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“Golden” Opportunities

by Connie Kuzydym

To celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, La-Porte County Symphony Orchestra turned to its retired flutist for a considerable undertaking: producing a keepsake commemorative book.

LCSO’s anniversary committee began meeting two years ago to discuss the year-long golden anniversary celebration. One suggestion was a commemorative book. JoFran Bendix, the symphony’s principal horn and a charter member, mentioned to Executive Director Tim King their retired flutist, Merry Johnson, designed a similar book for Michigan City Municipal Band’s 150th anniversary. Upon seeing the piece, he contacted Merry, who agreed to the task.

The 50th anniversary book debuts at Hoosier Star on Saturday, Sept. 17. It takes a retrospective look at the orchestra, chronicling its history through newspaper articles, photos and program covers. JoFran had scrapbooks containing those items from the orchestra’s inception in 1972 until 2005. For the years after, Merry and Tim gathered information from



Merry Johnson is photographed by *The Beacher*’s Bob Wellinski with the cover for the commemorative book.

the symphony’s archives. Bruce Johnson, the La-Porte County Historical Society Museum president, also assisted them. Between their memories, Merry and JoFran filled in the rest.

Much of Merry’s time involved scanning years worth of documents. It was quite an undertaking. She enjoyed learning about LCSO’s first 10 years, which she was not a part of it. In 1982, she began her 33-year tenure with the orchestra, experiencing firsthand its growth over time.

Given latitude, Merry’s creativity flows in the book’s design and layout. She moves the reader effortlessly through highlights of the orchestra’s history by utilizing musical tempo terminology where noticeable growth occurred.

The book opens with the “Prelude,” an introduction that sets the tone with a brief overview and pictorial look at today’s LCSO. Briefly thereafter begins the “Adagio” (1972-1983), meaning slow and leisurely. These pages feature the early days and development of

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LaPorte Symphony Orchestra through various conductors. “Allegro” (1984-1992), a brisk, lively tempo, came under the direction of David Burris. With the board voting to pay a nominal stipend to its talented musicians, the orchestra became a professional entity. Burris took an active role in developing the orchestra and its exposure to the public. Before the next tempo change arrives in the book, the search for a new conductor is covered. When Phil Bauman picked up the baton during the years of “Presto” (1994-2019), the pace rapidly increased.

“At least that’s how I thought of it anyways,” Merry said. “We were doing more difficult pieces.”

since she took over, one can only describe the transformation as *felice*, or “happy.”

Creating the book brought back wonderful memories of the time Merry spent with LCSO.

“It was the camaraderie,” she said. “I grew with the orchestra to a certain point, and I thought that was good.”

It also brought up fond childhood memories.

“I loved playing every (LCSO) Children’s Concert. That was my favorite thing,” Merry said. “We’d play three concerts in one day. It brought back memories of my own childhood when every year we’d go to hear the Detroit Symphony play their children’s concert.”

A lot of work goes into the type of project Merry embraced with the commemorative book, and she gave selflessly of her time and talent to make it a



Merry Johnson, a former flutist with LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra for 33 years, took on the project of creating a commemorative book for LCSO’s 50th anniversary. Photo by Bob Wellinski

Before the movement ended, the 2019-2020 “Bravo, Maestro!” search began. With two subscription concerts completed, COVID-19 brought everything to a screeching halt. Fortunately, LCSO reimagined itself and was one of the few orchestras in the country continuing to play, allowing it to complete the search.

“Encore” (2020 to the present) includes the selection of Carolyn Watson as the new music director who brings a vibrance to the orchestra. In the year

reality.

“I’m indebted to her, for sure, for her work on it,” Tim said. “She’s done an amazing job with this, and to give of her time, too, that was amazing as well, and she was a joy to work with.”

□

Merry grew up in Birmingham, Mich., attending Michigan State University and majoring in music. When she met her husband, John, she chose to step

back from college, but set a goal that one day she would finish her degree. They married and raised their family in Gaylord, Mich., until John's job brought them to Michigan City in 1980. Arriving in the area, they made a stop at LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Merry noticed a brochure for the LaPorte Symphony Orchestra.

"I just thought that was wonderful. I just had come from a small town and had begun to play my flute again," Merry said. "I thought moving to Michigan City, there would be more cultural things there. To find out they had a symphony orchestra was pretty cool. Then to find out they had two municipal bands, LaPorte and Michigan City, that was exciting."

As fate would have it, the first people she met in the area were her veterinarian and his wife. They were musicians who played for LaPorte Symphony Orchestra. They extended an invitation for her to play in "Michigan City Messiah," which she did for more than 20 years.

Merry learned Michigan City Municipal Band had an opening, so she contacted band director Guy Foreman. She explained she had played for Leonard Falcone, who was well-known as a virtuoso on the baritone horn, but was best known as MSU's director of bands. Not missing a beat, Foreman replied, "Anybody who played under Falcone can play in my band."

Forty years later, this is the only "gig" Merry continues playing.

She shared her musical talents for 30 years as a member of LaPorte Municipal Band. She also was in Windiana, Silver String Trio, Duneland Flute Quartet and the Chamber Winds Quintet.

She touched the lives of many area students, giving private flute lessons. To her, the importance of one-on-one time is that it gives students the oppor-



Art has always been a part of Merry Johnson's life.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

tunity to truly learn their instrument.

Merry came from a family of artists and musicians. Her father, a writer, and his brother, a fine artist doing graphic arts, worked in advertising agencies connected to the automobile industry in the Detroit area. Her mom also was artistic. Her sib-

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lings — two brothers and a sister — were musicians.

Merry’s parents nourished their children’s creativity, whether it was musically or artistically. Her mother chose the flute for her, as its size was easy to carry. Merry began playing at age 9.

“I always loved Crayola’s and I loved my flute,” Merry said. “My flute was my friend, and my Crayola’s were my pals.

“My mom would draw paper dolls, she would draw clothes and I would color them...It was during the war, we didn’t have anything,” she continued. “Toys were either wood or paper during World War II, and that’s what we learned to make stuff out of.”

Today’s world offers so many distractions to children, it is harder for them to focus on simpler things, like using their imagination.

“I’m sure you can remember as a child pretending and making things out of stuff. We didn’t have all the stuff made for us...We did creative things. Kids don’t have that anymore,” Merry said. “I feel like they are missing out...Rather than sit there with computerized games and stuff like that, get hands-on instead of artificial stimulation.”

As the years went by, Merry stayed connected with her music and art through various opportunities wherever she lived.

Merry started as a street artist in Gaylord. For about five years, she sat on a street and did portraits. Coming into this area, she did the same at Garwood Orchard Apple Fest. She also garnered commission work from people wanting a painted portrait using a photograph as the model.

In 2000, the time finally arrived for her to accomplish the goal she set for herself all those years ago.

“I was craving something,” she said. “I wanted more.”

So, in her 60s and being empty nesters, Merry began the journey to complete her college degree. Surprisingly, all her credits from MSU transferred to Indiana University-South Bend. Besides the necessary credits for her major, she needed a handful of



Merry’s painting “Boston” was chosen by Indiana’s lieutenant governor to grace the walls for one year at the state capitol.

non-major courses to complete her schooling.

The travel to and from South Bend four times per week was the most difficult part. Along with taking two classes per semester, she worked, continued with private flute lessons and had a myriad of musical commitments.

“It took me seven years, but I loved it,” Merry said. “There’s nothing like being a nontraditional student going back to school. I started out with graphic design...but then I wanted to go into fine arts. I changed my major to fine arts and got a degree in painting.”

Merry had numerous successes with her art while at IUSB. She won various awards; however, the biggest honor came when one of her paintings was chosen by Indiana’s lieutenant governor to grace the walls for one year at the state capitol.

While battling cancer in 2007, she spent time during chemotherapy painting the series “America on Wheels: Vintage Reflections.” Using old photographs, she painted more than 30 black-and-white works featuring cars, airplanes, bikes, buggies — anything with wheels.

The first in the series won an award at IUSB. Another was purchased by the dean of fine arts because it reminded him of his uncle’s farm.

More about Hoosier Star

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will host its annual Hoosier Star fundraiser at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Youth division (17 and younger) candidates are:

- Lauren Eggleston, South Bend.
- Savannah Holley, Michigan City.
- Luke Housman, Rensselaer.
- Krishaa Motycka, Terre Haute.
- Addison Stout, Fort Wayne.

The adult division candidates (18 and older) are:

- Laurel Blankenship, LaPorte.

- Maddy Haskell, Lake Station.
- Jessica Johnson, Michigan City.
- Shania Povlock, LaPorte.
- Julia Thorn, Crown Point.

The judges are: Alastair Willis, South Bend Symphony Orchestra music director; Lou Voelker of the music group Cripple Creek; and local musical theater favorite Greta Stirling Friedman.

Tickets, which cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children, are available at www.lcso.net, Roxy Music or the Civic. The event also is live-streamed as pay-per-view on the website.

"It makes you feel good when somebody likes what you do," Merry said.

That same year, she finally achieved her goal. Merry received her bachelor's degree.

Her artist's eye is constantly looking at photos as the source for her next piece. Merry is well-versed in pastels, watercolor, oil and charcoal. As a street artist, she used charcoal for her portraits. Later, she switched to oils for the "America on Wheels" series. Understanding the color theory of the impressionists, she embraced pastel for her landscapes. For several years, she took watercolor classes and portraiture with Michigan City artist Neil Kienitz. She also thoroughly enjoyed embracing the process of bronze sculpting.

How has Merry achieved a balance between her music and artistic endeavors? A professor once commented that she could not do both. She had to pick one. Instead, she thought to herself, "I can do whatever I want. I'll do whatever I want."

And so, she did.

Merry admits her life has been busy, and she thoroughly enjoys all she has done and continues to do. John and Merry have been married 61 years and have three daughters, Jackie, Jennifer and Jeanne, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Merry is content with not having an overcrowded social life, which allows her to pursue various interests, including gardening. There is a lot to her, with a calm nature, a gleam in her eyes, an unwavering



Merry provided this photo of a large family gathering.

drive behind her. Quiet, yet possessing a wonderful sense of humor.

Even today, she does not rest on her laurels, but is contemplating a comment made by her professor: "To do anything with art, you would need to get a master's degree."

"I still may want to do that. So, when do you stop growing? Life just keeps going on," Merry said. "I have a lot of plans to do things. I'm not quitting until God says you can't do that anymore."

(Visit www.merryangelo.com for more information on Johnson.)

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All Inspiration for “Pinocchio” Starts and Ends With Hanks

by Andrew Tallackson



When we first see Tom Hanks as Geppetto in “Pinocchio,” the effect is so perfect, you entertain the notion that this Disney+ update isn’t totally pointless. With a shock of white hair and bushy mustache, tinkering away at a mechanical wonder, Hanks is such a gentle presence, no other actor could pull this off so beautifully.

Consider, too, that the film’s director and co-writer, longtime Hanks collaborator Robert Zemeckis (“Forrest Gump,” “Cast Away,” “The Polar Express”), packs the opening scene with so many inside jokes — each cuckoo clock features a beloved Disney character — we prep for greatness.

That euphoria lasts 15 minutes. There are delightful moments, to be sure. But for the most part, this retelling of the 1940 Disney classic signals the continued fall from grace for Zemeckis.

Part of the problem is Disney itself. Lacking in new ideas, it simply regurgitates animated classics as live-action films. The result is crassly cynical. Moviemaking without a soul.

The 1940 original was just shy of 90 minutes. The Zemeckis update, co-written with Chris Weitz (“About a Boy,” “Rogue One”), packs on an additional 20 minutes to what otherwise is a scene-for-scene remake. What’s new? Four forgettable songs by Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, who were in top form in “The Polar Express.” New or needlessly fleshed out characters, like Luke Evans as The Coachman and Kyanne Lamaya as puppeteer Fabiana.

What works? Oscar-nominee Cynthia Erivo (“Harriet”) is a treat as the Blue Fairy. Ditto Benjamin Evan Ainsworth as the voice of Pinocchio. He’s filled with so much good cheer, he breathes considerable life into the role.

The CGI used to bring characters to life is solid, although I expected more from Zemeckis, who with “The Polar Express” elevated motion-capture technology to an animated art form. His films (“Be-



“Pinocchio”

Running time: 110 minutes. Disney +. Rated PG for peril/scary moments, rude material and some language.

owulf” and “A Christmas Carol,” included) couldn’t get the eyes right, but the characters moved with newfound freedom. Here, in “Pinocchio,” it’s like we are watching cartoons inserted into a photo realistic world. The effect is disappointing.

Pleasure Island, though, is recreated in all its dangerous glory. That part of the original, to me, was the most terrifying: a place where naughty boys and girls are transformed into donkeys. As a child, the message was loud and clear: misbehave... and suffer the consequences. As an adult, I appreciate the fable behind it, that as parents, nothing is more terrifying than sending your child out into the world, hoping they make the right decisions.

With Pleasure Island depicted as delirious childhood chaos, we know what comes next. Monstro the whale, which slurps up Pinocchio and Geppetto, forcing the two to smoke their way out of the belly of the beast. When it comes to innovation, Zemeckis has reinvented the wheel for so long (“Who Framed Roger Rabbit?,” “Death Becomes Her,” “Forrest Gump,” the “Back to the Future” trilogy), we brace for one whopper of a finish. So, it comes as a shock, when Monstro turns up, that we get truly terrible awful no-good effects. Laughable, even, like Geppetto and Pinocchio on their raft. How to convey the shoddiness of it? Well, it’s like TV shows where someone’s driving a car and you can tell the background is fake.

What happened? Zemeckis was once a master of his craft. This, by comparison, this, well, is the work of a hack.

Contact Andrew Tallackson atallackson@gmail.com



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Writing Out Loud 2022 Lineup Unveiled

Writing Out Loud's 38th season kicks off Saturday, Sept. 24, at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

The program began in 1984 through an Indiana Humanities grant. Thirty-eight seasons later, it has hosted authors such as Joyce Carol Oates, Brad Meltzer, Andrew Greeley, Sara Paretsky, Ann Beattie and Robin Moore.

All programs are at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays. The schedule is:

- Anna-Lisa Cox on Sept. 24. Cox is an award-winning historian of 19th-century America, with a special focus on the frontier and rural Midwest. She is a Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Lapham's Quarterly* and *The New York Times*. Her original research underpinned two exhibits at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Her recent book, *The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America's Forgotten Black Pioneers and the Struggle for Equality*, was honored by *Smithsonian* magazine as one of the best history books of 2018. She just completed a major project for the Library of Congress Folklife Center collecting oral histories from multi-generational African-American farmers in the Midwest. In addition to working on her next book, she is leading the "Questioning Conversation" video series project for the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.
- Emily Gray Tedrowe on Oct. 8. Tedrowe is the Chicago-based author of the novels *The Talented Miss Farwell*, *Blue Stars* and *Commuters*. She earned a doctorate in English literature from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University. She received an Illi-



nois Arts Council award, as well as fellowships from the Ragdale Foundation, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Sewanee Writers Conference. A frequent book reviewer for *USA Today* and other publications, she writes essays, interviews and short stories.

- Brando Skyhorse on Oct. 22. Skyhorse's debut novel, *The Madonnas of Echo Park* (Simon & Schuster, 2010), received the 2011 PEN/Hemingway Award and Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The book also was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. *Take This Man: A Memoir* (Simon & Schuster, 2014) was an Amazon Best Book of the Month selection and named by Kirkus Reviews as one of the Best Nonfiction Books of the Year. Skyhorse has co-edited an anthology, *We Wear The Mask: 15 True Stories of Passing in America* (Beacon Press, 2017). He has been awarded fellowships at Ucross Foundation, the Breadloaf Writers' Conference and was the 2014-2015 Jenny McKean Moore Writer-In-Washington at George Washington University. He is an associate professor of English at Indiana University-Bloomington.
- Kaveh Akbar on 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 in the low-residency Master of Fine Arts programs at Randolph College and Warren Wilson. He serves as poetry editor for *The Nation*.



Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more details.

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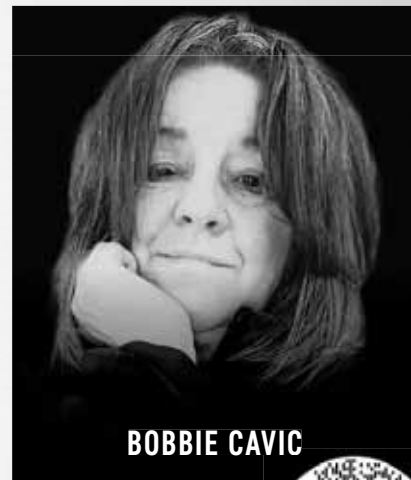
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LaPorte County Parks Department to Open New Nature Park

It was back in 2000 when Wilmer Sebert decided he'd like to see his 40 acres in northern LaPorte County be preserved for others to enjoy.

Working with the late Leon Dargis from Harbour Trust Investments, Sebert donated his land to the LaPorte County Park Foundation with the understanding it would eventually become open to the public. The big question was how to make this happen without breaking the budget, along with staffing constraints. After all, the land does not lend itself well to development due to its wetlands and high-quality woodlands.

Now, Sebert's dream officially becomes a reality when the park department hosts a grand opening at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, for the new Sebert Woods County Park, 3608 W. County Road 925 North, Michigan City. The event includes a guided nature hike by the Department of Natural Resources Nature Preserves staff, which will help explain more about the property's history.

Park Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki visited the property shortly after taking his position in 2015.

"It is a high-quality boreal forest relic with amazing plant species that you don't normally see in Indiana," he said in a press release. "This property is really special and needs to be our next park."

The idea of what this park would look like, however, was different for everyone.

"Our other parks have built environments, shelters, playgrounds, rental facilities. This park, as it is now, will never be that," he said. "Not all parks and properties are created equal, but that doesn't mean a property doesn't deserve to be a park and available for all to enjoy."

Because of its unique habitat and quality, the entire property was dedicated as an Indiana State Nature Preserve with the Indiana DNR in 2021. The proximity to Lake Michigan, wet and sandy soils and cooler weather all factor in to the habitat present on the property.

There is, however, one other major contributor to the unique setting. Sand was harvested off the property many years ago. Evidence of this can

be seen throughout the property. The trail follows lanes park staff suspect were access roads where equipment and trucks moved sand. The hill the trail traverses was most definitely man made, where topsoil was scraped off so sand could be taken out of the area north of the hill. This disturbance set back



The late Wilmer Sebert donated his land to LaPorte County Park Foundation in hopes it would become available to the public.

succession over most of the property, allowing many of the early species such as Paper Birch to thrive.

"Wilmer passed away in 2004 (his wife, Rose, in 1991) and was not able to see his property officially become a park, but we hope that they would be happy to know that it is now open to the public," Sobecki said. "This would not have happened if not for the generous donation of the land by Mr. Sebert and the help of the LaPorte County Park Foundation to hold on to the property until we decided what to do with it. Without willing donors and a great partner in our Park Foundation, our parks department wouldn't be what it is today."

There are plans to add some benches and informational signage in the future, but for the most part, the property will remain simple. If the ½ mile trail is not long enough for visitors, they can head across the street and visit Wintergreen Woods, where there is another trail managed by the LaPorte County Conservation Trust.



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LaPorte County Veterans Exhibit on Display at Museum

A special exhibit of 39 military uniforms and associated artifacts is on display through Nov. 19 at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Uniforms from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War, Korean War and Desert Storm/Gulf War are displayed around the museum, along with other artifacts from each war. An exhibit catalog is available to learn more about the people who wore the uniforms. Anyone who would like to keep the catalog is asked to make a donation.

Museum Director Danielle Adams researched and curated the exhibit with help from Bruce Johnson, Jacey Dare, Katrina Partlow, Rich Mrozinski and Emily Graves, an intern who previously worked on a veterans display for the museum in 2021.

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Some Enchanted Evening II



The Surabhi Ensemble is a collective of music and dance artists.

“Some Enchanted Evening II,” School of American Music’s annual end-of-summer outdoor benefit, is at 7 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 17, on Spring Creek Stage.

The venue is located at 14 Maple St., at the edge of Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks, Mich. The event sponsor is new Harbor Country resident Neil Hackler.

Eventgoers typically arrive early to set up elaborate picnic dinner spreads in a competition that brings settings ranging from theme-based formal dinner tables to picnic-basket dinners on a blan-

ket. The lawn opens at 5 p.m. EDT, and prizes are awarded for creative dining concepts. Details will follow if the weather is poor.

The program will feature Indo-Flamenco dance and music presented by the Surabhi Ensemble. A collective of music and dance artists with connections to Indian, Spanish, Senegalese and Arabic cultures, the ensemble will depict the Andalusian Trail through world music, including Flamenco, Indian, Arabic and West African beats. The Andalusian Trail is the path from India to the Middle East to North Africa and across the Mediterranean into Andalusia, Spain, that led to the foundation of Andalusian and flamenco music.

Tickets, which cost \$50, can be purchased by calling (269) 409-1191 or at www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. Proceeds benefit SAM’s Future Fund, the fundraising campaign to establish an endowment for the school. Every dollar donated to the fund is matched by the Michiana Arts Foundation.



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New Activities Slated for UMW Arts & Crafts Show

LaPorte First United Methodist Church's UMW will host the eighth annual Arts & Crafts Show from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2.

The event, which started eight years ago with fewer than 20 vendors, now boasts 100 artists and crafters. Vendors are in three buildings accessible for people with disabilities. Parking and admission are free.



This year, the show also includes horse-drawn wagon rides, a children's activity tent and free face painting. The newly added features, according to a press release, are designed to attract more families. A small fee will be charged for the wagon ride. Children 3 or older then can pick out a pumpkin and enter the Children's Activity Tent,

where they can decorate their pumpkins and participate in other activities. Proper ID and contact information will be taken when the child arrives at the tent and is picked up. Also, no parent or unauthorized person can enter the tent or stay there while children are present.

A professional face painter will decorate the faces or arms of visitors from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Women from the church will provide lunch items and pie slices for sale.

NB Library Community Forum

Gary Lange, founder of what he calls the "biggest little baseball museum" in Three Oaks, Mich., will discuss America's pastime at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Lange will cover amateur and pro teams, baseball card collecting and a brief history of African Americans in baseball. The library Community Forum program, sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library, is free.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

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Rotarians Celebrate Legacy of Service at Beloved Grafton Mural



Rotarians and community members gather at the site of the mural. Photo provided by Betsy Kohn

Rotary Club of Michigan City members and local residents recently gathered at the former Elston Middle School to celebrate the legacy of Rotary service to the community.

The focus was the school lobby wall, the site of the giant mural donated in 1925 by local Rotarians. The artist was nationally recognized painter Robert Wadsworth Grafton.

"The painting is both a historic and artistic treasure," Kirk Rogers, Michigan City Historical Society president, said in a press release.

The mural is painted on three panels, with the center panel measuring 32x10 feet. It is a mostly accurate representation of the area at the mouth of Trail Creek just a few years after the first settlers

arrived in 1833. By 1840, Michigan City was a busy shipping port for commerce between the east and the developing middle west. Even a wagon pulled by oxen is shown bringing goods to the port. Dock workers, traders, fishermen and Native Americans are depicted, with local teachers, students and citizens having served as models.

The most striking feature is the giant sand dune known as the Hoosier Slide, which later was sold off to manufacture glass.

From 1925-1980, generations of Michigan City students sitting in the Elston High School Study Hall saw the mural. As renovation of the school commenced, the mural was restored and moved to the entryway of the adjacent junior high school. In 2004, that school was remodeled as a middle school and the mural moved to its current location in the school lobby.

Grafton primarily was active in Michigan City, although he spent much time in Chicago and traveled extensively. He studied at the Chicago Academy of Design, then at The Art Institute of Chicago. He later studied at the Academie Julian in Paris, as well as in Holland and England.

Matt Kubik discussed the mural at the Rotary meeting.

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Websites, Contemporary Art and Digital Storage



A scene from Rodney Pässe's film "Where Are the African Gods?" that was included with 2021's "Lost & Looking" exhibit at Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

"My sculpture can last for days or a few seconds – What is important to me is the experience of making. I leave all my work outside and often return to watch it decay." – Andy Goldsworthy

Goldsworthy is an environmental artist I have long admired and invested in several of his books just to experience his connection with nature and the resulting creative work. Considering how fleeting his works last, however, what happens to the original digital recordings, and how much is lost because it still sits in some flash drive somewhere? What are the considerations and consequences of the world of digital storage? How do we contain the memory of the art within?

Most artists do not reside in the higher echelons of the art establishment. For them, the more immediate concern is to get the word out, increase visibility, and a personal website is one way that can help. Along the way, the digital world presents a challenge, not the least of which is how to best preserve the information, then how to make it available for viewing.

I've been an artist for decades, and by now much of my remaining work sits propped up in storage. My youngest son has encouraged me multiple times to set up a personal website to showcase my art. I've thought about it. Thought seriously about it, but decided against it for a multitude of reasons.

Yes, it would have helped me acquire new computer skills and, yes, it would have made my work more visible to a larger audience. On the other hand, it would have meant an investment in time in designing, implementing and frequent updating.

The Inquisitive Artist

Linda Weigel



I knew from my teaching career that time spent sitting at the computer, no matter what the original intent, would grow exponentially, and I didn't want to become a slave to it. I worried, too, about expenses. I would want to hire a professional to help produce an outstanding product. Plus, there always seems to be some kind of unexpected expense, some unexpected piece of digital jewelry lurking around the keyboard.

Then, there is the eventual question of what to do with a website when I am no longer able to keep up. What to do with all the digital information? Where does it go, who preserves it or decides to hit delete?

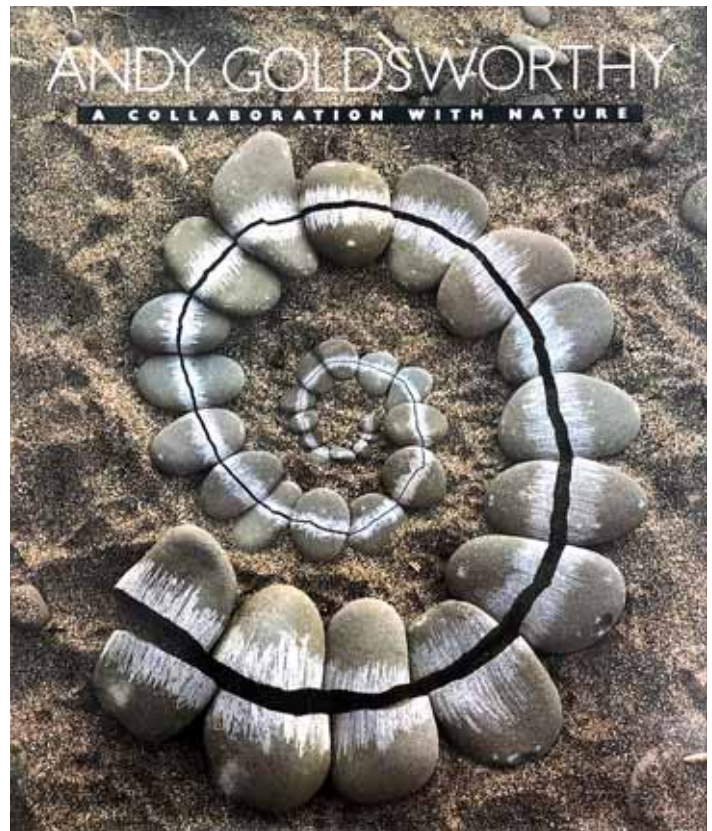
The list of pros vs. cons was growing, with the cons on the upswing. Surprisingly, the biggest immediate obstacle in my mind was the need to professionally shoot all my work, then make sure it's in the proper digital format. Who to hire to do that and what would it cost? And how long would those digital jpegs be relevant or even last as the electronic world continues to evolve? The entire prospect, at least for me, became layered with too many expectations and unknowns. Is having a personal website really necessary? Is it worth the investment in time and money? For some artists, I bet the answer is a

definite yes, and that's fine. I respect their choice.

When writing articles about art and artists, I do my research and that includes checking out websites. Sadly, I've seen way too many artist websites that have barely changed, with hardly a new work added and that, in my mind at least, makes me wonder why? Aren't they creating anything new? An artist's website should be like his/her personal gallery, and galleries don't just keep showing the same thing over and over again. Unless it's a website dedicated to an artist who is no longer alive or able to produce, updating work is very important. Including a selection of previous works as an indication of the artist's style is great, but new works need to be added and everything updated in a reasonable amount of time, say once a year at least. In addition, I've seen artists' websites where it is obvious they shot the work themselves. Unless they were a professional or a highly skilled photographer, the results are less than stellar.

This whole question of websites then led me to another concern, a broader one that encompasses the world of contemporary art in general and the bigger problem of digital storage, especially those areas that depend on digital projections, images, recordings, etc., such as performance art, multimedia, interactive programs and computer-generated art. How does one ensure the longevity of the digital information? Personally, I've already experienced multiple formats: the floppy disk, zip drive, CD, USB flash drive, external hard drive and the Cloud. What's next? I have old art images saved on a zip drive. Without the necessary tools, how do I access that information? As time's gone by, I've tried to keep up by transferring old forms and files to the next new digital storage "thingy." Sadly, I haven't always been successful in doing that. Digital storage just adds another layer of complexity to our increasingly digitally immersive world.

And THAT is what I perceive to be the much bigger question — a problem for future art historians, especially as it relates to the visual and performing arts. I am particularly concerned about art that is made utilizing digital recording of some kind either as the primary art experience or as a record of a temporary event. For example, the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude were known for their large-scale and site-specific environmental installations. At the last Art Expo in Chicago, I discovered a gallery featuring several of their preparatory drawings on paper. I found that exciting because these drawings and others like them may become one of the only ways to now know what these large, very impressive projects once stood for. The installations themselves were temporary and never meant to be permanent. They no longer exist in their original format. Fortunately, in this case, there have been books published about their work. That's a good thing. However, not all artists can afford to do that.



Unless digital photos are later published in book or other paper form, what's to say the record of all that visual engagement isn't lost to posterity? Musical events, films, professional photos, etc., are vulnerable. There is a real fundamental problem with depending on digital storage for future generations despite reassurances to the contrary.

Reading into the subject, many sites tout the reliability of securing data, especially CDs, DVDs and blu-ray because they can last up to 50 years under the proper conditions. Fifty years! That's not good enough. Actual sculptures, paintings, prints on paper, musical scores or film scripts on paper have a much better chance of being around for a century or two. And here's the kicker: millennia from now, how will future historians look back on these times? We look back at artists Michelangelo, Van Gogh, Rodin and Cassatt because the actual work still physically exists. With so much of our world held hostage to digital storage, can we keep up?

We certainly can't predict how the future is going to move forward and how much will be accurately relayed if we don't think ahead. Electronic/digital art is fragile. It's a problem. Setting up a website is fine, but not the end all for an individual artist. Preservation for posterity in an alternative form must be a consideration, too.

I don't have a reasonable answer to this question of digital preservation and where it all ends up. I suppose for the time being, one just does what they can to keep up with the latest electronic iteration and in the end hope for the best.

Fair Days Ahead

As far as we're concerned, fair days are always ahead.

By that, I mean as soon as the annual Berrien County Youth Fair sends the last little piggie off to the market, we start the countdown to next year's fair.

Why?

Because we were introduced to the Berrien County Youth Fair, or simply "the Fair," soon after we moved to Michigan in 1987.

Natalie grew up in Chicago's northwest suburbs, and I was pretty much a city kid in the Beverly neighborhood, so we never really had a fair of our own. Natalie had her Siamese cat, Figaro, to fuss over, and I was mighty fond of my Springer Spaniel, Billy, but we didn't take chickens, ducks or goats to the county fair. And, if there was such a thing as the Cook County Fair while growing up, it certainly wasn't on our collective radar.

The closest I came to a county fair was going with my mother and siblings to the "last farm in Chicago" at 111th Street and Pulaski Avenue to buy fresh produce. We got to pick the corn and, of course, shuck it when we got home.

So we had a taste of the fair life.

Just a taste.

Natalie, too, when she visited cousins in rural Missouri or family friends in rural Illinois.

But for the most part, we were raised as children of the asphalt, not as children of the corn.

Wonder of wonders, what a wonderful revelation we had in August 1987 while attending our first (of many) Berrien County Youth Fairs.

The only reason we knew about it was because a fellow rider in the first Shoreline Bicycle Tour earli-



Now that's a draft horse!

er that summer told us all about it. She was a veterinarian living in South Haven, Mich., and she wanted to stay in touch with us after the big ride from River Valley High School near Three Oaks, Mich., to Traverse City in the far north of lower Michigan. I speak of Dr. Meg Warner, and she became a fast friend after Shoreline. We sealed the deal when she steered us to the Berrien County Youth Fair.

It was way, way better than watching "The Wizard of Oz" for the first time as a kid.

Way, way better.

We were both 37 that summer, but once we set foot on the fairgrounds in Berrien Springs, we were a couple of wide-eyed 7-year-olds. We began our day of wonder by watching the youth and their horses. We had both ridden as kids, but not like these youngsters of Berrien County. We wanted to set back the hands of time and join them in the ring. The best we could do was look on in wonder.

And so, we did. What we beheld was so wonderful — the youth with their goats, rabbits, chickens and corn dogs — that we yearned for more.

And we have gotten so, so much more by returning nearly every year since 1987 to the fairgrounds in Berrien Springs, Mich., during, or right after, our wedding anniversary of Aug. 13, 1977.

We celebrated our 25th anniversary on the fairgrounds, but in recent years the fair dates have fallen a week later than our big day. So, we have taken to celebrating the anniversary of our honeymoon at the fair.

(So you know, we honeymooned in Wisconsin, from the Illinois/Wisconsin line all the way north to the Lake Superior shoreline. We didn't get to any fairs during our honeymoon, but we certainly saw plenty of cows and happy farm kids.)

Over time, we have discovered we need two days to fully appreciate all that is the Berrien County Youth Fair.

That was certainly true for the recently concluded 2022 Berrien County Youth Fair that had as its theme "Red, White and Blue."

We headed east on Shawnee Road from Bridgman to the "south gate" on Tuesday, Aug. 16, and

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



spent a good part of the day enjoying the red, white and blue displays in the horticulture and flowers barn. The patriotic sights and smells of all those flower arrangement, potpourris, enormous pumpkins, picked peppers and scarecrows featuring the likes of the Statue of Liberty was, well, wonderful.

We got in some rabbits, giant pretzels and a veggie dinner at the steak/sirloin tips stand. We even talked a little politics with a local candidate in one of the political-party pavilions. But we ran out of gas watching the young people enjoy the rides. So you know, our days of heading aloft on those various instruments of fright are long, long gone. We just looked and loved the screams and shrieks. Hey, what's a county fair without some hearty screams and shrieks?

Heading home that evening, we said to one another, "Let's come back Thursday and start with the crafts barn."

And that's just what we did.

I must say, the crafts barn delivered all that we hoped it would...and then some. We love the photos of dogs and cats and vacation trips our young neighbors take. I wanted to buy more than a few right on the spot, particularly a haunting image of the iconic

Continued on Page 24



We celebrate our wedding anniversary and honeymoon every year at the Berrien County Youth Fair.



Here's lookin' at you, kid!

Continued From Page 23

lighthouse in St. Joseph, Mich., taken from a boat. Alas, it wasn't for sale and would not be included in the auction on the fair's last day.

Oh well.

We also found more than a few works of art by young artists that we wanted to add to our home gallery. Again, not for sale. But, we sure enjoyed those creative expressions by budding artists in our heavenly county of Berrien.

We grooved to the country/folk stylings of Jackson Hall & the Steel Spurs on the Mall Stage, and longed for corn dogs, but the line was too long. Isn't that always the case at the fair?

We made it all the way back to the llama barn, hearing a harrowing tale of how an opossum had skulked into the neighboring poultry barn the previous night, at 3:30 a.m. The geese and llamas had raised the alarm, but to no avail as the opossum claimed two quail before exhibitors exacted some farm justice of their own.

Although we forsook bacon for breakfast years ago, we enjoyed watching a girl learn to herd her pig. We wanted to buy said swine at the forthcoming auction and return it to the child at the fair's end.

But, that's how farm kids come to grips with the fate of some of their critters. Many friends have been through it and say it's rough the first time or



Our constant reminder of the Berrien County Youth Fair.

two, but one gets used to it.

But, as the countdown to the 2023 Berrien County Youth Fair — set for Aug. 14-19 — begins, we know we will never get used up by the fair. Fair days, as of this writing, are just 357 days ahead.

Meanwhile, we have our bulging album of fair photos appearing daily on our desktop's screen saver. Oh, and there's that skull-and-crossbones plate on the front of our car we purchased at the fair a few years back.

If you can celebrate Christmas every day of the year, why not the Berrien County Youth Fair?

Why not, indeed!



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“Surface” Rethinks the Woman-in-Peril Thriller

by Andrew Tallackson



Gugu Mbatha-Raw is sensational as a woman whose memory is erased by tragedy.

When you consider most contemporary mysteries, regardless of which gender penned them, they're almost exclusively women-in-peril thrillers. It's true even with the best of the best (Ruth Ware, Jane Harper, Paula Hawkins, Riley Sager). Either the women are stalked and terrorized, see things they shouldn't have, are alcoholics of apocalyptic proportion or suffer from amnesia.

“Surface,” a new Apple TV+ series, is not based on a recent best-seller...but it could be. Creator Veronica West (“Ugly Betty,” Hulu’s short-lived “High Fidelity”) taps into all the elements of today’s bookish thrillers, from sketchy husbands to crippling amnesia. And, it stars the sensational Gugu Mbatha-Raw, who with this series, HBO Max’s “The Girl Before” and her Season One turn in Apple TV+’s “The Morning Show” is becoming the reigning queen of women-in-peril characters.

In this case, though, there is a difference. “Surface” is so rooted in character, so quietly ominous, its final episode mature in ways most such stories are not, you admire the show the more you think about it.

The title is a literal and metaphorical tease, the latter referring to dark, buried secrets that threaten to corrupt a seemingly ideal marriage.

The series opens with a classic woman-in-peril setup: San Francisco trophy wife Sophie Ellis (Mbatha-Raw) takes a tumble from the deck of a ferry and, when pulled from the water, has little to no memory of what happened. The incident is classified as a suicide attempt, although Sophie has the nagging feeling she was pushed. Worse, four months later, she’s still wiped clean of any long-term memories. Fumbling through counseling with a therapist (the wonderful Marianne Jean-Baptist), she is constantly reminded her main objective is to embrace life as a clean slate. In other words, time to start over, whether she likes it or not.

Three people exist in Sophie’s inner circle. The first is her husband, James. He’s played by Oliver Jackson-Cohen, who played the viciously controlling husband in 2020’s “The Invisible Man,” and was a regular in Mike Flanagan Netflix “Haunting” series (“Hill House,” “Bly Manor”). Here, he plays James like he’s about to burst into tears at any moment, walking on egg shells around Sophie. Is it because he’s still brittle from the suicide attempt...or because he’s guilty as heck? The other guy in her life is a detective, Baden, who was Sophie’s lover before the ferry incident, and believes James is guilty of, well, a lot. He is played by Stephan James, the

engaging actor who was the sole bright spot in the murky Julia Roberts Amazon Prime thriller “Homecoming.” The third player is Caroline (Ari Graynor), Sophie’s best friend and James’ ex. Sophie and James, it seems, tripped up, engaging in a little comfort sex while Sophie recovered in the hospital.

So, yeah, it sounds trashy. Thing is, it’s all told so matter-of-factly, bypassing the sensational aspects of the plot to instead focus on Sophie’s desperate search for the truth. You brace for the shock elements — nudity, sex, graphic violence — and there’s none of that. The drama is so firmly rooted in Sophie’s iffy existence, you genuinely care for her. Mbatha-Raw plays Sophie as lost, struggling for a grounded reality before anger and frustration galvanize her. Sophie’s newfound strength, amid fears of the kind of person she was before the ferry incident, takes on a feminist slant as she grows weary of men calling the shots in her life. Mbatha-Raw is alternately mysterious and sympathetic. The performance gnaws at the foundation of Sophie’s existence with stunning command.

“Surface,” which spins its jigsaw puzzle mystery over eight episodes, is so quiet and moody for so long, I braced for the cathartic, brutal conclusion. Most of these stories, either on the page or the screen, do so. The big twist arrives just before a shock of violent confrontations. I’m thinking, in particular, of “Sleeping With the Enemy” (1991), that Julia Roberts potboiler that began as a domestic thriller and concluded as a stalk-and-slash creeper a la John Carpenter’s “Halloween.” “Surface,” however, never loses its footing. In fact, the last two episodes are nothing you anticipate. In a refreshing twist, the characters stop hiding behind walls of silence and open up. The truth slips out. There is no gory smackdown between husband and wife. The finale seesaws between possibilities, leaving the door open for Season 2 to dip far deeper into Sophie’s past.



Oliver Jackson-Cohen plays Sophie’s husband, who may or may not be responsible for her condition.

My first reaction was, “Wow, that wasn’t what I expected.” Then, I savored the fact that it refuses to resolve itself within one season.

The core of the mystery is complete, but clearly, there is more to the story. And I, for one, can’t wait to find out what happens next.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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MCFD and LaPorte County CTE Partner to Teach CPR

Nearly a dozen Fire Science students in the LaPorte County Career and Technical Education program will be certified in CPR, thanks to instruction by local firefighters.

Three Michigan City Fire Department firefighters spent Tuesday morning, Sept. 6, at the A.K. Smith Career Center teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation to students learning firefighting basics. Training included proper chest compression techniques, how to use AEDs (automated external defibrillators) and bag-mask devices, as well as the difference between performing these measures on adults, children and infants.

"This is a skill that is required for any career in the health field, including a career as an EMT," Nick Pabon, MCFD public-information officer, said in a press release, adding that many firefighters also are Emergency Medical Technicians.

While training students, the firefighters earn education credits, as the training is a required step to becoming a certified CPR trainer.

Firefighters Sean Baker, Joshua Allen and Brock Kohler visited the A.K. Smith classroom to provide training as they each earn certifications as CPR instructors. In return, MCFD covered the typical per-student cost of the training.

The CPR instructor certification is offered through a program at Northwest Health Hospital in LaPorte. Brian Gray, a full-time LaPorte firefighter,



Driver/Operator Joshua Allen (left) of Michigan City Fire Department watches as New Prairie High School student Dallas Ryans practices CPR.

is a certified CPR Instructor who oversaw the training session at A.K. Smith.

"The more people who are CPR certified in our community, the better," Gray said in a press release. "They can get the life-saving process started before first responders get there."

Rob Schaffer, A.K. Smith fire science instructor and a former MCFD firefighter, agreed, telling his class the benefit of learning how to use an AED goes beyond responding to emergencies as a firefighter or EMT.

"You see AEDs everywhere – at grocery stores, schools, you can carry them in your car," he said in a press release. "And once you're certified to use one, you could possibly save a life."



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Michigan City Public Library

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 library has begun 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. A section above the front entrance will have specialized color lighting for seasonal themes. The expected completion date is Sept. 16. 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 be closed while work is done in them.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Friends of the Library Giant 3-Day Book Sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Sept. 14-16, at LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St.** Hard-back books cost \$1, paperback books 50 cents, children's books and magazines 25 cents and DVDs 50 cents. All proceeds support The Friends of the Michigan City Public Library and benefit the library. Donations will be accepted at the visitors bureau through Sept. 9. A collection container is inside the front doors, which are open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays in September.** Membership to the group is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the

group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.

- **Bookmarks: The Talented Miss Farwell at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.** Jessica Hoffmaster is the reviewer.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in September.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Pokemon Scavenger Hunt through Sept. 30.** Children and teens can ask for a Pokedex at the Youth Services desk and look for the Pokemon. When finding them, write their names down and turn in the completed sheet for a prize.
Two new services are available:
- ComicsPlus offers unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga. Popular titles include Avatar: The Last Airbender & The Legend of Korra, Big Nate, Bone, Disney Princesses, Geronimo Stilton, Stranger Things, Locke & Key and American Gods. Patrons need a current library card and PIN.
- The app Library NewsStand includes 7,000 titles of digital magazines and newspapers in more than 60 language, including: *Newsweek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *The New Yorker*, *Reader's Digest*, *Elle* and *Esquire*. A library card is required. (Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. 4th St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.)

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Harbor Country Film Group



A scene from "The Lives of Others."

Harbor Country Film Group, hosted by Eve Moran, will present "The Lives of Others," a 2006 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film, at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 19, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Moran will introduce the film, screen it and lead a discussion afterwards. In a press release, she describes it as "an elegant thriller" set in East Berlin during the 1980s, when The Ministry for State Security intruded into the lives of East German citizens to weed out dissent and self-expression. The story centers on an efficient Stasi agent assigned to spy on a respected playwright and his actress girlfriend.

Screenings are free and sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. The program should last about 2 1/2 hours. Attendees can take a chair cushion, and free popcorn is available.

Lakefront Career Network

Lakefront Career Network, the young professionals' group of the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, has opened the application period for its 2023 Spotlight Organization.

Each year, LCN chooses one non-profit to spotlight through a year-long partnership. In doing so, it creates increased awareness of the organization and what it does. Past groups include Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County, Reins of Life, Dunebrook and Michiana Humane Society.

To be considered, applicants must:

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) organization.
- Have been established for at least five years.
- Have a strong local presence in Michigan City.
- Be willing to work with the LCN committee to coordinate involvement.
- Cross-promote within networks.
- Have an active need that can benefit from a year-long partnership.

The application period will remain open until Oct. 14. Visit tinyurl.com/y5k6x455 to apply. Send completed applications to jelwood@mcachamber.com

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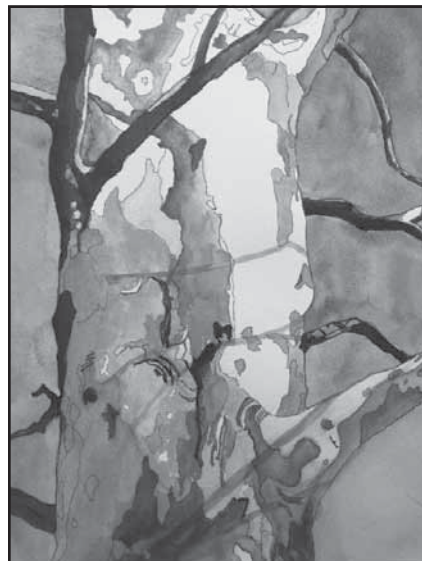
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Sunflower Fair

The Sunflower Fair celebrates its 23rd year with vendors, food and special events from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, along Michigan Avenue between Lincolnway and Noble Street in LaPorte.

More than 120 artisan vendors are planned, along with food from non-profits and local eateries. The LaPorte Farmer's Market will offer locally sourced produce and goods.

Visitors will see antique cars on Michigan Avenue south of Harrison Street organized by the Michiana Antique Car Club. Live music is in the food court on the north end of Michigan Avenue.

Other events include the American Licorice Rib Cook-Off and Wyatt Wilke Memorial Sunflower Contest. Participants should take sunflowers to the City Hall steps before 10 a.m. Categories include: tallest sunflower, largest sunflower seed head and sunflower stalk with the most blooms.

Visit <https://sunflowerfair.com> for more details.

Gather & Shop & Sell

The Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center will host "Gather & Shop & Sell," its community sale, from 5-7 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 17, at the center, 13372 California Road.

In a return to its roots, event organizers are waiving booth fees and asking for donations of non-perishable food items for the upcoming Food Locker.

Friends of New Troy and Red Arrow Roasters will offer complimentary hot dogs, vegan burgers, soda and water to shoppers and sellers.

Vendors must fill out an application and register by Thursday, Sept. 15. Applications are available at www.friendsofnewtroy.org or by visiting the center during normally staffed hours. Any questions should be directed to Marlene at friendsofnewtroynewsletter@gmail.com

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Old House Research Program

The free workshop "If These Walls Could Talk: Researching Your Old House" is from 4-6 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 17, at Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St., Three Oaks, Mich.

Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan education director, will focus on how to:

- Uncover the history of houses, including who built them and when.
- Identify architectural styles.
- Discover stories of those who lived there before.

Co-hosted by The Region of Three Oaks Museum, admission is free because of an Upton Foundation grant. Walk-ins are welcome; however, registration is encouraged because space is limited. Register by email at myers@hsmichigan.org or call the Historical Society of Michigan at (517) 324-1828.

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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 Pick-up 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 1:30-2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Coolspring branch.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Intro to the Internet: Adults (19+) from 2-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, and 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the main library Meeting Room B.** Learn the basics of Internet use.
- **Stroll Along the Avenues from 4-5:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at the main library.** Take a leisurely stroll to hear about historic homes on Michigan/Indiana avenues.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 16.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Teen D&D from 5-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Simon Winchester (Adults 19+) from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20.** Winchester is a *New York Times* bestselling author. Advanced registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18385>

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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Indiana Dunes State Park

- **"Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O" at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.** Join a naturalist at the Nature Center to help fill bird feeders and play the game.
- **SSSSSnakes Alive! at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.** Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.
- **Singing Sands Stargaze from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17.** The annual Calumet Astronomical Society event involves local experts and naturalists who will have several telescopes available, answer questions and give periodic constellation talks using laser pointers. Take a blanket or beach chair to the main beach east of the pavilion.
- **High Dunes Hike at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18.** Meet a naturalist at the nature center for a hike to the summit of the state's highest sand dune. Wear hiking shoes



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.

Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 17, at West Beach, 376 North County Line Road, Gary.** Join staff and other volunteers for the cleanup efforts. Wear comfortable clothes, and work gloves and equipment will be provided.
- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 2-4 p.m. Sundays in September.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Help feed the farm animals between 4:30-5 p.m. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.

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.



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A FLIGHT

Low Net — Janet Andreotti.

Low Putts — Cindy Levy.

Birdies/Sunken Approaches — none.

B FLIGHT

Low Net — June Salmon, Linda Wilson.

Low Putts — Susan Keeley.

Birdies/Sunken Approaches — none.

C FLIGHT

Low Net — B. Beardslee, G. Hogan, N. Thill.

Low Putts — Barb Hall.

Birdies — Barb Hall (12).

Sunken Approaches — Barb Hall (12).

D FLIGHT

Low Net — Jeanne St. Peter.

Low Putts — Peg Carey, Rosann Conroy.

Birdies/Sunken Approaches — none.

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American Red Cross

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. Thursday, Sept. 15.
- Marquette Catholic High School, 306 W. 10th St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16.

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.

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

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

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

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

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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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Copshaholm 125 Arts Show

South Bend's The History Museum will host the Copshaholm 125 Arts Show from 1-4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 18, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of J.D. and Anna Oliver moving into 808 W. Washington St.

The show features local artists in the fields of visual arts, written word, music and theatrical performances. Guests may stroll through the visual arts entries, and view performances of the written word, music and theatrical entries.

The show is free with regular museum admission, which is \$11 for adults, \$9.50 for seniors, \$7 for youth 6-17 and free for members.

Museum staff launched the Copshaholm 125 Arts Competition on June 14, inviting local artists to select from the four categories to interpret stories of the Oliver Mansion, including the Oliver Gardens, Oliver family and the year 1897.

Copshaholm is the 38-room home where the J.D. Oliver family lived from 1897-1972. J.D. Oliver was president of the Oliver Chilled Plow Works, a company established by his father, James Oliver. The Oliver family donated its 38-room mansion to The History Museum in 1988. In 1990, the museum began providing daily tours of the house, which retains all original furnishings.



The museum is teaming up with other institutions across the country to participate in the annual Museum Day, presented by *Smithsonian* magazine, on Saturday, Sept. 17.

Visitors who present a Museum Day Admission Card receive free admission to The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT that day. Visit tinyurl.com/cuejwxh3 to download the card.



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

Episcopal Church Art Show

Arts of Mediator will host an art show from 1-3 p.m. EDT Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 17-18, at The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Works are by parishioners and include paintings, drawings, sculptures and fiber arts. Admission is free.



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In the Area

Sept. 14-16 — Friends of the Library Giant 3-Day Book Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St.

Sept. 15 — Stroll Along the Avenues, 4-5:30 p.m. & 6-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Sept. 15 — “Dunebrook at the Gardens,” 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12. Individual seats: \$75. Reservations/info: www.dunebrook.org

Sept. 16 — Bookmarks: The Talented Miss Farwell, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 17 — Free admission (National Museum Day), Old Lighthouse Museum. Link to print ticket: www.smithsonianmag.com/MuseumDay

Sept. 17 — LaPorte Sunflower Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan Avenue between Lincolnway/Noble Street. Info: <https://sunflowerfair.com>

Sept. 17 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Hoosier Star, 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$5/children. Reservations: www.lcso.net, Roxy Music, the Civic.

Sept. 19 — Teen D&D, 5-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Sept. 20 — Virtual Author Talk with Simon Winchester (Adults 19+), 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/18385>

Through Sept. 30 — Michigan City Art League, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church’s Legacy Center, 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. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through Oct. 21 — “moniquemeloche presents...,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org/Events

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

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.

Thursdays in September — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays in Michigan City — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: farmersmarketmichigancity@gmail.com

Saturdays in LaPorte — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway parking lot next to Mucho Mas. Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

Sundays in Michigan City — The Dockside Artisan Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Millennium Plaza. Free parking.

In the Region

Sept. 16 — Al Stewart & The Empty Pockets, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$65 & \$8.50 convenience free, reserved/\$100 & \$8.50 convenience free. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Sept. 17 — “Feed the Birds B-I-N-G-O,” 9:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 17 — SSSSSnakes Alive!, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 17 — Free workshop, “If These Walls Could Talk: Researching Your Old House,” 4-6 p.m. EDT, Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St., Three Oaks, Mich. Registration: myers@hsmichigan.org, (517) 324-1828.

Sept. 17 — “Gather & Shop & Sell,” 5-7 p.m. EDT, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Info: friendsofnewtroynewsletter@gmail.com

Sept. 17 — “Some Enchanted Evening II,” 7 p.m. EDT, Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: www.scho-lofamericanmusic.com, (269) 409-1191.

Sept. 17 — Duke Tumatoe & The Power Trio, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general/\$25 & \$4.50 convenience free, reserved/\$50 & \$4.50 convenience free. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Sept. 17 — Singing Sands Stargaze, 8-11 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 17-18 — Art show, 1-3 p.m. EDT, The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Sept. 18 — High Dunes Hike, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 19 — Harbor Country Film Group, “The Lives of Others,” 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

Sept. 20 — New Buffalo Township Library Community Forum, Gary Lange, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Pokagon Room @ New Buffalo Township Library, 33

N. Thompson St. Free.

Through Oct. 1 — “Journey Through Indiana: The Photographs of Kay Westhues and John Bowser,” Elkhart’s Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri./1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adults, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/ages 13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660.

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.

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. Sept. 10: Afternoon of Art reception/11 a.m.-3 p.m. EDT. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Saturdays in Chesterton — European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Broadway & Third Street. Info: (219) 926-5513.

Sundays in September — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 2-4 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road, U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* “The Good Boss.” Not Rated. Times: 3 p.m. Sept. 17-18, 6 p.m. Sept. 19. *Also:* “Gabby Giffords Won’t Back Down.” Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. Sept. 17, 3 p.m. Sept. 19. *Also:* “Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song.” Not Rated. Times: 3 p.m. Sept. 16, 6 p.m. Sept. 18. *Also:* “My Old School.” Not Rated. Time: 6 p.m. Sept. 16. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickers-theatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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.

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:

- Sept. 14 — Pairing Your Plants for Multi-Season Display, Sacha-Gee Burns, Solid Waste District of LaPorte County.
- Oct. 5: Medicare 2021 Overview, SHIP Supervisor Megan Rogers.
- Nov. 2: Managing Stress with Moria Cogwell, The Crossing wellness specialist.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first. The schedule is:

- Sept. 14 — Frog Fun.
- Sept. 28 — Sounds of Nature.
- Oct. 12 — Wiggly Workers.
- Oct. 26 — Spider Sniffing.
- Nov. 2 — What’s Falling.
- Nov. 16 — Snakes Alive.
- Dec. 7 — Let it Snow.

Halloween Decorating, Bingo and Prizes

The family event is from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, at Luhr County Park.

Decorate a Halloween craft, with all decorations provided. Bingo with prizes is planned. The cost is \$5 per child. Payment and registration are due at least one week in advance by calling (219) 325-8315. 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, visit www.laportecountyparks.org or email natureniki@csinet.net or for details.

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

CLASSIFIED**CLASSIFIED RATES - (For First 2 Lines.)**

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PHONE: (219) 879-0088 • Email: drew@thebeacher.com**CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY****9 a.m. FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF PUBLICATION****PERSONAL**

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fied the items are available, park in specially-num-
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and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their
vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Mon-
day-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman)
and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas
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Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at
100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-
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Overkill by Sandra Brown (*hardcover, \$29 retail and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 406 pages.*)

Life support. I always found that to be a strange description for something that is anything but. Doctors may keep a heart beating, but if the brain is not functioning, is that life?

That's the dilemma in this week's recommendation. Keep a young woman on life support, or end what is decidedly not a life. A decision none of us wants to make. The ramifications of guilt, and perhaps religious beliefs, make this decision one with no right or wrong outcome.

But what if the young woman dies or doesn't die.

Will it make a difference to the one who caused her condition? What if she lives and the guilty goes free? On the other hand, what if she dies and the guilty now faces a murder charge? It all boils down to what if...

Zach Bridger is a former NFL star quarterback and MVP. In the middle of his heyday, he meets and marries Rebecca Pratt: beautiful, full of life...maybe too much life. She starts showing up at parties alone, drinks too much, snorts too much cocaine, her photo on every celebrity style magazine. Yeah, she's a "red carpet diva." She makes news because she is Zach's wife and acting like anything but a wife. The divorce, after only 10 months, is inevitable.

One wild night, sex with three other men leaves her unconscious and barely breathing. Eban Clarke, a self-centered, self-serving child of privilege, almost chokes her to death. By the time the trio gets around to calling for help, Rebecca is without oxygen for too long. At the hospital, she is declared brain-dead.

Imagine Zach's surprise when he learns he has medical power of attorney over Rebecca's health decisions. At their divorce, she never signed the necessary papers to turn those decisions over to her parents. Maybe she realized Zach understood her more than her parents.

Now, Zach is caught in the middle. Rebecca's parents are adamant they want to keep her on life support, believing she can still be saved. Zach agrees to step back and let them make the decisions, and he agrees to pay the bill for her transfer to a facility that will care for her and closely monitor her progress...or lack thereof.

Four years pass and nothing changes...except for the young man in jail for orchestrating Rebecca's dilemma. Eban has been released from prison early for good behavior. His buddies, Cal and Theo, are on probation only.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



That's when Kate Lennon from the state attorney's office approaches Zach with a zinger of a scenario. Knowing he still has legal control over Rebecca's health, she explains his two choices: Leave Rebecca on life support and watch Eban walk away a free man, able to leave the country and not be extradited in the case of Rebecca's death; or, take her off life support and give her office a chance to charge

Eban with murder. Wow. If there ever was a moral dilemma, this is a huge one.

Of course, word gets back to Eban's father, who wants him to immediately leave the country to stay clear of possible future prosecution. Eban, the narcissistic, sociopathic man he is, has no plans to leave his good life — all paid for by his father, of course — or let people think he is running away like a coward.

But then, Eban learns about Kate and sees her one day with Zach. What's going on? Does this mean Zach is ready to pull the plug on Rebecca? They look closer than lawyer and client, don't they? Maybe this is something on which Eban can trade.

Truth is, Zach is developing feelings for Kate he never felt before, not even with Rebecca. Not letting personal feelings get in the way of Zach's professional dealings with Kate gets harder and harder.

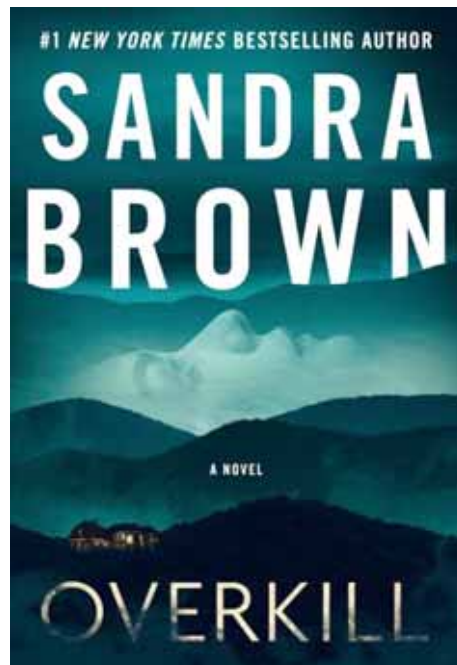
Meanwhile, Eban is planning how to deal with Zach and Kate, even his two accomplices whom he feels have left him down.

Zach and Eban are the two most well-developed characters in the book: Zach is the adored sports figure who falls into disgrace and finally finds a way to self-redemption. Eban is the perfect spoiled child, turned into a self-serving man, who thinks money can get you out of anything — even murder.

This is the second Sandra Brown book I have read, and I love her fast-paced stories, great characters and situations sticky as a spider web. It's very entertaining and keeps your attention — everything blends together to lead to an exciting climax.

The final word: If you can accept several descriptive sex scenes and swearing, the conundrum the ex-husband and father face are far more important and compelling.

Till next time, happy reading!



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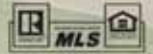
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