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Of Coins, History and Legacy

by William Halliar

Acutely aware of family and personal legacy, La-Porte author Bill Bierly writes in the dedication of his book In God We Trust: The American Civil War, Money, Banking and Religion, "To my granddaughter Kiki – in hopes that, as she grows up, she will come to understand the roots of American History."

After years of research and

numismatics will find a new world of important information, fascinating details and previously unconnected relationships."

In God We Trust is a history of U.S. coins from the Civil War era, and a thoughtful reflection on what life was like during that tumultuous and

terrible period. It is the story of how
the nation's trade and banking
industry was affected by the
conflict, along with our
national search for relevancy and truth in
an America torn by
war.

 \mathbf{If} you ever wondered how "In God We Trust" happened to be placed on U.S. currency, you will find the answer in wellthis researched, colorfully lustrated, extensively footnoted book.

Bierly has had an interest in collecting coins since he was a lad of but 8 or 9. That was when he happened to spy a shiny 1958 penny and had to make it his own. His unique personal

history lends to the point of view from which he weaves the tale contained in <u>In God</u> We Trust.

an unquenchable thirst for answers, Bierly — a retired banker, linguist, collector and coin above all father and grandfather put pen to paper and completed masterly written treatise on American Civil War coinage. It also addresses the story behind the adoption of the familiar mot-"In God We Trust," to American currency.

In the forward to Bierly's book, Q. David Bowers, award-winning author and president of the American Numismatics Association (1983-1985) and Profession-

al Numismatics Guild (1977-1979), writes that the book is "A well told story that brings new depth and insight...Anyone with a combined interest in American History and

1861 half dollar that contains the phrase "God Our Trust."



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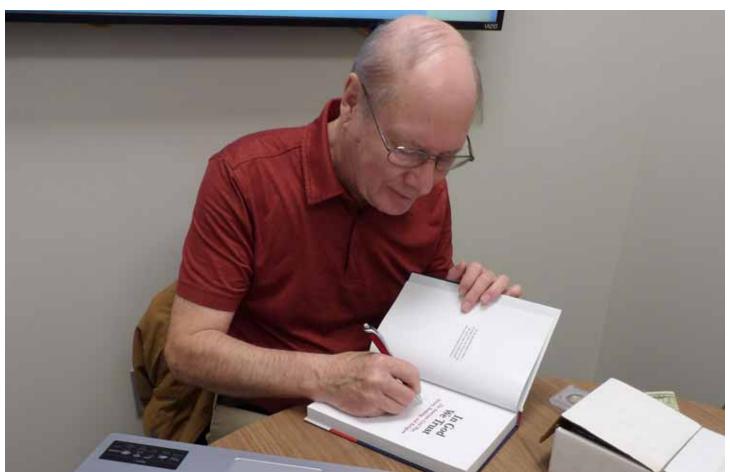
In a way, Bierly says, the book is American history as "guided by coins." When you hold something old in your hand, especially a coin, you can almost feel the story of the people who touched it, who dreamed of the possibilities that it might create for their future. To some perceptive individuals, history is breathed through the objects that have survived through the ages to be passed down, collected and enjoyed in our own time.

After college, Bierly spent some time in the Peace Corps, where he got a taste of what life is like in lands outside the United States, a point of view that would aid him later as his career path embraced international banking.

During this time, his parents were still farm-

ing the land where he had grown up in Walkerton. While overseas, he received word that his father was involved in a farming accident, so he rushed home to help work the farm while his father recovered. Afterward, he returned to the Peace Corps and taught English in Japan until returning to the United States to receive his Master of Business Administration in finance. From there, he went on to a career in banking, beginning at the National Bank of Detroit and finally, after many international travel adventures, retiring from a large Chicago bank in 2000.

Bierly's love of coins and collecting them continued during his time in banking. While browsing through a Mishawaka coin shop, he discovered "pattern coins" — prototype coins struck in limited numbers as proofs for new designs. They were not intended for general circulation. He was fascinated



Bill Bierly signs copies of his book In God We Trust: The American Civil War, Money, Banking and Religion



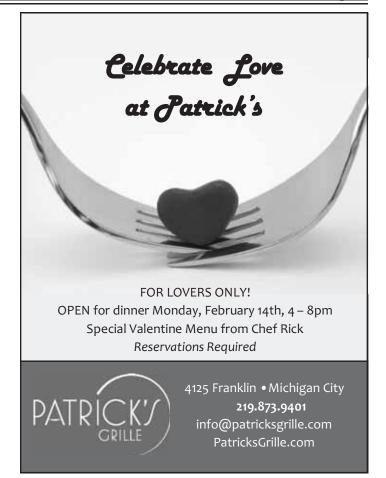
by coins from the 1860s, especially the ones that bore the "God Our Trust" motto.

Being curious, and needing to know the rest of the story, Bierly began to research the "God Our Trust" motto to determine, if he could, how, when and why it was changed to "In God We Trust" now found on modern currency.

It was not an easy task to discover the origins, nor why it began to appear on coins of the northern states in the 1860s. It took years of research to discover the truth — there were so many false leads and legends. Bierly also began to write articles on his research. He attended shows and exhibited his coins, always interviewing experts in the field to add to his store of knowledge.

All the research material was carefully documented to later become the footnotes to his book. He began writing about his findings, sometimes writing chapters for other collector's books. He wrote several papers about the curious history of the motto, which eventually would become chapters in his own book.

At the 2014 Central State Numismatic Society show in Chicago, he displayed his collection of 1861, 1862 and 1863 half-dollar pattern coins with "God Our Trust," along with coins with "God and our Country" stamped on them. He also had early pattern coins containing "In God We Trust" displayed with the information he collected on the motto's history.





Of Coins... Continued from Page 3

The display was created with the help of a friend he made working a part-time, after-retirement job in a Walmart deli. The coin display and history of the motto won Bierly recognition as "Best of Show." This honor inspired him to apply for, and receive, an "author's grant" from the Central State Numismatic Society to continue his research and compile a book on the subject. He used the grant money to travel to places that affected the story he wanted to tell. He talked to historians and held ancient documents in his hands, even visiting the Smithsonian to examine historical record of the U.S. Mint.

The manuscript was finally completed in May of 2015, but because of delays in Whitman Publishing LLC's processes, it was not released until 2020, a year, as we know, overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bierly's book takes the reader from the beginnings of our Republic, with George Washington's comments on whether a plea for divine guidance should be included in the writing of the nation's Constitution, to the eve of the Civil War when southern statesmen sought justification of their cause by adding the phrase "We the people of the Confederate States of America...invoke the favor of Almighty God," to their constitution.

Then there was the impassioned letter written in 1861 to Abraham Lincoln's Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase by the Rev. Mark R. Watkinson of Ridleyville, Pa., in which he made the argument: "One fact touching our currency has hitherto been seriously overlooked. I mean the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins."

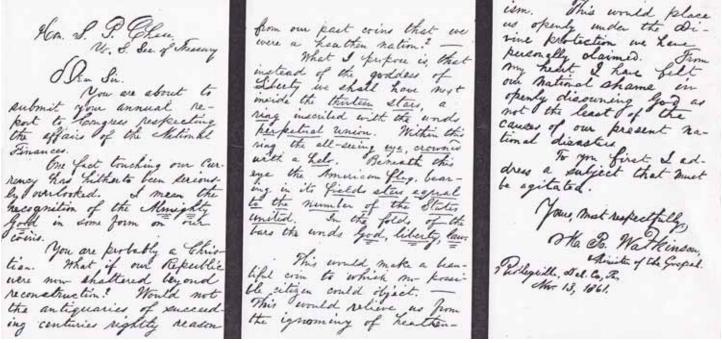
The journey between two convictions — the anti-slavery and industrialized union states in the North and the agrarian proslavery secessionists in the South, each convinced God must endorse their side — is a long, colorful, twisting path that included many an unusual and passionate character. The motto, still to this day emblazoned on our modern currency, is a reflection of that journey, and a clash of ideas and ideals.

Bierly weaves his tale between the personal stories and disputes that came into play as ideas battled back and forth concerning the design of coins and the sentiments that they should bear, or if they should bear any motto at all. Photos appear in the book of actual coins and pictures of the characters that decided the direction of a story that is still being written.

Bierly's book is a downright entertaining read filled with so many facts, the reader will come away with a greater appreciation of life before, during and after the Civil War. Bowers neatly sums it up when he writes that this book is "one of the most detailed, intricate, and fascinating books in the field of American numismatics – and in American history in general. Bierly approaches the subject respectfully on all sides, with color, personality, dashes of humor, and dogged pursuit of truth."

Hobbies are as varied as the people who support them. Some become fanatics lost in their own passion. Others, like Bierly, turn their hobby into a search for history, then share their knowledge to enrich us all.

(In God We Trust: The American Civil War, Money, Banking and Religion is available through online sources like Amazon and Barnes & Noble.)



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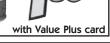


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Chamber Festival Concert Highlights Bach, Beethoven and Brahms

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present "The 3 B's: Bach, Beethoven & Brahms," a free, live concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St.

The program includes J.S. Bach's "Chaccone" for solo violin, Beethoven's "Sonata for French Horn and Piano" and Johannes Brahms' "Trio for Violin, French Horn and Piano." The performers include Nic Orbovich on violin, Robert Auler on piano and Anna Mayne on French horn.

Auler has won first prize in national and international piano competitions, including the Society of American Musicians and the Stravinsky Awards. He has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Argentina, Venezuela, Germany, Austria, Holland, France, Denmark, the Czech Republic, China, South Africa and New Zealand. Notable venues include Carnegie Hall, Teatro Colon and Shanghai Symphony Hall. He also is the founder and executive director of Laveck Concerts, a recital series that brings classical music to an underserved portion of upstate New York.

Originally from El Paso, Texas, Mayne joined the Northeastern Illinois University faculty in January 2012. She is a member of the South Bend and Illinois symphonies, and actively freelances throughout the tri-state area. She has played with the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, Green Bay Symphony, Northwest Indiana Symphony, New Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, Mannheim Steamroller, Marin Symphony, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Opera, Southwest Symphony, Chicago Arts Orchestra and Oistrach Orchestra.

As an orchestral performer, Orbovich has been concertmaster of the South Bend Symphony, Hot Springs Festival Orchestra, Southwest Michigan Symphony, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra and Lake Shore Symphony. He holds the principal second violin chair with South Bend Symphony Orchestra, where he is a member of the SBSO String Quartet and String Quintet, performing more than 20 concerts a year with those chamber ensembles.

He and his wife, Sunny, founded the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival.

A meet-the-artists reception immediately follows the concert at the St. Mary's Artists Studios. Visit www.mccmf.org, MC Chamber Fest on Facebook or call (219) 561-1939 for more information.

Masks and social distancing are required for concertgoers who are not vaccinated.

Pictured are (top to bottom)
Robert Auler,
Anna Mayne and Nic Orbovich











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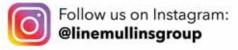


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Long Beach Garden Club





Long Beach Garden Club has celebrated the holiday season with a luncheon since 1933. COVID-19 saw the 2020 program canceled, so club members were thrilled to once again host it in 2021 at Long Beach Country Club.

Tina Sonderby and Rima Binder chaired the event, which drew the largest attendance in the club's history. General Manager Annette Corbett and Event Chair Michele Bartlett planned the meal.

The original speaker, a well-known floral designer and retired director of facilities at Chicago's University Club, canceled due to illness. Jonas Zimmerman stepped in at the last minute. He once owned a floral shop on Karwick Road, providing artfully designed floral arrangements and consultations. Once the shop closed, he moved on to Valparaiso, with a dream to one day return to Michigan City. He fulfilled that dream by opening J&K Florals on Franklin Street.

Zimmerman donated two arrangements to be raffled. Proceeds, as well as donations, supported a women's shelter, with more than \$500 raised. Winning the arrangement was Dolly Millick, the club's longest standing member.

Binder announced the club received a \$500 Long Beach Civic Association grant for Art in the Park children's activities, sponsored by the club during the July 4th weekend in 2021. Civic and club member Susan Keenen chaired the 2021 Art in the Park event.

Club members look forward to planning this year's Art in the Park children's activities during the July 4th holiday.

Photos:

Top: Jonas Zimmerman.

Bottom: Beverly Johnson and Leslie Meyer.



Concours d'Elegance

Vehicle applications are open for Studebaker National Museum's fourth annual *Concours d'Elegance* at Copshaholm, co-presented by The JBS Collection and LaVine Restorations.

The event, which celebrates automotive design, engineering and culture, is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST Saturday, July 9, at Copshaholm (Oliver Mansion), 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. The Pass In Review and Awards Ceremony is at 2:30 p.m. EST.

This year's featured marque is Chrysler. Other class highlights include German cars, American "pony cars," Jeeps and Hudson, and Nash automobiles. The event also celebrates the Avanti's 60th anniversary.

Awards will be presented in all classes, as well as Best of Show. The chief judge is automotive scholar and historian Matt Short. Judging is French Traditional. Automotive raconteur Bill Rothermel will narrate the festivities, with Avanti historian Dave Kinney serving as special guest.

Visit tinyurl.com/2tkxhbev by March 18 to submit an application. Owners will be notified by April 11. The class list is:

- American Motors Corp. 1958 and later American Motors and Rambler-branded automobiles.
- The Avanti at 60 Studebaker and post-Studebaker Avantis (the 35-year rule will be waived for this class).
- Commanders & Dictators Studebaker Commanders and Dictators of all years.
- Independent Thinking Hudson and Nash automobiles of all years.
- Only In A Jeep Jeep-branded vehicles of all years.
- Personal Luxury Two-door vehicles from the 1950s-1980s.
- Stablemates The American Pony Car: Mustangs, Cougars, Camaros, Firebirds, Javelins and Challengers.
- Teutonic Transportation German automobiles of all years.
- Ultimate Luxury: Packard, Pierce-Arrow and Peerless.
- Walter's Chryslers Chrysler-branded automobiles from 1924-1942.

Visit www.concoursatcopshaholm.org for additional information.

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WinterFest Returns Throughout LaPorte Area

The annual WinterFest, organized by LaPorte Park and Recreation Department, returns Jan. 28-30, with organizers saying it will look and feel slightly different from previous years.

The schedule is:

Friday, Jan. 28

Ice sculpturing demonstrations are from 4-7 p.m. at 618 Plaza on Lincolnway.

Saturday, Jan. 29

The Ice Fishing Derby, which supports De Camp Band of Brothers, is from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. on Pine Lake. Registration begins at 5 a.m. at Blue Heron Inn, 1110 Lakeside St. The cost is \$40.

The Snowball Softball Coed Tournament is throughout the day starting at 9 a.m. at Lions Field in Soldiers Memorial Park. The event is a double-elimination tournament.

The free Family Yoga Class is at 10 a.m. in the lower level of LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Enter through the door at the end of the ramp on Plain Street. Certified instructor Christie Trksak leads the winter-themed class open to families with children between ages 2-10. Participants explore yoga with poses, breathing and mindfulness to

encourage strength, balance, peace and connection.

A free Snowman Contest is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Kesling Park Walking Trail. Participants must register in advance. Judging is in three categories:

- Individual Builder 12 and younger.
- Individual Builder 13 and older.

• Family/Group (up to six builders).

There is no fee to enter. An entry form must be completed that is available on the department website or at the park office, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

A free Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt is at 5 p.m. at Fox Park's Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. No registration is necessary. The park will be used as a template for glow-in-thedark letters that when combined help complete the challenge. Wear boots, dress warmly and take a flashlight.

Sunday, Jan. 30

Free horse-drawn wagon rides are from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Cummings Lodge in Soldiers Memorial Park. Hot chocolate by the fireplace is served afterward.

 \Box

Visit https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest to register for events or for more information.



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Insights in History

David Hay will present "A History of the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant (1940-1945)" during "Insights in History" at 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 2, at The History Museum.

The program chronicles the government-built, private contractor-operated, ammunition-making facility south of LaPorte. Built a year before the U.S. entered World War II, it was one of 73 such facilities built nationwide. The plant drew workers from a 50-mile radius, and many others moved to work there. At its peak in May 1942, nearly 21,000 men and women worked around the clock in three shifts. A series of photos will depict KOP's manufacturing process and its diverse workers.

Also planned is a tour of the exhibit "Manufacturing Victory. The joint effort by the museum and Studebaker National Museum explores South Bend's dedication to manufacturing for the military, from pre-Civil War to present day.

Reservations are required by Jan. 31. Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members.

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Call (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for more details.

MACU College Scholarships

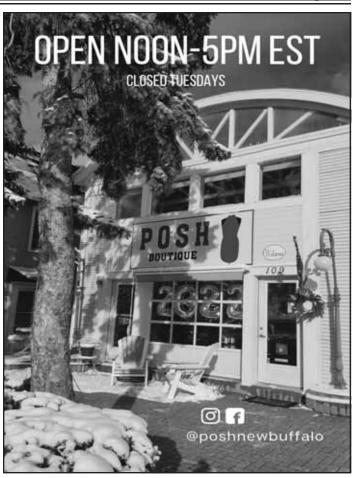
Members Advantage Credit Union is accepting applications for its annual Gail Walker and Leona Bruno scholarships through March 1.

Scholarships include:

- Gail Walker: In 2010, MACU established the annual \$1,000 Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship in memory of the former board member's years of service. It is awarded to a graduating high school senior, college freshman or sophomore.
- Leona Bruno: The annual \$1,000 Leona Bruno Scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of the first MACU manager. It goes to a graduating high school senior.

Call (219) 874-6943 or visit www.macuonline.org/college-scholarships for more details.







Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

• Subnivean Subjects Saunter at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29.

Learn about the Dunes' smallest mammals while looking for signs and learning about winter adaptations. If snow conditions allow, free snowshoes will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

• Photo Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Jan. 30.

Take a camera or phone to the Nature Center for the game that includes a list and prizes.

• Nature Myths at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30.

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

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



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Indiana Dunes National Park

• Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) at 10 a.m. weekdays through Jan. 31.

Trash Trekkers helps keep trails and beaches clean. Trash bags are available at the visitor center's front desk.

• Winter Fun — Snowshoeing from 9 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in January at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.

If there's at least 3 inches of snow, visitors can borrow snowshoes to explore Miller Woods. Guests also can help feed the center's resident turtles and fish, and explore the center's exhibits.

• Snowshoe Hikes in Miller Woods from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Saturdays and 1-3 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 29.

Try snowshoeing on the ranger-led hike through Miller Woods. A limited number of snowshoes are available to borrow, or take a pair. A hike is offered if there isn't enough snow. Call (219) 395-1824 for weather conditions.

• Mount Baldy Winter Summit Hike from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30.

The ranger-led hike heads to the top of the dune. No reservation is required. The parking lot, located off U.S. 12 west of Michigan City, is open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. The dune, itself, is still closed for general public use.

The National Park Service has created an audio version of Indiana Dunes National Park's official map and guide, making it accessible to visually impaired visitors.

The audio description can be accessed by visiting tinyurl.com/2p82t2rx, or by downloading the UniDescription mobile app for Apple and Android devices. Downloadable audio files are available as well. The apps target people who are blind, visually impaired, print dyslexic or who prefer learning through sound. Local and other park employees, including a legally blind staff member — facilitated the project alongside a fully blind, experienced volunteer who has assisted other national parks' audio-described brochures.

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 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.



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.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers through music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La-Porte. Dates are Feb. 7 and 28, March 14 and 28, and April 11 and 18.

Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Joyful Movement Easy Exercises for All Ages

The free, low-impact program is at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22, and March 1, 8 and 15 at Luhr Park Nature Center.

Participants can sit or stand for exercises that involve stretching, meditation and balance. Pre-registration is required one week in advance for each date to reserve a seat and avoid cancellation.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Jan. 26 Flying Fun.
- Feb. 9 Night Watch.
- Feb. 23 Game Night.
- March 16 Hop, Drop and Roll.
- Mar. 30 Flower Power.

Feed the Birds this Winter

The free program, which involves making a bird feeder, is from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at Luhr Park Nature Center.

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

Field Trips

Formal 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. Visit www.laportecountyparks.org for sample programs. Email natureniki@csinet.net or call (219) 324-5855 for details.





LCSO in the Spotlight



Lewis Stahl.

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights its talented musicians.

Lewis Stahl, LCSO's principal second violinist, has enjoyed a musical life for more than 50 years. He grew up in Portage, later receiving performance degrees from DePauw and Northwestern universities, and his K-12 teacher certification from Indiana University. His love for nature and sports took him to Colorado for 20 years before returning to Northwest Indiana.

Stahl also performs with Northwest Indiana and South Bend symphony orchestras. An avid teacher and conductor, he has decades of public and private teaching, from kindergarten string classes to university positions.

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Chamber Inaugural Awards

Feb. 7 is the deadline to submit nominations for awards presented by Michigan City Chamber of Commerce during its annual member dinner.

In addition to honoring milestone members and legacy businesses, the Chamber this year will announce winners in several categories, including Community Impact, Small Business, Large Business, Young Professional and Ambassador. Each recognizes individuals and businesses that made a difference in the business community in 2021.

Nominations will be qualified by the Chamber Awards Committee. Finalists in each category will be notified and invited to the member dinner Friday, March 25. The nominee must be a Chamber member and have a location, or actively doing business, in the Michigan City area. An official nomination form provided by the Chamber should be used. Nominations may be submitted by colleagues, students, community members or anyone with knowledge of a deserving individual or program.

Visit www.MichiganCityChamber.com or call (219) 874-6221 for more details.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

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Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers explore lake ice during a March 2021 outing.

Harbor Country Hikers will explore ice formations in Lake Michigan and take in a Southwest Michigan sunset at 5 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 29, at the New Buffalo Lakefront Parks and Beach.

Hike Leader and HCH President Pat Fisher will begin with a brief presentation, then lead the group to explore the lake's offshore ice. Fisher has hiked hundreds of miles of Lake Michigan shoreline during the winter and studied its ice features.

The group will gather in the New Buffalo Beach parking lot, 200 Marquette Drive. The hike will be short, but those who participate should expect cold, windy weather and dress accordingly.

Membership is encouraged; however, everyone is welcome. The group follows CDC and local CO-VID guidelines, and face masks are optional. A rollator— a specialized walker with oversized wheels—is available on a first-come, first-served basis by emailing harborcountryhikers@gmail.com

Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com or Harbor Country Hikers on Facebook for more details.

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

Ten-digit dialing is official for Indiana, Illinois and Michigan residents.

Those affected are: Indiana residents with (219) and (574) area codes; Illinois residents with (309) (618) and (708) area codes; and Michigan residents with (616), (810), (906) and (989) area codes.

A 10-digit call requires the three-digit area code and seven-digit telephone number, even when calling someone in the same area code. The change does not affect a current telephone number. In the case of the Illinois (708) number, the 10-digit number may have to use trunk code 1, which is known as 1+10-digit dialing, or national, format.

Why is this required? According to the Federal Communications Commission, "as more area codes begin to run out of new seven-digit numbers to assign, a second local area code may be added, requiring that area to transition to ten-digit dialing."

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The Year in Movies: The Best of 2021

by Andrew Tallackson

Talk about a rocky year for the movie industry. With COVID-19 cementing the value of streaming services, the fate of movie theaters is reduced to one huge question mark. The only safe bet is your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.

Hollywood remains at ground zero of the global pandemic. Trying to regain its footing. Early in the year, each month saw potential upticks, luring hesitant moviegoers back into theaters: first "Godzilla vs. Kong," then "A Quiet Place Part II," then "F9." Then, came the intended Marvel cash cows: "Black Widow," "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" and "Venom: Let There Be Carnage." But with each new COVID variant, we retreated to streaming as the safe refuge.

What does this mean for theaters? My thoughts: It's too early to pull the plug...yet. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" proved Marvel can resuscitate the box office; however, one studio is not enough. Will the new synergy, where movies stream 45 days after theatrical runs, be the new normal?

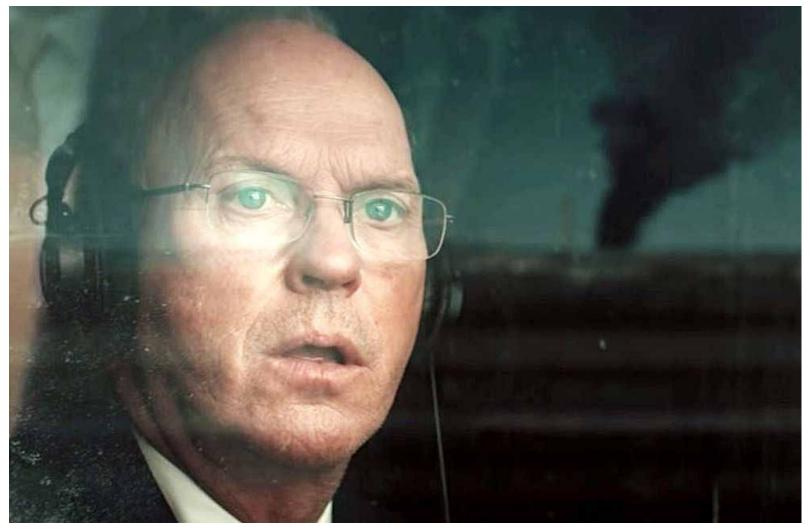
Whatever the outcome, we cannot write 2021 off as unmemorable. My list of the year's best may not jive with others, but that's OK. Entertainment is subjective. Few opinions are exactly alike. So, here we go: My picks for the year's best.

1. "Worth"

The most relevant and powerful movie about 9/11 because it focuses on the families, the loved ones, of those who died on that terrible day. The Netflix film centers on attorney Kenneth Feinberg (Michael Keaton), who is charged with leading the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. His group must decide the monetary "worth" of those who died that day so families can receive support — a task crafted with a robotic lack of humanity. It is the families who prompt Feinberg and his staff to change the system. Considering the explosive subject, "Worth" never exploits the tragedy to wring a few tears out of it. Instead, it allows the loss these people experienced to resonate in ways few other films have. The most affecting is Amy Ryan as Feinberg colleague Camille Biros, who interviews the many relatives and loved ones, becoming closely attached to them. "Worth" should be mandatory viewing for a nation still healing from that terrible day.

2. "Swan Song"

Here is a movie that makes you think...while delivering a hearty cry in the process. Two-time Oscar winner Mahershala Ali ("Moonlight," "Green



Michael Keaton stars as Kenneth Feinberg, who was charged with leading the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund, in Netflix's "Worth."

Book"), in a career best, stars as a dying man willing to create a clone to replace him, sparing his family from additional grief. The Apple TV+ film gets you to ponder what you might do in the same situation, but it also explores the love behind a husband and his wife, in this case played by Ali's "Moonlight" costar Naomie Harris. These actors deliver a wrenching portrait of love's restorative powers, and the devastating truth that love is also about sacrifice. Ali and Harris give two of the year's best performances, leading to a final scene that will have you scrambling for the nearest Kleenex box.

3. "King Richard"

Was "King Richard" proof that Warner Bros.'s two-tier approach — releasing movies the same day in theaters and on HBO Max — sabotaged its overall box office? How else, then, to explain why this

engrossing look at the family behind tennis greats Venus and Serena Williams never found an audience. Will Smith is a tsunami of a father, steamrolling over everyone and anything in his path to ensure his daughters succeed. That Smith dares to make him selfishly unlikable is a bold move. Emerging as his equal is Aunjanue Ellis as the girls' mother: a woman who stands up to her husband, and he takes it...because he knows she's right.

4. "The Harder They Fall"

A thrilling, hyper-violent Western that reinvents the genre through its all-black cast, creating a story that entertains as much as it speaks volumes about race in America. A stellar cast that includes Idris Elba, Regina King, Jonathan Majors, Delroy Lindo and Lakeith Stanfield infuses real-life individuals into a fictional tale that's like Quentin Tarantino

Our Annual Oscar Contest

The 2021 Academy Award nominations will be announced Tuesday, Feb. 8. The ballot for our annual Beat the Editor contest will appear in the Feb. 17 edition.

meets Robert Rodriguez. The violence is extreme, but in spinning what essentially is a standard revenge tale, the Netflix film introduced people disenfranchised by their country. The movie's big-finish twist is unsettling: It isn't ready to dismiss the villains as just that, nor the heroes as flawless saints. It's too complex for that.

5. "West Side Story"

A highpoint in Steven Spielberg's career...and a baffling box-office bust. Did COVID kill it, or did audiences feel they'd seen it already? Either way, they missed out on something special. All of Spielberg's talents are on full display: his energy, his camerawork, his penchant for discovering fresh young talent (Rachel Zegler, Ariana DeBose). But the film resonates because it honors and celebrates Puerto Rican culture whitewashed by the 1961 original. The acting, singing, dancing – all of it is superlative. Maybe the film will discover an audience through streaming. It sure deserves one.

6. "The Rescue"

How do you recount the 2018 underwater cave rescue of a soccer team in Thailand when Netflix bought the rights to the teens' stories? Do what the Oscar-winning filmmakers behind "Free Solo" do: Exhaustively chart everything it took to save them. In the process, directors Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin reveal an extraordinary case where people set aside their differences for a common good. The last 15 minutes, in fact, are exceptionally moving (see the full review on Page 22).

7. "tick...tick...BOOM!"/ "In the Heights"/"Summer of Soul"

Did Lin-Manuel Miranda sleep in 2021? In addition to the animated hits "Vivo" and "Encanto," he delivered an assured, innovative directorial debut with "tick...tick...BOOM!," saw his Broadway musical "In the Heights" explode with high energy on the big screen, and is among those interviewed in the documentary "Summer of Soul." The latter was a cathartic act of rescuing an abandoned document of

Continued from Page 17

important history. The 1969 Harlem Music Festival attracted a who's who in black entertainment, but the footage never aired because networks felt there wasn't an "audience" for it. What we get is a 20th century snapshot with incisive reflections and an exhilarating catalog of classic music.

8. "Pig"

It sounds awful. Nicolas Cage plays a former chef living a hermit-like existence when his truffle-foraging pig is stolen. On paper, it sounds iffy. But this quiet film is about a man who experienced unbearable loss revisiting his former world. In the process, Cage gives a career-reviving performance. He breaks your heart as a man who saw his own heart crushed by tragedy. The movie is streaming for free on Hulu. Brave the premise and check it out.

9. "Finch"

At this stage in his career, Tom Hanks just has to deliver the goods. And in this Apple TV+ film, he does. He plays a survivor of a solar flare that wiped out the planet who embarks on a road trip with his dog and a robot. No zombies, no post-apocalyptic monsters, just one man out to fulfill a promise to himself. That gives Hanks, in his own subtle way, the chance to create a very human tale of honor and dignity. The film was the most-watched ever on Apple TV+, a testament to Hanks' reputation, his ability to create moving experiences.

10. "Don't Look Up"

The more I think about it, the more this film impresses me. Critics ravaged it. Viewers catapulted it to the top of the Netflix food chain. A comet heads toward Earth and will destroy it. The only thing people care about, though, is how they'll look on TV and social media. The message is obvious – we deserve the misery headed our way – but it's one we need to hear, with Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence and Meryl Streep approaching the humor with pitch-perfect dryness.

A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

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Nicolas Cage gave a career-reviving performance in the unexpectedly moving "Pig."

Ten Honorable Mentions

"Belfast" — Kenneth Branagh's moving, semiautobiographical look at his childhood amid tumultuous times.

"Blue Bayou" — A take-no-prisoners look at the modern immigrant experience, with a final scene that reduces you to shambles.

"Boss Level" — A warped take on "Groundhog Day," released through Hulu, that delivers rapid laughs and twisted action...and elevates B-movie actor Frank Grillo to leading-man status.

"Gunpowder Milkshake" — Trash, I admit it, but the to-die for cast — Karen Gillan, Lena Heady, Angela Bassett, Michelle Yeoh, Carla Gugino sells it.

"The Mitchells vs. The Machines" — Sony Animation gave Pixar a run for the money with this hilarious, touching look at a dysfunctional family amid a global attack. The added bonus: A cameo by none other than New Buffalo's Redamak's.

"Nobody" — "Better Call Saul" star Bob Odenkirk defies convention as a middle-age man with a secret past thrust into a conspiracy. So clever and full of surprises, I saw it twice.

"The Suicide Squad" — James Gunn ("Guardians of the Galaxy") rescues a doomed franchise with an insanely funny reboot.

"Werewolves Within" — The year's sharpest comedy: a sly spin on Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians." Warrants more than one viewing to catch all the hilarious dialogue.

"Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" — A case of Marvel moving in a new, and altogether welcome direction.

"Spider-Man: Far From Home" — the Marvel movie America needed: a rousing, hilarious and moving close to the first chapter in Tom Holland's outing as the title super hero.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Sinai Forum Tickets

Single tickets are available for tech icon Steve "The Woz" Wozniak's Feb. 6 program through Purdue University Northwest Sinai Forum.

Sponsored by Urschel Laboratories Inc., the



Wozniak

presentation is from 4-5:30 p.m. at Blue Chip Casino, Hotel and Spa's Stardust Event Center, 777 Blue Chip Drive. Single tickets, which cost \$100, can be purchased at www. pnw.edu/sinai-forum/tickets

College and high school students may attend for free with a valid student ID. Reservations are required on the website.

Wozniak has helped shape the computing industry with his design

of Apple's first line of products: the Apple I and II. In 1976, he and Steve Jobs founded Apple Computer Inc. The Apple II was integral in launching the personal computer industry. For his achievements at Apple, Wozniak received the National Medal of Technology in 1985, the highest honor bestowed on America's leading innovators.

In December 2020, Wozniak launched his company Efforce, which uses cryptocurrency and block-chain technology to make it cheaper and easier for companies to fund green projects.

The patron reception is sponsored by the Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest. Patron-level tickets are required to attend.

Reins of Life Benefit

Reins of Life Inc. will host the 24th annual Kelsey Meekhof Memorial Dinner & Auction at 5:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 5th, at The Armory, 727 S. Eddy St., South Bend.

The event includes a cocktail hour, dinner, silent and live auctions. All proceeds support equine-assisted programs for children and adults with disabilities at facilities in South Bend and Michigan City. Bob Montgomery of WSBT is the emcee and Chuck Freeby of 46 Sports the auction host. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Visit https://tinyurl.com/3ekmckn6 for tickets and additional information.







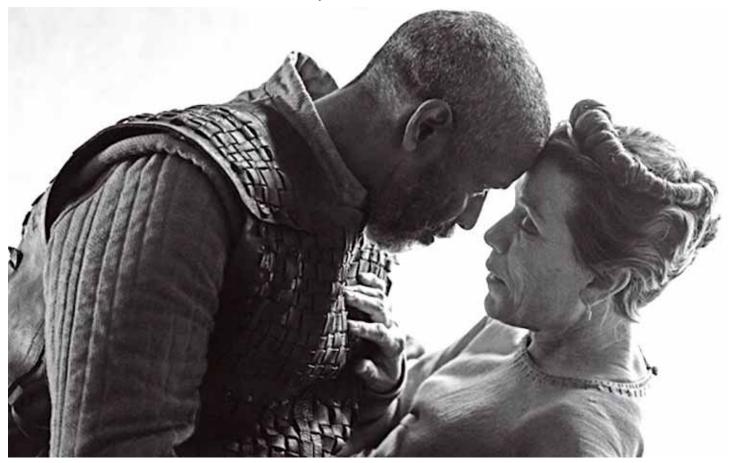
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Joel Cohen Reinvents Shakespeare as a Haunting Noir Thriller

by Andrew Tallackson



Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand are fearless in "The Tragedy of Macbeth."

I have come to the conclusion that either you are wired to embrace Shakespeare or you are not.

There is no plausible explanation as to why I am not. Whenever actors speak his words, my brain shuts down. It's not even a conscious act, but almost an instinctual one. In high school, CliffNotes were my means to comprehend his works.

What can I say? What you are reading right now is the work of a simpleton. Not proud of it, but there it is.

I loved "The Tragedy of Macbeth," though. Weird, right?

The artfully crafted images by Joel Cohen — flying solo without brother Ethan — are so extraordinarily beautiful, even though my brain once again found itself at odds while the actors spoke, I couldn't take my eyes off the film. Cohen has whittled down Shakespeare's work to its essentials, restaging it as a noir thriller. It looks like something Fritz Lang ("Metropolis") or F.W. Murnau ("Nosferatu") might have created. A dreamscape with none other than Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand in the meatiest roles.

Shakespearean elements have been a key thread from the start of the Cohen brothers universe. Their 1984 debut, "Blood Simple," was bathed in murder and deception. Those two factors, in fact, have per-



meated just about all of their pictures, even the comedic ones.

"The Tragedy of Macbeth," now streaming on Apple TV+, was shot in black and white, and with moviemaking in Joel Cohen's blood, it makes gorgeous use of a world without color. Most modern films shoot in black and white without considering how to stylistically enhance what we see in every shot. What Cohen achieves looks like it could have been made in the 1920s or 1930s, specifically the muted shades of light and dark applied to the costumes, sets, props and the like. The images have a richness to them beyond color, if that makes sense. They're like a German Expressionist painting augmented by the intentional artificiality of the sets.

The camera, as is typical of a Cohen picture, rarely stops moving. It closes in on the actors and the sets to create a heightened, at times claustrophobic tone. That works especially well as Macbeth slips into paranoia and madness after murdering King



Joel Cohen achieves some of the most haunting images of any adaptation of the Shakespeare work.

Duncan (Brendan Gleeson), an attack staged with the Mafia-like efficiency of a Cohen brothers thriller.

McDormand is relentlessly calculating as Lady Macbeth. Once the opportunity arises to slay King Duncan, the actress creates a woman who does not hesitate once, pulling the strings behind her husband's treachery.

As Macbeth steadily loses his grip on reality, I was reminded of Washington at his ferocious best in 2001's "Training Day," when his character lashes out at the end. It was a fury of unparalleled venom... and that's what we get here. The actor unleashes hell as if it's all that remains within him.

As Macbeth duels with Macduff (Corey Hawkins, "In the Heights"), Cohen's camera is perched high above them, the castle engulfed in mist. "The Tragedy of Macbeth" becomes precisely what its title suggest: tragedy staged by a filmmaker at the top of his game.

Purists who like their Shakespeare unabridged and lacking any American influence will balk at what Cohen achieves. But for a Shakespeare dummy like me, it captivated me from the word go.

 $Contact\ Andrew\ Tallackson\ at\ drew@the beacher.\\ com$



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"The Rescue" Documents 2018 Event to Create an Inspiring Experience

by Andrew Tallackson



Divers prepare to reach a soccer team and its coach trapped in a flooded cave in "The Rescue."

I knew the outcome, not the staggering logistics. The heroics and sacrifice.

"The Rescue," the latest documentary from Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, the husband and wife behind 2018's Oscar-winning "Free Solo," recounts *and* re-enacts the massive operation that saved 12 members of a junior association soccer team and their coach in 2018. The group had ventured into the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand and was trapped, heavy rainfall flooding their only way out.

"The Rescue" tells half that story. You see, soon after the group's rescue, Netflix pounced, obtaining the rights to their story. So, Vasarhelyi and Chin focus mostly on the cave divers, rescue teams and government officials, but that doesn't mean their film is any less exhilarating. In fact, it is one of the most inspiring experiences of 2021.

"The Rescue," now streaming on Disney+, succeeds on two levels. On one, it is a meticulous account of what it took to get those kids and their coach out of the Tham Luang cave. On another, it continues the fascination by Chin and Vasarhelyi, after "Free Solo," of thrill-seekers who risk life and limb. That this movie is another collaboration with National Geographic ensures we get cutting-edge visuals.

Vasarhelyi and Chin introduce the many cave



"The Rescue"

Running time: 107 minutes. Disney+. Rated PG for thematic material involving peril and some language

divers who were crucial to rescue operations, and the pace of "The Rescue" does take a hit. The film exists as one of those old school "talking heads" documentaries. The divers come from across the globe, from all walks of life, and we fear that the directors are placing these guys on pedestals. Interestingly enough, they do get them to open up about themselves, and there is a common thread. All were outcasts growing up. Bullied. Loners as children who found peace amid the solitary thrill of exploring underwater caves.

Dramatically, though, by hearing from only the divers, *not* the children, we get fidgety. Then comes the footage of parents outside the cave: sobbing, barely holding it together. Two mothers stand at the cave entrance, their voices choked with tears, shouting into the abyss in hopes their children hear them. It hits you in the gut, and that's when "The Rescue" grabs hold and never lets go.

Through interviews, recorded footage, photos and, in some instances, the divers themselves recreating key moments, the movie powerfully conveys the

astonishing scope of the rescue operation. Consider the numbers: more than 10,000 people, which included more than 100 divers, officials from 100 governmental agencies, 2,000 soldiers and 900 police officers. And they came from everywhere: Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium. You gasp at the amount of water pumped out of the caves and the many miles traveled just to reach the group...let alone bring them back. When one diver perishes, the directors interview his widow. Sobbing, yet somehow mustering the courage to say, "It was an honor being married to a hero."

The depth of human emotion is unreal. Even more remarkable is how Chin and Vasarhelyi generate sus-

pense within the final rescue, regardless if we know how things turned out. The solution, if you recall, was a harrowing risk. The children, to ensure they didn't panic, and had plenty of air to breathe, were placed in diving gear and anesthetized. Stopping midway to check their vitals, there are moments when the children appear unresponsive, and it is here "The Rescue" achieves a fragile tension, where you practically hold your breath awaiting the outcome.

And what an outcome!

I cried through the last 15 minutes of the movie. The sight of these children, one by one, emerging safe from the cave. Applauding rescue workers. Journalists so consumed with emotion, they can barely proceed with their reporting. Parents hugging other parents. Divers humbled to where they can barely speak.



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The film crew was not allowed to interview members of the soccer team — Netflix secured the rights to their story before anyone else did — but we do see footage of them during rescue efforts.

One government official remarks how, whatever differences existed between countries, they dissolved during those long, treacherous days in 2018 when life hung in the balance. Generosity, the official says, won in the end.

Indeed, it did.

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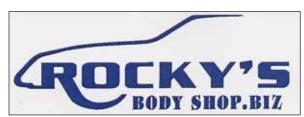
A "Documenting Artwork Workshop" is from 10 a.m.-noon Friday, Feb. 11.

Exhibiting photographer Deb Armstrong will help artists document their work using lighting techniques. She also will cover file management.

The workshop is timed to assist artists submitting works for the 28th annual Juried Art Exhibition. Visit www.artbarnschool.org for more details.

Art Barn is located at 695 N. County Road 400 East. Call (219) 462-9009 for more details.





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- First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29.
- Long Beach Police Department and Friends of Violet Van Gieson, 2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1.
- Sacred Heart Church, 201 Bach St., LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.

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 www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

Bridgman Public Library

Author William Hazelgrove will discuss his book Wright Brothers, Wrong Story during a Bridgman Public Library Zoom Program at 6 p.m. EST Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Hazelgrove reveals how each brother had a distinctive role in creating the first successful airplane, making a convincing case it was actually Wilbur Wright who designed it, not Orville.

Visit www.bridgmanlibrary.com for the Zoom link.

YSB Annual Comedy Night

Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County will host the annual benefit YSB Comedy Night at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at The Silver Palace, 1719 State St., LaPorte.

The 18-and-older event includes a cash bar. Tickets, which cost \$25, are available at tinyurl.com/a36nzspk or the LaPorte office, 906 Michigan Ave.

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State Honor Choir



Three Michigan City Area Schools students have been selected for State Honor Choir. Pictured are (from left) Younha Seppyes, Paige Merrill and Ralph Smith, who are students of Stephanie Sobecki at Barker Middle School. They were chosen by audition from entries submitted across the state. As part of the choir, they worked with guest clinician G. Philip Schoultz for two days and presented a concert Jan. 14 at Embassy Theater, Fort Wayne.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues at 12:20 p.m. EST Thursday, Jan. 27, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The speaker is Mary Amador, a Herron School of Art graduate who will discuss her works that focus on her concerns growing up as a child of Mexican-American parents, and how she visualizes those memories.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

Read The Beacher On Line http://www.thebeacher.com/



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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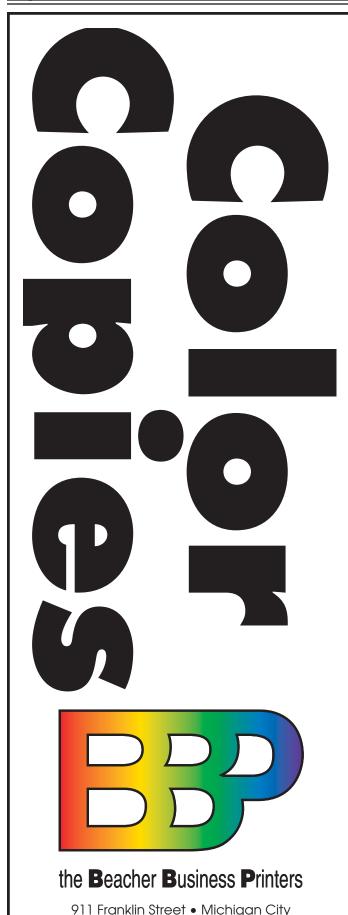
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In the Area:

Jan. 28 — WinterFest: Ice sculpturing demonstrations, 4-7 p.m., 618 Plaza (Lincolnway in LaPorte). Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 28—Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County Comedy Night, 8 p.m., The Silver Palace, 1719 State St., LaPorte. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: tinyurl.com/ a36nzspk, LaPorte office, 906 Michigan Ave.

Jan. 29 — WinterFest: Ice Fishing Derby, 6 a.m.-2 p.m., Pine Lake, LaPorte. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WinterFest: Snowball Softball Coed Tournament, 9 a.m., Lions Field @ Soldiers Memorial Park. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WinterFest: Free Family Yoga Class, 10 a.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — WinterFest: free Snowman Contest, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kesling Park Walking Trail. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 29 — Subnivean Subjects Saunter, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 29 — WinterFest: free Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt, 5 p.m., Fox Park's Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 30 — WinterFest: free horse-drawn wagon rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Cummings Lodge @ Soldiers Memorial Park. Info: https://laporteparkandrec.com/winterfest

Jan. 30 — Photo Scavenger Hunt, 10 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 30 — Mount Baldy Winter Summit Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mount Baldy parking lot, U.S. 12 west of Michigan City. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 30 — Nature Myths, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 30 — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, "The 3 B's: Bach, Beethoven & Brahms," 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's Catholic Church, 411 W. 11th St. Free. Info: www.mccmf.org, MC Chamber Fest on Facebook, (219) 561-1939.

Jan. 31 — Make It! Cross Hatch Leather Bracelet for Adults (18+), 10:30 a.m.-noon, LaPorte County

Public Library Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Jan. 31 — Needle Arts Club, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 1 — Joyful Movement Easy Exercises for All Ages, 8:30 a.m., Luhr Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Pre-registration: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

Through March 31 — Local artist Kristy Kutch, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy 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.

Saturdays — Turn Up Dance Fitness with Stacy G., 8:30-9:30 a.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Cost: \$5 paid at class.

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

In the Region

Jan. 27 — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EST, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Admission: \$5, members/free. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Jan. 29 — Harbor Country Hikers, 5 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Lakefront Parks and Beach. Info: www. harborcountryhikers.com, harborcountryhikers@gmail.com

Feb. 1 — Bridgman Public Library Zoom Program, author William Hazelgrove (Wright Brothers, Wrong Story), 6 p.m. EST. Zoom link: www.bridgmanlibrary.com

Feb. 2 — "A History of the Kingsbury Ordnance Plant (1940-1945)," 1:30 p.m. EST, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Cost: \$3, \$1/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through Feb. 15 — "Finding the Light in Dark Days: Works by the Duneland Photography Club," works by Samantha Purze, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 462-9009, www.artbarnschool.org

Saturday-Sunday — Winter Fun-Snowshoeing, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www. nps.gov/indu for details.

Saturday-Sunday — Snowshoe Hikes in Miller Woods, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sat./1-3 p.m. Sun., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1824, www.nps.gov/indu for details.

The weekly deadline to submit listings for Upcoming Events is noon Thursday



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1-3 ads - \$8 ea. •• 4 or more ads - \$6.50 ea. (Additional lines- \$1 ea.)
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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

Two new databases are available:

- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
- Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



NOW HIRING

The Beacher has an opening for a full-time print salesperson effective immediately. The position entails working with individuals and businesses on print needs ranging from business cards and flyers to brochures, letterheads, copies and other materials. It also involves interacting with walk-in customers and their print needs. Must have a vehicle. The salaried position includes benefits.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

<u>Fallen</u> by Linda Castillo (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 310 pages.)

"I think about the level of violence of the attack and I wonder who hated her enough to beat her with such savagery."

We're back in Painters Mill, Ohio, where the dead

body of a young woman is discovered in a room at the Willowdell Motel. The obvious struggle, the amount of blood splatter, is beyond horror.

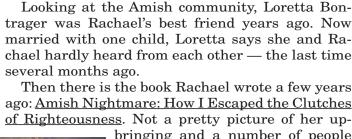
Called to the scene is Chief of Police Kate Burkholder. She's seen dead bodies before, but the force of the attack is almost more than she can stomach — especially when she looks at what is left of the woman's face and realizes it's Rachael Schwartz, someone from her childhood... "Kate remembers Rachael as the only girl who was as bad at being Amish as Kate was..."

Painters Mill is a small community surrounded by many Amish farms, with the town mostly *Englischers*, as the Amish call everyone outside their faith. Kate was born into the Amish, but left the community as a teenager. That's another story.

Rachael always was the rebel, defying her parents and heritage, and finally leaving Painters Mill after being shunned by the Amish. "Shunning is intended to be redemptive and bring fallen individuals back into the fold." In Rachael's case, it drove her further away.

Kate and her small force of five officers, with the help of the county sheriff's office, now begin the tedious task of gathering clues and information from anyone who might have seen Rachael the night before. Where to start? Back in Cleveland. They find a roommate who co-owns with Rachael a restaurant called The Keyhole. That woman, Andrea Matson, admits Rachael was living far above her means. There's money in Rachael's bank account — quite a bit of money — where did that come from when the roommate says they barely broke even? Andrea is a possible suspect, but the amount of fury into the attack makes it seem as though only a man could have done it. Is this Castillo's first red herring?

Then there's a boyfriend who had an assault charge brought against Rachael. Really? She assaulted him? Must be another story there...



bringing and a number of people who did her wrong — like the cult she spent time with, and a policeman with more than ticket-giving on his mind. So many possibilities of those wanting her dead.

In between chapters of Kate recounting the investigation, someone — the killer? — is revealed, not by name, but by thoughts and a hatred of Rachael. "Even dead, the rotten bitch would see to it that he paid a price for what he'd done. He wished to God he'd never laid eyes on her." And yet, is this the second red herring? Maybe Rachael was busier than anyone knows...

At the heart of all this information is the one nagging question on Kate's mind: just what was Rachael doing back in Painters Mill? That's the bottom line, but it's a dangerous truth Kate uncovers that some might kill for to keep it a secret.

So many questions. The thing about a murder mystery is the guessing — who did it and why? The author's job is to throw out red herrings, send you in a different direction, keep you from finding out the truth until the final page. Castillo does a remarkable job of just that. The Amish and their interaction with the *Englischers* make for a complex set of "maybes" while Kate opens wide the results of betrayal, sex and blackmail.

With Burkholder, Castillo has created a woman with a past that, luckily for her, turned out OK, giving her a more sensitive view of the Amish, showing us the good side, as well as the bad side, of this insular community.

At times, lines are crossed, and Kate must look first to her job of policewoman and second to her knowledge of the Amish, but drawing from both to discover who would perpetrate such a vicious and personal attack on this 30-year-old woman.

For 13 novels, Castillo has honed and developed the character of Kate Burkholder, making her a staying power in the murder-mystery genre — every book better and more exciting than the last.

Till next time, happy reading!





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Our Average **Original** List Price to Sales Price*



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*Source: GNIAR total transactions and total sales for all team members 1/1/21-12/31/21.







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