock between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Crawford and Henry Clay. Adams was declared the victor.

On December 1, 1880, the first telephone was installed in the White House.

On December 1, 1913, in Pittsburg, the Gulf Refining Co. opened the world's first drive-in gasoline station. Motorists, up until that time, were accustomed to buying gas in garages and livery stables.

On December 1, 1917, the Rev. Edward Flanagan founded "Boys Town" in an area just outside the Nebraska city of Omaha.

On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Ala., black seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give a white man her seat on a city bus. As a result, the law requiring blacks to sit in the back of buses was eventually struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

On December 2, 1816, the first savings bank to operate in the United States opened for business under the name of the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society.

On December 2, 1834, A group of book intellectuals formed the Chicago Lyceum, forerunner of Chicago's library system.

On December 2, 1942, below the University of Chicago football stadium, a group of scientists, led by Enrico Fermi, for the first time demonstrated a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

On December 2, 1954, the U.S. Senate voted to condemn Sen. Joseph McCarthy for "conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

On December 2, 1973, rare Greek and Roman coins valued at more than \$1 million were stolen from Harvard University's Fogg Museum.

On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state to join the Union.

On December 3, 1833, Ohio's Oberlin College opened, becoming the first coeducational college in the United States.

On December 3, 1925, in New York's Carnegie Hall, George Gershwin performed as a soloist, playing his "Concerto in F." It was the first public performance of a jazz concerto for piano in musical history.

On December 3, 1947, Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

On December 4, 1816, James Monroe was elected the fifth president of the United States.

On December 4, 1839, Harrisburg, Pa., was the host city for the first national Whig Party convention. Ohio's William Henry Harrison was nominated for president, with John Tyler as his running mate.

On December 4, 1867, the National Grange of Husbandry, usually known simply as the Grange, was founded in the United States. The organization of farmers contributed significantly to the development of agriculture, and provided a focus for much of the social life of rural America.

On December 4, 1915, in an attempt to end World War I, a private peace expedition, headed by automaker Henry Ford, sailed from the New Jersey port of Hoboken. The group broke up soon after arriving in Europe.

On December 5, 1791, Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died at age 35 in Vienna.

On December 5, 1848, the 1849 Gold Rush was triggered when President James Polk confirmed gold was discovered in California.

On December 5, 1929, the "American League of Physical Culture," the first nudist organization in America, was established. While December would not seem the best time to go around without clothes, the enterprise appears to have flourished.

On December 5, 1978, Pioneer Venus 1 began beaming back its first information and pictures of Venus.

On December 6, 1847, Abraham Lincoln took his seat in Congress as an Illinois representative.

On December 6, 1923, Calvin Coolidge's address to a joint session of Congress marked the first time a president's speech was broadcast over the airways.

On December 6, 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry Truman.

On December 6, 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit blew up on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

On December 6, 1972, Apollo 17, America's last mission to the moon, blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

On December 7, 1817, British naval officer William Bligh, commanding officer of HMS Bounty when the crew mutinied, died at age 63.

On December 7, 1842, the New York Philharmonic gave its first concert, performing works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Maria von Weber.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

On December 7, 1987, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev paid his first visit to the United States, arriving in Washington for a summit meeting with President Ronald Reagan.

On December 7, 1995, a 746-pound probe from the Galileo spacecraft hurtled into Jupiter's atmosphere, sending back data to the mothership before it was destroyed.

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Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail

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WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys, advertising, military items and more. **Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.**

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Sugar Plum Fairy Tea

Thursday, Dec. 1, is the deadline to make reservations for The History Museum's Sugar Plum Fairy Tea, which is at 6 p.m. EST Thursday, Dec. 8.

Guests are seated at tables of eight in the holiday-decorated Leighton Galleries. The menu includes sweets and classic teas catered by The Oliver Inn Bed and Breakfast. Tickets, which include a private tour of the Oliver Mansion's first floor, cost \$30 for adults, \$25 for members, \$15 for youth 6-17 and \$5 for children 5 and younger.

Make reservations at www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664. The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St.

"The Addams Family"

Michigan City High School's drama club will present the musical "The Addams Family: School Edition" on Friday-Sunday, Dec. 2-4, in the school auditorium, 8466 W. Pahs Road.

Times are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

NB Library Community Forum

Ryan Postema, Chikaming Open Lands executive director, will discuss native prairies during Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum.

The free program is at 6:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 6, in the library Pokagon Room, 33 N. Thompson St.

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Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid
(hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 364 pages.)

Who is Carrie Soto? And what is she back from?

Two things caught my eye with this book — the title and the cover. Title and cover art are always intriguing. They can make the difference between picking up a book or not. When I discovered it was about tennis, something I know little about, my interest was piqued. I had my next read...

Welcome to the world of professional tennis where one woman holds a tennis racket in her hand and a dream of being the greatest player of all time in her heart...pushed on by her father who sees in his little girl the fierce determination to win. Like all sports, tennis players have a “use by” date. But in this story, Carrie Soto thinks she can rewrite that rule.

Whether you love tennis or not, this is a story of instinctive greatness, a fire fueled by an ambitious father and a young girl who probably came out of the womb holding a tennis racket. She grows up knowing at every phase of her life that she is becoming the best tennis player the world has seen. But, as in all lives, things happen, some beyond our control, some controlled by others.

I love the mentality of tennis. It's not just a player's complete control of the physical game, it's beating your opponent in the mind game. Learning their moves, making them unsure of themselves. And Carrie becomes very good at just that. Her father, who was a celebrated player in his home country of Argentina in his younger days, is her coach and mentor. He challenges her every step of the way to be the best and smartest. Carrie shows no mercy to opponents, soon gaining a reputation as a heartless player. Many newscasters call her *The Bitch*.

As the years go by, Carrie gathers more wins and titles until finally she sets the world record for winning her 20th Grand Slam. She also holds records for all kinds of stats, even becoming the highest-paid female athlete of all time.

By age 31, her left knee is in dire need of healing, so she decides to retire. Fast forward five years and there is another player, Nicki Chan, moving up on her legacy. In fact, Chan has tied Carrie's Grand Slam record. Carrie's ego can't stand seeing this young upstart take more titles than herself, so she makes a huge decision...

Carrie will come out of retirement to do one more year to cement her title as the world's best tennis

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



player — ever. She decides to enter the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. An ambitious schedule, indeed.

Carrie has the opportunity to meet Chan after one match and cannot understand how nice she is. Carrie's main objective is to slice and dice her on the court. No time for small talk and fake friendship.

Day after strenuous day, Carrie and her father

take on a regimen of brutal training. She is helped by Bowe Huntley, a well-loved male tennis player who has fallen off the winner's list and now devotes his time to helping Carrie. Of course, he has more in mind than playing tennis with the determined Carrie, but does she notice? Not a chance. Until...tragedy strikes and Carrie wonders if she can go on.

Whether Carrie wins or loses, this story pins down the question of what price fame? More importantly, is the price worth it? Does it really matter who's the greatest with the most titles? There will always be someone to top your record. You can't keep coming out of retirement to continue winning the most titles. Can you? Whether Carrie learns this lesson or not, following her on and off the courts paints a picture of truth and denial.

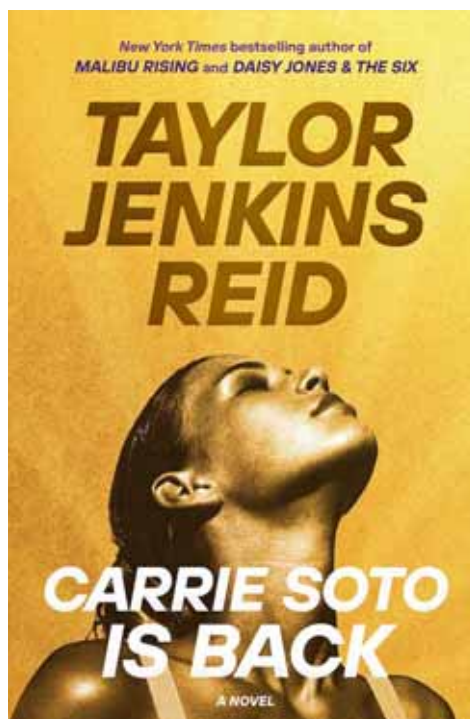
I loved reading about the games, trying to understand what makes Carrie continue through the ups and downs of playing opponents 10 or 15 years younger. I could feel her pain during practices, which only makes her more determined to win and cement her legacy.

Descriptions of the games had me in the stands, mouth open, cheering Carrie along. Reid's writing is like drinking a pot of coffee all at once. You are screaming at the games, your heart beating a little faster, amazed at Reid's writing skill to put you in the middle of the action.

Bowe tries to make Carrie understand that she ultimately must deal with what is really going on in her mind. He tells her — “*You're the best out there — you must know the problem is your need to know it instead of needing to prove it.*”

The final word: Yes, there is coarse language here, it's almost impossible to avoid these days, but not enough to spoil one of the year's top novels.

Till next time, happy reading!



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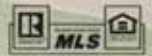
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