



Volume 38, Number 43 Thursday, November 3, 2022

A Rare Gem

by Connie Kuzydym

Editor's note — The following overview of LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's history is taken from articles published in The LaPorte Herald-Argus, The Beacher, The South Bend Tribune and accounts from individuals.



This archival photo from 1982 shows Adrian Bryttan in rehearsal with members of LaPorte Symphony Orchestra.

aPorte County Symphony Orchestra celebrates its golden jubilee this season. From humble beginnings to 50 years later, the orchestra has defied the odds. Not only is it thriving, but it's also on the cusp of something grander.

The thought of having a symphony began in 1971 with a young LaPorte Boston Junior High School music teacher, John Bennett. Majoring in conducting, his dream was to one day lead an orchestra. New to the area, he realized LaPorte had a strong music scene — many musicians stayed or returned to the area after college. The possibility to organize an orchestra was viable. Bennett was the catalyst to accomplish that task.

According to an article in The Beacher, Mary Utley was quoted as saying, "It just wasn't his own idea though, in Michigan City there was a group of chamber musicians, including Long Beach's Roy Hibner, who thought it would be a good idea too. They formed the nucleus and the LaPorte Symphony Orchestra was born."

From LSO's inception, the community supported the orchestra. Looking back at old newspaper clippings, the headlines, alone, cheer it on. Writers showcased the good and the not-so-good; most importantly, they were encouraging. Those who wrote about the symphony understood the uniqueness; af-

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911 Franklin Street • Michigan City, IN 46360 219/879-0088

e-mail: News/Articles - drew@thebeacher.com email: Classifieds - drew@thebeacher.com http://www.thebeacher.com/



Published and Printed by THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.



It's Time To Fall Back

Sunday, November 6th

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ter all, it was purely a volunteer organization. The musicians gave freely of their time for something they loved, playing their instruments and making music for others to enjoy.

JoFran Bendix is a charter member, one of its first horn players and 50 years later the one and only LSO charter musician still playing. In a previous interview with *The Beacher*, she was asked what it was like to be a part of something new.

"Exciting," she replied. "Exciting because I was a LaPortean originally. Symphonic music is really lots of fun for horns. I was excited to be able to play the literature that was provided."

Bendix also is in the unique position of being the only musician who has played for every LaPorte Symphony conductor to date. She feels that experience has been challenging, exciting and never dull.

The first concertmistress, the late Toni DeRover, was active in the local music scene. She played violin while in high school and after college with South Bend Symphony, as well as with various quartets throughout the area. She also gave private violin lessons. A former teacher in South Bend and

Goshen, she taught symptomy Orchestra board members with music and art in LaPorte's elementary schools. Her daughter, Renee Buell, gave *The Beacher* an insider's perspective of the orchestra's formative years:

I remember well when talk of creating an orchestra in LP began. Mom would be on the phone constantly talking with fellow violinists (this was her network of people she knew) as they made plans to contact other musicians who would be interested. She was so excited...I remember certain names...she was in contact with most...Marion Williams, Roy Hibner, JoFran Bendix, Dr. Tony and Marie Chidalek, Louise Lanz, John Bennett and Paul Roth.

Many meetings ensued as they made contact with as many musicians as they could. It was quite an undertaking, but there was a great network of musicians...they all seemed to know each other.

With Bennett at the helm, 50 talented musicians, a board of directors and women's auxiliary, the LSO became a reality.

Numerous articles from *The LaPorte Herald-Argus* chronicle the orchestra's first season. The premiere concert was scheduled for Dec. 10, 1972, with additional ones on March 4 and May 6, 1973, at Kesling Junior High School auditorium in LaPorte. Rehearsals for the debut began in October.

A few weeks prior, *The H-A* headline read "A New Cultural Level for LaPorte."

LaPorte has a newly formed Symphony Orchestra. It deserves your support.

The immense detail that goes into symphony rehearsals...volunteers who obviously enjoy music put in their leisure hours perfecting their talents...their efforts are on a volunteer basis as they strive to offer LaPorte and the area a new level of culture in a com-

munity long respected for its cultural interests.

Prior to the concert, the orchestra kicked off its first fundraiser, tickets sales and donations. Businesses, industries and individuals showed their strong support with generous monetary donations.

H-A staff reviewer Maxine Ford wrote this about the symphony's premiere:

in South Bend and One of the earliest photos, published in 1972 in *The Herald-Argus*, of the new LaPorte about the symphony's Goshen, she taught. Symphony Orchestra board members when the group officially became chartered.

The first performance of the newly organized La-Porte Symphony Orchestra, with John C. Bennett conductor was an auspicious success. Only a few scattered seats were empty at the Kesling Junior High School Auditorium Sunday for the one-andone half hour concert...

Normally the opening number...gives conductor and orchestra a chance to find themselves, but from the first note the director and his 50 musicians found the pulse of the favorite and familiar "Barber"... the audience settled back to enjoy the premier of its own community orchestra.

Buell remembers the premiere concert. Everyone was dressed in black — the women wore long black skirts. She knew there many rehearsals and much

preparation, but was not sure what to expect.

DeRover explained to her daughters the role of a concertmistress. The curtain went up, the musicians were settled in their seats. DeRover walked onto the stage and played the first tuning note. Bennett raised, then lowered the baton...and the LaPorte Symphony Orchestra came to life.

"The symphony played beautifully, and I remember being impressed at how complicated the music seemed," Buell said. "I think at the time, they had no idea how large it would become. They just took it one concert at a time."

The LSO continued moving forward, receiving its charter as a non-profit organization two months after the first concert. Those musicians whose signatures were recorded at the December premiere became LSO's charter members. In the same year, an LSO scholarship was established for LaPorte High School Orchestra seniors.



John C. Bennett was one of the earliest driving forces behind the creation of the symphony.

Bennett remained with the symphony for three concert seasons. From there, a host of conductors used their talents to help the orchestra grow. Jay Miller conducted the Bicentennial Concert, which Walther included the Chorus League Maple City Cadets. David Basch directed "The Nutcracker," which featured South Bend's Southhold Dance Company. Conductors Bruce Hemmingway and

James Deal each led the orchestra for one season.

Talks about finding a more permanent conductor began. According to Buell, many phone calls ensued.

"When Adrian Bryttan came, I could feel an undercurrent of excitement from everyone. Here was a professional violinist — he was amazing — coming here from New York!," Buell said. "I think they felt that maybe they were to the next level now.

"He brought an energy and excitement and a sense of uniqueness. I think he was very demanding and was a perfectionist...so I'm sure rehearsals were pretty brutal at times! But it paid off. He also brought in a new concept...A Pops Night. People loved this. It was more relaxed, and you could sit at tables around the floor at the Civic (LaPorte Civic Auditorium) and have snacks and listen to the orchestra recreate playful songs. There was always a buzz of excitement when attending those. And I know the musicians loved it, too."

Bryttan also led LSO in celebrating its 10th anniversary. In his three years as music director, he





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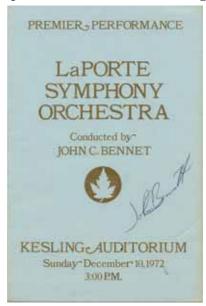
achieved his goal of setting a high performance standard. According to an *H-A* editorial, he not only achieved that objective, but being an unusually communicative director with audiences and the community, put the LSO on the map, so to speak, with the Pops Concert, Young Peoples' Concert and Young Artists performances, as well as visits to Fox Park for outdoor concerts.

Bryttan left the symphony upon accepting a fellowship in Europe.

The 12th season began with David Burris taking over the baton. He was an LSO trumpet player and rehearsal director when Bryttan was not present.

"He was not an orchestral learned person," Bendix told *The Beacher* in an earlier interview. "He was a director and was willing to take it on and go as far as he could. He was a good director. He introduced new things to the orchestra at that time and wanted us to love performing."

Like any conductor, Burris had his vision for the orchestra. In an interview, Utley, a staunch LSO supporter and *South Bend Tribune* special writer, questioned Burris about his goals.



The cover of the first LaPorte Symphony Orchestra program.

"I want to see us grow into a strong regional orchestra and become known all over this area," Burris said in a newspaper article. "I want to further the appreciation of orchestral music in LP school children. For most. it will be the first full orchestra they will have had an opportunity to perform with or even hear."

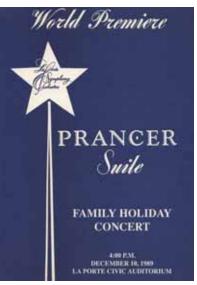
Burris' goals eventually became a reality.

The LSO, in the '80s, performed a

handful of Young People's Concerts on the weekends. After the 1989 concert, Michael Drayton, board member and chair of said concert, along with his late wife, Janet, a Kingsbury Elementary School teacher, sat on their porch discussing the concert's lack of attendance. They both agreed, something needed to change. Janet suggested the concert be held on a school day; it could become an educational field trip. A new vision emerged for an existing program.

With all concerns addressed by Drayton and his team in 1990, the first school bus pulled up to LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Within minutes, three thousand LaPorte elementary children were seated and the LSO's performance began. After, word rapidly spread to area schools. An additional concert was added the following year. By the third year, the format of three concerts, in one day, on the second Wednesday in October, was established.

Today, that welloiled machine continues moving large groups of children in and out of the Civic for three concerts. For years, students from newly named the Kesling Middle School have ushered students from buses inside where LaPorte Service League members assist them to their seats. Every October, the Civic comes to life from the excitement, laughter and applause from children.



The cover for the 1989 concert highlighting Maurice Jarre's score for John Hancock's "Prancer."

A gentleman who attends the concerts annually approached Drayton this year, saying, "You never get tired of this, do you?" 'No, I don't," Drayton said. "Just look at their faces. How could you ever get tired of this?"

In honor of Drayton's service, the annual LCSO Children's Concert was renamed the Drayton Family Children's Educational Concert.

Many changes took place during the Burris years. Facing the loss of funding from the Indiana Arts Council would slow the orchestra's ability to expand. Other challenges, according to articles in *The H-A*, involved attracting string players from farther away.

The LSO turned to a consultant. A survey was conducted and changes began. The recommendation was to pay musicians a small stipend, thus giving them a semi-professional status. Also, the orchestra benefitted by becoming more selective on the musicians hired, along with drawing talent from areas beyond LaPorte County.

The orchestra continued its growth. The LSO increased the board to 21 members. The foundation for a permanent home was being established with LaPorte Civic Auditorium, and an aggressive campaign for donations was launched.

By this time, the Pops concert was a mainstay. Burris believed it was not only a concert, but also a stage show. To make that point, he invited Tom Milo Big Band to play with the orchestra. Anyone familiar with it knows the upbeat, move-your-feet type of music it played.

Milo calls Burris a good guy, and that he enjoyed the experience with him.



Dave Burris is credited with helping take LaPorte Symphony Orchestra to the next level.

Tom and Fran Milo have been part of the LaPorte music scene since they were young. Musicians, themselves, they understood the importance of having a symphony.

A talented group of individuals during the Burris years also thought outside the box, adding another layer to a growing program.

In its 17th season, "Prancer," John Hancock's 1989 Christmas movie filmed in the area, was to be released prior to LSO's Family Holiday Concert in December.

Carrie Carlson, then executive director and associate conductor (she wore several symphony hats through the years), was struck with an idea after reading a newspaper article about Oscar-winning film composer Maurice Jarre, who wrote the scores for films such as "Doctor Zhivago" and "Lawrence of Arabia."

Carlson knew the string parts for Jarre's "Prancer" score were written out; however, there was no complete score available. Carlson contacted her neighbor, Ella Mae Hancock, whose son, John, was

the film's director. One contact led to another, and eventually they reached Jarre. The idea of "Prancer's" score performed live appealed to Jarre. He set aside what he was working on, taking on much of the expense preparing the "Prancer" orchestral score. On Dec. 10, 1989, Carlson conducted the LSO in the world premiere of "Prancer Suite." The piece is owned by LSO and part of its music library.

After the first concert of the 20th season, Burris stepped away to focus on his business. A two-year search then ensued, with five candidates vying for the position. At the start of the 22nd season in 1994, the baton went to Philip Bauman. Not wasting any time, he scheduled an impressive program.

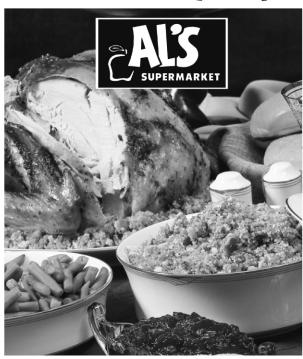
During its 24th season, the orchestra changed its name to LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, recognizing members and supporters come from all parts of the county.

With Bauman, the symphony took off regionally. "Philip helped us to grow tremendously," Bendix said. "He really worked at it."

Fran Milo, a former board member, said, "He began the commingling of individuals who were more professionally affiliated for some key roles. That began a building block apparatus for attracting better and more quality musicians. That's not to take away from the musicians who were there from the very earliest supporting and playing in the symphony."

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Drayton said, "He was marvelous, absolutely marvelous. He brought the symphony from where they were to being a top-notch playing symphony."

During Bauman's time, Sheryl Edwards, a newly appointed board member and an accomplished vocalist, was asked to come up with fundraising ideas.



Phil Bauman is photographed at his final performance with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra in May 2018.
Archival photo by Bob Wellinski.

"As a vocalist, my focus was centered upon pairing singers with an orchestra in a way that would be lucrative for the orchestra. 'American Idol.' a televised vocal competition. was popular at the time and...sparked an idea," Edwards said.

With approval from Bauman and the board, and help from then-LCSO Executive Director Tonya McGue, Hoo-

sierSTAR, an amateur vocal competition, made its debut in 2006 and is still going strong.

Of Bauman, Edwards has said, "If he had not been willing to take on all the work...on his part to ensure the success...HoosierSTAR would have never hit the...Civic stage.

HoosierSTAR has grown, proving to be more than a successful fundraiser. Talented amateur vocalists perform with the orchestra, providing a wide variety of entertaining music.

Alastair Willis, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra music conductor, heard Executive Director Tim King talking about HoosierSTAR. He asked him, "Do you realize you are the only symphony in the entire United States that has that kind of program?" A world-class conductor, Willis was honored

to conduct HoosierSTAR for three years and this past September was a judge.

(Willis also is a conductor of the Qatar Philharmonic.)

In May 2018, Bauman left the orchestra after 24 years. Once again, the orchestra began the search for a new music director. Midway through the process, the COVID-19 pandemic prolonged the search from two to three years. Despite the pause, King, with support from Interim Music Director Chuck Steck, the board and musicians all navigated the challenges and continued performing first virtually, then in person. It was the only Indiana orchestra to do so. In November 2020, the conductor search continued. By May 2021, Dr. Carolyn Watson was selected to lead LCSO.

Steck, associate conductor and principal trumpet player, best describes LCSO's music director.



In this November 2021 archival photo by Bob Wellinski, Dr. Carolyn Watson, the new LCSO music director, is humbled after learning about the proclamation of "Dr. Carolyn Watson Day" in LaPorte.

"Carolyn Watson brings to our community a tremendous love of music, and she communicates this with such great, amazing passion," Steck was quoted as saying in LCSO's 50th anniversary commemorative book. "She has an energy that is absolutely overflowing. It is a great privilege and joy to have her with us now."

As the orchestra begins its 50th anniversary concert

series, Watson is making sure to include at least one work from every concert of the orchestra's inaugural year into each program this year.

"The LCSO is incredibly well-positioned to move

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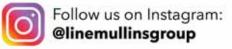
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into its next 50 years and even beyond," she said. "One of the unique things about this organization is the level of community support the LCSO enjoys – we see that from our fantastic audiences, enthusiastic corporate sponsorship and the generosity of individual members, along with the LCSO musicians themselves, board members and staff, and the many volunteers who give unflinchingly of their time. We also saw that quite literally these past months as well, in the form of the physical banners featuring the LCSO musicians lining Lincolnway and other locations in downtown La Porte and Michigan City."



HoosierSTAR, seen here in the archival photo by Bob Wellinski, has become one of the symphony's premier fundraisers

King is credited as well for helping LCSO transition and grow through his exemplary leadership and knowledge.

"In looking at the next 50 years of the LCSO, my hope is that people in La Porte County realize what a rare gem they have in this orchestra," he said. "Other areas with similar population sizes around the United States simply do not possess a symphony orchestra in their midst. Thanks to all who have supported the LCSO for the past 50 years.

"And now, it's onward and upward!"

LCSO Kicks off 50th Anniversary

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra opens its 50th anniversary season with "Americana," a salute to American composers, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The concert opens with Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," followed by Joan Tower's "Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman." Rounding out the program's first half are selections from Copland's "Rodeo."

For the second half, Music Director Dr. Carolyn Watson and the LCSO will be joined by three vocalists during renditions from Gershwin's "Porgy & Bess" and Bernstein's "West Side Story." Soloists are soprano Amanda Sheriff, tenor Alexander Scheuermann and bass-baritone Nicholas Davis. The concert also will include five high-schoolers who will serve as student apprentices for the 2022-2023 season: Kyra Krachinski, flute, Michigan City High School; Zach Kabacinksi, trumpet, Berrek Ohime, trumpet, and Eliott Yrastorza, all of LaPorte High School; and Theo Smith, tuba, La Lumiere School.

An instrument petting zoo, sponsored by Quinlan & Fabish Music Co., is from 6-6:45 p.m. on the main floor with musicians demonstrating various instruments.

Single balcony tickets are \$22 for adults and \$20 for seniors (60 and older). Students are free. Tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/ye97yemt or Roxy Music, LaPorte. They also will be available at the door the evening of the concert. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Share Your Memories

Over the years, countless individuals, organizations and businesses have helped shape what LCSO has become. Anyone involved with LCSO in any capacity and has a favorite memory or photo to share can email it to executive@lcso.net





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LaPorte County Symphony









Years ago, a national organization acknowledged LaPorte was the smallest city in the country, without a university, to have a symphony orchestra. To celebrate how it has grown, we've included photos from over the years.

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Orchestra Over the Years





Lost and Found

The doorbell chimed. I darted to the side door in time to wave at the UPS driver before he climbed into his brown truck. Retrieving the cardboard box from behind the arborvitae, I puzzled at the return address. My old address. The house where I'd lived for nearly two decades before moving full time to Duneland Beach a handful of years ago.

What on earth could this be?, I wondered.

Over the years, I've kept in touch with the family who purchased my late 1880s Victorian in Hinsdale. At first, I swapped regular emails with the new homeowners about the mechanics of the old house, its rich history and the companies I trusted servicing it. After my family's change of address expired with the post office, the couple continued to forward anything that landed in their mailbox or on their doorstep. Occasionally, it was a large envelope, but never something as large as the UPS box.

Before I could open the carton, my cell phone buzzed. A text message from Kassie, my youngest daughter, alerting me that her inbound flight to South Bend was on time. That left me with barely enough time to gas up, get to the airport and figure out dinner before my other daughter pulled into the driveway. My adult children were converging upon my Duneland Beach home for a family outing the following day. I grabbed my purse and car keys and left the unopened box on the dining room table.

At the airport curb, Kassie hugged me hard. Once we were on our way to Michigan City, she asked, "Did you look through the house again? For your jewelry?"

Not trusting my voice, I shook my head. Since my husband's funeral last spring, I've been unable to find the pouch of jewelry I'd worn that weekend. The case contained my favorite things. Items my husband gifted me for anniversaries and birthdays during our 37-year marriage. Sickened by the loss, I've scoured the lake house and my place in Florida many times. I suppose the pouch might have fallen out of my hand luggage during one of the airplane flights or taxi rides to and from O'Hare. I do not want to believe someone I allowed in my home to fix the air conditioning or paint the dining room would have stolen the small jewelry case. If they did, I hope the jewelry resolved a financial burden.

"It might still turn up, Mom," Kassie assured me.

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That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



I gave her a doubtful look and changed the subject.

At home, I pulled out dinner options from the fridge and asked Kassie to set the table. She headed to the dining area armed with place mats and silverware and returned to the kitchen with the UPS delivery.

"What's in the package?" she asked.

I took it from her and grabbed a sharp knife. "Let's open it."

I slit the box along its seam and popped open the corners. Under the packing material was a flower-patterned keepsake box, one I remembered well. Seeing it took my breath away. Taped to the lid was a note from the owners of my old house: We came upon this box of photos after unpacking the study following its remodel. Sorry for the delay!

I looked at Kassie, my eyes bright. "Amazing. I hadn't even realized this box of photos was missing."

Lifting the lid, I grabbed a handful of pictures, fanning them out on the countertop. Kassie and I stood in the kitchen thumbing through the old photographs. Somewhat discolored and withered, our selections nonetheless revealed precious family moments. There were snapshots of birthday parties, Easter egg hunts, Halloween costumes and the chaos of Christmas morning. Slivers of a magical time – a joyful, yet hectic period – when my four children were in the heart of their school-aged years. No longer babies yet not quite teenagers.

I sighed, amazed that this box had not made it into the family albums. And that it had been neglected during the packing frenzy of our move six years ago. Kassie took the collection into the sun porch and spread out, sorting the snapshots into piles. When my other daughter arrived, she called out to her to join the photo fun. As I finished dinner preparations, their shrieks of laughter and sharing of stories filled me with pleasure. It was wonderful to have the girls together, reminiscing and clearly enjoying one another's company. The forgotten box of photographs showing up as it did was an unexpected gift for all of us.

It occurred to me then how my missing jewelry could be replaced, but the box of photographs and the memories associated with them could not. I sent a little prayer off into the night sky, hoping that one day my little pouch of treasures might someday just show up like the box of photographs had.



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Here is what that means to a person or couple wanting to buy the same house. We are calculating needed monthly and yearly income based on the buyer not wanting to commit more than 25% of their income to a mortgage, even though theoretically they can borrow up to 43% of their income for all their debts, including taxes on the house, insurance and car payments.

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2020	500k	400k	1,796	7,184	86K
2022	600k	480k	3,193	12,772	153k

Startling differences, indeed, in how much a buyer has to make to buy the same house with an 80% mortgage just 30 months later based on the combined changes in house value and mortgage interest rates. No wonder lenders are crying about lack of business.

But the marketplace in our "Indiana Lakefront" market is not so negative. In the less than \$1 million range, 40 houses sold in the last four months. There are only 20 for sale; more buyers than sellers. Also, 55% of the 40 houses sold in fewer than 30 days for 99% of asking price.

The marketplace over \$1 million sales price is not quite as positive. Seven sales in the last four months, with an inventory of 12 houses for sale at the end of the 4 months. But 4 of those 7 houses sold in fewer than 30 days for an average 102% of their list price. More sellers than buyers, but the prices were appealing to the buyers who actually bought a house.

Dan Coffey C: 269.612.0505 E: Dan@DanCoffey.com

O: 269.469.5635 Ext. 302



Unity Foundation Reveals Lilly Scholarship Finalists









Pictured are (from left) Kayla Campbell, Mirabellah Hernandez, Sydney Hill and Adrian Huizar.









Pictured are (from left) Elisabeth Korell, Tyler Troy, Paloma Valdes and Elizabeth Wadle.

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has announced the eight local high school seniors who are LaPorte County finalists for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship.

Two will be selected for 2023. They will receive: a full-tuition scholarship to pursue a baccalaureate degree at any accredited public or private Indiana college or university, as well as an annual \$900 book stipend.

The program has provided approximately \$5 million in tuition and book stipends to 70 LaPorte County students since 1998.

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The finalists are:

- Kayla Campbell, Michigan City High School.
- Mirabellah Hernandez, New Prairie High School.
- Sydney Hill, LaPorte High School.
- Adrian Huizar, Michigan City High School.
- Elisabeth Korell, LaPorte High School.
- Tyler Troy, LaPorte High School.
- Paloma Valdes, Marquette Catholic High School.
- Elizabeth Wadle, Marquette Catholic High School.

Finalists were selected based on academic achievement, service to others, extracurricular activities and, to a lesser extent, financial need. A committee of local volunteers reviewed the applications, not knowing the names until after the finalists were selected. Next, each finalist will be interviewed, and nominee and alternate names submitted to the Independent Colleges of Indiana Inc., the program's statewide administrator, for the final selection, which will be announced by the end of December.

Visit www.uflc.net or call (219) 879-0327 for additional information about Unity Foundation or the scholarships.

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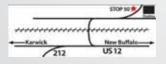
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Michigan City Public Library

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

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

The following programs are scheduled:

• Writing Out Loud: Kaveh Akbar at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Akbar is the author of Pilgrim Bell (Graywolf Press, 2021) and Calling a Wolf a Wolf (Alice James Books, 2017), and the editor of The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse (Penguin 2022). Born in Tehran, Iran, he teaches at Purdue University and Bandel.



Akbar

- at Purdue University and Randolph College and Warren Wilson.
- Virtual Dungeons & Dragons from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9. Youth ages 12-18 can play through Zoom. Stop by Youth Services to pick up a free player's kit. Advance registration is required. Contact Dana in Youth Services at dwolf@mclib.org or (219) 873-3045 for more details. Two new services are available:
- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include <u>Avatar</u>: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney <u>Princesses</u>, <u>Geronimo Stilton</u>, <u>Stranger Things</u>, <u>Locke & Key</u> and <u>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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Boys & Girls Clubs Gala

Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County will host its inaugural Blue Bash gala from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at Blue Chip Casino.

The event will feature a buffet dinner, cash bar



A club member works on a Minecraft "selfie."

and entertainment by emcee David Greer in partnership with DJ Wesley Scully (DJ Nighttrain). Attendees can wear whatever they like, as long as it's blue. More than 300 seats have been claimed at press time.

Tickets are \$85 per person. Make reservations at www.bgclpc.org/bluebash/ through Monday, Oct. 31, subject to availability.

BGCLPC is a nonprofit youth-development

organ-ization offering afterschool clubs at five locations in Michigan City, Westville and Kingsford Heights, in addition to a full-day summer camp. Plans for 2023 include expansion to several additional sites in conjunction with BGCLPC's ongoing Great Futures Capital Campaign.

Fall Art Market Fundraiser

Krasl Art Center will host its Fall Art Market Clay Studio Fundraiser from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 5, on KAC's Oval Lawn, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

The event includes handmade ceramic bowls created by KAC's Clay Artist Guild, gift certificates to local restaurants, gifts from local artists and fall-themed glass from Water Street Glassworks.

Bowls cost \$10-\$15, with all sales supporting clay studio programs at KAC. Additional guild items will be available, with sales supporting the fundraiser and participating guild members.

Participating market artists also include: Nicole Rimes, Vibrations Creations (Shinetta Jelks), Cheryl Meters, Julie Bender and Tina Tavolacci.

Call (269) 983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org for additional information.



Community Concert Association



Empire Wild features (from left) Brando Ilaw, Mitch Lyon and Ken Kubota.

The second LaPorte Community Concert Association program, Empire Wild, is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Kesling Intermediate School auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

Ken Kubota, Brando Ilaw and Mitch Lyon founded the trio. Kubota and Lyon play cello, while Ilaw sings and/or plays cajón, guitar, piano, even ankle bells. All are classically trained, having met at The Juilliard School. They formed Empire Wild to explore all musical genres. Highlights range from "Come Fly with Me" to Bach cello works.

The concert is included in the season ticket package. Tickets also can be purchased at the door for \$20 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Use Door 18 to enter the building. Call (219) 575-1480 for more details.

Veterans Day Parade

The Michigan City Exchange Club will host the Michigan City Veterans Day Parade at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

The parade, which heads north on Franklin Street through the Uptown Arts District (Ninth Street to Fourth Street), will feature area first responders, local businesses, local service organizations and others.

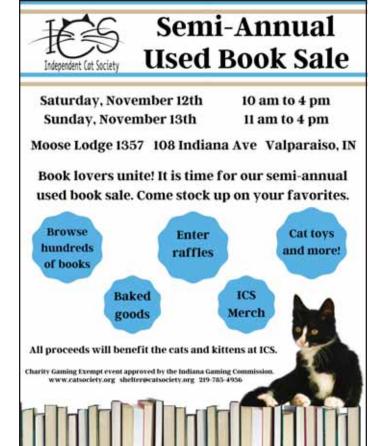
Contact Jim Fisher at (219) 873-7900 or jlfisher@comcast.net for more details.

Dunes Dash

Save the Dunes will host its annual Dunes Dash, which supports it mission of protecting the dunes, on Saturday, Nov. 5, in Ogden Dunes.

The event returns to an in-person format, with a virtual option available. A 5K Run/Walk and 2K Kids Fun Run are planned. All funds raised support Save the Dunes. The event previously was on a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

Race registration is open at www.savedunes.org



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HAPPY HAUNTS

Mother Nature cooperated this Halloween, providing ideal weather for two holiday traditions. First up was the Haunted Trails & Family Fall Fest at Friendship Botanic Gardens, then Washington Park Zoo's "Boo at the Zoo." A press release indicates about 1,100 adults and children stopped by Friendship Botanic Gardens. Washington Park Zoo Director Jamie Huss told *The Beacher* that Boo at the Zoo drew an estimated 2,225 people.

James Conlin took photos at Friendship Botanic Gardens, while Bob Wellinski captured images from Boo at the Zoo.









































"The Good Nurse" keeps you spellbound, locked in an unyielding grip, and it does so with no special effects, no sex or violence, no desire to sensationalize an already sensational true story.

The new Netflix film knows it has a compelling story, so it sticks to telling it as efficiently as possible. And with Oscar-winners Jessica Chastain ("The Eyes of Tammy Faye") and Eddie Redmayne ("The Theory of Everything"), you get two actors at the top of their game.

The movie is based on Charles Graeber's <u>The Good Nurse</u>: A <u>True Story of Medicine</u>, <u>Madness and Murder</u> (2013). The focus was Charlie Cullen, potentially the most prolific serial killer ever. In his 16 years as a nurse, he confessed to killing 40 patients, with at least 29 of them confirmed. Authorities, however, believe the total number of deaths was upwards of 400. His method: inserting insulin and Digoxin into IV bags, the latter used to treat heart failure.

When we first see Cullen (Redmayne), a patient is in cardiopulmonary arrest, doctors trying to save him. Cullen watches, his face a perplexing mask. He seems normal, but detached.

This may be Redmayne's best performance, more so than his Oscar-winning turn as Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything." The actor frequently suffers from what I call the Hugh Grant disease. He stammers, sheepishly looking up at his co-stars. There is none of that here. He plays Charlie as a



"The Good Nurse"

Running time: 121 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language.

bit socially awkward, but otherwise the ideal nurse. Compassionate. Helpful. Understanding. Basically, a good guy. Had we, the audience, not arrived at the film knowing Charlie backstory, Redmayne's performance would offer few clues that anything is off.

He's certainly good to Amy Loughren, his new friend and colleague. She's played by Chastain, and the actress gives us what we expect from her — a smart, determined, intelligent woman — but with a twist. Amy is a mess. She's suffering from a lifethreatening heart issue, but hiding it from the hospital. She hasn't been on the job long enough to get insurance coverage. Charlie seems like the perfect friend who can cover for her at work, help out with her two daughters at home.

Then, deaths start piling up. The first, it seems, is an unfortunate accident caused by an insulin injection. Amy grows reluctantly suspicious, especially when local police commence with an investigation and hospital officials clam up. Most effective is Kim Dickens, one of my favorite actresses from HBO's "Deadwood" and "Gone Girl." She plays a former nurse turned administrator who walks a fine line between suggesting transparency and covering the hospital's tracks. There are times when you can

read the guilt, the hesitancy, all over her face.

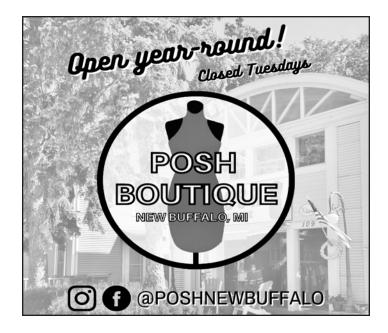
"The Good Nurse" comes down hard on the hospital, and the previous hospitals where Cullen was employed, for refusing to do anything about him. For casting aside suspicions to cover itself.

I kept waiting for "The Good Nurse" to erupt in a frenzy of violence, or queasy scenes of patients dying at Cullen's hands. That never happens. Danish director

Tobias Lindholm (a co-writer on the Oscar-winning "Another Round") and Scottish screenwriter Krysty Wilson-Cairns (an Oscar nominee for "1917") do the right thing. They don't revel in Charlie's grisly exploits. Instead, they make Amy the hero of the story.

And she was. Chastain doesn't treat Amy as a saint. She gives the moments where Amy conceals her heart condition from others a fleeting sense of desperation. Watch her, though, in the scene where she collapses at work, coming to in a hospital bed to find Charlie seated next to her. She's petrified. Eyes flitting between Charlie and the IV, her whole body language shifts, inching away from Charlie, her face still focused on him, trying to make simple conversation. She doesn't want him to know that *she knows*. The performance is a stunning high-wire act.

There are more scenes like that as Amy, working with local police, tries to put up a good front. Redmayne is just as good. The confrontation between Charlie and police near the film's end is like nothing the actor has given us. There is an internal retreat and flashes of abrupt anger.





Noah Emmerich (left) and Nnamdi Asomugha are superb as police officers who turn to Amy for help.

There is a monster lurking within Charlie, no question about it, but Redmayne's take on him is so complex, we're left trying to discern if there is any humanity left.

Chastain and Redmayne deserve Oscar nominations. Ditto Lindholm and Wilson-Cairns. My fear is they will go overlooked if the film is dismissed as a true-crime thriller. It is more than that. It peeks into a heart of darkness, but emerges in the light thanks to a hero. A good nurse.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



"Raymond & Ray" Finds Its Voice by the Midpoint

by Andrew Tallackson



Ewan McGregor (left) and Ethan Hawke star as half-brothers forced into digging their late father's grave in "Raymond & Ray."

Last year, director Rodrigo Garcia reunited with Glenn Close, his "Albert Nobbs" leading lady, for the little-seen "Four Good Days." It was designed as an Oscar bid for the actress, but what should have been raw and exhausting was little more than a Hallmark TV movie with two good scenes.

Garcia's latest, "Raymond & Ray," just debuted on Apple TV+, and the early moments have the same false earnestness as "Four Good Days." Two strong actors — Ewan McGregor and Ethan Hawke - playing siblings forced into carrying out burial plans for their late father. A lot of dialogue, the conversations overly written.

Then, something interesting happens. The more absurd events become, the more grounded in reality Garcia stages them. What exists has the oddly comical air of life at its most perplexing, where you give up trying to make sense of it all and roll with the punches.

Raymond (McGregor) and Ray (Hawke) are halfbrothers estranged by the wedge their now-dead father shoved between them. The man was rotten to the core. The only memories they have of him are shrouded in physical and verbal abuse. Having succumbed to cancer, his will dictates the boys not only preside over his funeral, but also dig his burial site. One final act of cruelty from beyond the grave.



"Raymond & Ray"
Running time: 105 minutes. Apple TV+. Rated R

for language and some sexual material.

We fear "Raymond & Ray" is another redemptive road movie where estranged brothers reignite the bond between them. And Garcia, like with "Four Good Days," does not know how to write dialogue that sounds like how people speak. More, it's speeches. Wordy conversations resembling rehearsed monologues. Hawke and McGregor, try as they might, can't make you believe we are eavesdropping on brothers engaged in conversation.

The turning point is the moment the brothers arrive at the cemetery. Garcia slyly conveys the idea that life is beyond something anyone can control. We have Lucia (the wonderful Maribel Verdú), their father's caretaker...and the mother of his schoolage son. Yep, another sibling. Then, fraternal twins (Chris Grabher and Chris Silcox) turn up. Acrobats whose mother knew their father. Wait...more siblings? A pastor (Vondie Curtis-Hall) arrives...even more confusing, since their father fluctuated between Judaism and other faiths. His hospital nurse (Oscar-nominee Sophie Okonedo) shows up.

It sounds like a circus... and it is. But rather than amp up the situation to ridiculous extremes, Garcia takes a low-key approach, where Raymond and Ray approach everyone with a bewildered air. In truth, they know nothing about their father. There are moments of inspired absurdity (the acrobatic twins performing stunts) and laugh-out-loud shock (Raymond's violent outburst). And through it all is Verdú's Lucia, the actress playing her with brazen entitlement, like a woman unaccustomed to hearing the word "no."



Maribel Verdú (left) and Sophie Okonedo liven things up as the late father's former caretakers.

There is no climactic catharsis in the film, no touching a-ha moment, just two brothers puzzled by life. Hawke and McGregor never lapse into mushy sentiment. Still hardened by life in the end, but more receptive to each other.

I don't suspect Garcia designed his film to be overwhelming. To walk away from it convinced you've

seen one of the year's best. Just a snapshot of two long-alienated brothers open to the idea of being in each other's lives. Somehow, it all works.

 ${\it Contact~Andrew~Tallackson@} \ at \ at all ackson@$ ${\it gmail.com}$

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1. Striking Beauties	23	5		
2. Spare Me	21	7		
3. Pin Pals	17	11		
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE		
1. Ann Bogart		182		
2. Dottie Brinckman		181		
3. Mary Lou McFadden		171		
4. Nancy Kubath		158		
3 STRIKES IN A ROW				
Ann Bogart				
SPLITS				
Sarah Blank		9-10		
Mary Lou McFadden		4-5-7		



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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8.
- LaPorte High School, 602 F St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10.

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.

Gallery After Dark

Performances of winning entries in this year's Copshaholm 125 Arts Competition take center stage in Gallery After Dark at 7 p.m. EST Wednesday, Nov. 9, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

The competition celebrated the 125th anniversary of when the Oliver family moved into its new home on Washington Street — Copshaholm, as they later named it. It features visual arts, written word and music.

Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for members. Reservations are required at www.historymuseumSB.org or by calling (574) 235-9664. The event is supported by the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County and Notre Dame Federal Credit Union.

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JROTC Competes in CyberPatriot

Cadets in Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in the first round of CyberPatriot on Oct. 14.

CyberPatriot is the nation's largest cyber-defense competition where high-schoolers secure virtual networks. One objective is to inspire them toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines.

The MCHS team includes Cadet Sgt. Alexandra



Cadets compete in the first round of CyberPatriot under Ralph Gee's guidance.

Reed, a commander on the Military Drill Team, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Tristan Sherwood, starting right guard on the Wolves football team. Sherwood is applying for the Army ROTC scholarship worth \$180,000. He plans to attend Purdue University in West Lafayette, then serve as a cyber security officer in the U.S.

Army. Ralph Gee, the MCHS technology and engineering teacher, works with students.

The Wolves will compete again in November and December. The December round will determine if the team qualifies for future rounds. The national championship is in the Washington, D.C., area. The activity, like all MCJROTC activities, is done at no cost to students nor MCHS, with the Marine Corps funding all expenses.

In addition to CyberPatriot, the cadets will be busy through Thanksgiving break. They will support Wolves home football games through the playoffs. Veterans Day events include the Nov. 11 ceremony at MCHS, held at 1:30 p.m. in the school gym. The event, which also involves the school band and choir, is open to the public; guests should enter through Door J in the back. Veterans are encouraged to attend, as all services will be honored.

MCHS will host a military drill competition Nov. 12 in the gym. Schools from Indiana and Illinois will participate. Judges are midshipmen from The University of Notre Dame. The meet is from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 1:30 p.m., with free admission.

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Female Middle-Schoolers Explore Non-Traditional Careers at Workshop

The A.K. Smith Career hosted its annual N.E.W. Opportunities Workshop, inviting area middle-school girls to check out career options that may not be on their radar.

The N.E.W. Workshop introduces eighth-grade girls to jobs in which women have been traditionally under-represented. They include: police, fire and EMT first responders; welding, construction and other trades; the military; and several leadership positions with businesses.

The workshop included a keynote speaker, roundtable discussions with industry professionals, and a "see it, try it" segment during which students could explore hands-on elements of these professions.

Apex Filling Systems
CEO Alicia Cannon was the keynote speaker, telling her story of success and lessons she's learned.
CEOs are successful, she said in a press release, because they enjoy meeting challenges, encouraging students to "take the hard classes and find a way to succeed. Don't take the easy A."

And while confidence is significant, Cannon said it is not the most important skill. CEOs need inner



Na'Jai Gunn, an eighth-grade student at Barker Middle School, tries on firefighter gear in the Fire Science classroom at the A.K. Smith Career Center during the annual N.E.W. Opportunities Workshop.

courage, a positive vision of the future and resiliency.

"The strongest leader is a person who can bring people together," she said in a press release. "They may not have all of the answers but, collectively, we can move a team forward."

Companies that participated in the workshop were Big C Lumber, Michigan City Fire Department, U.S. Marines, Rieth-Riley Construction, Superior Ambulance Services, Cleveland Cliffs, Apex Filling Systems, Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, U.S. Army, Indiana Army National Guard, Century 21, Sullair, U.S. Steel, LaPorte County Library, United Airlines, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City Police

Department, Urschel Laboratories, Pulse Technology, A.K. Smith Career Center, U.S. Navy, Howmet Aerospace, MCAS Food Service Department and Purdue University Northwest.

More information about the La Porte County Career and Technical Education program is available at www.EducateMC.net/CTE



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.



Novena to St. Jude

Holy Saint Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, Faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly

beg to whom God has given such great power To come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition, In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to come to my assistance. Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be's. Publication must be promised. St. Jude pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. This Novena has never been known to fail. This Novena must be said for 9 consecutive days.

College Goal Sunday

Financial-aid professionals can guide collegebound students and their families through the process during College Goal Sunday at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Purdue University Northwest, Technology Building, Room 219, Westville.

The free program assists Indiana students in filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form is required to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships and federal student loans at most colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools nationwide. It must be filed by April 15 to be eligible.

Students should attend with their parent(s) or guardian(s), and parent(s) should take completed 2021 IRS 1040 tax returns, W-2 forms and other 2021 income and benefits information. Students

who worked should take income information. Those 24 or older may attend alone and take completed 2021 IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 form or other 2021 income and benefits information. Students and parent(s) are encouraged to apply for their U.S. Department of Education FSA IDs at www.studentaid. gov before logging in to the event.

Volunteers will walk through the online form line by line and answer families' questions as needed. All sites offer FAFSA online capabilities, and many have Spanish interpreters.

Students could win one of five \$1,000 scholar-ships. Those who attend and submit a completed evaluation form are entered in a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship. The winners will be notified in the spring and scholarships sent directly to the higher education institution selected by the winning students.

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Chesterton Art Center

Families can make art together and tour a current exhibit during the free Family Art Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Chesterton Art Center.

Families can explore "Mark My Words" featuring

work by Amos Paul Kennedy Jr., a Detroitbased printer whose layered letterpress posters use patterns words and inspire action. Also on display are zines, prints, artist books and self-published works by regional artists, illustrators and printers. Families learn about, and discuss, the works



A youngster participates in Family Art Day.

with CAC staff, then move to classroom space to create artwork using various printing processes, including monoprints, relief printing and screen printing. All supplies are provided, and folks should dress to get messy.

Registration is required at www.chestertonart. org/classes or call (219) 926-4711.

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



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Indiana Dunes National Park

- Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration from 7-10 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 3-5, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The Indiana Audubon will shed light on Indiana's smallest owl. See them banded following hourly net checks. The program is weather dependent and canceled during rain or high winds. Space is limited. A donation is required. Registration is required at www.indianaaudubon.org/events.
- Shifting Sands presentation and movie screening from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov.
 5, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Regional historian and Shifting Sands author Ken Schoon will discuss the fight to become a national park.
- Great Marsh Trail Hike from 1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Join a ranger for a hike through the remnant of a wetland that once spanned Lake Michigan's southern coast. Park at lots north of U.S. 12 on Broadway in Beverly Shores.
- Gales of November Shipwreck Program from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Learn about the treacherous side of the Great Lakes in a program that focuses on storms and shipwrecks of the past.
- Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike from 1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. Join a ranger for the hike that includes sand dunes and a rare black oak savanna. Meet at 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes.
- Birding for Beginners from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, at the Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Join a ranger to learn techniques. Binoculars are provided.

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.

Indiana Dunes State Park

• Full Moon Hike from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Meet at the Nature Center for a short presentation about the moon, followed by a two-mile moderate hike to Lake Michigan and back. The Friends of Indiana Dunes will provide treats.

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.





LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pickup from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
 The following programs are planned:
- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at the main library. Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, in the main library multipurpose room. The monthly fabric crafting session allows participants to take a project, share ideas and learn new skills.
- Family Pajama Storytime from 6-6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7, in the main library multipurpose room. The program focuses on stories and songs. Guests can wear pajamas and take a favorite stuffed animal.
- Page Turners Book Club from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the main library Meeting Room B. Refreshments will not be served, but guests can take coffee or tea.
- Medicare 101 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, in the main library Meeting Room B.
 The educational presentation is free.
- Artist's Reception from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the main library Meeting Room B. The award presentation for the Isamu Noguchi Art Competition is followed by Liam Hobbs' presentation on "Silver Lake: An Oasis of Education."

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

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In the Area

Nov. 4 — Slow Stitchers Club (All Ages), 11 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 4 — Joel DeGrand mini retrospective, 5-8 p.m., SFC Gallery, 607 Franklin St.

Nov. 4 — Open Studio Night, 6-8 p.m., St. Mary's Arts, 326 W. 10th St. Artists: Diane Grams, Tim Lace, Kuhn Hong, Jane Cowley, Edwin Shelton, Kei Constantinov, Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, Margaret Sullivan, Carol G. Block, Nic Orbovich, Quilters Apothecary, Pancha French.

Nov. 5 — Michigan City Veterans Day Parade, 11 a.m., Uptown Arts District (Ninth Street-Fourth Street). Info: (219) 873-7900, jlfisher@comcast.net

Nov. 5 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, "Americana," 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Single balcony tickets: \$22/adults, \$20/seniors (60 & older), students/free. Tickets: tinyurl.com/ye97yemt, Roxy Music, LaPorte, at door.

Nov. 5 — Writing Out Loud: Kaveh Akbar, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 7 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 8 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 9 — Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 4-6 p.m., through Michigan City Public Library. info: dwolf@mclib.org, (219) 873-3045

Nov. 9 — Isamu Noguchi Art Competition Artist's Reception, 6-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 9 — LaPorte Community Concert Association, Empire Wild, 7 p.m., Kesling Intermediate School auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$5/students through high school. Info: (219) 575-1480.

Through Nov. 19 — Exhibit (39 military uniforms/associated artifacts), LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Dec. 31 — Works by Andrea Bojrab, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church's Legacy Cen-

ter, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 872-9196.

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

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

In the Region

Nov. 3-5 — Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration, 7-10 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Donation required. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 4 — Clem Snide, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 reservation fee, \$50 + \$4.50 reservation fee (VIP). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Nov. 5 — Open house, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Meadowbrook Nature Preserve, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso. Reservations: www.heinzetrust.org/celebrate-meadowbrook

Nov. 5 — Fall Art Market Clay Studio Fundraiser, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www. krasl.org

Nov. 5 – <u>Shifting Sands</u> presentation and movie, 1-3:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Donation required. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 5 — Great Marsh Trail Hike, 1:30-3 p.m., Broadway north of U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 5 — "Gaslights & Granite Boulders," 4 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission: \$25, \$20/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Nov. 5 — Full Moon Hike, 6-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 5 — Marrakesh Express, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 reservation fee, \$60 + \$5.50 reservation fee (VIP). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Nov. 6 — Gales of November Shipwreck Program, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 6 — Tolleston Dunes Nature Hike, 1:30-3 p.m., 5800 U.S. 12, Ogden Dunes. Info: www.nps. gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 6 — Birding for Beginners, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk, 100 Riverwalk Road. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Nov. 6 — Free tour, 2:30 p.m. EST, St. Joseph Polish Roman Catholic Cemetery, South Bend. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Nov. 9 — Gallery After Dark, 7 p.m. EST, The

History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Tickets: \$15, \$10/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through Nov. 11 — LaPorte artist Ginny Scott, Valparaiso's The Village Gallery (Pines Village Retirement Communities). Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Info: (219) 435-1591, www.pinesvillage.org

Through Nov. 13 — New exhibits, "Family Dinner: The Deep Connection of American Lived Experience" & "FOOD for THOUGHT," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Through Nov. 29 — "Mark My Words" exhibit, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through Dec. 23 — 44th Elkhart Juried Regional, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/ adults, \$6/8-12, \$8/13-18 & college students with ID. Info: www.midwestmuseum.us, (574) 293-6660.

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

Vickers Theatre — *Opens Nov. 4*: "Ticket to Paradise." Rated PG-13. See website for hours. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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.

Interwoven Expressions

Interwoven Expressions will present its 37th annual celebration from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton.

Skills on display include: weave, dye, knit, felt, quilt, tat, stitch, design and basketry. Items include holiday ornaments, clothing, contemporary and traditional, home décor and gifts. In addition to regional artists, the 24 participants hail from Three Rivers, Lake Leelanau, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Chicago, Park Forest and West Lafayette.

More information is available at www. InterwovenExpressions.com or Interwoven Expressions on Facebook.

St. Joseph Cemetery Tour

To commemorate Veterans Day, The History Museum will offer a free tour of St. Joseph Polish Roman Catholic Cemetery, South Bend, at 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Nov. 6.

Conducted by The History Museum Archivist Travis Childs, the tour will visit grave sites and markers of local veterans. Participants should meet at the cemetery, which is located at Pinewood Drive and Grant Road. The tour requires a fair amount of walking over uneven ground and will be canceled if the weather is poor. No pets are allowed. Parking is limited.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org or call (574) 235-9664 for more details.





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WANT TO BUY

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

Wanted: Fishing tackle. Buying all kinds of fishing tackle. Tackle boxes, lures, reels, collectibles, Halloween postcards. **Call/text (219) 873-6568**.

WANT TO BUY/RENT/LEASE/SHARE

Single, mature woman from St Louis looking for summer rental in Southwest Michigan. Prefer May-June. Open to shorter rental. Call J. Miller at (314) 707-8941 & please leave message.

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REAL ESTATE RENTALS INDIANA

Sheridan Beach furnished 2BR/1BA rental. Available Oct.-May for \$1,250/mo. Contact leasing@harborandlake.com or (219) 319-1515

Contemporary home close to the beach at Stop 31 available for rent January-December 2023. \$2,100/ month, utilities included. Fully furnished. Will consider 6- or 12-month lease.

Call Tami at (312) 285-8183 for details.

Beautiful upper-level, open-concept 2BR/3BA apt. Large master suite. Close to outlet mall, South Shore Line, bus service, beaches. Off-street private parking. No pets. Non-smoking building. Credit check required. \$1,200/mo., water/sanitation included. Call (219) 861-3720.

RENTALS MICHIGAN

Lovely, furnished Michiana 2BD/1BA cottage, skylights, deck & grill, W/D, 2 blocks to Stop 38 beach, quiet forested area, dreamy! Oct 21-April/May. \$1,250/mo + utilities & Internet. 1,100 sq ft.

Call (415) 548-0498

Small office space for rent in downtown Three Oaks, Mich.

Call (269) 756-3547.

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THE

SNOW CHILD

EOWYN IVEY

-Cleveland Plant Dealer

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

ig and startling ... full of wonder, longing bone, pain, and beaut

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey (paperback, \$16.99 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 389 pages.)

Perusing my bookcases one day, as I often do, of course there will be a book or two that I meant to read, but just never found the time. At last count, I have 2,500+ books — many genres, hardcover and paperback. This is one of those books. And, boy, am I glad I came across it...

"Mabel had known there would be silence. That was the point, after all. No infants cooing or wailing.

No neighbor children playfully hollering down the lane. No pad of small feet on wooden stairs worn smooth by generations, or clackety-clack of toys along the kitchen floor. All those sounds of her failure and regret would be left behind, and in their place there would be silence."

It is the 1920s, and Jack and Mabel have left the home they knew in Pennsylvania for the Alaskan wilderness to begin anew. A life free from the painful remembrance of a stillborn child and the prying eyes of well-meaning relatives and friends. Far away in the Alaskan wilderness, they won't have to hear the sweet laughter of children at play.

It was Mabel who persuaded Jack to make the move, even though they are already middle-aged. The federal government is offering land along the new train route for farmers to homestead. The story opens several years into their Alas-

kan experience. Mabel has had enough and doesn't think she can make it in this life, so she intentionally falls through the ice to drown in the river. Fate steps in and her attempt fails...

When the first hard snowfall of the season comes. Mabel and Jack give in to some childish snowball fighting, followed by making a snow child, complete with mittens, scarf and coat. She almost looks real...

The next morning, the snow child is smashed down, the coat, mittens and scarf gone. There are tiny footprints in the snow. Mabel remembers a book her father used to read to her — a Russian fairy tale about a snow child a childless couple makes and comes to life. She keeps the story to herself while still wondering if such a thing could really happen.

Not long after, the couple begins to see a child watching them from a distance. She is wearing the coat and scarf Mabel put on the snow child. She shyly shows up on their doorstep one day and tells

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



them her name is Faina, but nothing more. How can a child survive in this wilderness on her own? Jack soon finds out she is a clever and successful hunter. bringing them an animal or fish to eat from time to time. But what really is her story?

> Jack and Mabel soon come to love the strange child and think of her as their own. But Faina will not be corralled. She makes it clear the mountains are her home, and each summer, she disappears until the first snow of winter brings her back to the valley and Jack and Mabel.

> George and Betty, friends of Jack and Mabel, and the parents of three teen boys, have lived longer in Alaska, telling them they know of no such child as Faina, fearing the couple has "cabin fever." Their youngest son is a trapper, and one day comes to find out that Faina not only is real, but she becomes his obsession.

> What happens over the years, and how the story ends, makes for a lyrical, beautifully told tale of loss and love, and the heart's ability to never give up. After all, there is always hope

beyond sadness.

The Snow Child is based on a real Russian fairy tale. Transported to the 20th century and Alaska, in particular, is a stroke of genius on Ivey's part. Besides the mystical side of whether Faina is fairy or human, there is the vast wilderness of Alaska that is described in such a loving and realistic way, it makes you think you can hear the cry of the eagle or the rushing water of a mountain stream — not unusual since the author is a native Alaskan.

This is truly a magical read, and it's no surprise it was a finalist for a 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction.

Great reading for the start of the holiday season. And, yes, it is the start — or haven't you been in Walmart, Target or Kohl's lately?! The Christmas decor is sitting right close to the Halloween (now on sale) and Thanksgiving stuff (not yet on sale).

Only 51 days to Christmas! Till next time, happy reading!









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LONG BEACH, IN 5 BED / 5 BATH • 4,294 SF



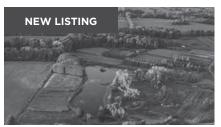
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Carissa Williams

Carissa is a married Mom to 3 beautiful kids. She loves spending time with her family boating, fishing, 4 wheeling and hanging pool side. Carissa and her husband enjoy motorcycle rides by the beach and along the tree covered highways in Michigan. Carissa is dedicated to making real estate transaction easier for everyone she has the opportunity to assist. If you would like to hire Carissa Williams, please call or text her at 219-406-2610 or email her at wcarissa17@gmail.com

to the MTM Team Carissa & Abby!

Abby is a new wife and Mom to one little boy. She is an animal lover who enjoys camping, hiking, and exploring new places with her family. Real estate has always been a passion for her. As a young girl, she designed houses, made herself the agent and sold the homes to her family! Abby is excited to help the community she grew up in find their dream homes. If you would like to hire Abby Bosak, please call or text her at 219-237-8947 or email her at abigailbosakrealtor@gmail.com



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