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# THE ART OF THE INEVITABLE

by Linda Weigel

"The object isn't to make art; it's to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable." Robert Henri

t's a continual source of joy to be reminded of the abundant talent that permeates our social fabric and, luckily, our small corner in Michiana. I often wonder how someone arrived at the point of living comfortably in the world of imagination, creative output rising above life's distractions. There is much to be said about the inevitability of some individuals to develop.

Artist Bernard Williams fits that bill.

After attending the dedication of the Naomi Anderson sculptures in Charles R. West-cott Park, I became intrigued with knowing more about the sculptor.

Williams did not disappoint.

Forthcoming, thoughtful and self-

aware, he shares freely his insights into the art of being an artist, and the road to getting there.

Living in Chicago, Williams often makes his way to his LaPorte County studio to explore, experiment and create. He is a nationally acclaimed contemporary sculptor and artmaker, a man with regional and national recognition, as well as numerous awards and residencies. His public artworks in-



Sculptor Bernard Williams is photographed by The Beacher's Linda Weigel.

spire, inform and above all invite discussion.

His path to a career in art began in early childhood. One of six siblings, he began drawing from comic books. Comics are one source of early childhood visuals, along with picture books that, when combined with text, open up an active imagination. In Williams' case, they went beyond entertainment to emerge as artistically inspired development.

By high school, his talent began receiving recognition and encouragement through a dedicated art teacher. It was an AP Honors class when Williams became more focused and serious, encouraged to think about studying art in college.

In his words, his parents were, as many often are, "uncertain."

"When I took the AP art class, my dad was trying to convince me to do electronics, and actually I did decide on one semester to try the electronics class," he said. "I think I was there for about a week when I decided, nah, this is not it. I don't want to do this, and I went back to the art class."

The path into art was now inevitable.



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### THE ART OF THE INEVITABLE

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A fter high school, Williams entered the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign art program.

"That's where I really started to get serious with the art world," he said. "I mean, strangely enough, I went there with a four-year ROTC scholarship. I was in high school ROTC and actually enjoyed it and had considered a couple of the military academies around the country such as West Point. Thank God that didn't happen."

He continued.

"I did go into the U of I with that ROTC scholarship, so, you know that required you to do some Army classes," he said. "We had these field training exercises maybe once a month. I did the first year of that and basically decided that they don't have artists in the Army. So, that means I probably don't want to be in the Army because I knew I did want to be an artist. I bailed out of that situation and lost that money."

By leaving ROTC, and thus losing his scholarship, Williams briefly dropped out of school. The solution involved receiving a new scholarship, returning to the school's art department.

"I knew I wanted to make paintings and drawings, so I spent a lot of time doing that in a kind of traditional approach to making he said. "I art," was looking very much at the European masters at the time: Michel-Caravagangelo, gio and some of the French painters. Eugene Delacroix was a big interest. I wanted to make paintings like that, and I was trying to figure that out."

After receiving a Bachelor of Fine

Arts in painting and drawing, Williams transitioned into graduate school at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., receiving a Master of Fine Arts two years later.

Graduate school was productive. However, asked if he found opportunities were greater because of it, the response was surprising.

"The main conversation was around getting a teaching job or something," he said. "I feel, looking back on it, it was really kind of a dismal preparation for the real world – the REAL world. However, I did land a part-time teaching job at The School of the Art Institute out of grad school, which was something, although it wasn't very much. I recall picking up small illustration jobs, and it was my high school art teacher who helped me get some other work after graduate school."

The Art Institute, though, does have an internship program. Hiring an intern, the experience "kind of partners young artists, young creatives with people who are operating in the field with very good opportunities," he said.

Sadly, graduate school salary for adjunct or parttime instructors is notoriously low. A second or even third part-time job is not unusual to make ends meet. For Williams, his high school art teacher in-



"Scream," Williams' 2016 acrylic on canvas.

troduced him to an organization that worked with high school students after school to make murals.

"So, for me, it was really kind of right up my alley, having done a lot of painting," he said. "I could really contribute to a situation like that."

The path of inevitability was firmly set, and his artistic development would take several turns. As his art career grew, he was commissioned to create multiple large-scale outdoor murals, not only in Chicago, but in other cities. Meanwhile, he continued to paint and draw, exploring a more personal aesthetic approach as explained on his website: "I have created projects which investigate the complexities of American history and culture through painting, sculpture, and installation. Within these broad arenas, the work seeks a kind of open-ended dialogue, addressing identity, flattening hierarchies, and questioning who we are collectively. Risk, adventure, conquest, personal status, privilege, and mechanical development are some of the thematic concepts which are pushed into form."



"68 (Mexico)," a 2015 acrylic on unstretched canvas.

Through his website and studying his paintings, I was intrigued by a particular series and asked, "What was the significance of numbers in many of his works, such as the numbers 68 or 34?"

Williams replied, "Numbers have a lot to do with industry and, you know, machine culture in general. Numbers represent maybe a kind of different language that gets combined with the language of painting."

He continued.

"Sometimes, the numbers might have a particular reference. Other times, they're more random, along with the idea to maybe throw the object into a kind of long line of things. It could be a line of paintings that have similar numbers," he said. "It's kind of a step away from beauty, if that can make sense. I lost interest in trying to make a beautiful painting. There is a body of painting that very few people have seen and very few people even would appreci-



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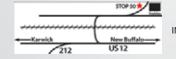
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ate where it's all one color, and I'll put a number on the bottom or I might just put the date on the bottom. There is even a big body of them where I might just put my address on the bottom."

Other works are boldly colorful, sometimes optical and abstract. His ability to combine forms and color is superb and always striking.

Eager to know more, I asked about how he transitioned from one media to the next, especially two dimensional to three dimensional. Was it an overnight process or just a gradual integration?

For Williams, it was the latter. He started with a body of paintings that included graphic symbols, cut-out forms that were then collected on the canvas. That led to cutting some of those shapes, symbols and even words out of wood.



An untitled mixed-media sculpture in Williams' studio.

"And, you know, kind of sticking those things together, screwing and gluing pieces together, that was the beginning of making small sculptures," he said.

That leap, from a relatively flat surface to a three dimensional form, is not necessarily one every painter could or would make. It takes a different kind of vision to "see" such possibilities.

Although this new direction into 3-D art was enticing, leading to numerous commissions, Williams to this day continues to executing paintings. He hasn't lost his desire to do so.

Ithink that what I'm really doing now is a kind of experimenting in some way, the way that scientists do in laboratories. They don't always know what they're going to get at the end of an experiment." Bernard Williams

Over time, Williams began to explore what it means to be an artist, to consider what other artists were creating and envisage beyond representation in art.

"I think I've really become very much interested in really connecting with the world around me and the things I see out in the world," he said.

With these earlier works, cost was an issue, so he

was interested in looking for things that could feed his interest and didn't cost much money, especially for 3-D art.

I asked if there was any internal tension over which way to go in terms of 2-D or 3-D. Williams said the tension for him was centered on how to make things fit into a certain body of work. It can be hard when you have an idea, but it doesn't necessarily fit into something already in place. Such work if completed might be considered a type of "outsider," as it doesn't relate to the overall theme or spirit the

artist had going with previous standards.

"So, maybe it becomes a separate body of work," he said. "But, you know, that is a tricky space to navigate because if you're trying to present a certain body of work to the public (and maybe even to the market or gallery or collector), they don't always appreciate that movement and experimentation that you might be involved in.

"It can be tricky to decide how much of that to let people in on. It's just the part of the practice that you really have to be careful in as you try to move forward in the field because people, they don't always appreciate that experimental nature about what you might be doing."

I understood. What can be disheartening to a creative is that the results of such explorations can be interpreted negatively.

"They might see you as a confused artist if you are off in another space doing something really different," he said.

The conflict for an artist, no matter what the chosen media, is that experimentation is critical to development/growth, and such extended explorations can inform and enhance previous work/themes. For example, such offshoots might allow the artist to gradually introduce new colors, textures or materials, taking their previous work to another level. Galleries, in my experience, once they have success with a specific style might question changes to previous iterations. I'm not sure people in general are aware of such challenges, but it does figure strongly into how an artist develops over time.

Relating this train of thought to education, Williams said, "That is something you don't get good ad-

vice on in school, either because in school there's a big push to create a cohesive body of work that kind of makes sense for those two or three years that you're studying.

"However, maybe that is a sensible thing to have students do. I think it is important to focus on things and really resolve them but, you know, you can encounter some really difficult, kind of mental adjustments when you leave school and you start to see more of what's going on in the world. You may decide you want to try something different."

It takes a good deal of energy, he said, to adjust to those types of changes.

"Some students get really successful with the work they did in school, and they can take it out into the professional world and build on it directly," he said. "But, not everybody develops like that. I don't think I developed like that. I did a certain thing in school, which I learned a tremendous amount from, helping me in other



"Iron Hooks," Williams' first commission for Michigan City.

ways, but I added so much other new stuff to that afterwards. That was a difficult journey."

ur conversation shifted to Williams' thoughts on creating large outdoor works. One way to have an impact is to produce public sculpture. In his case, that journey began around 2006 with his first work built of wood, not metal.

"It was so big we had to figure out how to keep the wood from kind of bending," he said.

The problem was that the piece was so large, the wood, itself, could not maintain its rigidity and stand up. He had to find a company to help solve the problem and discover how to support the wood for it to remain stable and supportive.

Obviously, wood has its limitations as to how tall you can go with an individual piece, or how you can weight it with extenuating arms coming off the central core. There is a maximum amount

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of viability before it begins to collapse. With steel, the choices expand and the artist can go further, depending on the thickness of the metal. "Even thin sheets of steel have limitations," he said.

Since 2006, Williams has completed several national public works, two of which are now sited in Michigan City. His 2016 steel sculpture "Iron Hooks," which celebrates the city's railway history, is on Wabash Street near U.S. 12.

His second and largest public work here is comprised of several pieces at Charles R. Westcott Park. The work pays tribute to Michigan City native and suffragist Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson and is integral to the "Celebrating Naomi Anderson" project. The official dedication was in March.

Williams first heard about the Anderson project by email with a call for artists to submit qualifica-

tions and proposals. A short list of candidates was produced, and he won the commission. Included with the initial email was research about Anderson, including biographical information. That was his introduction to the subject. Through independent online research about the suffragette movement, he discovered the symbolic use of the color white by marching suffragettes. Thus, white became the overall color for the final project.

Asked why he completed the work in multiple parts/ sculptures, he replied, "One of the options that artists had with the project was to pursue a design that was one standing sculpture, or the artist could create something that would somehow occupy a much larger space, which was the large grassy area. And the way I work, it kind of lends itself to a bigger installation. I could design something that really worked in a much larger space.

"Essentially, my process is attaching symbols to poles, and in the past, I've grouped my poles pretty closely together. With the Naomi Anderson project, there was an opportunity to spread the poles to occupy a larger space by placing my pieces farther apart."



The eighth piece of the Naomi Anderson project.

Visiting the site, it felt like I was having an interactive experience, walking a timeline through Anderson's life. A visually identifiable, storytelling

> narrative, one that made me curious to know more. In my mind, there was more to the siting of the works...and that was a deliberate decision on Williams' behalf.

> "I found that it (placement of pieces) creates a kind of path that you are going through, and for me, the suffragettes with all the rallies and marches they had, this creates a kind of link with that," he said.

As to how the actual construction developed, the first step involved preparing a maquettes/model to scale. Williams used a 1 inch to 1 foot ratio in his initial design. That was followed by executing a digital model during which multiple technical decisions were made and resolved.

The entire project would be made of steel. Asked how thick the metal was, Williams replied, "There are a few different thicknesses throughout that project. The poles are relatively thick. I think about 1/4" thick. The larger cut-

NAOMI ANDERSON
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The first pole of the Naomi Anderson sculpture project.

out forms are probably also about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Some of the smaller cutout forms are a little bit thinner, maybe 3/16" or something like that. The entire project is hand cut. We began by using a photocopy of a shape









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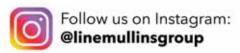
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and then projected the paper cutout onto the steel where the image could be traced and then cut out."

During this process, Williams hired Tom Schmidt of LaPorte to do the actual cutting — and there was a lot of it — because he admits he does not weld.



Tom Schmidt (left) with Bernard Williams at the March dedication at Charles R. Westcott Park.

"Some of the shapes there had a lot of pattern, details, cutouts, and a lot of welders aren't really comfortable doing that much cutting," he said. "So, Tom was really instrumental in getting all of the work done. We had actually hoped to have some of the parts machine cut, but weren't able to figure that out. It was really great that he was willing to go the distance with so much cutting."

Once all the welding was completed and the pieces assembled, the final step was paint: white industrial enamel. After several coats of primer, the piece was completed, with a final top coat.

Tam not what I am. I am what I do with my hands." Louise Bourgeois
Williams' hands are certainly busy these days.

He has two new sculpture projects in development. The first is an outdoor work for the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at Governors State University, University Park, Ill. The sculpture park is behind and along one side of the campus, and includes highly notable 20th and 21st century sculptors, including Richard Hunt, Mark di Suvero and Bruce Nauman.

Another work ("Time for the Signs") will be an outdoor steel sculpture bound for Dallas, Texas.

"This work celebrates African-American history in south Dallas and will be sited in an African-American community there," he said. "It kind of follows some of the format of symbols on poles like the Naomi Anderson project, but with smaller symbols, and they'll all be clumped on one concrete pad – probably four or five poles.

Interestingly, after winning that competition, the project didn't start for a few years.

"They had a lot of problems with the site they were developing for that," he said, "and it's taken literally four years for this thing to kind of flesh through."

As Williams continues to create, whether it be through his public works, smaller sculptures or paintings, his ideas, his influential and thoughtful consideration of his role in the art world will continue to the delight of those fortunate to experience the final results.

### **More About Williams Online**

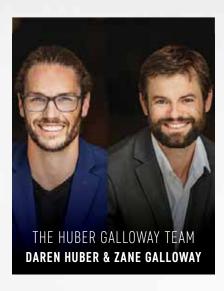
- www.railstotrails.org look for "Follow Your Art: Exploring the Trailside Artwork of Bernard Williams."
- www.bernardwilliamsart.com Williams' website is broken down into several major media categories.
- www.bernardartist.blogspot.com features more
  on his school and community art projects. I was
  especially stuck by the complexity and size/color of the completed works with Orr Academy
  High School students and the summer mural
  project at Boone Elementary School, both in
  Chicago. They are wonderful interactions between students and art, the results of which
  are striking.



The Naomi Anderson Sculpture Project in Charles R. Westcott Park.

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### **Dunes Summer Theatre Cast in Rehearsals for "Next to Normal"**



The cast rehearses for "Next to Normal" on the Dunes Summer Theatre stage.

Dunes Summer Theatre is in rehearsals for the first show of the 2022 season, "Next to Normal," which runs May 27-June 12 at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

With music by Tom Kitt and book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey, "Next to Normal" is a rock musical that won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and three Tonys. It focuses on a mother struggling with misdiagnosed mental illness, and the impact on her husband and teenage daughter. Helming the show is Dunes Artistic Director Steve Scott, with music direction by Andrew Flasch. The production features a live band, with set and costume design by Ted Hoerl and lighting design by Arturo Pozos.



The cast includes: Jodi Gage as Diana; Max DeTogne, who appeared in the 2019 Dunes production of "Working," as Dan; Peter Sielstra as Henry; and Ben Harmon as Dr. Madden/Dr. Fine. Valparaiso singer-musician Derek DeRoo plays Gabe, and Mia Goodman, a senior at the Berklee School of Music in Boston, plays Natalie. Production dramaturg Annalise McSweeney is working with the cast to provide insights into mental health challenges.

Dunes Arts Foundation is partnering with professionals from Samaritan Counseling Center to hold audience TalkBacks immediately after 2 p.m. Sunday matinees May 29 and June 12. The production and TalkBacks are supported by Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte.

Show times are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, which range from \$20-\$25, are on sale at www.dunesARTS.org, with discounts for groups of five or more.



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### **Around the Bend**



South Bend Museum of Art kicked off its "Around the Bend" exhibit with a reception May 6. To mark the museum's 75th anniversary, area artists were invited to participate in the exhibit celebrating the arts community. More than 220 were included. The exhibit runs through June 26 in the Warner Gallery. The museum is located at 120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Visit https://southbendart.org/ for more details. Pictured are Jane Cowley (above) and Edwin Shelton and Laurel Izard (right).





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

The front doors are open. 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 following programs are scheduled:

- MCPL Podcast Episode Release at 9 a.m. Friday, May 20. "Discussions with Miss Dana" includes upcoming fantasy books, interviews with a librarian and previews of library events. Listen on Buzzsprout or through www.mclib.org/ podcast.
- Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 23. The foreign policy discussion group returns for its 24th season. The May 23 discussion is "Industrial Policy and Biden's Agenda." Call (219) 873-3049 for more details. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.
- Virtual Dungeons & Dragons at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 25. Youth ages 10-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Characters, dice, maps and notebooks are provided. 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.
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- 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 Story Time with Take-Home Craft. A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- Library closings/updates. The library will open at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 19, due to a staff meeting. The library will close Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Two new services are available:

- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include <u>Avatar: The Last Airbender</u> & <u>The Legend of Korra</u>, <u>Big Nate</u>, <u>Bone</u>, <u>Disney Princesses</u>, <u>Geronimo Stilton</u>, <u>Stranger Things</u>, <u>Locke & Key and American Gods</u>. 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. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.





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### **Lend-A-Hand Day**

The Steady Stitchers Club of LaPorte County Extension Homemakers will host a Lend-A-Hand Day from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at The Steady Stitchers Studio, 1640 First St., LaPorte.

Volunteers can help make items for the commu-

nity's less fortunate. No specific abilities required. Anyone who can sew, cut, sort, pin, stuff or tie can help. All items are donated to local non-profits. All materials and instruction are provided. Volunteers can take sewing machines: however. some machines will be provided, along with lunch and dinner.

Any amount of time is welcome. The Thrivent Financial action team project is providing some support.



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A licensed sewing machine technician will be on site to clean and oil machines at a discounted price. Machines will be serviced in the order received. Scissor sharpening is another service offered.

Contact the Purdue Extension LaPorte County office at (219) 324-9407 or email kulman@purdue. edu for more details.

### **Michiana Annual Arts Competition**

A Michigan City artist is among the honorees in the Michiana Annual Arts Competition, which runs through July 3 at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

An estimated 130 regional artists were accepted into the event known as "MAAC in the Box."

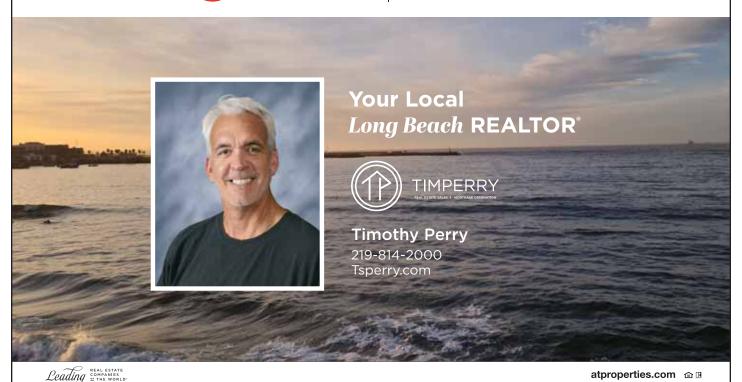
Laurel Izard, Michigan City, received an honorable mention in fiber arts for "5 of Wands."

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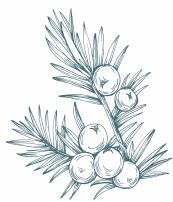




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Josh Brolin (right), Lewis Pullman (center) and Tom Pelphrey star as ranchers who discover a dark void on their property in "Outer Range."

When advance buzz for Prime's "Outer Range" called it the next "Yellowstone," my first thought was, OK, here we go. The knockoffs.

It was inevitable. Taylor Sheridan's prime-time soap is TV's most-watched cable show, with online chatter most networks wish they had. I came to it late, after the third season, more out of curiosity. Two episodes in, it was like being handed that proverbial bag of potato chips. You couldn't stop with just one chip. Binging season after season. Sheridan has created this generation's "Dallas." A contemporary western where cowboys and Indians are still at odds over the American landscape, but the weapons of choice are money, power and corporate savvy...although bloody vengeance isn't beneath them.

Like "Yellowstone," "Outer Range" is set in Wyoming, and its two families don't see eye to eye about their properties...but the similarities end there. This is a neo-Western more in the spirit of "Twin Peaks" and "The Twilight Zone." In "Yellowstone," the Wyoming landscape has the ability to take your breath away. In "Outer Range," it creates a mounting sense of unease. All is not right on the frontier, which gives this Prime show its creepy identity.

The series introduces a ranching family one or two conflicts away from collapse. Royal Abbott (Josh Brolin) owns the sprawling Abbott ranch, his sons Perry (Tom Pelphrey) and Rhett (Lewis Pullman) living with him and his wife, Cecilia (Lili Taylor). Perry's wife has been missing eight or nine months, and his daughter, Amy (Olive Abercrombie), is hanging on as well as a 9-year-old can.

A thorn in the Abbotts' sides is the neighboring Tillerson clan. These folk are wackadoodle enough to reserve a suite in the local nuthouse. Dad is played by Will Patton, who with this show *and* "Yellowstone" corners the market on parental sleaze. One of his sons, Billy ("Schitt's Creek" alumnus Noah Reid), is equally perplexing, randomly bursting into song. Patricia (Deirdre O'Connell), the mom, apparently based her mothering skills on tigers that eat their young.

There's also a drifter, Autumn (British actress Imogen Poots, pulling off a solid American accent), who camps out on the Abbotts' property. She's an odd bird who only gets odder. Toss in a brawl outside a bar where Perry beats to death another Tillerson son, Trevor (Matt Lauria), and you have enough drama to give "Yellowstone" a run for its money.

What "Yellowstone" does *not* have is the perfectly rounded hole, the mysterious dark void that hums ominously at the outer range of Royal's property. He discovers it one day, isn't sure what to make of it. Autumn is interested. In fact, she seems to know a thing or two about it, but remains tight-lipped.

What's at the bottom of the hole? We get our first glimpse during the last scene of the second episode. It is one of the all-time great teases. Eerie. Oddly familiar. Concluded with a single-word warning: *run*.

From there, "Outer Range" does not play all its

cards within its eight-episode arc. It prefers to taunt us. Carefully and effectively. The Abbotts are a stark contrast to the Dutton clan of "Yellowstone": nowhere near the wealth or power. They live modestly. Respected, but not feared. Their grief over the disappearance of Perry's wife consumes them. Perry's outburst that kills Trevor draws the family closer, but it chips at their sanity. The one doing the most chipping is the show's most inspired creation: Joy (Tamara Podemski), the county's acting sheriff. Native American and a lesbian, she defies all prior representation of Native characters on television. She is not the stereotyped victim. She calls the shots, with a humor and intelligence that carries significant weight in her investigation.



Royal Abbott (Josh Brolin) discovers the dark void on his property.

Brolin has been sturdy for so long, we take him for granted. "Outer Range" reminds us of his potent screen presence. His second-episode rant about God and the Abbott family misfortune is profane, yes, but proof he can dominate a scene. Ditto Taylor ("The Conjuring") as Cecilia, the actress allowing herself in our nip/tuck society to look old and haggard. She also has scenes where she lays into Royal, and the anger is real. Genuine.

The sneakiest performance belongs to Reid. When we meet Billy, we fear he's not playing with a full deck. But with each episode, there is more to him, that behind the soft, childlike demeanor is a calculating presence.

Much of "Outer Range" unfolds at night. Even when the drama shifts to daylight, the scenes have

a dark tone, adding to the sensation that the Abbotts are losing control. Rhett's climactic rodeo is a brilliantly directed bit of suspense, where we're never sure how things might turn out.

The Season 1 cliffhanger nudges us closer to answers, but comes nowhere near close to solving the riddle. That's a good thing. If we have all the answers now, why bother with another season? No word yet from Prime as to whether it has been renewed. It better. The show is off to a dynamite start. Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com





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The old adage that the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago may be true, but the folks at Coolspring Elementary School believe Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, was the next best thing.

Thanks to a "Communitree" grant from the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, students, staff and volunteers held a special planting day that added 10 trees to the school's playground and field areas.

Physical Education Teacher Holly Zborowski started the ball rolling on the project.

"Every year when I start planning for field day, I map out the games," she explained. Zborowski has been at Coolspring for the past seven years, and with Michigan City Area Schools for 23 of her 25 years teaching.

"Placing games near trees is important not only to give our students a little shade, but also our volunteers. Coolspring has such a supportive and involved parent group that helps out every year that I want to keep that going, so I gotta give them shade! Our Indiana weather could give us sunny and 80, or cold and 50! We also eat lunch outside when the weather cooperates, and students are always in search of a grassy patch of shade to sit and eat. So, this year, when I started mapping field day out, I made a point to ask our principal, Mrs. Palmer, for more trees, just like I do every year. Well, this year she delivered!"



The trees were made possible by Jennifer Birchfield, whose son, Calvin, is a second-grader at Coolspring. She's vice president of the Coolspring Community Association and a natural resources planner through the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

Birchfield said Coolspring received the "Communitree" grant in late March. Through it, the United States Forest Service purchases native trees for Indiana and distributes them to a variety of recipients, including schools, community parks and municipal street departments, to be planted in public spaces. The types of trees planted at Coolspring were an American Basswood, Hill's Oak, Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, American Beach, Bald Cypress and three Yellowoods.

# "Part of Something Big"

by Kim Nowatzke



"The variety of different native trees were specifically selected to provide shape to the playground and fields at Coolspring," Birchfield said.

Each grade level was assigned a tree to plant and provide care. Every Mondays and Thursdays, student captains are responsible for watering the trees during their second recess.

"Mrs. Birchfield and I together came up with the idea of each class being designated a tree and helping with the planting, the care and, ultimately, the protection of the trees," Zborowski said. "Planting new trees in a playground could be a disaster if the trees are not protected. What better protection than to designate trees to students so they can take pride in, and make sure others do not destroy it."



Birchfield said an additional environmental grant from NIPSCO allowed metal markers with the name of the tree and the grade that planted it to be placed by each tree.

"I love how our students will take ownership in their class tree," Zborowski said. "They will plant, take care and protect that tree. They will be able to come back to Coolspring years from now, see that tree and feel like they were a part of something big."

The tree planting originally was set for Friday, April 22, which was Earth Day, but was rescheduled for Arbor Day due to rain.

After the MCAS' maintenance department dug out the needed holes, Birchfield, along with help from Rachel Bergeon, Coolspring parent volunteer and CCA treasurer, provided hands-on assistance with planting the trees to each grade level. Birchfield made it a point to explain how the tree's roots need plenty of room to spread out, or how deep the hole for the tree should be. She tried to get each child involved in the planting process.

Kindergartner Logan Downey explained he planted a tree once "with my family, but not by myself," guessing his grade's Swamp White Oak tree would be "55."

Leah Delehanty, also in kindergarten, said she planted a tree "at my house in my backyard with my friends. It had a bird's nest. The bird had three babies. My brother helped me."

When asked how big she thought the tree would grow to be, she simply held her arms outstretched to her sides.

"It's rewarding to be able to provide trees because of all the benefits they produce, including beauty, shade, clean air and clean water, wildlife habitats and more," Birchfield said. "It's especially reward-



ing to do this for my family of Coolspring Wildcats."

Zborowski listed the reasons behind her gratitude for the day's activities.

"I love that Mrs. Birchfield is arranging for our students to learn how to plant," she said. "Gardening has so many benefits. As a PE teacher, my favorite benefits are improving your heart health, reducing stress and boosting your immune system."

(All photos by Kim Nowatzke)



### **Career and Technical Education Students Honored**

The LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program at the A.K. Smith Career Center held its 2022 Awards Program on May 5.

Technical Honor Society members received a tassel to be worn at high school graduations, and new students were inducted. Several students received scholarships and awards.

The honor society highlights students who have shown dedication, professionalism and skills in their chosen field. Inducted students came from six area high schools: LaCrosse, LaPorte, Michigan City, New Prairie, South Central and Westville.

Each CTE program recognized an Outstanding Student of the Year:

- Automotive Technology: Ty Stacy.
- Career Skills: Emily Silverthorn.
- Construction Technology (A.K. Smith): Delaney Messer.
- Construction Technology (NPHS): Braxton Binson.
- Cosmetology: Bianca Robles.
- Criminal Justice and Law: Emma Vandercar.
- Culinary Arts: Evan Garay.
- Education Professions: Samantha Shaffer.
- EMT: Ryan Kuizin.
- Energy Academy: Alex Scheuchner.
- Fire Safety and Rescue: Trent Platz.
- Health Careers Academy I: Ava Czerniak.
- Health Careers Academy II: Brenna Woodruff.
- Modern Machine Technology: Joshua Cummings.
- Visual & Digital Communication: Hallee Novak.
- Welding Technology: Isaac Lamar.

Each year, a student representative from each high school is selected as the Outstanding Student of the Year for LaPorte County CTE. This year's recipients were:

- LaCrosse High School: Ian Zrodlowski.
- LaPorte High School: Delaney Messer.
- Michigan City High School: Joshua Cummings.
- New Buffalo High School: Gabriella Levine.
- New Prairie High School: Kadrin Wheeler.
- South Central High School: Evan Garay.
- Westville High School: Reyes Steppe.
   Other students receiving special recognition:
- 2021 Jim Wallace Memorial Award Evan Garay.
- Brad Cohen Award Dwayne Eagle.
- Tej Ram Gupta Scholarship Delaney Messer, Cheyenne Moreau, Danielle Burgess.



Junior Shakyra Parker is inducted into the Technical Honor Society.



Delaney Messer is honored with a CTE Award of Excellence. Work ethic certificates went to 85 students.

Messer also is one of six students in Indiana to receive the 2022 "CTE Award of Excellence." Presented annually by the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, it honors the state's top career and technical education students and programs.

Messer received the award at a ceremony in Indianapolis, which she attended with her family and LaPorte County CTE Director Delincia Smith.







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### **Michigan City Municipal Golf Course**



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No. 6

### A Flight

Low Gross: LuAnne Uremovich.

Low Net: (tie) LuAnne Uremovich, Phyllis Roach.

Low Putts: LuAnne Uremovich.

### **B** Flight

Low Gross: Carol Tylisz.

Low Net: (tie) Carol Tylisz, Charlotte Wozniak.

Low Putts: Sheila Brackin.

C Flight

Low Gross: Pam Betcher. Low Net: Kathy Pragnano. Low Putts: Shirley McCarty.

Chip-Ins: Jane Spang, Carol Hullings.

Birdies: Mary Lou Marshall.

Closest to the Pin: LuAnne Uremovich.

### **Special Free Museum Admission**

South Bend's The History Museum is joining museums in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, to offer free admission to active U.S. military personnel and their families Armed Forces Day (May 21) through Labor Day (Sept. 5).

The special is part of the Blue Star Museums program. A military ID is required. Admission includes visits to all exhibits, as well as guided tours. Museum hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Daily tours of the Oliver Mansion are offered.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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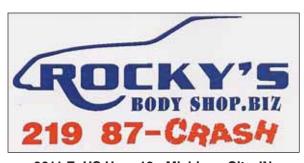
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### **Krasl Art Center Kicks Off Three New Exhibits**

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich., debuts three exhibits with a grand opening kickoff at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 21.

The celebration is part of "Afternoon of Art with David Kail" that runs from 2-5 p.m. EDT. Both are free and open to the public.

The exhibits are: "Rethinking Monuments: American Sculpture in its time, 1850-2000" in The Galleries; "The Art of Egg Prize" in The Lab; and "KAC's New Biennial: 2022 Invitational" throughout Benton Harbor and St. Joseph. Also highlighted is a new sculpture in the East Garden.

In "Rethinking Monuments," which runs through Aug. 28, works from the Detroit Institute of Arts, KAC, Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and Grand Rapids Art Museum frame the history and reception of monumental American sculpture. Artists include Hiram Powers, Harriet Frishmuth, Paul Manship, Alexander Calder, Claes



Egg Prize' is an 8-foot-tall custom vending machine by David Kail that dispenses egg-shaped capsules filled with art.

Oldenburg, Richard Hunt and Melvin Edwards.

The effort is one in a series of American art exhibits created through a multi-year, multi-institutional partnership formed by the Detroit Institute of Arts as part of the Art Bridges Initiative.

"The Art of Egg Prize" is an 8-foot-tall custom vending machine by Chicago artist Kail that dispenses egg-shaped capsules filled with art, typically holding between 10,000 and 15,000 works. For 10 years, Kail has generated new original work for the massive project. The exhibit runs through July 25, while "Egg Prize," itself, debuts in Benton Harbor as part of "KAC's New Biennial: 2022 In-

vitational."

The "New Biennial" is a community-wide showcase of art outdoors involving Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, Berrien County Parks and multiple arts and culture leaders.

Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for more details.





### **KAC Summer Art Classes**

Krasl Art Center will offer summer education programs June-August, including camps and artist workshops.

Also, experienced ceramic artists can apply for KAC's Clay Artist Guild.

There are four-hour, Monday-Friday camps for children ages 5-7 and 8-12, eight-week youth classes (ages 5-12) and classes for teens/adults (ages 13 and older). Visit www.krasl.org before June 14 for class information, scholarship details and to register.



A work-in-progress shote for Thomas Freier's "Art Dome."

A new sculpture and outdoor studio coming to KAC's East Garden is dedicated in memory of Lupe Hopp and underwritten by the Daniel F. Hopp Family and Horizon Bank. The space emphasizes interactive sculpture and returns as an outdoor summer studio. "Art Dome" by local artist Thomas Freier will be the second sculpture erected there. It is designed to accommodate six students and one teaching artist for KAC youth and adult education programs. The structure is made from painted plywood and features large work surfaces along the inside perimeter, dimmable overhead lighting, triangular canopies for sun protection and a teacher station with built-in storage space.

KAC is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Call (269) 983-0271 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 3-8, with an adult required to participate. Times are 6-7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park's Morgan Shelter. 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:

- June 1: The 3 B's Butterflies, Bees, Birds.
- June 15: Web of Life.
- June 29: Animal Encounters.
- July 20: Play Pod Exploration.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30).

The schedule is:

- June 8 "A Better Way of Caring as a Caregiver," Debbie Carriveau.
- July 13 "Atrial Fibrillation (A Fib) Heart Health," Jacob Swider, Northwest Health invasive cardiology director.
- Aug. 3 "Ear & Hearing Care," audiologist Jessica Nichols.

### Story & Bingo

Children accompanied by an adult can hear a story and play bingo from 10-11 a.m. Thursday, June 9, at Luhr County Park. Call (219) 325-8315 to reserve a spot.

### **Inclusive Playground Grand Opening**

A ribbon cutting is at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11, at Bluhm County Park. The new sensory-rich environment enables children to develop physically, socially and emotionally. Refreshments will be provided. All 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.

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

### "Buddy" Poppy Day

### In Flanders Fields John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2536, 1101 Earl Road, will conduct its 2022 "Buddy" Poppy Sale on Saturday, May 28. The post will have locations at both Al's supermarkets — 3535 Franklin St. and 1002 N. Karwick Road — and Kabelin Ace Hardware, 432 St. John Road. Anyone unable to stop by May 28, but who would like to support the effort, can contact the post at (219) 879-9063. The commander is John Wilcher.





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### **Church Rummage Sale**

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road, will host a rummage sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, May 19-21.

Items at the indoor sale include clothes of all sizes, shoes, purses, books (including large print), glassware, platters, vases, kitchen items, bedding, wall decor and Christmas items.







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

- Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, May 20.
- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 21.
- Pine Elementary School, 1660 County Line Road, 1:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.
- American Legion Post 37, 756 E. U.S. 20, 12:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.

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 Library Zoom Program**

William Elliott Hazelgrove will discuss his latest nonfiction work, <u>Greed in the Gilded Age – The Brilliant Con of Cassie Chadwick</u>, during a Zoom

program through Bridgman Public Library at 6 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 24.

Chadwick came from nothing and had no education, but by claiming to be Andrew Carnegie's illegitimate daughter led a life of luxury, only to be caught and put on trial, one so engrossing, it eclipsed Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration.



Hazelgrove

Visit www.bridgmanlibrary.com for the Zoom link. The library is lo-

cated at 4460 Lake St. Call (269) 465-3663 for more details.

### **Memorial Day Celebration**

A free Memorial Day celebration honoring veterans is at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, at The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

The event features a 21-gun salute, "Taps" by representatives from American Legion Post 37 and patriotic songs by the Krueger Middle School seventh-grade chorus led by Shirley Allen.

Refreshments will be served.

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### **Garden Club Plant Sale**



A gardening table for children is part of River Valley Garden Club's plant sale, which is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT Saturday, May 21, at Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway.

"We have added a project table for kids while their parents are shopping," garden club president Elizabeth Palulis said in a press release. "The kids can pot a White Pine seedling at no charge and take their project home."

The sale include perennials, ground covers, vegetable plants, bushes and small trees, all from club members' gardens. It is held outdoors and takes place rain or shine under a covered pavilion.

Contact Palulis at (269) 426-3513, email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com or visit www. rivervalleygardenclub.org for more details.

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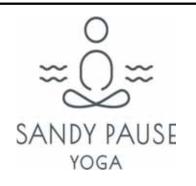
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# A Notice to Our Readers

The Beacher's office hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed: Saturday & Sunday

The Beacher, 911 Franklin St. • (219) 879-0088 • beacher@thebeacher.com



### In the Area

**May 19-21** — Rummage sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road.

May 20 — MCPL Podcast Episode Release, 9 a.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Link: Buzzsprout, www.mclib.org/podcast

### May 21 — ARMED FORCES DAY.

May 21 — Free Memorial Day celebration, 11 a.m., The Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

**May 23** — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

May 25 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 3 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. Info: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045.

Through June 30 — Local artist Elda Rundzaitis, 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.

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

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

**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.

### In the Region

**May 20** — Matt Schofield, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$45, reserved/\$70. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 20-22 — Elkhart Civic Theatre, "Arsenic and Old Lace," Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. May 20/21, 3 p.m. May 22. Tickets: www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/tix, (574) 848-4116.

May 21 — River Valley Garden Club plant sale, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. EDT, Harbert (Mich.) Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway. Info: (269) 426-3513, evpalulis@yahoo.com, www.rivervalleygardenclub. org

May 21 — Harbor Country Hikers, Mount Tabor Trails, 10 a.m.-noon EDT, Round Barn Estate, 10983 Hills Road, Baroda, Mich. Info: www. harborcountryhikers.com

May 21 — Opening kickoff, three exhibits, 2-5 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Kickoff ceremony: 4 p.m. EDT. Info: Call (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

May 21 — Sypian Family Band and Andrew Fisher Quartet, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$20, reserved/\$45. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

May 24 — William Elliott Hazelgrove Zoom program, <u>Greed in the Gilded Age – The Brilliant Con of Cassie Chadwick</u>, 6 p.m. EDT. Zoom link: www.bridgmanlibrary.com

May 24 — Friends of the New Buffalo Library's Community Forum, James A. Garfield's assassination, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

Through May 28 — "University of Notre Dame: The Fabric of a Global University," The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors (60+), \$7/youth (6-17), free/members. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat./noon-5 p.m. Sun. Info: (574) 235-9664, www.historymuseumSB.org

**Through June 5** — Area Artists Association exhibit, "Emergence," Buchanan (Mich.) Art Center, 117 W. Front St. Info: (269) 697-4005.

**Through July 3** — Michiana Annual Arts Competition, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: https://boxfactoryforthearts.org, https://facebook.com/boxfactoryarts

**Through Oct. 2** — "WIRED: The Rise (and Fall) of Electric Cars," 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.

Through Oct. 30 — "The Avanti: America's Most Advanced Automobile," The Studebaker National Museum, 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.

**Sundays in May** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center For Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Vickers Theatre — Starts May 20: "Iviva Maestro." Not Rated. Check website for more details. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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



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# Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



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**On May 19, 1780**, in the early afternoon, much of New England, as well as parts of Canada, were enveloped in a sudden inexplicable darkness. What triggered this event has never been determined.

On May 19, 1906, the Federated Boys' Clubs, forerunner of the Boys' Clubs of America, debuted.

On May 19, 1958, the United States and Canada established the "North American Air Defense Command."

On May 19, 1962, during a Democratic fundraiser in New York, actress Marilyn Monroe performed a sultry rendition of "Happy Birthday" for President John F. Kennedy.

On May 19, 1982, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin barely survived a no-confidence vote (58-57) in the Knesset.

On May 20, 1830, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad published the first railway timetable.

On May 20, 1852, the first Illinois Central train ran from Randolph Street to the depot at 12th Street and Roosevelt Road.

On May 20, 1862, President Lincoln signed the "Homestead Act," opening up millions of acres of western land to settlement.

**On May 20, 1927**, in Washington, D.C., J.W. Marriott opened the first of his "hotshoppes," the forerunner of the giant Marriott Corp.

**On May 20, 1932**, Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland for Ireland, becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

**On May 21, 1832**, the Democratic party held its first national convention (in Baltimore), nominating President Andrew Jackson for a second term.

**On May 21, 1852**, the first train on the Michigan Central Railroad arrived in Chicago.

**On May 21, 1881**, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross, also serving as its first president.

On May 21, 1927, Charles Lindberg landed his plane ("The Spirit of St. Louis") outside Paris, completing the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He had been in the air for 33 1/2 hours, and covered a distance of 3,600 miles.

**On May 21, 1999**, Susan Lucci won a Daytime Emmy Award for Best Actress on her 19th try.

**On May 22, 1807**, former Vice President Aaron Burr was ordered to stand trial for treason. He later was acquitted.

On May 22, 1859, "Sherlock Holmes" creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

On May 22, 1868, the Reno gang made off with

\$96,000 in cash, gold and bonds in the Great Train Robbery near Seymour, Ind.

On May 22, 1924, the body of 13-year-old Bobby Franks was found in a ditch near Chicago. Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, students at the University of Chicago, were later arrested and convicted of the "thrill" murder.

On May 22, 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that law firms may not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion or national origin in promoting lawyers to the status of partners.

**On May 22, 1992**, after a reign of nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson stepped down as host of NBC's "Tonight" show.

**On May 23, 1430**, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to England.

**On May 23, 1785**, Benjamin Franklin mentioned in a letter that he had invented bifocal glasses.

On May 23, 1903, Wisconsin became the first state to adopt a direct primary.

On May 23, 1911, President William Howard Taft dedicated the New York Public Library.

**On May 23, 1934**, bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were killed as they drove into a police ambush on a Louisiana country road.

**On May 24, 1830**, the first U.S. passenger railroad service, a 13-mile journey between Baltimore and Elliott's Mills, Md., began.

On May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse transmitted the first public message by telegraph, a short statement sent from Washington to Baltimore.

On May 24, 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge, a masterpiece of engineering linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, opened.

On May 24, 1935, the National League's Cincinnati Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies in the major league's first night baseball game.

On May 24, 1941, during World War II, 1,300 died when the German Battleship "Bismark" sank the British Cruiser "Hood" in the North Atlantic.

**On May 24, 1962**, Scott Carpenter became the second U.S. astronaut launched into orbit.

On May 25, 1803, poet Ralph Waldo Emerson was born in Boston.

**On May 25, 1878**, Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore" premiered in London.

**On May 25, 1935**, while playing for the Boston Braves, Babe Ruth hit his 714th (and last) home run as he ended a spectacular career. The game was played in Pittsburg's Forbes Field.

**On May 25, 1935,** Jesse Owens, competing in four events in 45 minutes, sets three world records and ties a fourth.

On May 25, 1961, President John Kennedy asked the nation to work toward putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

On May 25, 1981, 25-year-old Dan Goodwin, dressed in a Spider-Man costume, was arrested after climbing Chicago's 110-story Sears Tower.



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### GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

The Girlfriend Sale, you ultimate woman's resale clothing event, last chance 1/2 price sale continues Saturday, May 21,10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come shop for amazing clothing and accessories at unbelievable prices and have a whole lot of fun!

### Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail

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### **Power for Good Grants**

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County is increasing funding through its Community "Power for Good" Grant Program.

Starting this year, organizations may apply for two grants of up to \$5,000 each to fund projects that strengthen LaPorte County. Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 22.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations located in or serving LaPorte County residents. Churches may request funds for non-religious purposes, such as community programs or projects. Governmental bodies, including townships and fire districts, as well as educational institutions and teachers, may apply. Interested applicants can review the information on Unity's website, www. uflc.net/grants/community-grants, prior to starting an application.

Contact Shannon Walker at (219) 879-0327, email unity@uflc.net or visit www.uflc.net for more details.



# Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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What defines us? Is it our looks or jobs? Our indiscretions or accomplishments? It's how the world sees us versus how we see ourselves. Here are two books — one fiction, one historical fiction — that explore this theme.

I give you Josephine Baker (1906-1975), a very real person, and Veronique Vincent, a fictional character, who know a lot about public perception...

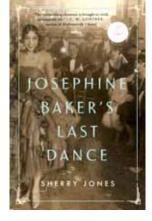
Josephine Baker's Last Dance by Sherry Jones (oversize paperback, \$16.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 365 pages.)

Perseverance. If there had to be one word to describe Josephine Baker's life, that would be it. There also would be the inner strength her early life of poverty in St. Louis, and lack of love from her mother, gave her.

Josephine loved to sing and dance on the street, finally running away as a teen and making her way to New York, where there were several black vaude-

ville shows she became part of, her comedic abilities making her a hit. But racism was accepted in the 1920s, and black stage productions like "Shuffle Along" and "Blackbirds" were demeaning and derisively called the "chitlin' circuit."

In 1925, Caroline Dudley Reagan hired Josephine to go to Paris. Her stage image was that of the African savage; the Parisians were wild for her, accepting her for the talented



dancer she was. She was the first to dance nude on the French stage, not wanting to do it, but she took it in stride and made the show a hit.

One of her rebellions against her African image was to make a banana skirt — you have to look it up on the Internet — she thought was a protest, but her boss thought it was great!

The French were more tolerant of black people — at least they let her in their nightclubs and restaurants. She had no desire to return to the States and the racism she remembered so vividly.

When World War II came along, she joined the French Resistance and became a successful spy. Later, she went back to the U.S. and joined the civil rights movement. When Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous appearance in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s, she was the only woman on stage with him.

Tightly written and extensively researched, Josephine's story is one that encompasses not only her life, but the world around her from the 1920s to her death in 1975.

This book is such a joy to read. Josephine is a

### Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



woman who didn't give up. Her story is a paean to the female spirit.

<u>Caution</u>: There are plenty of racist remarks, true to the time Josephine lived in, and some swearing that some might find offensive.

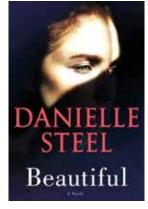
Beautiful by Danielle Steel (hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 239 pages.)

Veronique Vincent is 22. She lives in Paris with her attorney mother, Marie-Helene. Her American father died when she was a baby, or so her mother says.

At 18, Veronique becomes a model, and soon her amazing beauty makes her a top model in the industry. She spends her time doing runway shows for top designers and photo shoots for major maga-

zines like *Vogue*. A very lucrative and exciting life.

It's now 2016, and Veronique, her mother and friend, Cyril, are at the Brussels airport when terrorist bombs rock the area. Her mother and Cyril are killed, and she has shrapnel throughout her body. The right side of her face is...well, not like the other side of her face, which is untouched.



She spends months in a military hospital, with numerous surgeries on her face and body, some of the shrapnel removed, but the scars on her face still visible. A stellar career gone in minutes.

Her mother's will gives her two things: a large sum of money, but more importantly, one big surprise. She also learns the name of a cosmetic physician in New York City who could do more for her facial scars. He spends time each year in Angola, Africa, treating mostly children who are victims of land mine explosions that Princess Diana brought to the public's attention. Veronique travels with the doctor hoping to find her life still has meaning despite her scars...and maybe because of them.

Beautiful gives the reader a look at fame, the price to get there and the price when it is taken away.

Till next time, happy reading!







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